

August 28, 2009

Dear Member of St. Mary's,

We trust you had a good summer. September will soon be here, and we wanted to let you know about the special events and other changes we have planned for September.

First, the Reverend Margaret Schwarzer will be with us on a full-time basis beginning September 1. In addition to Sundays, she will be either at the parish office or out-and-about Mondays through Thursdays, with Fridays as her day off. Those of you who have met Margaret over the summer have commented on her warmth and energy, as well as her excellent sermons, and we are sure the rest of you will feel the same way.

Second, our own Isabel Phillips has agreed to serve for the next year as our Interim Director of Christian Education, taking primary responsibility for youth education at St. Mary's. Isabel is a former Vestry member and has been chair of our Christian Education committee for the past two years; she will be attending a diocesan training in Christian Education with Margaret Schwarzer in August. She is uniquely qualified to serve St. Mary's in this role for the coming year. Isabel graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Carolina, with a double major in early childhood education and psychology, and also holds an earned doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

As Interim Director of Christian Education, Isabel will be more directly involved in curriculum and planning issues, and also will be teaching the two Sunday classes that were taught in the past by Joanne Flatley (who will not be returning this year). Both Susan Walko and our childcare team led by Marie Schlegel will be returning, and there are no changes planned to the times and age composition of classes. Isabel will be available after both the Sunday 10AM services on September 13 and 20 and invites you to contact her by phone (781-899-2530) or email (reading\_doctor@comcast.net) should you have any questions.

Third, we have a number of special events planned for Sunday's in September:

- ***Sunday, September 13*** marks the return of two Sunday services, at both 8AM and 10AM. Sunday school registration will be available following the 10AM service, and the Sunday school teachers will be available to answer questions.

- On ***Sunday, September 20*** following the 10AM service is our third annual “**Welcome Back BBQ**” for all St. Mary’s members and especially our new members. Like last year, this will feature a catered lunch from Blue Ribbon BBQ Restaurant, and games and activities for youth and their families.
- September 20 is also the ***start of the youth Christian Education Program and Acolyte Program***. Like this past year, classes for older youth (Grades 4-6) will start at 9AM, while younger youth (K-3) will begin in church for the 10AM service and then be escorted to their class during the second hymn.
- ***September 27 will be a special music Sunday with Peter Lea-Cox*** from England once again joining us as a guest conductor for the 10AM service, and also hold an adult educational forum following the 10AM service.

Lastly, your Search Committee has been quite busy over the summer. The parish profile describing what we are looking for in our next rector has been prepared and we have begun to accept applications. A separate letter from Search Committee Chair Vivian Brocard is being sent to all parish members.

On behalf of your Vestry we are looking forward to seeing you in September.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Pyzowski

Mary Green

P.S. Our church website was updated over the summer to include more information on St. Mary’s history and outreach programs, as well as on-going updates to our event calendar and blog. If you have not done so, please bookmark [www.st-marys-episcopal.org](http://www.st-marys-episcopal.org).