



SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
ANGLICAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 10



THE BELLS

FROM THE RECTOR

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DECEMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY 3-	
Christmas Pageant	12:30 PM
SUNDAY 4-	
Breakfast	8:30 AM-12 Noon
SUNDAY 16-	
Daughter's Meeting	11:30 AM
MONDAY 12-	
Vestry	7 PM
SUNDAY 18-	
Men's Club Meeting	11:30 AM
WEDNESDAY 21-	
St. Thomas, Apostle	6:30 PM
SATURDAY 24-	
Christmas Eve	
Family Eucharist	7 PM
Christmas Mass	
At Midnight	11 PM
SUNDAY 25-	
The Mass of	
Christmas Day	10 AM
MONDAY 26-	
St. Stephen,	
Deacon & Martyr	12 Noon
TUESDAY 27-	
St. John,	
Apostle & Evangelist	12 Noon
Zwingert Open House	5-9 PM
WEDNESDAY 28-	
The Holy Innocents	6:30 PM

Dearly Beloved,

We have entered upon the season of Advent, our time of preparation for not only the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as the Babe of Bethlehem but also for His Second Coming when He will judge both the living and the dead. This double pronged approach gives this season two competing, yet complementary, themes. We have the joyful anticipation of the Incarnation of our God being made manifest in the wee hours of Christmas morning and yet there is that awe-filled, penitential, and almost scary anticipation of the return of our Lord to consume all things unto Himself when His final Judgment occurs. Massey Shepherd, in his commentary on our Prayer Book, tells us that "to the spiritually discerning believer both of these tremendous and signal events of past and

future are experienced as eternally present realities." This is what the Church Year tries to do for us, make the realities of God present for us in the here and now. This is much in the same way that the celebration of the Holy Communion makes present for us that once great Sacrifice made for us on the Cross. We, as Christian people, live in the present, just as our God does. In all that we do, we are to live our lives making present the realities of God, even though we have that touch of "not yet" in this life, that understanding that there is more to come, even though our salvation has already been wrought for us by that young Child born 2000 years ago. So let us prepare ourselves this Advent season with joy, yet with trepidation, for the Birth and for the Judgment, as we call forth from our hearts to our Lord, "Adveni,"

"Come!."

I turn now to an item that all of you are most interested in: damage repairs to our church. As you are all aware, slow is the operative word throughout our region for damage repairs and we are no exception. We have engaged a contractor to superintend the repairs to our building. The roof on our facilities will be completely replaced because the tile originally used in no longer available. These repairs ought to begin in the very near future, hope fully completed before Christmas. The ceiling in the church building itself will be stained in order to blend in the water marks that appeared after the hurricane. The walls inside the church will be completely repainted. These interior repairs will not begin until after Christmas so that we will have full use of the church for celebrating

CLERGY & STAFF

The Very Rev'd
Erich A. Zwingert, SSC
Rector

The Rev'd Canon
Richard A. Smith
Assisting Priest

The Rev'd Mr.
Ernest S. Pinto
Curate

The Rev'd Mr.
M. Tracy Smith
Curate

The Rev'd Mr.
Robert H. Hammes
Deacon

Mr. Roger Blankenship
Choirmaster & Organist

Mrs. Darla Merrell
Church Secretary

VESTRY

Michael Sneiderman
Rector's Warden

Larry Powali
Treasurer

Ann Malone
Member

Michael Merrell
Member

Catherine Wilson
Member

Charmaine Wilson
Member

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00 AM to 2:30 PM

FROM THE RECTOR CONTINUED

the Nativity of our Lord. January and February may be a bit inconvenient as scaffolding and such will be set up in the church but it will be done in such a manner that we will still be able to use the church for our worship. Exterior repairs will be accomplished as sub-contractors and suppliers become available. As was mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we have a \$25000 deductible which we will have to pay. This is a good time to consider an additional offering to help us offset that expense because, as you know, we do not meet our normal expenses in our operating budget, let alone have to deal with unforeseen expenses such as the deductible.

Lastly, I want to broaden our scope away from things that affect us locally in our parish. On November 12 of this year, our Anglican Province of America entered into a union agreement with the Church of Nigeria. This is a historic agreement in that the largest practicing Anglican Church in the world, with 18 million people in church on Sunday, has recognized us, along with our partners in the Reformed Episcopal Church, as a valid expression of Anglicanism in the United States. The Church of Nigeria

broke off its relationship with the mainline Episcopal Church two years ago. Please read the agreement published in this newsletter. The blessing in all of this is that it can be seen as a validation, if you will, of our intent to keep the Faith entire here at St. Mary's, and in the APA, and not allow ourselves to be blown off course by the winds of societal change that so many mainline churches in this country have allowed to happen to them. Thanks be to God that we are beginning to see the coming together of faithful Anglicans throughout the world as we witness for the Gospel in our unique Anglican expression of the Christian Faith. I encourage you to read more about this on the APA's website, www.anglicanprovince.org. There are press releases and articles there that explain this in a bit more depth.

