

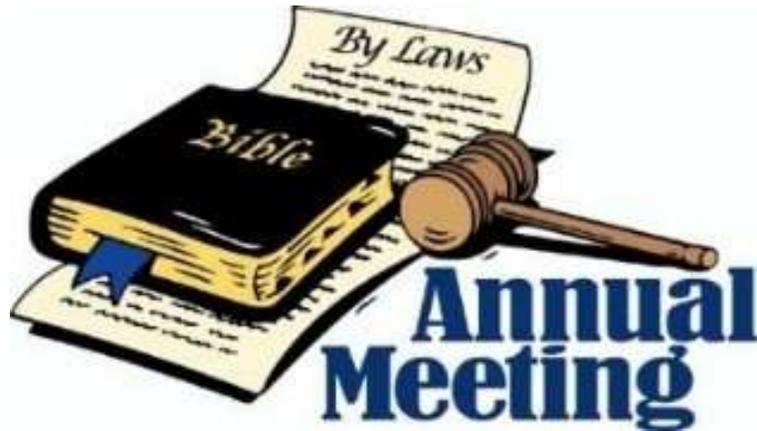
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Annual Report 2017



Annual Meeting
January 29, 2017

Revised 1/19/17



Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Meeting

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the annual meeting of St. Mary's church for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
PARISH OF
ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH BONITA SPRINGS
DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Sunday, January 29, 2017

The Official Meeting will take place
within the Eucharist in Church.

The Official Meeting will continue in
the Parish Life Center to consider the
Parish by-laws

Conversation, questions and comments
will follow at the reception in the
Parish Life Center.

Agenda

Meeting in Church

1. Opening of the Eucharist and Call to Order the Annual Meeting
2. Approval of the Minutes for the 2016 Annual Meeting
3. Report of the Nominating Committee
4. Election of Vestry members
5. Commissioning of the Vestry

At Sermon Time

6. Report of the Treasurer
 - a. 2016 Statement
 - b. 2017 Budget
7. Report of the Senior Warden
8. Report of the Rector

After the Eucharist, 40th Anniversary Procession to Labyrinth
Annual Meeting and reception in the Parish Life Center
9. Parish by-laws.
10. Presentation to retiring Vestry members
11. Questions and discussion.
12. Closing Prayer
13. Closing of the Meeting and Adjournment

Please note:

The new Vestry meets briefly in the Church after the 40th Anniversary "Blessing".

**The Constitution and Canons
of the
Diocese of Southwest Florida**

CANON VII

Congregational Governance

Section 1. Annual Meeting. *A Congregation shall hold an annual meeting every year. Unless otherwise specified in the Congregation's bylaws, the annual meeting of the Congregation shall be within one hundred twenty (120) days before or on the twenty-eighth (28th) day of February.*

Section 3. Electors. a. *As used in these Canons, an elector is a lay communicant member of a Congregation who is sixteen (16) years of age or over, whose name is duly enrolled as such in the Register of the Congregation, who is regular in attendance at divine services, and who makes stated contributions of record to the general support of the Congregation. A qualified elector of a Congregation is entitled to vote in all congregational elections and on all matters that come before the Congregation for a vote.*

Section 4. Congregational Council. a. *Each Congregation shall have a congregational council, which may be called a vestry or board of trustees or similar name, according to the choice of the Congregation. To be qualified to serve on the congregational council, a person must be an elector of the Congregation and eighteen (18) years of age or older.*

e. Wardens. *The Congregation's bylaws shall provide for the selection of wardens of the Congregation. The Congregation's bylaws shall provide that the term of office for the wardens is one (1) year, and that a person may not serve as a warden for more than three (3) consecutive terms. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, the selection of wardens shall take place at the first meeting of the congregational council after a congregation's annual meeting, as follows:*

1. *The member of the clergy in charge shall appoint one (1) member of the congregational council to serve as the Senior Warden. If the Congregation does not have a member of the clergy in charge, the members of the congregational council shall select the Senior Warden in the same manner as it selects the Junior Warden.*

2. *The members of the congregational council shall select one (1) member of the congregational council to serve as the Junior Warden. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, the selection of the Junior Warden shall be by majority vote of the members of the congregational council.*

f. Officers.

1. *The congregational council shall annually select a secretary, who need not be a member of the Congregation. The secretary shall ensure that the minutes of congregational council's proceedings are taken and reported, attest to the public acts of the*

Congregational council, preserve all records and papers belonging to the Congregation, perform such other duties as shall be legally assigned, and faithfully deliver into the hands of a successor all books and documents of the Congregation that may be in the secretary's possession.

2. *The congregational council shall annually select a treasurer, who need not be a member of the Congregation, to perform the duties incumbent upon that office. The treasurer shall furnish a bond of suitable amount. The books and accounts shall be audited annually and at any other time the congregational council may direct. The offices of secretary and treasurer may both be held by the same person.*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF
ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BONITA SPRINGS
DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

**Sunday, January 31,2016
During the
10AM Eucharist**

Minutes

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Fr Rowe at 10:10AM

Bob Foltz moved and Ron Luth seconded that the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting (February 1, 2015) be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Senior Warden, Bob Foltz, gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Members leaving the Vestry are Ron Luth and Gail Goggin. Members nominated for the Vestry by the Nominating Committee for a three-year term are Renee Osborne, Dan McClean, Tim Blaicher and Denise Wallace. There being no further nominations from the floor, the report of the Nominating Committee was accepted unanimously by the congregation.

The new vestry was commissioned by Fr. Rowe with prayer and oaths to serve in Christ. The congregation promised to support the vestry in the various commissions.

Ron Luth gave the treasurer's report that is also published the 2015 annual report. Ron commented on the highlights of the church's strong financial condition due to the support of the membership and the efficiencies of the commissions of the church. He also stressed the Vestry's on going commitment to maintain a balanced budget. In addition, members were encouraged to check out our on line payment and pledge system.

