

# *The Good News*

*St. Mary's Church, Newton Lower Falls, MA 02462*

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*January 8, 2008*

## *A Memorable 2007*

For me, 2007 can be characterized as a year with many special and noteworthy moments. I'd like to acknowledge the many contributors who helped produce my *Top Ten* favorites. These are not listed in any order of importance.

1. **We made substantial progress with St. Mary's Katrina outreach initiative.** Lynn Farnell and Tim Green completed their second diocesan-sponsored mission trip—this time to New Orleans, following an earlier trip to Biloxi (MS)—returning with photos and anecdotes about the unresolved devastation they witnessed and courageous, spiritual inhabitants they met. This is despite the noteworthy relief work being done by church volunteer groups. A last-minute substantial, anonymous donation from a St. Mary's parishioner made the final leg of the 2007 program possible. (For further information, see *Katrina Relief Redux* below.) Lynn and Tim are extremely gratified by the ongoing support from the congregation throughout the year.
2. **St. Mary's longstanding relationship with its sister parish, Santa Maria Virgin in El Salvador, was twice reaffirmed.** First, Paul Pyzowski participated in a mission trip to El Salvador for 11 days. Second, Padre Julio Rivera, the priest at Santa Maria Virgin, visited St. Mary's September 30<sup>th</sup>, bringing a message of warmth and hope from our sister parish. Paul's enthusiasm for the mission work of the Church in El Salvador has led to the creation of a partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Natick with the goal of sending a joint team of 12 parishioners on a one-week mission trip in May 2008.
3. **St. Mary's unveiled a new, user-friendly website and an expanded capability to communicate with parishioners online.** We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Paul Pyzowski for creating a website that makes a very favorable first impression for St. Mary's. Not only did Paul create this marvelous marketing tool; he did all of the work himself, saving the church monies that had been budgeted for an outside website designer. The website exhibits a beautiful photo gallery of events, and a video of the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.
4. **For the first time, invitations to the newcomer's barbeque on September 23rd were extended to the entire Newton Lower Falls neighborhood.** The event was well attended and the meal drew rave reviews. We welcomed 13 new families to Saint Mary's in 2007. Cindy Pendergast and Isabel Phillips put a lot of work into making the newcomer's barbeque happen and deserve our gratitude.
5. **The involvement of our youth set new records and inspired us all during 2007.** Particularly meaningful were the youths' participation in the Palm Sunday service and *Lessons and Carols* during Advent. In addition, we thank our middle school class who introduced us to Holy Week and read so clearly to a noisy congregation during the Christmas Eve pageant. Finally, we recognize our acolytes, who dutifully serve each Sunday. Participation in our acolyte program has hit an all-time high.

6. **On November 24<sup>th</sup>, St. Mary's church building survived a potentially devastating fire.** The fire department arrived to find an oil fire in the boiler room and a smoke-filled church. Fortunately, powerful fans cleared the air in the hallways and offices, and Sunday services continued on schedule. Because of the generosity of St. Mary's parishioners, we were able to give an HDTV to the main station force on Commonwealth and Beacon Street in gratitude for their years of service.

A letter dated December 29, 2007 was received from the station's Commanding Officer, Captain Mark W. Roche, which read in part:

"On behalf of the members of Fire Station 2, I want to thank you and your parishioners for the generous donation recently provided for our station. As you may already know, the "comfort" items in the fire stations such as TVs, air conditioners, microwaves, exercise equipment, etc. are all paid for by our members and are not provided by the City of Newton.

"Firefighters perform their dangerous job 24/7 and ask for nothing in return except for a thank you once in a while. The parishioners of St. Mary's graciously said thank you by providing us with a wonderful gift."

7. **St. Mary's hosted Spiritual Life Day for the Wellesley chapter of Church Women United on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> with the largest group in years attending** to hear Rabbi Weiss and me reflect on interfaith and spiritual life. The service centered on the spiritual life as apparent to all who are grateful to God for the blessings of life. Spirituality is not for the select few, but for all whose lives are touched by God. Elizabeth Comer did a stellar job in organizing this event, and the ecumenical spirit of Anna Brita Perkins and Fran Johnson was felt.
8. **A new *Coffee and Connection* forum held in the parish hall occasioned discussions on the well-being and direction of our parish.** One preliminary outcome is the Epiphany Adult Forums centering on Christian education, outreach, and worship. These programs afford Saint Mary's with the chance for dialogue and feedback as well as planning for the future.
9. **Our quinquennial pictorial directory has been completed.** This important document provides a photographic history of St. Mary's families and is meant to be enjoyed by all. Making the directory happen requires a tremendous amount of work. Once again, Judy Haycock, Beverly Hurney and Andrea Gorton stepped up to the plate. They deserve our thanks.
10. **The Women of St. Mary's once again raised more than \$10,000 from Foods'n Fancies.** This money goes to support outreach projects to the community and the world. The WSM did so much behind-the-scenes work: planning the Lenten program on environmental issues, producing many beautiful needlepoint kneelers and preparing for several fun events in 2007.

—Peter Chase

### *Around Town*

Ben Chase is spending his spring semester at the Macquarie Sydney, where he hopes to see Julianne Chatelaine. Roz Lloyd writes, "I am very happy at Carol Woods (outside Chapel Hill, NC) and in good health, thanks to a pacemaker and a second knee replacement. Now I'm going to have a hip replaced at the end of January." Roz is attending the neighborhood U.C.C. church.

