

LAMPASAS, TEXAS

ST. MARY'S MESSENGER

JUNE 2012

THE TRANSITION ISSUE

VOL. 2, NO. 6

✠ From the Rector's Desk... ✠

Fr. Reid Morgan's final thoughts on his stay at St. Mary's, this time of transition that we are all facing, and the importance of carrying Christ's message to the world.



We are on the cusp of summer; really we are already there in Lampasas. School is out, graduation has happened, and trips are being taken, Abbie just landed in Washington D.C. with 50 other high school freshman and assorted adults. Summer is a time to slow down and take a vacation so that we might be renewed when Fall approaches, at least Fall as we understand it here in Texas which means school starts back and not a return of cooler temperatures.

The start of summer is also a time of transition. School children begin a transition and so will we here at St. Mary's. This is a luminal time in the life of this congregation and it is a luminal time in the life of my family. A *luminal time* is an "in-between" time; it is a time where the future is cloudy and uncertain. It is a time for examination and a time for taking stock.

A wise friend of mine gave me some sage advice the other day that I would like to share with you. This individual told me that change is not a bad thing in fact that it was a time to "Throw away the things that you need to, gather the things that you'd like to try on, and reach out for the things that seemed impossible for you to have." This person also told me that change "is an opportunity to rethink, remake and renew yourself." As this is true for individuals, so it is true for congregations. It is not easy work but then again nothing of value ever is, easy that is.

Our life here at St. Mary's has been full of great joy in serving God with you. We have been led to ministry opportunities that have born much fruit in the lives of these who have been served and in the lives of those who have served. Yet there is still much work to do, as there always is.

We will continue to say good-by to one another over the next few weeks. This congregation is and will be in good hands with your vestry and Senior and Junior Wardens.

Paul in the 13th Chapter of 1st Corinthians speaks of love. The love that he speaks of is the kind of love that seeks nothing in return. He speaks of a self-giving love that is for everyone else but oneself. It is the love that the "church" is called to live out of. It is the kind of love that caused C. S. Lewis to say that, "the church is the only organization that exists for the benefit of non-members". That is a true statement. The church, St. Mary's, does not exist for the benefit of its buildings and grounds, nor for the benefit for those who are already here. St. Mary's and all assemblies of the faithful exist for those whom God will send. We exist for those whom Jesus speaks of in Matthew 25, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the prisoner. We are called to their service. The theological virtues extolled by Paul in 1st Corinthians 13 call us to that.

Thank you for allowing me the great privilege of serving the mission and ministry of God with you here in Lampasas.

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I only know in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.
1st Corinthians 13:12-12

Peace,

Fr. Reid



ECW June Meeting

Want to make friends, have fun - AND help our community? If so, then St. Mary's ECW (Episcopalian Church Women) group is waiting for you! During the school year this association meets at 9 am on the first Sunday of each month. The impact they make in our church - as well as the community - is astounding. ECW money is a major funding source for CASA, Lampasas Mission, the Senior Center, Relay for Life, and other charitable organizations in Lampasas town (and county).



Tulisha Carson, Lola Cureton, Sue Faulkner, Bonilee Garrett, Ann Gilmore, Bunny Johnson, Linda Joseph, Marie Morgan, Fay Mullins, Mary Raring-Hart, Jane Westerfield, Eileen Williams got together on June 2nd to eat muffins and discuss events. Linda Joseph, ECW president, chaired the meeting while Jane Westerfield (Treasurer) talked money. Everyone discussed some new ways to raise money (bake and craft sale, meals to go, soup luncheon).

Linda Joseph pointed out that Fr. Reid's leaving creates void that ECW can partially address - some "jobs" that need to be filled include visiting shut-ins, dropping off food, visit people who are not currently attending church to say "we miss you", and running errands for the homebound in our parish. The members all agreed this was important to do, and suggested some guidelines (for safety, members work in pairs, have a central "dispatch", create an organization tree of drivers, shoppers, etc.).

ECW does good "stuff" - but it also wants to build community by having fun. Everyone was invited to Tuesday lunches, first Wednesday potlucks (6:30 at Parish Hall), and Saturday 9am coffee at the Beanery (by Alfredo's). If you want to go to the movies, or visit the "painted churches", shop, learn a hobby, or make a friend - then call ECW!



Everyone (men included - this is an "estrogen free" zone) will meet again on September 2 at 9am in Hirst House. Like Mikey says, "Try it - you'll like it!"

Ann Gilmore : Super Star!

Our own beloved Ann is one smart cookie. Check out the write-up that Penn State did recently...