Senior Warden, Bob Foltz, gave his joyful report, which is also found in the 2015 Annual Report. St. Mary's did much in 2015 to do what Jesus taught us to do.

Fr. Rowe gave his report, which is also included in the Annual report for 2015. He asked the members of the parish to pray about one way each of us could contribute to the work of the church and think of a way where we might be nurtured as well.

All were encouraged to read the reports of the many commissions of St. Mary's in the 2015 Annual Report.

Fr. Rowe concluded the meeting at 10:50.

There was an informal discussion following the meeting in the Parish Life Center. Bob Foltz commented on the addition of Bob Douglas joining the parish in June as an Associate Priest.

Fr. Rowe asked for questions and comments from those members present. Fr. Rowe also reminded everyone to read the commission reports in the 2015 Annual Report. As there were no questions, Fr. Rowe acknowledged former Vestry members for their service.

Fr. Rowe deeply thanked Linda Delaney for her previous service to the Vestry and will award her with a special certificate when they are delivered.

Fr. Rowe thanked Gail Goggin who has served on two previous vestries in other parishes and three vestries at St. Mary's for her wisdom, generosity and leadership. She, too, will receive a certificate from Fr. Rowe.

Fr. Rowe then thanked Ron Luth for his dedication, skill, wisdom and patience in working on the finances of the church while on the Vestry. He was presented with a prayer book. .

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie English

221 members present

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To the Members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Nominating Committee appointed by the Vestry hereby nominates the following gentlemen for election to three year terms on the Vestry, beginning January 29, 2017:

Dann Battina

Jim Howard

Jesse Roberts

Les Rooker

Dated: January 16, 2017

C. Robert Foltz, Chairman

Dann W. Battina – Capital Development

Dann W. Battina was born in Des Moines IA in 1947.

Moved to the Minneapolis MN area in 1960. Attended the University of MN at the Carlson School of Business. After serving in the US Army Dann joined his family moving and storage business, Beltmann North American Co. Inc., representing North American Van Lines, in 1969. Became President of Beltmann Group, Inc., in 1985, building the business into a national Household Goods, Commercial, and Logistics services business serving consumers and corporations worldwide. Joined Church of the Epiphany Episcopal Church in Plymouth MN and became a committed Christian in 2000. Moved to Bonita Springs in 2001 and married his wife, Jane Elizabeth Battina, at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Feb 2002. We have both been members of St Mary's since October of 2001 serving as ushers and on various committees.

Wm. James Howard, MD

Wm. James (Jim) Howard was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and was raised in Marietta, Georgia. He attended Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, and then earned an MD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Subsequently, Jim completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, and Clinical Lipidology. Prior to moving to Bonita Springs in 2011, he was the Senior Vice President and Medical Director of the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. After joining the Episcopal Church in 1980, Jim served as Chairman of the Board of the All Saints Episcopal Day School in Phoenix, Arizona. Since becoming a member of St. Mary's in 2014, he has served on the Stewardship Commission, the Outreach Commission, and has been active in the Harvest Ministry program. He currently is in charge of scheduling Ushers and Greeters for St. Mary's 10:00 AM Worship Service. Jim has been married to Barbara for 54 years. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. They are full-time residents of Bonita Springs.

Jesse A. Roberts, MD.

Jesse A. Roberts was born in Springfield, Missouri and educated at Washington University in St. Louis graduating Magna Cum Laude in Biology. From there went to medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. gaining certification in internal medicine, hematology and oncology.

Private practice in Kansas City 1981-2013 served as Medical Director for Hospice/Palliative medicine programs and Chief Medical Officer of Northcare Hospice and Palliative Care and North Kansas City Hospital Palliative Care Services from 1999 until 2013. Served as Officer/Trustee of North Kansas City Hospital Board of Trustees from 1994-2010.

Attended Grace Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City and became a member of St. Mary's, Bonita Springs in 2013 after attending for 2 years. As a member of the Order of St. Luke actively participates at the Prayer Stations, on the altar and within Pastoral Care as a Eucharistic Minister.

Jesse is married to Mark Giersch a practicing Psychotherapist and Social worker in Kansas City.

Lester W. Rooker

Lester (Les) Rooker was born in Meridian, Mississippi. He was educated at Mississippi State University (BS), Boston University (MBA) and the US Army Command and General Staff College. He served 29 years active duty in the US Army, retiring in 1990. He has served twice on the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Virginia.

Les and his wife Rusty have been married 51 years, have 3 sons and 3 grandsons. Les and Rusty have been members of St. Mary's for 4 years.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN 2017

Bob Foltz

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This past year was another good year for our beloved parish. It was again a year in which, by the Grace of God, many of us worked long and hard and well in the service of Christ. Among the many tasks we undertook, the following were, to me, of particular note:

1. We fed the poor by delivering food through our Outreach Commission to several charities.
2. We cared for the sick through our Pastoral Care Ministry.
3. We gave to the needy through the profits engendered by parishioners working at Penny Wise.
4. We pledged generously to the parish through our Stewardship Campaign.
5. We generously supported our annual fund raising event.
6. We managed the affairs of the parish well through our Vestry.
7. We had great fellowship through ECW and the foyer groups
8. We had great bible study and other religious education groups.
9. We established a new Veterans Ministry.
10. We celebrated Fr. Bob's ordination to the priesthood. What a blessing he has proved to be for us!
11. We sang gladly to the Glory of God led by and through our Choir and had several great music programs.
12. We worshipped well under the able leadership of our Rector and other priests and heard some moving sermons.

By these works, and many others, we lived our faith this year and grew in it. Our parish is a faithful Christian community, full of quiet joy, and I rejoice to be one of its members.

It's an honor to be your Senior Warden.

