

ST. MARY'S MESSENGER

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lampasas, TX



2012 SPRING HO WINNERS

CAN'T GET BETTER THAN THIS!

World-class winners are not just in London -
St. Mary's has champions too!

ST. MARY'S IS BLESSED...

During this summer of transition, our parish family has been truly blessed by the excellent help and support provided by not only our own Deacon Millie, but also an exceptional visiting pastor, Fr. Loving.

Both individuals have inspired, graced, and blessed us with thought-provoking sermons, funny stories, and energizing messages. Their positive outlook, generous spirits, and truly loving exchanges are welcomed and appreciated. We leave the church

service with a "can do it" attitude and fresh outlook on the daily challenges we face. *(Special recognition and thanks to Mimi Cole for contacting Fr. Loving).*

The Vestry, too, has been busy this summer. They have kept the parish grounds green (new sprinklers), found a new pastor, and ensured that all the bases are covered. It's obvious that St. Mary's is in good hands...thank you, Vestry, for stepping up to the challenge.

Our new pastor, Susie Comer, will celebrate with us on August 5. Please be sure to attend church and give her a warm welcome.

All our best,

Tom and Mary

Looking Ahead

Tuesday & Thursday

11:00 am Morning Prayer
7:00-8:00pm - AA/Al-Anon

Sunday Aug 5

Our new pastor, Susie Comer, will celebrate Mass at 8am and 10:00am. Come and say "hi!" then stick around for donuts and coffee...



Sunday Aug 12

Parish picnic and party (!!)
at 11am and formal welcome of Rev. Susie to Lampasas. Bring a covered dish and have fun!



Meet Reverend Susie Comer - our new pastor

The Reverend Susanne Darnell Comer, (Rev. Susie), was born in Ecuador, where her parents were missionaries. She came to the states when she was 6, and grew up in Memphis, Tenn., where her father was a Presbyterian minister, and mother was a sociology professor. She attended Rice University, and Columbia Seminary, and was ordained a Presbyterian minister. She served as Associate Minister in Valdosta, Ga., for 4 years. She then got a Th.M. at Harvard Divinity School, worked in the library, for a few years, and then got her M.S.W. from Simmons in Boston. She finally came back to Texas, to Austin, where she worked as a therapist for foster children, and then stayed home full-time for a few years while her children were small. Once they were in school, she became the youth minister at St. Marks, for 3 years, and also went back to work as a therapist, earning her LCSW at Samaritan Counseling Center in Austin. Her call to the priesthood continued to pull at her, and as a result of the discernment process went back to school once more, for one year, at Seminary of the Southwest, to be anglicanized (learn the liturgy and history of the Episcopal church), and was ordained Deacon, and then priest. She has spent the last two years working at two churches in Austin, a year at St. James, and most recently, a year at St. Mark's. She has two children, Hank, who is 14, and starting High School as a 9th grader, and Julia, 11, who is starting Middle School, in 6th grade. Rev. Susie describes herself as primarily pastoral in her approach to her work as a priest. She is delighted to be coming to St. Mary's!



***Come to the Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 12 and meet Rev. Susie in person!
Let's give her a warm St. Mary's welcome!***

Rev. Susie - Up Close and Personal...Part 1!

When will you be at St. Mary's? I plan to be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays and work from home in Thursdays...

What do you want us to call you? Reverend Susie or Susie are fine with me.

Do you have any musical interests or abilities? I played the cello growing up, and own a

guitar, but don't admit to playing them in public.

Tell us about your hobbies.

I make cheap earrings for fun, and have quilted and knitted before kids showed up.. I love to read and walk and swim (not at the same time...)



Son Hank (14) and Julia (11)



This was the "treasure" we found in a recent geocache.

Geocaching is a free real-world outdoor treasure hunt. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using a smartphone or GPS and can then share their experiences online.

Tom and I have read about geocaching (and even attended some sample workshops that they offered at work). A few weeks ago, the Killeen Daily Herald had a Sunday article on this hobby, so we decided to give it a try.

Do you like Treasure-Hunting?

It was really fun and easy. There are LOTS of geocaches in the Lampasas area (several at HEB, the parks, and even McDonalds!). We went to parts of Lampasas that we have never seen before - but always wondered about.

We are thinking that maybe we should put a geocache at St. Mary's (there are none here). That would cause outsiders to come to our parish and see how pretty it is. (We might even leave info about church services and our beliefs in the geocache).