ALUMNI PROFILE: Ann Gilmore ('92 M.Ed.)

THE GILMORE GIRL

Ann Gilmore, '92, master of education, instructional systems, bursts with enthusiasm as she launches into an explanation about her career. "I have always considered my career and love of travel to be lifelong adventures," Gilmore explains. Five academic degrees and eighteen states later, Gilmore is currently residing in Texas where she teaches computer courses at Lampasas County Higher Education Center. While her love of education and travel has taken her through many pursuits, one constant has always been her motivation—an inquisitive nature.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

Gilmore has worked in the private sector, NASA, and the U.S. military as a business analyst and consultant. While working for GE Aerospace in King of Prussia, she attended Penn State Great Valley to obtain a degree in instructional systems. Her mantra: "Learn whatever is being offered not for the sake of bragging rights but for the knowledge you receive."

THE LIST GOES ON

The value of education has been a motivating factor for Gilmore's endless career pursuits. In addition to her degree from Penn State Great Valley, she holds a bachelor of science in education from the University of Central Florida, a bachelor of science in manufacturing engineering and an MBA from SUNY, and a bachelor of arts in economics from Immaculata University. Gilmore hopes to continue her research and teaching but hints at furthering her own educational endeavors.

THERE'S NO STOPPING HER

Her list of accomplishments doesn't stop with her educational pursuits. Gilmore currently is a board member of the Keystone Square Museum, and a member of the Project Management Institute and Information Systems Audit and Control Association. She is the recipient of the Technical Excellence Award and Significant Contributor Award from GE and NASA. She is a lifelong member of the Penn State Great Valley Alumni Society and served as a student advisory board member while obtaining her degree.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Gilmore admits one of her greatest joys is to travel. For her, it broadens her educational pursuits. "For people interested in history, I believe Europe is an education in itself—cathedrals, castles, and museums too numerous to mention," says Gilmore. And at each stop, Gilmore loves to sample the local fare and engage with residents. She has no intention of slowing down and hopes to continue her travels to Europe.



Lampasas Library wants VOLUNTEERS!

If you are 16 years or older and want to be of service to your community, come volunteer at the Lampasas Public Library. Hours of most need are Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Contact the Lampasas Public Library for more details. Call 556-3251 or email them at library@cityoflampasas.com

FROM THE NEW YORKER MAGAZINE

Bob Mankoff, *New Yorker* cartoon editor, writes:

In a previous post, I wrote that "cartooning is idea creativity on overdrive." Cartooning, of course, is also a form of humor. In his 1964 book, "The Act of Creation," Arthur Koestler considered humor, scientific discovery, and artistic creation to be forms of creativity, because they all involve making connections between things not usually connected to create novel and surprising combinations. Research has shown that individuals with a greater sense of humor also tend to be more creative in other areas.

The assortment of shapes shown below are part of a psychological creativity test. Participants are asked to take any three pieces and use them to build an invention, a tool, an animal, a toy—anything their minds can imagine.



P.S. You can try to be funny or just functional, but, either way, I think you are going to do splendidly. Why? Well, as I've explained, the research indicates that people with a good sense of humor tend to be good at creative tasks, and since you're reading a blog from the cartoon editor, I'm going to assume you have a good sense of humor. And there's experimental evidence that simply exposing subjects to humorous stimuli before having them engage in an unrelated creative task makes them more creative. So consider yourself exposed, and get on with it.

Mary's Thoughts on Transitions..

Tom and I have been members of St. Mary's for about 3 years now. We are aware that we (fortunately) missed many of the heartaches that many "old timers" experienced, and we do not share the same history as most. However, we do have an opinion on the change that St. Mary's is undergoing, and we feel honored (and compelled) to express ourselves on this issue. Maybe our perspective as outsiders might provide a welcome - albeit different - angle to consider.

The Episcopal Faith

In our opinion, Episcopalians are unique in that we are intelligent, like to debate/discuss ideas; we are open-minded, but love tradition. Our church is diverse (in opinion, age, political persuasion, economic income, talents, etc.). Many other congregations stifle newcomers - if the person does not "fit the mold" then they are condemned and excluded. Episcopalians are not that way at all. That is a strength we can build on. Our Episcopal faith is deep and good - and I think God truly loves us and wants what is best for us.

St. Mary's Parish Family

One of the amazing blessings that St. Mary's has is the congregation. Neither of us have ever met a more hardworking, honest, caring, and devoted group of "real" people. Our St. Mary's congregation is forgiving, loyal, and very generous. Going to church, picking up trash, participating in community events, contributing to Nets for Life and Relay, and sharing Saturday coffee - are blessings, because we get to associate with one another. After three years we can undoubtedly say that St. Mary's is strong, and filled with some amazingly wonderful people who hold a rich history, many talents, and a great capacity to love, laugh, and forgive.