Bob Foltz

The Rector's Annual Report

Forty years ago this October Episcopalians in Bonita Springs gathered for the first time as “St. Mary’s Church”, worshipping in the Methodist Chapel on Shriver Avenue with Fr. Robert Schriber as our first vicar. From the beginning St. Mary’s emphasized being a welcoming church with a deep sense of sharing and expressing the full Catholic faith that we have received from Christ and the apostles. Fr. Schriber guided the new mission through its first three years and into its first building, now used by Penny Wise. The Byzantine Crucifix and the matching liturgical fans in the chapel date from his time as do the icons on the walls of the robing area and hallway in the Parish Life Center.

His successor, our second vicar and first rector, Fr. Jim Harper is our “Father Founder”. He deepened St. Mary’s sense of supportive community and furthered our expression of the Great Tradition (Fr. Harper had a daily mass, for instance). He and his wife Jeanine imprinted a passion for outreach and community engagement into St. Mary’s DNA that shapes us to this day. Jeanine led a team to start Penny Wise, dedicated to raising money to build the new church and to support outreach. (Penny Wise continues to support both the parish’s capital needs and its outreach to this day.) Fr. Harper inspired the design and led the fundraising for the building we worship in now and framed the manner of our worship and our community life.

Relatively short rectorates followed (Fr. Jim Larson for three years and Fr. Geoffrey Coupland for one year) interspersed with interim priests who cared for us and led us well (one of whom was Mother Bobbie Parini!) This meant, however, that from Fr. Harper’s retirement in 1995 to my arrival in 2005, St. Mary’s was led by six priests in ten years. Although this had a cost, it also shows the remarkable resilience of the parish and the strength and dedication of its lay leaders.

As I got to know St. Mary’s through the search process and after my arrival, I felt privileged to enter into Fr. Harper’s “goodly heritage” (Psalm 16:6 BCP page 600) of a parish profoundly God-centered, devoted to one another, growing as disciples and caring for others near and far away. In partnership together we have developed this “goodly heritage” over the last eleven years.

Throughout this year 2017, culminating with a great celebration on Saturday evening November 18, we will be praising God for his countless blessings to us and through us at St. Mary’s and looking forward confidently to how Christ is leading us into the future. As we do so I hope that we will be excited by the challenging opportunities that the future brings.

St. Mary’s has always been an older congregation because our community is a destination for those seeking a wonderful place to retire. However, our community includes many younger people and families with whom we have often found it difficult to connect. I hope that part of our gratitude for what God has given us in the past will be to build for the future by imagining and implementing ways to broaden the worship, learning and community life we offer so that we can share the one faith in new ways with every generation.

St. Mary’s has benefited wonderfully from the retiring “greatest generation” who brought to their new parish a lifetime of active, generous devotion to God and his church. We could count on new arrivals – not all of them but most of them – to unpack, find their local church, transfer their membership and get involved. To our members of this generation, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You built us and shaped us and you continue to support and inspire us. St. Mary’s would not be here without you.

We postwar babies who came to adulthood in the 1960s and 1970s grew up in the church but questioned it along with so much else. Our connection to the church is much more tenuous and episodic. Of course many of us have been profoundly converted and consecrated, yet we know many of our generation do not automatically look to the church as a key part of their lives. They do not automatically look for a church

when moving to Florida, either because they haven't been involved up north or because every move means a new shaping of the self which may or may not include the Christian faith. Assuming that St. Mary's will thrive *simply* by welcoming those who find us and visit us will no longer work. We need new ways to reach out and invite people to "come and see" (John 1:46) We need to show members of this generation, by word and example, what a difference it makes to belong to Christ within a wonderful local church.

Our children and grandchildren (the Gen Xers and beyond) grew up in environments in which Christian practice was at best a minority endeavor and in many places was seen as odd. For most of them, the default position is no church at all. It takes convincing reasons and vibrant Christian community life to bring them into the church. Very often it will be a crisis of some kind that opens them up to God's grace and the possibility of life in the church. This calls for profound love on our part, patiently reaching out to invite, include, help and empower the younger generations of adults and children. Dynamic growing churches of the future invest in this and keep it front and center in Christian worship, teaching, evangelism, pastoral care and outreach.

One of the contemporary signs of grace is the openness of so many to ancient spiritual practices. Where we boomers wanted the church to embrace our music and culture, many today look to the Church to open its treasury of prayer, worship, manner of living, true community and authentic care for others. The Episcopal Church with its profound Catholic heritage in liturgy and prayer and its flexibility in expression and presentation is well suited to welcome, nurture and include many seekers of every generation. This means that we do not simply copy the culture or copy other churches that copy the culture. Rather, we explore ways that build bridges, that speak to the culture of our peers, our children and our grandchildren and offer the great treasures of the Christian faith that have formed our lives so blessedly. I hope we will explore these possibilities in our fortieth year and beyond.

Concretely, what might this look like?

Our Finance, Stewardship, Endowment and Facilities Commissions, along with our Capital Development Committee want to ensure that our premises are in top shape, our finances strong and support for St. Mary's future growing. Our Communications and Membership Commissions can work to ensure that St. Mary's is well and positively known throughout our communities, inviting newcomers and long time residents to come and be part of St. Mary's. Each of us can be eager to invite others to come with us to St. Mary's and welcome people who are seeking and exploring here, both those who are very like us and those who are very different. Worship and Christian Formation Commissions are pondering possibilities for different approaches to worship and teaching outside of our already scheduled times (*Messy Church* for families was a first endeavor in this direction.) Pastoral Care has been developing initiatives such as the Recovery Eucharist and ministry at Bentley that connect us with those who are not otherwise part of St. Mary's as well as caring for our own members. ECW creatively engages the women of our church, from longtime members to the newest newcomers. The Outreach Commission constantly stretches our hearts to recognize and embrace Christ in those in need.