I pray this Advent season will be profitable to your spiritual health and life and I wish for all of you a most Merry Christmas.

Your servant in Christ,
Erich+

HOLY DAYS

St. Thomas, Apostle—Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 PM
St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr—Monday, December 26, 12 Noon
St. John, Apostle & Evangelist—Tuesday, December 27, 12 Noon
The Holy Innocents—Wednesday, December 28, 6:30 PM

Check out our website: www.stmarydelray.org

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

Family Eucharist/Children's Program 7:00 PM

Christmas Mass at Midnight 11:00 PM

Christmas Day, December 25

The Mass of Christmas Day 10:00 AM

THE DAUGHTERS



“Weave in faith and God will find the thread”. - Proverbs

The Daughters have had an amazing Fall despite hurricanes and such. We pulled together for our Fall Festival Attic Sale and did very well, totaling \$1,336.00. Our success is due to each person who gave of his or her time to the project. It is a lot of work, but the spirit of those involved made it a success because of their dedication to St. Mary's. It always shines through in each of us. Each year we make raffle baskets and use the money towards The Lord's Place at Christmas. Please take a look—they are in the Parish Hall and the drawings will be on Sunday, December 18. You need not be present to win.

The Twelve Days of Christmas fall between Christmas Day, December 25, and Epiphany, January 6, the date the three Wise Men from the East arrived in Bethlehem with their gifts for the Christ Child. The evening of January 5 is known as Twelfth Night and has long been celebrated by many cultures.

Our plans have begun for the “Twelfth Night”

annual party on January 5, 2006. A Twelfth Night party, as an old Victorian tradition, gave families a simple but festive occasion to look forward to after Christmas and ends the holiday season on a high note. This will be our first effort and we hope to have the Parish Hall festively decorated and will serve finger foods and hors d'oeuvres, holiday cookies and candies and a Twelfth Night cake. We are hoping to elaborate on this event over the years. We hope the entire parish will participate in suggestions of their specialties—cooking, music and dancing (popular in the early and mid-19th century), research, collecting antiques to use (candelabras, silver and glass) and having fun in the preparations.

Everyone enjoyed going to the Ft. Lauderdale Christmas Pageant on December 3.

Our next meeting will be December 11, 2005, at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Please join us and remember that all women of St. Mary's are “Daughters”. Enjoy the blessings of the season as you make your plans.

Faithfully,
Linda Moritz

DECEMBER 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Notes: MP=Morning Prayer EP=Evening Prayer HC=Holy Communion				1 9 AM-MP	2	3 12:30 PM Bus pick-up at St. Mary's for Christmas Pageant
4 Advent 2 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM-12 Noon Breakfast	5 9 AM-MP	6 9 AM-MP	7 9 AM-MP 6:30 PM-HC 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Bible Study	8 9 AM-MP	9	10
11 Advent 3 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Sunday School Rector's Forum 11:30 AM Confirmation/Inquirer Daughter's Meeting	12 9 AM-MP 7 PM-Vestry	13 9 AM-MP	14 9 AM-MP 6:30 PM-HC 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Bible Study	15 9 AM-MP	16	17
18 Advent 4 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Sunday School Rector's Forum 11:30 AM Confirmation/Inquirer Men's Club Mtg.	19 9 AM-MP	20 12 Noon-HC	21 St. Thomas, The Apostle 6:30 PM-HC 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Bible Study	22 9 AM-MP	23	24 Christmas Eve 7 PM Family Eucharist 11 PM Christmas Mass At Midnight
25 Christmas Day 10 AM The Mass of Christmas Day	26 St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr 9 AM-MP 12 Noon- HC	27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist 9 AM-MP 12 Noon -HC 5 PM-9 PM Christmas Open House at the Zwingerts	28 The Holy Innocents 9 AM-MP 6:30 PM-HC 7 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM Bible Study	29 9 AM-MP	30	31

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- 1 Christian Gavino
- 3 Gary Wheeler
- 7 Mary Botti
- 7 Dorothy Wells
- 9 Michael Merrell
- 11 Greg Ringdahl
- 13 Wilhelmina Vander Meer
- 13 Victoria Bishop
- 16 Frank Bourie
- 24 Olivia Edmonds
- 24 Angelina Edmonds
- 29 Sean Howell

“Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be, keeping them unspotted from the world.”

