

The Messenger

June/July 2017



If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. Proverbs 19:18

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

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Worship Opportunities at St. Mary's

We welcome you to study and worship with us!

- Monday, 7pm, Small Group Bible Study, Location changes, call office for details.
- Wednesday, 10am Holy Communion
- Thursday, noon, bible study in Parish Hall, we are reading 1 Kings.
- ♦ Sunday, 8am, 1928 BCP, 10:15am, Holy communion
⇒ Adult and Children's Christian Ed 9:15am
- ♦ Sunday, Mark Bible Study, 11:45am, Room 5

What is your vision for St. Mary's?: My ultimate vision is for people to fall in love with the God who is Love: Jesus the Incarnate son who came to make a fallen world transformable. Love is not an abstract feeling or theological concept. It is a way of existing in God. Once people get in touch with this, they flourish, their families flourish, and relationships flourish. God has called my family and I to St. Mary's for a specific purpose. Our desire is to live to the expectations which God has called us. Transparent with God, with each other, and our worshipping community.

Vision is a word used a lot by institutions, why do you believe it is still useful?:

Vision simply means clarity. It's a biblical term and God reveals himself with clarity, while simultaneously limiting his revelation. This is why it is exciting to get in touch with the God of Love; it's simply a wow way to live into the mystery of God. By mystery, I do not mean the unknown or the unknowable. What I mean is being in deep communion with God can give deep meaning and purpose in life. It's a way to find deep joy in the broken and fractured world we live. Bishop Hewitt once said, "Being dizzy with joy!"

The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, is talking about the renewal of the Episcopal Church. Do you believe St. Mary's has a role to play?

Yes. St. Mary's has a long history and tradition of faithful leaders both lay and clergy. Since the founding of St. Mary's, her members have witnessed a host of cultural challenges from the War Between the States, World War I and II, the Korean War, civil rights struggles, and the advancement of personal peace and affluence of the suburbs which yield even more challenges for the church. St. Mary's used to be a country chapel perched on a knoll. Now, within a three square mile area, there are well over 35,000 living basically on our front porch. We have a role to play because we have the Goodnews of the Gospel to share.

Do you sometimes feel your family is looked at and judged according to how you behave or look or how your kids are perceived in the community?: Not really. We want our parishioners and the community to know we face the same challenges. There are times when the kids don't want to go to church. There are even times when Heather and I don't want to go. However, church is not option to be checked off. It is a part of the way we live. Even when we plan our holy days (vacation to some), attending Holy Communion is always discussed and agreed upon.

Suburban life is so in your face. There are thousands of activities and groups available to our families. Heather and I actively give our children limits on which activities they commit to and how much time will be spent engaged in them. There's a colleague of mine who once stated in a clergy gathering that he wished he had instilled in his children the importance of being dedicated to God and the church over cello practice. Yes. Even

clergy are tempted. His story is so vivid to me. We talk often to the kids about their faith and how they are doing with respect to their prayer life and bible reading. Our goal as parents is to be more faithful in this area. It's a constant challenge. However, we are always blessed by them. Even when we become upset.

St. Mary's vision statement says, "St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Abingdon is a place where the Gospel thrives, God's love is proclaimed, and all people matter." How does this become a reality with respect to renewal? The gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives. Pure and simple. Jesus takes the old wood and carves out the dead and breathes life into us. If the gospel is held up and proclaimed, there's no escaping how contagious this is. Is it not incredible that our self-worth is not dependent on how successful or how good we have to be. We're simply loved by God the way we are: "While we were sinners, Christ died for us," St. Paul says. This is empowering. When we're empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit, we clearly see what matters to God. All other structures within this world simply do not have a message like the gospel. Hearts are changed. What I would like to see is over 40% of the congregation within the next year involved in a bible study, small group, or start a ministry revolving around living out the gospel. St. Mary's will not exist if we fail to live into the creative joy a transformed heart has to offer to a broken world. Taking communion with each other must have extensions for ministry in our community. We simply cannot exist as Sunday only disciples. My passion is for all of us to link our faith to every facet of our lives. We need each other. We need to be about encouraging one another in our faith: In our good times and challenges and certainly taking the hope we have to the community.