Above all, any church's life depends on God's Holy Spirit filling and directing it. Let us pray constantly and fervently, alone and together, that Christ's light will show us the way and his strength carry us forward in his good purposes.

We who are privileged to be part of St. Mary's Church know how richly God has blessed us in the past and is blessing us now. As we praise and thank him, let us pray for his ever richer blessing on us and those who come after us into St. Mary's fruitful future.

God bless you.

REPORTS OF THE PRIESTS ASSOCIATE 2016

The Reverend Bobbi Parini

It is with appreciation that I assist with pastoral care responsibilities visiting hospitals, nursing homes and home-bound. Along with other members of the committee we conduct services at the Bentley Village Care Center. I, also, occasionally lead mid-week services as assigned as well as the Recovery Eucharist once a month.

We also have a book study group which explores different ways to deepen our relationship with God. Together we read, discuss various aspects of our faith journey as it relates to the Kingdom of God. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Barbara D. Parini

The Reverend Bob Douglas

It is hard to believe that seven months have gone by since I joined the Body of Christ at St. Mary's. It has been wonderful to get to know the members here and to serve alongside with you for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. I thank you all for giving me this opportunity to develop as a priest in the church. Your grace and patience has been a blessing in helping my transition from seminarian to priest.

I have been able to live out my call to the priesthood through celebrating and preaching, teaching the Wednesday and teen focused bible studies, engaging in pastoral care of parishioners, as well as leading events such as the Advent Quiet day. I have enjoyed engaging our youth through family fun nights, Messy Church, as well as the Christmas pageant. I look forward to what God has in store for all of us as we move forward in love and obedience to Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Robert Douglas

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

The Christian Formation Committee

Chair of the Commission	Father Michael Rowe	297-7245	rector@stmarysbonita.org
Assistant Chair	Beryl Chickerella	614-296-9224	nanaberyl@aol.com
Vestry Liaison	Denise Wallace	947-5197	denise@premierlandtitle.net
Family Life	Denise Wallace	947-5197	denise@premierlandtitle.net
Youth Minister			
Adult Formation	Father Michael Rowe	297-7245	rector@stmarysbonita.org
Order of St. Luke	Cherrill Cregar	498-1925	clregar@gmail.com
Cursillo	Brian Cleary	265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
Contemplative Prayer	Jim Fox	992-7552	jimffox@frontiernet.net
Lectionary Bible Study	Chester Phillips	221-3339	drchester3@hotmail.com
	Judy Phillips	221-3339	judithkphillips@verizon.net
Men's Ministry	Brian Cleary	265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
Art Consultant	Mary Kirn	949-1779	mkfloridays@yahoo.com

The Commission covers a wide range of parish ministries as described in individual reports. The Commission watches over these and takes direct responsibility for weekday evening programs and special events.

In 2016 Wednesday evenings featured Canon Harold Percy on church development, Archdeacon David Oliver on the Anglican Church throughout the world and Fr. Michael and Dianne Rowe on the Holy Land and the mysteries of faith. They also taught one session on how to pray the rosary.

St. Mary's participated in the Bonita Christian Forum presentations at First Presbyterian Church, taking groups to hear speakers Nabeel Qureshi, author of *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, Dinesh D'Souza, Christian author, political analyst and filmmaker and Kevin Sorbo, actor in the movie *God's Not Dead*.

The Commission hosted a Lenten Quiet Day with the Rev. Doug Scharf and an Advent Quiet Day with our own Fr. Bob Douglas.

2017 features special visits and presentations from two bishops, the Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Rowell, Bishop of Gibraltar (retired) on Wednesday, February 22 and the Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle, Bishop of Texas on March 18/19 in conjunction with the Compass Rose Society.

St. Mary's has wonderful Christian formation resources and offerings. The challenge is to coordinate and publicize them. If you might be drawn to this, please talk with Fr. Rowe.

Cursillo - We continue to have a vibrant Cursillo ministry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. This year Brian Cleary and Theresa Rowe co-lead the group. We met on the second Monday of every month with the exception of July and in August and September we have continued the tradition of gathering with the Presbyterian Church next door. The attendance at the monthly Ultreyas is 15-30 people.

We welcomed over five new Cursillistas this year and have had a good representation on weekend teams. Frank Escamilla and Barbara Bateman have joined the team of musicians and we are grateful the continued support of Betty Salt on the piano.

In February of 2017 we will have a new pilgrim Nancy Vaughn and also have three members of the church on team for the weekend.

We look forward to growing our Cursillo family in 2017 and encourage anyone interested to contact Brian Cleary at 239 265 1238.

FAMILY MINISTRIES 2016

Sunday School – We continue with the “Living the Good News” curriculum led by Elaine Polus, assisted by volunteers during the 10 AM Sunday service.

Teen Bible Study – Led by Fr. Douglas, this initiative began in the fall on Tuesday evenings concurrent with the adult program. The material used is “The Bible Project”, a very young, leading edge program which consists of a 6 minute video and worksheets for each discussion. The teens participate in a question and answer session and group discussion.

Messy Church – continues on a quarterly basis and is well attended.

Family Fun Night – continues on Saturday evenings. Families participate in activities such as roller skating, going to the movies, cookouts and game nights. We have also attended some live performances of musicals at Center for the Arts Bonita Springs in which some of our youth participate. We were also treated to an interpretive dance performance by one of our own during church.

Women’s Bible Study - There have been two 11 week sessions attended by approximately 20 women. The Beth Moore programs “Jesus, the One and Only” and “Esther, It’s Hard Being a Woman” were presented and well received. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and build relationships while learning. This program will continue in 2017.

Report of the Junior Warden 2016

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

The Facilities Management Commission is charged with maintenance, operation and improvements of the buildings and grounds of the St. Mary's campus. This includes signage and safety as well as new construction.

The FMC meets monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 9am in the Parish Life Center to discuss the progress of current projects and to get input on future projects. Having construction and repair knowledge is helpful, but not essential, and new members are welcome and invited to become a part of this ministry.