BCP, p. 597

December Provincial Prayer Cycle

Diocese of Central & Eastern Canada
 The Rt. Rev'd Michael Fedechko, Ordinary
All Curates and Assistant Clergy
Grace Chapel, Gowganda, ON
 The Rt. Rev'd Michael Fedechko, Vicar
St. George's Church, Hamilton, ON
 The Rev'd John Smith, Rector
Trinity Church Cathedral, New Liskeard, ON
 The Rt. Rev'd Michael Fedechko, Rector
Church of the Good Shepherd, Orillia, ON
 The Rev'd Ralph Wood, Vicar
St. Augustine's Church, Scarborough, ON
 The Rev'd Canon Ivan Chan, Vicar
All Non-Parochial Clergy
All Seminarians
All Non-Parochial Ministries
All Christians throughout the world,
especially the Persecuted

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

- 18 Michael & Darla Merrell
- 24 Lloyd & Patricia Snyder

PARISH PRAYER CORNER**Parish Prayer Lists****Parishioners**

Dottie, Mary, Aly, Norma, Reggie,
 Lorna, Joan, Michele, J.P., Gladys, Alma,
 Madeline, Jarrod, Justin, Arlene, Dorian,
 Gloria, Betty, Linda.

Family, Friends, and Others

Taneisha, Craig, Donnovon, Nicole, Lorraine,
 Kim, Donna, Brenda, Tim, Larry, Chris, April,
 Raymond, Len, Pat, Randell, Ginny, Jean,
 Roger, Bill, Nelson, Ed, Jack, Patti.

END OF YEAR REMINDERS

- Remember to pick up your 2006 pledge envelopes at the entrance to the church.
- The 2005 Contribution Statements will be sent out the week of January 9-13.
- The 2006 Ordo Kalendars are here. Please drop \$5.00 in basket to help cover our costs.

THE BELLS—ARTICLE DEADLINES

Please remember that the deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of the month prior to issue month. We welcome all submissions, and reserve the right to edit for clarity and space. Thank you.

CHOIR NOTES



“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” II Corinthians 4:8-9

This scripture was a favorite of an old, dear friend from college. Her name was Pearl, and as an African American in a rest home in Southern Missouri, she had experienced a lot that these words addressed. One of my precious memories of visiting Pearl was the day her back was to the door, and she was rocking in silence. Silence was unusual for Pearl, who always had a song and/or a story. I asked what was wrong, and she

said “I hit her.” I knew immediately that it was the little lady across the hall who frequently tried to trip Pearl with her cane. This little lady thought it a great personal injustice that she had to exist in the same building with someone of dark skin. That day, just before I arrived, she stuck out her cane to trip Pearl, but I think it was the verbal slanders that brought Pearl to putting her fist to the little lady’s eye.

We are enjoying preparing selections from Vivaldi’s Gloria for the Christmas Eve service, and cannot wait to pull out all of the stops!!!

Roger Blankenship

MEN’S CLUB



Due to Christmas falling on the last Sunday of the month we will move our monthly meeting up to December 18 at 11:30 AM. We encourage all men of our parish to join us for this opportunity for fellowship. We are few but look forward to future growth.

We are happy to report that with the proceeds from our First Sunday of the Month Breakfasts

we were able to donate \$2,000.00 towards the purchase of new vestments.

Since many of our members will be traveling during the holidays please be sure to check your weekly bulletins to see when breakfasts will be cancelled.

We wish you God’s blessings for this holiday season.

Gerry Lewandowski
Men’s Club President

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER



Our children began the church year with Advent, a season of preparing for Christmas and looking toward the Second Coming of Christ. They made Advent wreaths and will enjoy saying Advent

prayers with their families and lighting the candle each week. They are working hard on their Christmas play, “The Mice Tell The Christmas Story”, that will be presented at the early service on Christmas Eve.

OPEN HOUSE



Fr. Erich and Kathy invite you to join their family for fellowship and Yule cheer at their Christmas Open house on Tuesday, December 27 from 5 PM until 9 PM. We hope to see all of you

there during this most joyous of seasons. Maps are available at the back of the church or call the church office or the Zwingert home at 304.4070.