If you want to try this, go to www.geocache.com or search for the free app. We always welcome you to accompany us on our treasure-hunts too!

Tom is holding a geocache in this picture. It was full of "goodies" as well as a small notebook which we signed and dated to prove we'd been there. We added a small turtle to the cache...we found this using a free smartphone (or iPhone) app. This is a GREAT hobby to do with children or young adults.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH HISTORY - AND ITS PEOPLE

Did you know that we are getting ready to celebrate TWO historic birthdays? Not only will 2013 be the 140th birthday of our church (from mission status to present day parish), but it will also be the 60th birthday of St. Mary's "parish" status! WOW! To commemorate these important milestones, Jane McMillin has volunteered to research and write a book on St. Mary's Episcopal Church and some of its more famous parishioners. Jane asks everyone to look through their personal photo collections for anything related to St. Mary's. She can scan your photo (so you do not have to give it up).

Jane has been spending a lot of time finding photos, hand-written accounts, diaries, and newspaper clippings. She has also contacted old members (a funny excerpt from Derby Hirst's account is included below).



"I remember the fun of clinging to the stones of the church walls and going around the building on the ledge. I remember I had chickens...a little bantam hen that a parishioner gave me and a rooster named Throttlebottom. Many chicks followed...there were four white chickens (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Much to my mother's dismay they were often in my Dad's office sitting on the arm of his chair and pecking at the condensation on his glass of iced coffee. My chickens occasionally came to church...crowing in the aisle. I can imagine what the parishioners had to say about that! My memory is that one, being chased by a dog, crashed through one of the large parish house windows and actually left a chicken shape in the broken glass...just like cartoons."

(Wendy Hirst Fredland)

Jack Newsom's Portative Organ

A portative (from the Latin verb portare, "to carry") organ is a small pipe organ that consists of one rank of flue pipes, one, two or three to a note, supported by more or less ornamental uprights and an oblique bar. On the side where the pipe mouths, the small rectangular holes toward the bottom of the pipes, are located is the keyboard and on the opposite side is the bellows for providing air. During a performance the instrument can be held against the performer at a right angle via straps or more commonly the instrument is placed on the performer's left thigh while seated. A flue pipe consists of the following:

- Resonator
- Upper lip
- Languid
- Lower lip
- Foot and
- Toe hole



In operation, air is admitted through the toe hole then passes through the foot to the gap between the languid and the lower lip. At the languid and lower lip, the wind is focused across the mouth to strike just above the edge of the upper lip. This creates a siphon effect causing a low pressure area to be created just below the mouth, which is the area between the upper and lower lips. When the pressure in this area drops to a certain point, it pulls the airstream past the edge of the mouth, filling the vacuum. This alternately pressurizes the inside and outside of the opening, pressurizing and depressurizing the air in the pipe's resonator. The column of air in the resonator then vibrates at a frequency determined by the resonator's dimensions.

In a pipe organ there is a reservoir, or reservoirs, that provide a relatively steady air pressure to the windchests, which are the boxes on which organ pipes sit.

In the portative organ there is no provision for a reservoir meaning that the air from the pump or bellows is fed directly to the windchest. Part of the specification for an organ pipe is the air pressure or inches of wind at which the pipe will operate. In a situation such as

this where there is no regulation of the air pressure other than that provided by the performer it is not surprising there are some variations in pitch to be had when pressing any given key. As to how inches of wind compares to pounds per square inch, consider that 25 inches of wind is approximately equivalent to 1 psi. Even to this day air pressure in pipe organ air handling systems are measured using a U-tube manometer.

From Roman times the method of admitting the air to the pipes in a portative organ has not changed in the sense of being strictly mechanical. One instrument from the Roman era excavated at Pompeii in 1876 featured a bronze plate with 18 rectangular slits arranged in three rows and three small plates of bronze just wide enough to pass through the slits possibly forming part of the mechanism for the sliders of the keys. In its most simple form there is one slider for every one, two or three pipes per note. When a slider is pushed in, the corresponding note sounds. The slider is restored to its normal position by a horn spring. Evidence suggests that the key-boards these instruments have today did not come into use until the 13th century.



Material taken from Wikipedia and the 1911 Encyclopædia Britannica entry on Portative Organs, the Wikipedia entry on Inch of water.



DON'T FORGET...

Updates!