FloraLinda Garden Committee supervises and maintains the plantings in the FloraLinda Garden which surrounds the church building. The committee also plans, plants and maintains flowerbeds to provide seasonal color for the garden. It is a "hands-on" ministry. Those willing to get their "hands dirty" are invited to join at any time.

Columbarium and All Souls' Memorial Garden: Located within the Chapel with its beauty and inherent dignity, the Columbarium provides an ambiance of spiritual togetherness, a place where one may come to meditate and pray. It offers comfort to the family by having a memorial to the deceased within the church and affirms our faith that those who die in the Lord remain in communion not only with God but also with the living.

The Memorial Garden was completed in 2016 and provides a beautiful area for the interment of the remains of a loved one in a garden-like setting for which the plantings are changed with the seasons.

The Junior Warden is responsible for the Columbarium and All Souls' Memorial Garden and may be reached through contact with the Parish Office.

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION 2016

Moe Courchesne-Chairperson

The communication committee concentrated their effort in three areas during 2016.

1. Newspaper Advertising. We conducted an aggressive advertising campaign using the Naples Daily News, Banner and Spotlight. Our ads appeared for 6-8 weeks in the mid-February to Easter time frame and then again from mid-October to Christmas. In both instances, we had a large color ad for Easter and Christmas. Our theme through the year was Worship with us-All Are Welcome.
2. We spent a good deal of attention to insure our Website was up to date and full of information on what is happening in the Parish. Every Sunday we placed the website on the large TV in the parish hall. This allowed everyone who attended the after-church reception to view current activities.
3. The third activity was publishing the quarterly newsletter *TIDINGS*.

Remember your Communications Commission is available to assist all Commissions. Send us the news and we will publish.

MEN'S MINISTRY 2016

Brian Cleary

The Men's ministry continues to grow at St. Mary's. We have men doing work in every corner of the church. Many men volunteer in the various financial committees, outreach, prayer ministry, coffee hour, altar duties, choir, and ushering. We are working to keep St. Mary's vibrant and financially stable.

Last year's Men's retreat was a huge success in Venice Fl, roughly 30 men went on a two day retreat to get closer to God and each other. Friendships have grown on this retreat and the weekend has helped inspire new ministries at St. Mary's like centering prayer and veteran outreach. We will be going on retreat again in 2017 with Father Douglas in March, look for a sign up sheet in January 2017.

The Men's Commission held the Lenten Fish Fry in 2016 and will host it again in 2017. We have hosted other events like billiards night and golf outings in the past seasons and we continue to look for opportunities like those in 2017.

If you have a passion for men's ministry, have a great idea for an event, or would like to join please contact Brian Cleary at 239.265.1238

ENDOWMENT COMMISSION 2016

Report to the 2017 Annual Meeting

The Endowment Commission is charged with the investment management of St. Mary's Endowment Fund as well as educating our parishioners about the importance of participation in keeping the Fund healthy and growing. Our Endowment Fund provides the means to ensure the financial vitality of St. Mary's by providing a resource to sustain the church's affairs when confronting adverse conditions. Currently, The Endowment Fund makes an annual contribution of \$16,400 to the church's operating budget and, through a portion of the Fund that is restricted in its use, pays the expense of maintaining and enhancing our landscape.

As can be seen from the table below showing the yearend value, the Endowment Fund, through a combination of contributions and appropriate investment management, has shown positive growth in assets over the last several years. The totals shown are for the portion of the Fund invested in publicly held assets and exclude a \$100,000 second mortgage. The current composition of the invested assets is 20.5% in cash equivalents, 20.7% in fixed income securities and 58.8% in equities. The assets are held in two custody accounts at Northern Trust and a checking account at the same institution.

2012	\$490,779
2013	\$554,422
2014	\$599,092
2015	\$578,403
2016	\$665,011

We hope that many more of our parishioners will make the decision to join our Legacy Society, which is composed of members of St. Mary's who have either given significant immediate gifts to the Fund or who have made provision in their financial affairs for a future donation.

Currently, the members of the Endowment Commission are Joe Daniele, John Osborne, Rick Smith and Joanna Wragg. Ex officio members are Father Rowe, Bob Foltz, our Senior Warden, and Dan McClean, our Treasurer. Please thank them for their dedicated service.

Hilton Jervey
Chairman

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH 2016

Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church (ECW)

Women of the Episcopal Church are joined together to serve and do God's work. All women who are members of an Episcopal Church are considered members of ECW. Through ECW there are a host of opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership, volunteerism and development of lasting friendships with fellow St. Mary's women as well as ECW members from other parishes.

Since reorganizing and rebuilding in 2015, St. Mary's has continued a rejuvenated ECW organization. The current officers and chairwomen have served since the inception, and will continue to do so through the end of 2017. There has continued to be positive and increased participation in ECW events. In addition, there is also increased representation in the Diocese of SW Florida and Naples Deanery, including the hosting of Deanery and Diocesan events. We are expanding the scope of ECW's Ministry at St. Mary's beyond Outreach to include Personal and Spiritual Development, Hospitality and Fundraising.

Ministry- Through weekly Bible studies including reading, reflection and meditation with Priestly direction, ECW is committed to strengthening both the personal and collective spiritual journey.

"Reaching Out"- Newly formed, the Executive Board proposed and passed to form a separate committee for ECW Outreach with the expectation of reaching out to more areas for charitable donations and involvement.

Hospitality-ECW volunteers spend countless hours planning special receptions for Baptisms, Confirmations, Retirements, Funerals as well as weekly Coffee Hours following the 8:00 and 10:00 masses. Foyer Groups which offer fellowship during dinners at member's homes or nearby restaurants are also planned by ECW. Additionally, ECW hosted a lovely luncheon in July for our new Associate Priest and an indoor picnic for St. Mary's Day.