MEET YOUR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

Ann Malone

Originally from Toronto, Canada, I moved to south Florida in February 1999. After caring for my Aunt her final years (she lived in Ft Lauderdale), I decided that Florida was my idea of paradise and it truly felt like home. A dear friend in Canada owned a live event production company that creates concerts, fundraisers, private corporation functions and galas and we decided to start a company down here, named Lunar Showtime, doing the same events. I get the greatest satisfaction creating fundraising events to help charities, especially for children's charities. I spent many years in Toronto working with Variety International who helps disabled children to enjoy life and with the Children's Hospital Network, which includes the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children. I have been an Anglican all my life, attending St. George's Church on the Hill in west Toronto, with a terrific minister named Canon Roland Hill. I taught Sunday School for many years, and helped create the first Youth Group at St. George's after my confirmation, which is still going strong today. I first attended St. Mary's on Sunday Sept 16, 2001, immediately following 9-11. I was alone here and terrified by the events in New York City. Turning to God and St. Mary's on that day calmed my spirit and introduced me to new friends, many of whom I consider family today. My husband Tom and I were married at St. Mary's on Feb. 14, 2004 by Father Richard Smith, and it was a beautiful ceremony. We don't have children, but we do look after my father Bruce during the winter, so that he can escape the cold winter months up north. I hope to create some entertaining events for the parishioners at St. Mary's, so that we can get to know each other better, have some fun and bring more people to our church family.

Charmaine Wilson

My name is Charmaine Wilson. I am the eldest of four children. The Island of Jamaica is my place of birth. I immigrated to the US well over a decade ago and I currently reside in West Palm Beach. I am a health care worker and a math/social psychology student at PBCC. Next to a healthy conversation, I enjoy reading and listening to music. I hail from a long line of traditional Anglicans. St. Mary's has been my surrogate home away from my eternal home. I regard myself as a servant of God whose main purpose is the enrichment of His kingdom. So, whether I am serving you snacks at coffee hour, collecting offerings or serving on the Vestry, I assure you I will do my best...the Father expects no less. Thank you.

PAVE THE COURTYARD

The paving of the Courtyard is an ongoing effort that we encourage you to be a part of. There are many reasons to have a commemorative brick inscribed. You can recognize friends or loved ones, create a lasting message that will impact generations to come., honor children and grandchildren, parents or grandparents or anyone else who has impacted your life, inscribe a beloved Scripture verse or a lasting message of your choice, recognize special events in your life and the life of the parish such as Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Matrimony or memorialize a loved one. Your inscribed brick will become an integral part of a permanent testament to the impact that God has made in your life in this special place we call St. Mary's. Order forms are available through the church office.

A HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN PROVINCE OF AMERICA

PROMISE AND DISILLUSION, 1991-1995: PART VII

During the 1980s the American Episcopal Church (AEC) experienced remarkable growth. Taking a more moderate stance on various issues, the AEC attracted new members and new clergy from both the Episcopal Church and elsewhere. Unofficially, the AEC saw itself more as a lifeboat for those forced out the ECUSA than as a counter-Anglican Church in this country. Often delegates from the AEC attended General Conventions as observers or, as Bishop Clavier styled it, "Ghosts of Christmas Past." The AEC also had very good relations with the first generation of ECUSA traditionalists. By 1989, the AEC numbered about 73 clergy and 8,000 members.

During the early 1990s, the leadership of the AEC began to have talks with some of the leadership of the Anglican Catholic Church (ACC). These talks eventually led to the departure of about 1/3 of the ACC (along with their Archbishop, Louis Falk) to merge with the AEC to form what is now called the Anglican Church in America. The union came about in South Florida in 1991. The ACA then numbered around 9,000 members.

Sadly, that union proved temporary. For many different reasons due largely to differences of theological culture, the union dissolved. Under the leadership of Bishop Grundorf, the old Diocese of the Eastern United States and a small portion of the Diocese of the West (numbering about 1,300 members) separated from the ACA and formed the Anglican Province of America. Perhaps the collapse showed that this most significant attempt to create unity among the Continuing Churches (the forming of the ACA) was doomed from the start. Instead of being a real union of the two largest traditional Anglican bodies, it was born in internal conflict among one of the two significant partners in the merger and without a serious understanding of the traditions and experience of either body. Certainly the lack of personal accord between the leaders played its part. Certainly not enough time had elapsed before the union to afford a natural growth into real unity between the participating entities.

RETURN TO PROSPERITY AND NEW HORIZONS, 1995-2005: PART VIII

It is significant that after the 1995 breakup of the union, the departing diocese and parishes swiftly returned to the ethos and temperament of the AEC. Most significant of all was the ability of the old AEC, now termed in the alphabet soup of the Continuing Churches as the APA (Anglican Province of American), to re-capture its more irenic tone and internal fellowship. After no more than a year of some distress, it began to grow again. Most of its ordinands were being trained at Nashotah House, Duke Divinity School or other seminaries. More and more clergy were full-time. Church buildings continued to be erected. Summer camps for youth began to be organized.