Everyone is invited to join in and participate - the more the merrier!

Renaissance Coffee

9am every Saturday at Coffee Beanery (on 281 next to Alfredo's)

Due to the heat, we have moved inside where there is air conditioning. Come enjoy an iced coffee or latte and "solve the world's problems" (why DID Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes break up? Those Chinese male gymnasts are AMAZING! What do you think about the sprinkler system at church? Did you like "Blue like Jazz" or "The Shack" more? How 'bout them Rangers?)

Bible Study

Sundays at 3pm in the Parish Hall

Recycle at Triple R

Glass/Aluminum/Plastic/Paper

Take it down and make a million - or better yet - tell Triple R you want the money to go to St. Mary's! (the church got a whopping 41 cents from our last plastic drop-off).

Unleash your inner Actor!

Vive Les Arts is holding auditions for West Side Story

Monday Aug 6 and Tues Aug 7 at 7pm. Be a part of the crew or support cast.

"Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense."

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

General Convention Wrap-Up: Re-Envisioning the Church for the 21st Century

summary by Matthew Davies, editor/reporter for Episcopal News Service)

General Convention has called on the Episcopal Church to re-imagine its structure, taken historic steps towards full inclusion, endorsed positive investment in the Palestinian Territories, and reaffirmed its commitment to building Anglican Communion relationships while saying it is unable to adopt the Anglican Covenant.

Based on the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, the budget for the Episcopal Church in the 2013-2015 triennium was adopted unanimously by the 77th General Convention July 11.

The budget is balanced at \$111,516,032, compared to \$111,808,350 for the current triennium, and comes with a small surplus of \$30,000.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and outgoing President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson addressed the media at a closing news conference July 12.

At this convention, "you have seen the Episcopal Church not only of the future, but of today, in the presence of young adults, a more significant number than we've seen in a long time, people of many nations and tribes and language traditions," said Jefferts Schori. "The Episcopal Church is healthy, it's becoming healthier, and it's poised for an even more significant impact on the world around us. There's no stopping us. Watch out world. We're coming."

Anderson, who now steps down as House of Deputies president, said it has been a great convention and that the deputies, 44 percent of whom

were new, were extremely well prepared.

Structural reform Of the almost 400 resolutions submitted to General Convention more than 90 related to structural reform. Most of those resolutions were similar in nature and it was the work of the Structure Committee at convention to consider the legislation and make its recommendations to the house.

Applause and cheers erupted July 11 as Resolution C095, which calls for creation of a task force to re-imagine the workings of the Episcopal Church in the 21st century, sailed unanimously through the House of Bishops. A day earlier, deputies also had passed the resolution unanimously.

The legislation creates a special task force of up to 24 people who will gather ideas in the next two years from all levels of the church about possible reforms to its structures, governance and administration. Its work will culminate in a special gathering of people from every diocese to hear what recommendations the task force plans to make to the 78th General Convention. Its final report is due by November 2014.

Bishop Stacy Sauls, chief operating officer for the Episcopal Church, praised the work of both the Structure Committee and convention.

"My hope has always been that we would begin to have a conversation and the church embraced that. The conversation became a movement of hope for the future of the church."

He added that the people of Episcopal Church have realized – and the institutional is getting it – "that we are standing on the brink of an unprecedented moment; have seen it as opportunity rather than threat."

The spending portion of the budget for the next triennium is allocated according to the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, and the categories of administration and governance.

The budget assumes \$73.5 million in commitments from the church's dioceses (line 2), nearly \$4 million less than that in the current triennium. That total is based on keeping at 19 percent the amount that the church asks dioceses to contribute annually to the church-wide budget.

Same-gender blessings In a historic move, convention authorized provisional use of a rite for blessing same-gender unions. "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" rite will be available for use starting Dec. 2 (the first Sunday of Advent), but clergy will need the permission of their bishop under the terms of the resolution.

The resolution calls on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music "to conduct a review process over the next triennium, making clear that this is a work in progress," the Rev. Ruth Meyers, deputy of the Diocese of Chicago, told the deputies. She chaired the convention Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music Committee's subcommittee on blessings and the SCLM.

General Convention Wrap-Up: Re-Envisioning the Church for the 21st Century (...continued)

The resolution directs the SCLM to include “diverse theological perspectives in the further development of the theological resource” and to invite responses from throughout the church as well as from the Anglican Communion and the church’s ecumenical partners.

