



THE RED DOOR

St. Mary's Episcopal Church - 214 W. 3rd, Mitchell, SD 57301
The Rev. Liam Muller (rectorstmarys@mitchelltelecom.net) 605-996-3025

Mulling Around

By Fr. Liam Muller

Five years ago today, July 1st, 2006, my family and I arrived in Mitchell. If memory serves (and it does), it was a blistering hot day with temperatures over 100 degrees.

It was a Saturday and, after we arrived at the Coach Light Motel and unpacked the belongings we had brought with us in our 2003 Mitsubishi Outlander, along with our dog Max and our cranky cat Frisco, I made a bee line for the church in hopes to be as prepared as I could be for my first "official" service as your new rector—well, as prepared as a person could be who had just driven from Berkeley, California through desert, mountain and plains in an over packed car.

Anyway, I got to the church and, as is still the case on most late Saturday afternoons, it was quiet and oh so peaceful. And it was welcoming: I instantly felt as though this is where I belonged; that though my three years in seminary we filled with challenges, this is ultimately where those challenges had led me; this was God's way of saying, "See, this is why you went to seminary."

The peace I felt on that Saturday afternoon is the same peace I feel every time I open the doors and enter this building. It is a peace that envelopes you, embraces you and makes you feel like you belong. Indeed, it was from this very first encounter that I truly felt as though I belonged.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY/AUGUST:

July

1st	Corrine Ragle
2nd	Mark & Kathy Swenson
4th	Craig & Jackie Christiansen
11th	Andrew Olson
16th	Fr. Liam & Margaret Muller
22nd	Suzanne Grigg
27th	Gordon & Betty Plowe

August

1 st	Ed Olson
3 rd	Deb Olson
3 rd	Tina Polreis
5 th	Dee Stedman
6 th	Bill Campbell
7 th	Katrina Collins
7 th	Craig Christiansen
9 th	Katie Jo Papendick
10 th	Tom McEntee
13 th	Myrna Stone
13 th	Steve & Vickie Kramer
14 th	Bryan Muller
18 th	Wayne & Myrna Stone
20 th	Ed & Jackie Newell
24 th	Kathy Swenson
24 th	Brad Muller
30 th	Steve Kracht
30 th	Marjorie Delaney

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 14th Special Piano Service 10:00 AM

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While it is true that I had been in this place before—on a wonderful and event-packed weekend of June that same year—I was accompanied every step of the way and had never truly been alone with my prayers and my thoughts as I was on that afternoon. I had never had the opportunity to just “be” there alone, with God as my only companion. It was an amazing time and one that I have recreated for myself countless times as I enter this wonderful building.

But of course, the physical church building is just that—a building. A sacred space, yes; a place filled with memories both happy and sad, certainly. But the Church, the manifestation of the Body of Christ on Earth is so very much more, made up, as it is, of God’s children.

It is this part of the Body of Christ, the part that so proudly and so emphatically calls itself St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, that ultimately has proved the most welcoming—both to me and my family. It is this part that has cared and prayed for us in the all-too frequent times of illness; it is this part that has celebrated with us through life’s many happy occasions; it is this part that has embraced us, welcomed us and made us feel at home.

Mitchell, South Dakota is truly our home now and among all of the myriad blessings bestowed on my family and I this ranks way up there. We are so blessed to be among you, so blessed to call you our family and our friends, so blessed to be *here*.

Now, when I enter this wonderful building, I am still (for the most part) filled with peace and in addition I make it a point to pray to God Almighty. I pray for God’s will to be done; I ask forgiveness for myself and all those who need it; I thank God for allowing me to be here; and I thank God for you, my parish family, for allowing me to humbly be called your servant, your minister and your friend.

May the next five years (and beyond!) be filled with God’s blessings for each of us, and may we all always be thankful for all God has done for us.



Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3



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Have a
Happy and
safe 4th of
July
Holiday.

Remember to save Coborn's sales receipts and County Fair saver cards. Coborn's reimburses us a percentage of each sale (less liquor, cigarettes and sales tax and County Fair pays \$.50 for each filled saver card. The Vestry voted to use these funds to reduce the elevator loan so please bring your slips and cards to the church. Floss Stechmann has volunteered to tally and submit to the respective stores on a quarterly basis. Thank you Floss!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the rummage sale. It was a huge success.

Sunday School Lesson from Religious Jokes.com

One Sunday, after church, Mom asked her little daughter what the Sunday school lesson was about. Her daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilts." Needless to say, Mom was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea. Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, "Be not afraid, thy Comforter is coming."



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

St. Mary's Poetry page

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR EMAIL TO
SECRETARY.SME@MITCHELLTELECOM.NET

Recently, I talked to Christine Dahlstrom Maki who was a teenager in St. Mary's Parish when Hugo and Marie Narro were here. Marie was Christine's mother. Thinking you may be interested in hearing about her, I'm submitting this photo of her, her husband-Bob Maki, and Stella (Christine's horse that she took to California after the death of her mom). Christine is happily married and having a good life. She graduated from college and is presently coaching young people in swimming. Her mother would be most proud of her achievements.

Shirley Lohnes



Rummage Sale!





Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"
1 Corinthians 3:16



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Phone:

605-996-3025

Rector's Cell

605-999-0000

E-Mail:

rectorstmarys@mitchelltelecom.net

Reaching Up...Reaching Out...Touching Lives
www.stmarysmitchell.com

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 866
Mitchell, SD 57301