How do you see St. Mary's growing? First, we must grow spiritually. Our guiding principle for our mission and vision statements (see www.stmarysharford.org) is taken from St. Matthew's gospel chapter 28. There is a reason for the dismissal after Holy Communion. It is not an announcement stating the service has ended. Rather, it is an announcement that your service is beginning for another new week. It begins at home. We must grow in our personal faith. We must hold up healthy models for families and encourage marriage for young people. Everyone needs to be embraced and empowered to be the hands and feet of Christ. Our Diocesan theme is: Encounter Christ, Engage the World. What more needs to be said? The rest is for all of us, clergy and laity, to put our heads together and hold each other accountable in love. Accountability has a lot to do with parish vitality. The spiritual lives of all of us matter. Where we may be deficient, we must address it without fear. It's a widening of the walls I like to say. St. Mary's will grow when we continue to fall in love with God and faithfully worship him. I'm always reminded of Jesus' words: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." St. Mary's needs godly laborers.

This interview will continue in the August edition of the Messenger. Until then, may God richly bless you and your family.

Fr. Tommy




The feel of summer hangs in the air with promise of the slower pace of days ahead, a welcome reprieve from the more hectic days through Fall, Winter, and Spring. As our bodies slow, our minds can relax and broaden our thinking. Remembering our mission: *to worship God the Father, Son, and Holy*

Spirit; and, in Christ, to restore all people to unity with God and each other – C2020 and our collective stewardship allow us to live more fully into the mission and realize the vibrant vision we have for St. Mary's now and for the future: a place where the Gospel thrives, God's love is proclaimed, and all people matter.

Whether your summer months bring vacation time to other locales or stay-cations and working on the honey-do list, we hope you and your family will take some time to reflect on how God's love and peace works in your lives. Active campfire chats or lazy porch sitting offer great opportunities for reaching into those areas of conversation and how you can reflect those blessings back to St. Mary's.



St. Mary's Family Night

St. Mary's has 25 tickets, \$13.50/ ea.

Aberdeen vs. Tri-City

Sunday, July 9th at 5:35 pm

Contact Jim Gribbell for tickets and information.

jim.gribbell@yahoo.com or 410-598-6792



The lobby café coffee bar has been a successful addition to the Sunday St. Mary's experience! Thanks to everyone who has helped set up and clean up, and to those who have donated coffee or tea pods. You may have wondered why there isn't a free will offering for coffee. The offering box requires maintenance, and would probably need to be secured to the coffee bar. But there is still a great way for you to contribute! Every so often, donate a box of pods, which can be left on the lower shelf of the coffee bar. You can also keep a supply of your personal favorite pods in one of the two drawers. The church will continue to provide regular and decaf coffee pods, but a little variety in the selection is a nice treat for everyone.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Debbie Childs	6/02	Evan Meckelnburg	6/19
Maggie Samples	6/04	Andrea Pomilla	6/20
Eric Moses	6/06	Wynn Allen	6/21
Ariel Dallam	6/07	Mary Worthington	6/22
Amaya Manly-Elliott	6/08	Joe Shafer, Sr.	6/23
Gavin Lochamy	6/11	Uriah Ginder	6/24
Eric Taylor	6/11	Marcus Lookingbill	6/24
Bernice Erickson	6/13	Chase Pomilla	6/26
Shannon Sweaney	6/13	Beverley Taylor-Diggs	6/26
Izabella Brown	6/14	Jeanette Alban	6/28