Fr. Reid

As many of you know, Tom and I checked out several churches before committing to St. Mary's. Fr. Reid's sermons were a major key that pulled us in the door. He was our first experience with Episcopalian clergy (married? family? dog?). Over the years Fr. Reid has shown both Tom and me that WE were responsible for our relationship with God - that we had a brain, validated our life experiences, and taught us that God loved us. It was a real eye-opener to find that we did not have to sit passively and be told what to think (remember the 3-legged stool analogy?)

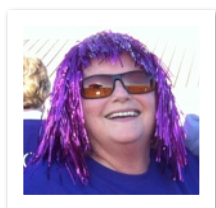
Are we upset that Fr. Reid is leaving? Honestly, yes and no. Yes: we would have preferred that Fr. Reid was more open about his intention to leave - but then again - maybe he was and we were not listening carefully enough. No: we're not upset because - in a way - we think he achieved a major goal; Fr. Reid "healed" our parish at a time when it was in pain. It would be wrong for us to expect him to stay when he has other ambitions or callings - it would create resentments in everyone (Ben Franklin's quote about fish and guests fits in here somehow...).

Looking Ahead

St. Mary's survived changes in pastoral leadership before - and will again. Change is normal. (Barna Research group says the average pastor stays on the job 5 years; Grey Matter Research says 7.7 years). To participate in helping St. Mary's through this transition - and beyond - we must recognize this change as an opportunity to gather as a group and recognize common goals and needs, then decide how we are going to work together to achieve these goals and meet our needs. We all will be called on to contribute our talents. We also need to take time for healing - and this includes recognizing and processing bad feelings, nurturing one another, and building relationships through play and fun fellowship.

For the Kitchen..

Mary Halvorson gets my joke-vote for political junkie! Who else would come to a St. Mary's graduation reception with a salad named after the Nixon fiasco? Check out Mary's notes - by changing an ingredient or two this salad goes from being a die-hard Republican salad to a historic - or western offering (how's THAT for "open minded"...HAH).



Watergate (Republican) Salad

Ingredients:

1 (8 oz.) Cool Whip
1 (16 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 pkg. pistachio instant pudding
1 pkg. mini marshmallows
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Directions: Mix all ingredients together until smooth. Chill and serve. *(I use the juice from the pineapple and 8 oz. cream cheese (whipped), and double the recipe.)*

VaRiaTions

George Washington Salad: add cherry pudding and chopped cherries instead of pistachio pudding

Poteet Salad: substitute strawberry Jell-O and chopped strawberries and cover the whole thing with more cool whip. Either way, it is delicious.

Movie Review

Tom and I celebrated getting cheaper insurance (thank you, Richard and Janna for the recommendation) and beginning of summer vacation by going to see **The Avengers**. It was totally silly and GREAT - as long as you hung all your preconceptions at the door.



The plot is simple and very reminiscent of Marvel Comics. A bad alien (Loki) comes to earth to steal an energy cube and create a portal that his alien army can use to invade and take over the earth. Earth's salvation is in the hands of 6 superheroes: Thor, the Incredible Hulk, Black Widow, Captain America, the Hawk, and Iron Man. Good

Bishop Suffragan Election!

Rev. Jeff Fisher is the newly elected Bishop Suffragan for NE Texas. Fr. Reid, Tulisha, and Cheryl Ann participated in the election on June 2 in Houston. Be sure to ask them about their trip! Between times they ate at a great restaurant, saw Fr. Reid's new church, and checked out his new home. (It's only 5 miles from the ocean and in a great neighborhood. Sounds like time for a road trip!)

This was so cool we just had to share it!



Wood Chip Art

53-year-old Sergei Bobkov has patented a unique technique of creating amazing sculptures out of Siberian cedar wood-chips.

"It's not very interesting to do what others can. To create something out of nothing in a completely new way is far more inspiring." This is how Sergei Bobkov explains the unique form of art that he created. He says many people compare his artworks to taxidermy, because

they both look so much like the animals they replicate, but



Sergei believes they are as different as light and darkness. Whereas taxidermy is all about death, his wood-chip art symbolizes life.