Programs- Interesting faith-based and informational programs as well as day trips provide opportunities to reflect on Christ's love in a variety of settings such as nature, art or history are planned and held monthly by ECW. During the past year ECW hosted a Veteran's Luncheon complete with inspirational speakers and local Color Guard representation. ECW also sponsored an Authentic Italian Dinner to raise funds and awareness for "After the Rain"-a local halfway house that assists women in recovery from addiction, homelessness and domestic violence.

Fundraising-Devoted volunteers work diligently to help support the many ministries of St. Mary's through efforts such as the "Stay at Home Tea" and St. Mary's Annual Fundraising Events.

The Christmas Giving Tree-Through annual Christmas gifting to local children in need, ECW sponsored the opportunity for St. Mary's members to donate gifts to The Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

The Chrismon Tree-The precious tradition of decoration and display of the Chrismon Tree in the Chancel continues to spread joy and peace throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

The Annual Christmas Tea-This splendid annual tradition is hosted by ECW. Hostesses sponsor and decorate their tea tables expressing their unique tastes and invite guests to share in a lovely tea experience full of graciousness and delights.

United Thank Offering (UTO)-This is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church. Through United Thank Offering, men, women and children nurture the habit of giving daily offerings and thanks to God. These UTO monies are used to support mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and the invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

Lunch Bunch-Through monthly outings, the Lunch Bunch offers a casual environment for women to share time together and embrace God's love with fellow Christian women.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Battina and Renee Osborne
ECW Co-Presidents

TREASURERS REPORT

St. Mary's had a good but a mixed year as is reflected in the financial reporting.

Revenues	2014	2015	2016	Budget 2017*
Contributions	658,129	644,373	697,509	738,150
Activities	53,000	74,017	52,686	48,720
Other Income	37,944	40,505	10,124	44,362
Other Offerings	10,487	19,733	12,238	15,172
Total Revenues	759,560	778,628	772,557	846,404

*Provisional Subject to Stewardship results

*Memo \$16,640 1/3/2017 deposits dated in 2016

Your contributions increased \$33,136 or 5% over 2015. Some of the other revenue sources were soft. The Fundraiser event was a dollar generating sensation bringing in over \$45,000 with a net impact of \$32,824.

The sum of Pledge Offerings and Contributions with Envelopes declined 1% to \$620,828.

Expenses	2014	2015	2016	Budget 2017*
Clergy	280,833	236,339	279,195	314,389
Lay Staff	183,649	199,727	182,208	198,979
Communication	9,836	73,29	12,022	13,000
Diocese	81,876	75,501	87,049	94,095
Other Admn	58,791	70,277	70,910	76,450
Property	77,152	106,833	112,094	108,800
Music	23,695	23,317	30,687	25,450
Christian Formation	9,905	12,238	12,175	14,580
Other	1,331	0		0
Total Expenses	727,068	731,561	799,045	845,743

*Provisional

Clergy compensation is up and will go up more in 2017 with the addition of a full time priest associate.

The Diocese apportionment tracks our spending and as spending increases our contribution goes up on a proportional basis. It is currently at 10% of the previous years outlay.

Lay staff actually decreased with favorable cost for an office assistant and health and life insurance reductions.

Communications grew as the efforts to reach out to the Bonita Springs community increased and WEB content and quality grew.

Other Administration was basically flat year over year.

Music increased 31% from \$23,317 to \$30,687 mostly from larger Choir and Cantor staff expenditures.

Christian Formation was virtually the same as last year.

Total Expenses of \$799,045 grew \$67,484 (9%)
The bottom line shows a \$47,067 surplus in 2015 moving to a \$26,787 deficit in 2016.

If the year had ended on January 13, 2017 given your average contributions the shortfall is gone. It is amazing what just a couple of bucks more per week per parishioner can do to the bottom line.

Capital Funding

Your contributions allowed capital expenditures in 2016 of \$25,950. While modest, we can be grateful that St. Mary's was spared any major component failures and/or catastrophic events. The hurricane deductible reserve remains at \$100,000.

Early in 2016, the vestry authorized the repayment of \$15,291 for a small loan from the endowment fund.

The Outreach Funds began the year with a balance of \$5,978 and received in 2016 \$111,062. Half was dispersed to a variety of worthy of charities stretching from Bonita Springs across the world to India.

PennyWise provided \$97,500 for outreach activities, normally outreach is about \$50,000 per year. Most was allocated before December 31, 2016.

Dees & Dees performed an audit and reported "...the financial statements...present fairly... the financial position of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Bonita Springs, Inc. as of December 31, 2015."

I would like to recognize and thank the many volunteers in the church who help run the Finance Commission. During the year the Monday 8:00 A.M. Counting Team were Jim George, Sara George, Les Rooker, Jim Howard, Barbara Howard, and helping out during the summer months Penny Sapp, Helen Mallon, and Peter Justus. Finally an extra thank you to retiring Linda Delaney for her many years of leading the counters.

After the count tally is prepared piles of cash and checks are turned over to the Deposit team. Led my Moe Courchesne, Beryl Chickerella and Gail Landon picked up the specialized computer skills and performed superbly.

These teams are dynamic so new volunteers are welcomed especially in the summer months. Both are fun and rewarding experiences.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Vestry members for their support of sound financial management. A special thanks to Bob Foltz, Senior Warden, and Renee Osborne Vestry Secretary, and Ian Mitchell Office Administrator helping me over the bumps of a new Treasurer.

Sincerely,

Dan L McClean
Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION 2016

Commission Members: Barbara Bateman, Janet Cervinka, Vivi Curt, Linda Delaney, Chairperson of the Ushers and Greeters; John Goldsberry, Susan Goldsberry, Yvonne Graff, Mary Hagan, Deborah Haslouer, Bill Smith and Jane Welsh.