The resolution states that, under existing canons, clergy can decline to preside at a blessing liturgy and says that no one “should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical disabilities” for objecting to or supporting the 77th General Convention’s action on blessings.

Gender identity, expression Two resolutions passed by convention offer support for the transgender community by adding gender expression and identity to two canons that prevent discrimination. One makes clear that the ordination discernment process is open to them, and another guarantees their equal place in the life, worship and governance of the church.

Following action on same-gender blessings and transgender rights, the majority of the Diocese of South Carolina’s deputies left the General Convention July 11 because, in the words of its remaining clergy deputy, the gathering had passed resolutions that violate the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church.

However, that deputy, the Very Rev. John B. Burwell, told Episcopal News Service, “We are not leaving the Episcopal Church.”

Positive investment Convention overwhelmingly supported a

resolution on positive investment in the Palestinian Territories. But the bishops agreed to postpone indefinitely a conversation on corporate engagement.

Resolution B019 affirms positive investment “as a necessary means to create a sound economy and a sustainable infrastructure” in the Palestinian Territories. It also calls on the church to support “the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian study on peace with justice in the Middle East,” and produce an annotated bibliography of resources.

Resolution C060, which called on the church to engage “in corporate social responsibility by more vigorous and public corporate engagement with companies in the church’s investment portfolio that contribute to the infrastructure of the Occupation,” was tabled after Bishop Sean Rowe of Northwestern Pennsylvania called for the conversation to be postponed indefinitely. The deputies had passed that resolution on July 9, but it would have required the bishops’ consent.

Anglican Covenant, Continuing Indaba Convention also affirmed its commitment to building relationships across the Anglican Communion, especially through the Continuing Indaba program, and to decline to take a position on the Anglican Covenant.

After considering eight resolutions, the General Convention’s committee on world mission recommended adoption of two resolutions on Anglican Communion relationships and the Anglican Covenant, a document that initially had been

intended as a way to bind Anglicans globally across cultural and theological differences.

Connecticut Bishop Ian Douglas, chair of the World Mission Committee, told ENS following the vote that the resolutions are “a genuine pastoral response because we are not of one mind, and to push a decision at this time would cause hurt and alienation in our church on both sides and instead we chose to stay in the conversation.”

The Rev. Gay Jennings of Ohio was elected to serve as the next president of the House of Deputies and Byron Rushing of Massachusetts as the next vice president. Each will serve a three-year term beginning at the end of General Convention.

Other legislation that convention passed includes:

Sudan Resolution A019, reaffirming advocacy support for peace in Sudan.

Release of Cuban prisoners Resolution A021 (<http://www.generalconvention.org/gc/resolutions?by=number&id=a021>), calling for the release of all in Cuban prisons for religious activities or peaceful advocacy of political change in the Republic of Cuba; and to support advocacy efforts for the humane treatment and pastoral care of four Cuban nationals convicted of spying for the government of the Republic of Cuba, who are serving prison sentences in United States.

Ecumenism Resolution A036, which commends the 11-year

General Convention Wrap-Up: Re-Envisioning the Church for the 21st Century (...continued)

relationship of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and asks the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee to address areas where Episcopal and Lutheran practices differ, especially around the matter of who can preside at Holy Communion and the role of deacons.

Studying marriage

Resolution A050, authorizing a task force to study marriage. It calls for creation of a 12-member task force to study marriage, including needs for pastoral responses by clergy for same-sex couples in states where civil marriage is legal, as well as issues “raised by changing societal and cultural norms and legal structures.”

Prayer Book

Resolution A059, revising the Holy Week readings in the Prayer Book to correspond with those in the Revised Common Lectionary;

Poverty and justice

Resolution A135, a compilation of several other resolutions that responds to issues of poverty and injustice. It commits the church over the next three years to “teaching, preaching, organizing, advocating, and building mutually transformative relationships with those who are poor to focus our hearts and the mission of our congregations and dioceses on reducing poverty and increasing economic and racial justice.” It also calls for every meeting that takes place in the church to include time for prayer and reflection “on how our work engages issues of poverty and economic and racial justice networks” in order to “cultivate mindfulness

about poverty in our communities and world.”

Monitoring women, other underrepresented groups

Resolution A144, requiring the tracking of the ratio of women to men in bishop election processes, along with racial and ethnic minorities, and encouraging dioceses to strive for greater diversity in candidates.