Bruce Villard, Sr.	7/01	Gabriella Taylor	7/16
Kylie Moses	7/02	Katie Brown	7.17
Kate Dallam	7/03	Elisabeth Hunsinger	7/17
Phillip LaBarre	7/03	Jennifer Keller	7/18
Dave Labarre	7/06	Joseph Svach	7/22
Calvin Peake, Jr.	7/06	Scott Hunsinger	7/24
Terry Himmelheber	7/07	Joan Barnett	7/29
Michelle Havrilla	7/08	Volene Russell	7/29
Carolyn Beckelheimer	7/10	Tess Garrett	7/30
Katie LaBarre	7/14	Gary Gephardt	7/31

Happy Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Dick & Alma Schwanke

Mr. and Mrs. Steven & Christine Ferenc

Mr. and Mrs. William & Lisa Samples

Mr. and Mrs. Alex & Alma Bell

Mr. and Mrs. Robert & Rosalie Wallace

Mr. and Mrs. Eric & Erin Moses

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn & Patricia Weaver

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony & Jill Wiggan



Here we are in the month of May, reviewing the year and looking forward to planning and highlighting activities that will achieve our mission to “to worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and, in Christ, to restore all people to unity with God and each other.” As Director of Music, I have to ask myself a perennial question: In light of this suffering and conflicted world, can the music we make at St. Mary's make a difference? We have sung of triumph over

death in our Easter hymns, the rebirth of life and hope in our God, along with themes of hope and glory; of obedience of discipleship in our Ascension and Pentecost hymns. This is such a season for music that celebrates the joys of life, resurrection, and hope for our weary world through love and working in His Name.

This is a paradoxical world we inhabit, with the terror and the beauty so deeply intermingled. Two things must be said: that music itself cannot solve the human dilemmas we face, yet what we sing and what we play can make all the difference in how we live in the midst of enmity, conflict, and suffering. Music is, as many have observed, a gift to humankind. Music can not only express our hope and desire for a different world; some music can interrogate our arrangements of power, and expose our complicities. There is something deeply embedded in the origins of symphonies, oratorios, as well as in old traditions and spirituals that evokes the appropriate tensions between the world as it is and the world ought to be. In times such as these, our full humanity must be fully engaged or our musical offerings risk being diverting or even deceptive.

Of course not every anthem or hymn, prelude or chant, nor recital or concert can carry the weight of such an awareness of the human condition. Some music, like poems or paintings, has simple loveliness or common beauty. I recall first hearing Bernstein's 1971 *A Simple Song* from his *Mass*, with the lyrics “Make it up as you go along, lauda, laude....” Later I saw how deeply such a simple song takes us into the world, so characteristic of our whole Psalter. This in turn does remind me that “singing a new song” involves knowing our old songs, and takes us into the human conditions embedded into those texts. This is true in the simplest and most complex of musical offerings as I ponder the human stories in Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Duke Ellington, Handel's *Messiah*, the multiple settings of *Ave Maria* or *Magnificat*. Naturally, we can claim all of this as someone else's reality, but when we answer the question of the music making a difference in our world, we are aware that our music may yet give hope, courage, and joyful strength that so many desperately desire. As DOM, I hope and pray that the organ voluntaries, choir anthems, solos, hymns all offer a glimpse that transcends our world concerns, one that provides inspiration and a deeply prayerful hope for the future. Does it for you?

Our **Adult Choir** is a family-oriented group, and infants to toddlers are always welcome for the free child sitting services offered by our DOM's wife **Rose Wallace**. **Sarah Gable** has said that choir time is some of her “me time” and how appreciative she is to be able to continue singing and have little Andrew well taken care of during rehearsals. An added plus is that we have enjoyed hearing Sarah sing anthem solos during services. Rose began her services when Patterson Taylor and his twin sons, Hank and Wilk, were still part of our St. Mary's family. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, and parents with young children are invited to come and sing with the knowledge that wonderful child care is also available during that time.

This last year, we have great memories in the Music Department of a wonderfully productive choir breakfast, visits to productions at Sight and Sound Theater near Lancaster, a super St. Cecilia Organists Showcase, many new choir anthems in all genres, and look forward to more of the fun and family fellowship as we join together in our worship to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the year to come.