The committee, the Rector and assisting priests help us to identify new member prospects. Visitor cards are completed with their names and other information and reviewed each week by the Membership Coordinator who sends hand written notes or electronic mail acknowledging their visit. They are also send an invitation by the committee to participate in our Newcomers Welcome Reception dinners.

The committee held three Welcome Receptions for the year 2015, and enrolled 34 new members.

The Membership Committee works successfully together covering the welcome desk, ushering, greeting visitors and entertaining new prospects at the Newcomers Welcome Reception.

All the members of the Membership Commission are to be congratulated for their dedicated, friendly and welcoming service to the visitors and parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanett Turansky, Chairperson and Vestry Liaison

**OUTREACH COMMISSION
2016 Annual Report**

Commission Members: Fred Cable, Chair

Ginny Bailey	Joyce Peterson
Brian Cleary	Joyce Pratt
Anne Dodge	Lucy Read
Elaine Douglas	Juliette Shaheen
Dave Eifert	Dave Smith
Mary Hagan	Jill Smith
Barbara and Jim Howard	Jeanette Turansky
Joanne Pace	Dave Wallace
Carol Peterson	Paul Way
	Don Zeiter

The Outreach Commission has had another successful year, thanks to the support of the St. Mary's congregation, the Episcopal Church Women and our PennyWise Thrift Shop. We strive to make St. Mary's a source of help to the needy of our parish and our community. Through our efforts we hope to make St. Mary's more widely known as a provider of material and spiritual help.

2016 Pennywise Outreach Grants

The Commission receives numerous requests for funds from organizations in Lee and Collier counties, as well as requests from agencies worldwide. After reviewing applications, the Commission awards grants each December with funds provided by PennyWise Thrift Shop. In 2016 these funds totaled \$50,000! Below is a listing of these grants:

Bonita Springs Assistance	\$15,000
Café of Life (Bonita Springs)	3,000
Gabriel House of Fort Myers	1,000
Harvest Time Ministries (Bonita Springs)	4,000
Literacy Council	1,000
Love INC (Bonita Springs)	3,000
Meals on Wheels (Bonita Springs)	2,500
Ministry of Dave & Daphne Smith (India)	4,000
Naples Deanery Dominican Republic Ministry	4,000
Our Mother's Home of SW Florida (Ft. Myers)	2,000
Haitian Orphanage "Place of Hope"	1,000
Camp Able at St. Mark's	1,000
Liberty Youth Ranch (Bonita Springs)	1,000
DaySpring Swimming Pool Project	1,000
New Horizons (Bonita Springs)	1,000
After the Rain of SW Florida	2,500
TBA	<u>3,000</u>
	\$50,000

2016 Outreach Programs and Activities

One Blood Drive
Two Food Drives (Harvest Time Ministries and Bonita Springs Assistance)
Ten Harvest Time Ministries team visitations to migrant worker camps
Smith Ministries Sunday
Theological Education Grants to selected seminaries
United Thank Offering (Episcopal Church Women)
Thirty-Five Sponsorships for Dominican Republic School students
Children's Giving Tree (ECW)
Two Day of Change collections for outreach projects – Spring Creek Elementary School
“Souper Bowl” Sunday soup collection for Bonita Springs Assistance
Episcopal Relief & Development donations

2017 Outreach Programs and Activities Planned

January	Harvest Time Ministries Team Visits Smith Ministries Bloodmobile
February	Harvest Time Ministries Team Visits “Souper” Bowl Sunday United Thank Offering Collection (ECW)
March/April	Harvest Time Ministries Team Visits “Day of Change” Collection Spring Food Drive Bloodmobile
May-Oct.	Food Collection for Bonita Springs Assistance
November	Fall Food Drive Harvest Time Ministries Team Visits “Day of Change” Collection
December	Harvest Time Ministries Team Visits Dominican Republic Sponsorships

Respectfully Submitted,
Fred Cable, Chairman

Pastoral Care Commissions Report 2016-7 January

Clergy leader: Mother Bobbi Parini

Clergy task coordinator : Father Bob Douglas

Vestry rep. And Commission Leader 2017 Jesse Roberts

Pastoral Care Committee: Elinor Foltz, leader. Pat Nelson, Card Chairman

Members: Jane Battina, Yolanda Niamili, Bob Raubolt ,Richard Norris, Kylius Jones, Joe Daniele, Jesse Roberts, Jeanette Turansky, Audrey Craver, Holley Bond-Pittman

Bentley Services: Audrey Craver, social connection. Kate and Tony Kennedy, P.R. Jesse Roberts Pastoral Care Visitation Team

The Bentley Church Service is offered twice a month in the Care Center Social Room. All Bentley residents are welcomed.

Veterans Ministry: Joe Danielle and full team began this very successful reading out Ministry. Meeting at church for informal gathering. All Vets are not only welcomed but can participate in counselling and prayer with OSL members.

The Terraces: note above this new addition to the Veterans Ministry. Call Joe Danielle for details.

Grief Console is available by calling clergy, as well as trained members of Pastoral Care.

Cancer Counsel : contact Mother Bobbi for private or group help

Social Services is under the chair and guidance of Joanne Pace

ALL members of Pastoral Care meet every Wednesday from 9:00-10:20, meditation, ongoing study, theological reflection are part of our gift to sustain our spiritual life and strengthen our personal journey.

Daily prayers for all Parish families and friends and loved ones is part of our strength.

The majority of the Team are OSL / or other Healing Ministry trained.

Shawl Ministry: this year we reluctantly accepted the resignation of Jean Odell as the “ mother of prayer shawls “ Ministry. Although a leader has not stepped forward, the shawls made are still prayed over and given out where needed.

Many positive changes have been made in Pastoral Outreach and coordination of calls to those hospitalised or home bound. Personal visits are made to all church members by calling the church office or a clergy member. Team visits are assigned in our weekly meetings.