Support for Gaza hospital

Resolution B017, calling on the church to support the Diocese of Jerusalem’s Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza with fundraising and advocacy after the United Nations Relief and Works Agency cut its financial aid, slashing the hospital’s budget nearly in half.

Reconciliation or dissolution of an Episcopal relationship

Resolution B021, which amends the canons to provide a mechanism for addressing disagreement in the pastoral relationship between a diocese and its bishop.

Denominational Health Plan

Resolution B026, to give dioceses and parishes an additional three years to meet the requirement that they provide parity in health insurance cost-sharing between lay and clergy employees. That deadline now is extended until Dec. 31, 2015. Dioceses and parishes still must offer health insurance to employees through the Church Medical Trust by the end of 2012. It also calls the Medical Trust to continue to explore “more equitable sharing of health care premium costs.”

Access to Holy Baptism, Holy Communion

Resolution C029, affirming the

Episcopal Church’s teaching that Baptism is the norm for those who wish to receive Holy Communion.

Relocating Episcopal Church Center Resolution D016, to approve a move away from, but did not authorize the sale of, the Episcopal Church Center headquarters at 815 Second Avenue in New York.

Establish development office Resolution D025, establishing a Development Office for the Episcopal Church to solicit major gifts and other resources.

Pilot Student Loan Program Resolution D049, which calls for creating a pilot student loan fund for seminarians who agree to exercise three years of ministry in under-served areas of the Episcopal Church.

Dialogue with Mormon Church Resolution D081, directing the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations to initiate dialogue between the Episcopal Church and the Mormon Church “for the interreligious purposes of friendship, goodwill, mutual understanding” and in anticipation of the 78th General Convention to be held in Salt Lake City in 2015.

– Matthew Davies is editor/reporter for Episcopal News Service.

I think we should start a campaign to change the spelling of “Episcopalian” to “Episcopalium”. This is another example of total acceptance (in this case... vowels).

QUICK BRIEFS..

Ann Gilmore held a terrific "gold party" at her place on Saturday, July 21 in the morning. We laughed, shared some EXCELLENT apple strudel, fresh coffee, fruit, fresh bread/toast, and juice while checking out each other's old jewelry. We all want to do it again - SOON!

Abby Carson has been giving Tiger Woods (or Kathy Whitworth) a run for their money. Grandma Charlotte Haynie was very happy to share that Abby has had a busy summer golfing, camp Allening, and conventioning with her mother, Tulisha. "The only thing a golfer needs is more daylight."...*here is wishing you the sun, Abby!*



We recently took Camille to SeaWorld for her first theme park visit. We think she had fun - don't you?

Jane McMillan is undertaking a HUGE project in preparation for St. Mary's 140th birthday - she is writing a book on the history of St. Mary's Episcopal Church (and famous congregants). Jane is collecting stories, photos, letters, postcards, newspaper clippings and other first-hand references. Please look through your photos and diaries and share your stories with her. Thanks!

CaraBeth Nichols has been at Camp Allen for a month working as a Resident Camp Counselor. Her job? keep teenagers under control (*we all want your advice!!*). Since Cara was not allowed to use her cell phone, Janna and Richard had to keep track of her activity thru general internet postings. This "empty nest" experience has given them some prolonged exposure to what the next year will be like when Cara goes to UT. We look forward to having Cara back home with us this next Sunday.

Victor Reed is back home with us (where he belongs) until November. We all missed Victor a lot, and having him back with us has really been a blessing. Welcome home, buddy!

Kathleen Woodby has been hanging out at the courthouse square the past couple of weekends - she is the pretty farmer with the friendly smile and table full of veggies! We got some yummy patty-pan squash, tomatoes, and lettuce; Kathleen also had cantaloupe, homemade soap, cucumbers, pickles, and peppers.

LIVE IT UP

Guacamole!

Prep Time: 10 Minutes



"Cilantro and cayenne give this tasty guacamole a kick. Makes four servings."

INGREDIENTS:

3 avocados - peeled, pitted, and mashed
1 lime, juiced
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup diced onion
3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
2 roma (plum) tomatoes, diced
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 pinch ground cayenne pepper (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

In a medium bowl, mash together the avocados, lime juice, and salt. Mix in onion, cilantro, tomatoes, and garlic. Stir in cayenne pepper. Refrigerate 1 hour for best flavor, or serve immediately.

see
you at the
Picnic!!