Sunday School News by: Nina Mullenax

Nina Mullenax (c) 410-937-4181 or email dre@stmarysharford.org

Blessings in a Backpack

Coin folders are now being collected and can be placed in the basket on the table in the lobby. Please have your folder filled out with your child's name and put it in a zip lock bag. Donations support children in Harford County Public Schools.

Youth Service/Award Sunday



Please join us this year as St. Mary's will celebrate our Youth Service/Award Sunday on June 4, 2017. The 10:15 service and awards ceremony will have a different look. All children will sit with their families and not as a class. We will celebrate this service outside on the lawn behind the Parish Hall (weather permitting) under a tent. Sunday school Families are encouraged to bring a blanket/or lawn chair and will be seated up front to allow the small children to see what

the service is all about. We will have folding chairs for those members who are not a part of Sunday school. If you prefer to bring your own lawn chair, please feel free to do so. Immediately following the service, we will move to the Great Hall to enjoy a fellowship brunch and continue with our Sunday school awards. Children will enjoy brunch seated with their families.

Vacation Bible School will run July 16th– July 18th. Please see the form on the next page! We are very excited to have Mary Worthington leading us this year, it should be SUPER time at Hero Central as we discover our strength in God!!



Youth Group News By: Shannon Sweaney

Where has the year gone? I can't believe school is almost over. On April 30 we had a large group of kids attend a bowling party. We bowled, ate pizza, laughed and had a great time. Below will be a list of upcoming activities. Please let me know if you're able to attend.

Shannon and Chris Sweaney
410-804-4671
smyg@stmarysharford.org



Sunday July 16 - Tuesday July 18 - Vacation Bible School - Youth group help is always welcomed and needed

Sunday August 6, 10:00 am - Beaver Dam - If you are planning on attending this outing you must attend the 8:00 am church service. More information to come. (If it rains we will be going to the movies)

Sunday September 3, 12:30 - 1:30 pm - Let's meet in the youth group room and make ice cream sundaes and catch up before school starts.

Friday September 15 - Wine and Cheese Party - You must be 21 to attend

Saturday November 18 - Bingo to benefit the youth group



Join us for Vacation Bible School!

Where you will discover your strength in God.

July 16th through July 18th, 2017

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Donation Requested

**Submit form via email to vbs@stmarysharford.org
or mail to 1 St. Mary's Church Road, Abingdon, MD
21009.**

Name : _____

Address: _____

Parents Names: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Primary Emergency Contact Number _____

Allergies: _____

Grade Entering in 2017-2018 School Year _____

Next WoSM Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 15th at 7:00pm Parish Hall

The Ministry of the Women of St. Mary's

We are available over the summer to assist parishioners in any way we can. Call Beverly Wehry 410-838-2853 or Sallie Parker 410-838-3677 if you or someone you know needs some sunshine or assistance.

June Lunch Bunch will be at Mamies in Beards Hill Plaza in Aberdeen. Tues., June 6th at noon. Sign up on the tract table in church. For information, call Sallie 410-838-3677. All are welcome!



We encourage everyone to bring in food items for FISH (Friends in Self Help, the food pantry at Holy Trinity in Churchville). We will

start by collecting **each Sunday in June** then go back to the first Sunday of each month. Baskets are in the back of church, the parish house lobby and the kitchen. Food banks are at their lowest, especially over the summer, and churches help to keep them going. Paper goods, health and beauty items, and all the usual non-perishable foods are needed.

School Supply Ministry- We will be collecting supplies for local schools in need beginning in August. When the sales begin, it's a good time to purchase a few extra items to share with those less fortunate.

It's never too early to think about small items to give to the **Salvation Army stockings** at Christmas. Items should fit into a 6" opening.

Summer sales are a great time to collect non-perishable goods at the grocery. Collect now for **Christmas families!**

*These are just a few ministries to become involved with, the work has already been done to set them up, all you have to do is plug in and ask how you can help!
Have a blessed and safe summer!*



Rummage Sale News!