Nor was the APA content to retreat into a ghetto. Very serious talks with the Reformed Episcopal Church after 1995 led inevitably to formal intercommunion and a plan to merge both bodies after a ten-year period of dialogue. A significant theological justification for this unity, grounded in classical Anglican divinity was published. The APA swiftly recovered its membership and the Diocese of the Eastern United States now has more members than before the split. As of 2004, the APA numbers nearly 6,000 members, with missions forming in new locations. As of 2003, the average congregational strength was about seventy-five, cared for by an increasing number of young, seminary-educated clergy.

Even in the face of the Episcopal Church's continued "liberal" trends, formal talks were revived between the APA/REC and ECUSA and were officially endorsed by the 2003 ECUSA General Convention. While the controversial measures adopted by ECUSA in 2003 have largely scuttled these talks, the willingness of the APA and the REC to explore ways to live "beyond schism" signal a return to that desire and policy that seemed to perish at the end of Presiding Bishop John Allin's primacy. Bishops of the

REC and the APA now enjoy unofficial collegial relationships with the leaders of the network of Episcopal dioceses and parishes opposed to the 2003 General Convention's policies. There are also promising developments with some of the conservative primates of the worldwide Anglican Communion (*Note the new relationship with the Church of Nigeria mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter*). The APA, as heir to the AEC, continues to be determined to live into its heritage as a thoroughly Anglican church in mission. It attracts people from non-Anglican bodies and the unchurched. It now faces the challenge of assimilating a new influx of Episcopalians.

Inevitably, the APA has drawn further away from those Continuing bodies founded after the 1976 General Convention of ECUSA. No formal relations exist with any of the major Continuing bodies, though some smaller ones have elected to become part of the APA. After 1995, the APA has become almost completely reoriented ecumenically towards the REC and traditionalist organizations within the Anglican Communion. While the break-up of the ACA undoubtedly deepened the division among traditional Anglicans, in reality it merely demonstrated something unique about the APA. It was founded before the ordination of women was legislated, during those hectic years at the end of the 1960s. While it has addressed the subsequent hot-button events in ECUSA and sought to minister to those who left ECUSA in those times of turmoil, as the oldest of the modern Continuing Church bodies and the only one which expresses in its formularies and ethos a reverence for Anglican tradition in its comprehensive reality, it has now lived into a second generation whose identity is not ex-Episcopalian. As such the APA offers to people now in conflict a way forward founded in over thirty-five years of existence.

COVENANT UNION

COVENANT UNION OF ANGLICAN CHURCHES IN CONCORDAT AMONG THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION), THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND THE ANGLICAN PROVINCE OF AMERICA

Whereas the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Anglican Province of America share a common heritage of faith and order within the Anglican tradition; be it understood that:

Article 1: The Churches, recognizing the fact that they are working together in the common cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, pledge to each other, their mutual cooperation, support, discipline and accountability.

Article 2: Wherever possible, individual congregations within proximate geographic locations will work closely and cooperatively to demonstrate their commitment to one another and their desire to witness to a consistent Biblical, Evangelical and Catholic expression of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article 3: As evidence of our union in Christ and the Common Standards of the faith existing among the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Anglican Province of America, a delegation of ministers and laity may be sent to attend each other's Provincial and General Synods or Councils. As a further demonstration of our union, bishops of the Churches may attend each other's episcopal meetings with the expectation that they will be invited to speak but not cast votes.

Article 4: The Ministers of the Churches may, subject to the respective regulations of the Churches, be eligible to exercise pastoral ministry in each Church. Archbishops and Bishops of the Churches in the concordat may also be invited to conduct episcopal duties with accountability, discipline and the episcopal blessing of the local appropriate provincial authorities.

Article 5: Communicants of the Churches may be received into the other Churches on presentation of letters of transfer, or their equivalent.

Article 6: It is also our declared intention to initiate a process that will permit us, in due course to enter into an agreement of full communion with a clear and common understanding of all of its implications.

CHOIR

Rehearsals have resumed on
Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM.
Hope to see you there.

Daughter's

Join us for our next meeting
Sunday, December 11, at 11:30 AM,
in the Parish Hall.

Men's Club

Our monthly meeting will be held on
Sunday, December 18 at 11:30 AM.

VESTRY

The monthly meeting will be held on
Monday, December 12, at 7:00 PM.



SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Traditional, Episcopal, Evangelical, and Catholic