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Times and Tides

E-Newsletter

October 2018



There is an alley that runs behind the St. Mary's campus along the northwest side of Clay Hall. Through the windows of the rector's office you can see the weathered street sign that bears its name: Ricketts Row. Ed Ricketts was a scientist, an entrepreneurial specimen collector, and writer. He lived nearby, as did his friend John Steinbeck. You may recognize Ricketts as the character "Doc" in Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*, a series of stories of colorful lives of people in this rocky corner of Monterey Bay. That Steinbeck said these tales were all fictions and fabrications somehow makes them feel more believable and intriguing. I like to imagine all the people in this alley over the years, known and unknown, in their real lives, talking about their ideas and projects and dreams, and strolling by this little red church.

Today the door onto Ricketts Row is open, as is almost always the case when I am here. The open door on the alley gives me a connection to the neighborhood and its particular place in the big, wide world. I like it when I can hear the whir of a carpenter's circular saw, or a gull's laughing call, or the sound of half conversations from a person I don't know talking into their cell phones to unseen friends. Sometimes butterflies and birds come right in through the open door like it's the most natural thing in the world. Sometimes people do. Known and unknown. A neighbor has brought me cookies through this door, fresh from the oven. And homeless people have walked in to ask me for food. All of this is true.

When I think about each of us and how we live in the world, I wonder what this church means – or doesn't – in the minds and hearts of our neighbors who walk by. I wonder what they wonder. What is this place? What kind of church is this? Why is it here? Who goes here? Why? Does it make a difference for good in the world – or for its

neighbors? The very fact that you are reading this suggests that you and I are connected somehow through this church that has become a common part of our lives. Almost two years ago, I was a stranger who wandered by this little red church and took a sit for a spell. Now I'm literally on the inside looking out – though an open door.

I see this open door as a metaphor for how I want live, and how I see the church as it should be. We are not a closed system. Nothing alive is.

May the open door be a symbol of welcome and openness for us. May it be a reminder of our connections within our church family as well as the wider human (and non-human) family, known and unknown, all around us.

Peace and Love,

Jeff+



Welcome Our New Sunday School Coordinator!

Lydia Mansour is the new Sunday School Coordinator of “Godly Play” and the Sunday School program. She has so many talents, including acting in the recent Pac Rep’s *The Little Mermaid*.

We’re grateful that the Mansours are back at St. Mary’s and that Lydia is taking a leadership role with our Church School Program!

CSC

Christian Social Concerns (CSC) is constantly working hard to keep up with the needs of our community through food and other assistance. We serve those families and individuals who live on the Peninsula.

Sometimes our clients are homeless women, men, or families with children. Sometimes our clients are individuals or families with children who are housed but struggling to get by and put food on their table. One thing is the same though, when they come into CSC, they are loved by our passionate volunteers.

Our volunteers come from St. Mary's, First Presbyterian in Monterey, and our greater community. Without our volunteers, we cannot make this amazing operation work. Some volunteers shop at the Food Bank of Monterey County and deliver their finds to Edwards Hall where the items are put away into cupboards to be distributed by other volunteers during our regular hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week from 1pm to 2:45pm. We have volunteers who come in to work in the CSC office and

meet with the clients and assess their needs. There are volunteers behind the scenes doing everything from sorting out donations for "The Store Next Door" inside the CSC office, keeping track of statistics; making sure things are running smoothly, and problem solving.

CSC is happy to accept your donations of usable clothing and small household items (no furniture), unopened and not expired non-perishable food items, and unopened personal toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, lotions, feminine hygiene products, etc). We also welcome financial contributions which help CSC purchase food, bus or gas cards, and other emergency assistance.

If you would like to join our committed team of volunteers, **please contact Sarah Schramm** for more information on how you can help. You will meet some of the most amazing clients who will bless you in unimaginable ways!

Come Hear Stories from the Trip to Our Little Roses!

On **Sunday, October 21**, St. Mary's parishioners who visited Our Little Roses in August will share stories of their trip. Those who went on this adventure will speak during both services. There will be a slideshow during the coffee hours at which time they will answer any questions you might have about their visit to Honduras. We hope to see you on that day to let you know about this great ministry!



St. Mary's Guild

Holiday Christmas Bazaar is

Coming Soon!

St. Mary's Guild once again is sponsoring a Holiday Bazaar to benefit local charities on Saturday, November 3, from 9 AM until 3 PM. Available for purchase will be a host of Christmas gifts which include jewelry, hand-knit sweaters, silk apparel, calligraphy, quilt and rugs, wood products and

more. Sandwiches will be sold along with a host of baked goods plus a silent auction. Come early and stay late.

Parishioners will be called to donate their special baked items. Let's remind the neighbors what great cooks we have!!

We will need volunteers to help on Saturday, November 3 for a shift. Volunteers will be invited to come to the Christmas luncheon, December 5 at MPCC Beach House.

For questions, see Carrol Galanti.

Remember to sign up to support St. Mary's at AmazonSmile!

On your *first visit* to AmazonSmile which is at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), please select **St. Mary's by-the-Sea** to receive donations from eligible purchases *before* you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to our church. When you shop at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience that you enjoy at Amazon.com.

Please sign up today! Thank you!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Friday	5	1:30 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting	Guild Room
Sunday	7	8 & 10 am	CSC Sunday	Church
Wednesday	10	6:00 pm	Stone Soup	Edwards Hall
Saturday	13	11:00 am	Animal Blessing	Berwick Park
Saturday	13	5:00 pm	I-Help Women	Edwards Hall
Sunday	14	9:00 am	Pancake Breakfast	Edwards Hall
Monday	15	7:00 pm	Vestry	Guild Room
Sunday	21	8 & 10 am	Our Little Roses presentation from parishioners	Church
Sunday	21	9 & 11 am	Our Little Roses slide show during coffee hour	Edwards Hall
Wednesday	24	6:00 pm	Stone Soup	Edwards Hall
Friday	26	3:00 pm	**Diocesan Convention Hearings at 4:00 pm	Salinas
Saturday	27	7:00 am	**Diocesan Convention Convention Begins at 8:30 am	Salinas
Saturday	27	6:00 pm	I-Help Men	Edwards Hall
Sunday	28	11:00 am	Halloween Party	TBD

**Celtoid Kids continues every Tuesday: Beginners 4pm-5pm; Advanced 5pm-6pm*

*** For information about the Diocesan Convention go to the website:
www.realepiscopal.org/event/38th-annual-diocesan-convention*

*Happy Fall!
We're all in this together!*



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