



Notes from the Archives

May: Springing Up

As part of our celebration of the 125th anniversary of St. Mary's, we will feature "Notes from the Archives" on the third Sunday of each month for the rest of 2016. These fascinating and delightful snippets from history have been thoughtfully prepared by Mary Morganti, our Parish Archivist.

On May 9, 1891, the original articles of incorporation of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin were signed. Some seventy-five years later, on May 22, 1966, the fresco depicting five events in the life of Mary on the west wall of the atrium was dedicated, *"To the Glory of God and to the Inspiration of the Ministry of Keppel W. Hill, Rector, 1948-1966."* In an interview with the *San Francisco Examiner*, mural artist Lucienne Bloch commented: *"The price of the plaster is really our wages—but we are delighted, because here we are surrounded by beauty."*

To this day the courtyard, anchored by the church, the garden, the lych gate, the mural, and the fountain, remains a place of beauty, enjoyed by the entire neighborhood. In the aftermath of city water main breakage during the 1906 earthquake, three natural springs arose on church property and provided a precious resource of potable water to local residents. When the Parish House was built in 1948, the water was channeled into a pool and a fountain was built through numerous memorial contributions made by friends of Tyrell Marcus ("Deac") Reading, a devoted member of the congregation. The fountain was first dedicated in November 1949, but a leak developed and in December 1960, a drain pipe in the pool was also found to be broken. Rev. Keppel Hill reported that *"the water & all the fish could be hopefully presumed safely to have reached the Bay. Parish children have been asked to bring, as Christmas presents for the Church, new fish."* The gold and blue stained glass mosaic tiles that line the fountain were furnished and installed in 1961 by the historic Gladding, McBean & Co. (founded in 1875 in Lincoln, California), through the generosity of Mrs. John Grable, a member of the congregation. The script on the panel above the fountain, *"Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth"* was designed and carved by parishioner and noted architect, Warren Charles Perry, who also designed and carved the lettering on the Lych Gate.

*Event: May 22, Candlelight Concert, **Le Lai de la Fontaine** (The Lay of the Fountain)*