## *Upcoming Events*

Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2008

**WARRANT FOR THE  
ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

The members of the EPISCOPAL SOCIETY OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN NEWTON are hereby notified to meet in the Parish Hall of said church in Newton Lower Falls on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008 for the following purposes:

- First:** If necessary, to choose a moderator;
- Second:** To elect by ballot the following Parish Officers:  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Superintendent of the Churchyard
- Also to elect by ballot:  
Four members of the Vestry for three years  
Two delegates to the Diocesan Convention for one year  
Three delegates to the Deanery for one year  
One member of the Investment Committee for three years
- Third:** To hear and act upon reports of Parish Officers and Committees;
- Fourth:** To act upon any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Mary Kilmon, Senior Warden  
Paul Pyzowski, Junior Warden

**Annual Men's and Women's Dinner hosted by the Women of St. Mary's on Friday, February 8**  
Everyone is invited to join us on Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of fellowship and wonderful entertainment. Appetizers will be served, followed by a potluck supper in the parish hall. After dinner, *The Fretless Voices*, a wonderful singing group that will entertain us with an eclectic, adventurous mix of classic hits and popular music—certainly something for everyone. A donation of \$10.00 is suggested to defray the cost of the entertainment.

A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall along with more information about the event. Please contact dinner hostesses Peggy Scott at [peggy37337@aol.com](mailto:peggy37337@aol.com) or Kitty Smith at [ktts1@comcast.net](mailto:ktts1@comcast.net) with any questions.

### *Katrina Relief Redux*

During the week of December 9-16, Walter Mucha (pronounced Moo-ha), a committed Episcopalian from Brookline Village, and I sent a full 18-wheeler trailer load of gently used appliances, furniture and household goods to a warehouse operated by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Interfaith Disaster Task Force (IDTF) warehouse in Biloxi (MS). With this shipment, we have now delivered 45 tons of goods to IDTF over the past 18 months.

IDTF represents a collaboration of some 150 Protestant churches along the Mississippi Gulf Coast that operates a 40,000 square foot warehouse for the benefit of the needy. Anyone who is receiving aid through various church and relief groups is given a case number which grants the holder unfettered access to the warehouse.

Our major challenge has been obtaining warehouse space in the greater Boston area (we have still not been successful) and securing transportation. Gentle Giant Movers has been very accommodative, and we thought that the last shipment was going to be pro bono. They tied up a trailer for us to load, got busy, had to rent a replacement trailer, and decided to pass the costs on to us. A generous benefactor from St. Mary's bailed us out.

The Massachusetts Diocese has installed in Biloxi an ombudsman, The Reverend Jane Bearden, who oversees relations between the north and south dioceses. She also serves as an Associate Priest at The Church of the Holy Redeemer in Biloxi, whose church building was totally destroyed by Katrina.

On December 18, Reverend Bearden sent the following email:

"I have just returned from the IDTF warehouse. Last Thursday they unloaded the truck from Massachusetts. Tommy Munro funded a day's pay for our two sextons to help with the unloading. Then on Friday the warehouse closed for inventory. It took the entire IDTF staff all day to catalog everything. Then this morning I took five families to pick out "stuff." Dryers, washers, dining room tables, chairs, and sofas were flying out the door. We giggled like kids in a candy store. The timing could not have been better as FEMA is taking the trailers this month leaving people with the task of moving into partially completed homes, expensive apartments, and sometimes on the street. With Christmas just around the corner and so many in need, this was a wonderful gift. Later I will post some pictures to the blog and write a story about the people and what your work has meant to them but for now please know that we are amazed at the generosity of the people of Massachusetts and so very grateful to you, Tim, for all of your determination and tenacity to see this project through. I left the warehouse with all five families loading pick-up trucks.

**"When I started my car and turned on the radio the music playing was "Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King." It is a glorious morning. I could barely see the road for the tears that won't seem to stop today. Christmas may be next week, but Christ's Light is burning brightly in Biloxi now."**

The following day, Reverend Bearden wrote:

"I sent two more families today. Of course those are just my referrals. There are many more. On Monday we arrived at the warehouse at 8:45 a.m. thinking we would be the first and have first choice but no.... Stephen [the warehouse manager] told me that when he arrived at 6:00 a.m. the pick-ups had already lined up. Word was out that Massachusetts had sent a truck. Yes, it is indeed an indication of the need. The stories continue to pile up and the hardship goes on. But hope is here, too. I am reading a portion of a book by Madeline L'Engle called "The Glorious Impossible" on Christmas Eve at the children's service. It is a reminder that—with God—all things are possible." We plan to ramp up our program in the spring and have some exciting prospects for expanding its scope. Your continued support is very important. —Tim Green

### *The "Ask-It" Basket:*

#### **Q: What is the difference between the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed?**

A: That which Christians believe is summed up in the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds. The Apostle's Creed has its roots in Baptism and is distinguished by the "I believe" used also on page 304 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. The Nicene Creed was drawn up in Nicea in 325 with special emphasis on the divinity of our Lord and the work of the Holy Spirit. This creed, which is used in the Eucharist by the worshipping community, is in the plural "We believe."