Fri., Sept. 8th & Sat., Sept. 9th

Look for important calls for help and donation times in the bulletin, emails and the August Messenger. **We will meet each Wed. in August from 9am-12pm to sort and arrange clothing.**



St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar November 4, 2017

Calling all Crafters! If you know of anyone who would like to join us, let us know. We are hoping to find 10-12 private crafters who have their own homemade items.

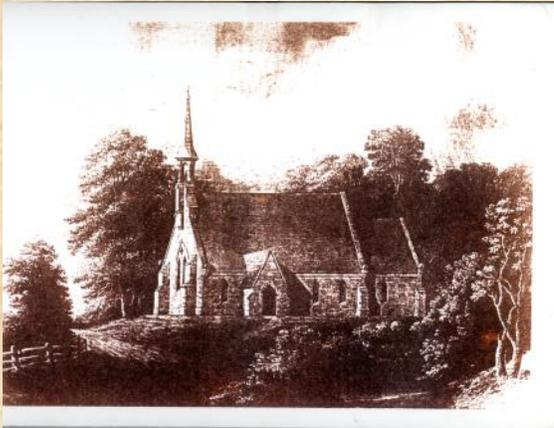
Our own crafters will be meeting on Thursday nights during the summer we will meet twice a month, **June 8th and 20th, July 6th and 22nd, August 10th and 24th at 7:00pm**

Craft items that we will be needed are ribbon, artificial greens, mugs and containers for flower arrangements.

Wood crafters, don't forget you can make things like bird houses, bird feeders, tool boxes for children, wooden ornaments, etc.

Any questions call Beverly Wehry 410-838-2853 or Carolyn Mitchell 410-679-1318

By: Mary K. Worthington



I am in constant amazement as to the timing of articles that find their way to me. This week I was handed a group of papers with the simple explanation “These are somethings about St. Mary’s, not sure if they will be of any use to you”. As I started sorting the papers, I realized they were gold as they told a new story of our blessed Church. The author is S. A. Williams and the document is a report for insurance purposes on the origins of church property. The author was a student of Brand’s School and describes the early formation of the Church.

‘The first meeting for organization was held in Abingdon, October 4. 1848. A rector had not yet been elected. Rev. William A. Brand presided and Major William B. Bond was secretary of the meeting. The next meeting of the vestry was held in 1849 and at this meeting; Mr. Brand and Mr. Thomas Hall were appointed a committee to devise a plan for a house of worship with full power as to the site, design and other details. The third meeting was held on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th, 1851 at the church, just before the Consecration service. It was at this meeting that Mr. Brand was duly and formally elected Rector of the congregation. At this meeting a resolution was approved and signed by all present and read out loud by Bishop Whittingham at the service:

“It is the desire and intent of those by whose offerings the building has been erected that is this house to be set apart as the Lord’s no man shall acquire a right of property by lease or purchase or by long possession in any pew or part of a pew, but that all seats shall be forever free to all worshippers”

There were no formal records of improvements, and the majority of the minutes on the formation are presumed to have been destroyed in the Rectory fire. In the minutes of April 22, 1889, the Rector refers to certain gifts and money to him as Rector, which would be put in the hands of the convention for the benefit of the Church. Again, on April 7, 1890, mention is made of a gift from Margaret Faulkner and on June 2, 1890, a sum of money received from the estate of Hugh Blair and a legacy from Mrs. Mary E. Fernandis. The Widow of Major General J. G. Barnard had been instrumental in erecting the Church Building and that she had also given the sexton’s house, which was later sold to the Bell Brothers.

Mrs. Bertram N. Stump provided for the walls and ceiling in the chancel and later on had the walls of the main body of the church tinted and frescoed.