This resident of Kozhany, Russia, has developed his very own technique that prevents wood-chips from falling apart in time. After creating about 100-150 chips, from 2-3 inch long cedar stick, he puts them in water for several days. Then, making use of his surgical dprecision, he

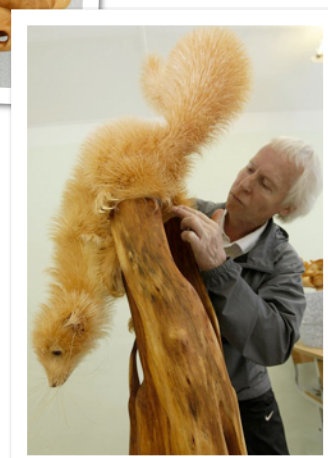
around six months to complete, at a work rate of 10 to 12 hours a day, with no days off. Sergei Bobkov focuses on wildlife creatures, and he studies their anatomy for months before starting work on a sculpture.

Even though he was offered \$17,000 for his wood-chip eagle,

Sergei's Bobkov declined, saying his art is not for sale.



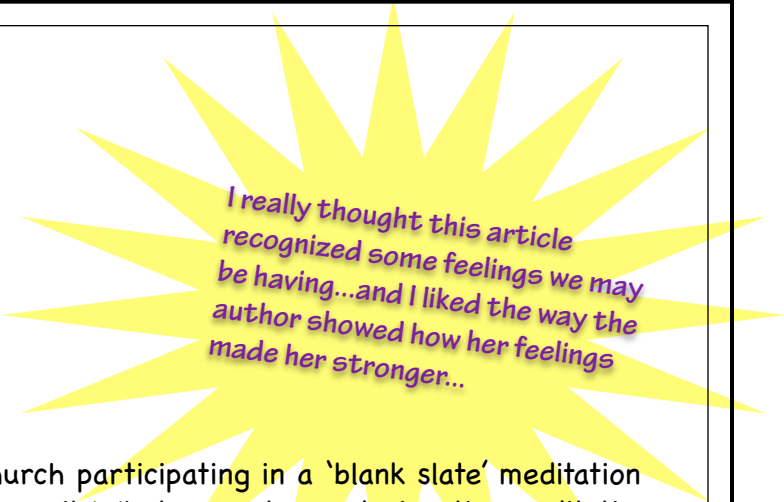
carves the chips into any shape he needs. Sergey has been doing this for some time now, but he has only created 11 wood-chip sculptures. That's because just one of these incredible artworks takes



Allow What?

Laura - Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina
Entered on April 26, 2010

www.thisibelieve.org



I really thought this article recognized some feelings we may be having...and I liked the way the author showed how her feelings made her stronger...

Ten years ago I was sitting in the balcony of a church participating in a 'blank slate' meditation exercise. Each of us had a small white tile and a pencil. What came to me during the meditation was the word "allow" and, with tears in my eyes, I wrote it down not having a clue what it meant. While no one around me seemed deeply involved or affected, I felt significance to this message (for lack of a better term). When I got home, I put the tile in my jewelry box and went about my life.

A few months later, my husband told me he was leaving our marriage. My heart broke and my thoughts went to "allow". Allow this?

I then spent years struggling... as a victim of divorce, as a single mom and as a displaced homemaker trying to find meaningful work. Now and then I would come across the small white tile and hold it, searching for the meaning. Allow what?

Then on a January morning I was told I had cancer. My friend found big bold gold letters and gave me the word **ALLOW**. I hung it on the wall in front of my bed and as I spent the year getting treatments and healing, I tried to feel what it meant for me. Allow this?

Fear had become a constant companion. I started out as a victim even as I swore I would not be one. I worried about having enough money. I worried about what others in my life would do or not do and how that would affect me. What had happened to the fearless, compassionate, outgoing, "bubbly" person who used to be me? Worry had become a part of me, like a favorite sweater I put on to ward off the chill. So when a struggle with cancer became my focus, my perspective shifted. Of all the things I worried about, it had not occurred to me to worry about cancer. I began to take a look at how fear had become a pervasive connector in my life and how control was an illusion.

I had a yard sale last year and tried to sell my gold letters. They reminded me too much of when I was sick. No one bought them. So I took an "L" to work to use as a paperweight and decided to donate the rest. As I gathered things up I started to play with the letters. The letters never made it to the thrift store and today I have LMAO leaning against the wall across the back of my desk, boldly announcing a new perspective.

What I believe is that the Universe has been trying to tell me to allow all my experiences in order to give me the perspectives to allow for choice. Today... I am not a victim, I do not struggle or worry (much). I choose perspectives focused on allowing gratitude, giving back, making connections and I find it much easier to Laugh My Ass Off.