In this report, there is a plea to reconsider the current coverage of insurance on the building from \$25,000 to a higher amount, as it was doubtful that \$50,000 would rebuild the church. This included the recent additions of a new organ and steam heat. The writer’s first knowledge of St. Mary’s in 1866 was one of no roads, benches instead of pews, glass windows with only three of the stained ones installed. The altar that had started in the church was donated to Rock Spring when the current one was installed around 1867.

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Services 8 & 10:15am				1	2 AA 6pm	3 Vestry / Leadership Retreat
4 Pentecost Youth Sunday (see page 5)	5 Whit Monday AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	6	7 10am Holy Communion 7pm Choir	8 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon X-mas Bazaar workshop 7pm	9 AA 6pm	10
11 Trinity Sunday Hollis Baptism Lemonade on the Lawn	12 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	13 VESTRY MEETING	14 10am Holy Communion	15 Corpus Christi Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon	16 AA 6pm	17
18 Father's Day Lemonade on the Lawn	19 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	20	21 10am Holy Communion	22 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon X-mas Bazaar workshop 7pm	23 AA 6pm	24
25 Lemonade on the Lawn	26 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	27	28 10am Holy Communion	29 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon	30 AA 6pm	

Summer office hours Monday and Wednesday—9:00-3:30. Please call ahead as times will vary through the summer.

July 2017

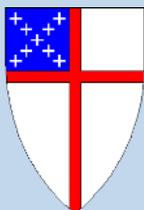
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Services 8 & 10:15am						1
Lemonade on the Lawn	3 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	4	5 10am Holy Communion	6 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon X-mas Bazaar	7 AA 6pm	8
Lemonade on the Lawn	10 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	11 VESTRY MEETING	12 10am Holy Communion	13 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon	14 AA 6pm	15
Lemonade on the Lawn	17 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6-8PM	18	19 10am Holy Communion	20 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon X-mas Bazaar workshop 7pm	21 AA 6pm	22
Lemonade on the Lawn	24 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm	25	26 10am Holy Communion	27 Bible Study: Parish Hall Noon	28 AA 6pm	29
Lemonade on the Lawn	31 AA 7pm Small Group 7pm					

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

1 St. Mary's Church Road
Abingdon, MD 21009

Phone: 410-569-0180

Email: office@stmarysharford.org



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Worship With Us!**

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We're on the Web!
www.stmarysharford.org



Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988

In the ninth century, under King Alfred the Great, England had achieved considerable military, political, cultural, and even some ecclesiastical recovery from the Viking invasions. It was not until the following century that there was a revival of monasticism. In that, the leading figure was Dunstan.

Dunstan was born about 909 into a family with royal connections. He became a monk and in 943 was made Abbot of Glastonbury. During a year-long political exile in Flanders, he encountered the vigorous currents of the Benedictine monastic revival. King Edgar recalled Dunstan to England in 957, appointed him Bishop of Worcester, then of London; and, in 960, named him Archbishop of Canterbury.

Together with his former pupils, Bishops Aethelwold of Winchester and Oswald of Worcester (later of York), Dunstan was a leader of the English Church. All three have been described as "contemplatives in action"—bringing the fruits of their monastic prayer-life to the immediate concerns of Church and State. They sought better education and discipline among the clergy, the end of landed family interest in the Church, the restoration of former monasteries and the establishment of new ones, a revival of monastic life for women, and a more elaborate and carefully ordered liturgical worship.

This reform movement was set forth in the "Monastic Agreement," a common code for English monasteries drawn up by Aethelwold about 970, primarily under the inspiration of Dunstan. It called for continual intercession for the royal house, and emphasized the close tie between the monasteries and the crown. This close alliance of Church and State, sacramentalized in the anointing of the King, was expressed liturgically in the earliest English coronation ceremony of which a full text survives, compiled for King Edgar by Dunstan and his associates.

The long-term effects of this tenth-century reform resulted in the development of two peculiarly English institutions: the "monastic cathedral," and "monk-bishops."

Dunstan is reputed to have been an expert craftsman. His name is especially associated with the working of metals and the casting of bells, and he was regarded as the patron saint of those crafts.