Blessings abound for each of us honoured to service on these Ministries in being “ the hands of St. Marys reaching out to you”

Respectfully,

Elinor Foltz

**PENNYWISE THRIFT SHOP
ANNUAL REPORT 2016
Yolanda Naimoli, Chairperson**

PennyWise Thrift Shop has been operated by volunteer members and friends of St. Mary's Episcopal Church for over 25 years beginning in December of 1988. This is a ministry of outreach fund raising and church support by over 100 volunteers.

The funds are generated by the sale of donated furniture, clothing, small appliances and household goods made available to PennyWise by generous members of St. Mary's and the community. We contract with people to pick up and deliver larger items of furniture. Volunteers attend a short training program before becoming part of the working group. The store (our former parish church) is open from October through April from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM and from May through September from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

PennyWise has been governed by a nine (9) member Board of Directors authorized by St. Mary's Vestry as follows: Chairperson - Yolanda Naimoli. Members at Large: Susan Almy, Gene Bennington, Michael Brookins, Betty Cable, Christine Julander, Carroll Koelling, Roy Richardson, and Joan Zeiter. Our non-board members: Treasurer - Gregg Mullins and Secretary - Joanne Thompson.

In 2016 our monetary contributions of \$50,000 were as follows:

(1) \$50,000 to St. Mary's with the Vestry allocating 50% to the operating budget and 50% to capital reserves .

(2) \$50,000 to the St. Mary's Outreach Commission who with Vestry approval distributed 16 Grants to different organizations (see Outreach report within this 2016 Annual Report).

This brings our total cash contributions in over 25 years to \$2,329,928 (Church Mortgage, Capital Fund and Operating Budget \$1,439,978, Outreach \$909,950 and Endowment Fund \$30,000).

In addition, PennyWise made contributions of in-kind household merchandise, clothing and furniture to those in need at Café of Life, Our Mothers Home, Harvest Time Ministries, Love In The Name of Christ, Habitat for Humanity and St. Matthews.

We want to thank St. Mary's members and our neighbors and friends in the community for their donations that have funded our contributions to those in need. This has only been possible because of the dedication and hard work of our many volunteers.

Blessings....Yolanda Naimoli

Annual Report from the Stewardship Commission

The 2017 Stewardship Commission, in conjunction with the Vestry, decided last spring to transition the annual Stewardship Campaign to February in order to fully include all members of the parish, whether seasonal, half-time or full-time residents. Consequently, the Stewardship Campaign for 2017 is scheduled for February of 2017 instead of November 2016.

Concurrent with the schedule change is the decision to link financial stewardship more closely with the stewardship of time and talent, thus bringing together the three traditional aspects of Stewardship in The Episcopal Church.

Our first Ministry Fair to highlight the Stewardship of Time and Talent was held in March of 2016 with great success. The 2017 Fair is scheduled for Feb. 4 and 5, with the Pledge Drive and luncheon to celebrate the Stewardship of Treasure to be held the following weekend. Our theme is "Living Generously."

Historically, St. Mary's largest category of givers falls in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000 per year. This group represents 29 percent of our congregation and collectively provides 31 % of our pledge support. If members of this large group feel called to increase their giving by even a few percentage points, the financial health of the parish will be greatly enhanced. As many of these are seasonal members, we hope that moving our pledge campaign to the winter season will help to encourage them to increase their proportional giving to St. Mary's.

Meanwhile, contributions and collections are continuing as usual. Some \$75,000 in advance payments on 2017 pledges were received during December; distribution of Offering Envelopes for 2017 began in December, and collections continued through January.

We look forward to a successful Stewardship Campaign in February, with a goal of attracting 25 or more new participants to the various ministries showcased at the Ministry Fair and a financial goal of \$600,000 in pledges for 2017, up from \$575,000 in 2016.

Faithfully yours,

Joanna Wragg, Chair
2017 Stewardship Commission

**Worship Commission
Annual Report 2017
Worship Commission
Gail Goggin co-chairperson**

Mission statement: The Worship Commission is a committee of staff and Lay people of St. Mary's Episcopal Church who serve the church by supporting and promoting the use of sound principles and practices. The Commission ensures that these principles and practices are consistent with the Canons, By-Laws, and Regulations of the Episcopal Church of the United States.

As required by the Canons, the chair of the Worship Commission is the Rector. All other Commissions may be chaired by a layperson. Membership on the Commission comprises of representation by the Clergy, Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care, and Scheduling coordinators from the regular worship services, the weekday services and special services.

The Commission plans and discusses all the special services for the yearly liturgical seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc. in addition, the Commission reviews and discusses changes and protocol for all worship services and special services at St. Mary's throughout the year. The Commission meets monthly with the exception of August.

Two key Committees within the Worship Commission, Altar Guild (Sandie Beihl) and Music Ministry (Brian Aranowski) have filed separate reports for the Annual Report. The Altar Guild provides the support and services needed for meaningful and appropriate worship throughout the year including all special services. The Music Ministry provides an expressive interpretation of parts of the worship service provided by our highly accomplished professional organist, cantors and choir. In addition, Brian Aranowski and the choir have sponsored several events for the enjoyment of St. Mary's and the community at large.

The following persons have served on the Worship Commission this past year.

Staff: Father Michael Rowe, Rector and Commission Chair
 Father Bob Douglas, Priest Associate
 Mother Bobbie Parini, Priest Associate
 Brian Aranowski, Director of Music Ministry
 Ian Mitchell, Office Administrator

Lay Persons; Gail Goggin, Co-chairperson and 10am Sunday service
 Sandie Beihl, Altar Guild
 Elinor Foltz, Pastoral Care
 Barbara and Jim Howard, Ushers and Greeters
 Robert Raubolt, 5pm Saturday service
 Paul Greene, weekday and special services
 Jenny Schwerdtfeger, 8 am Sunday service
 Christine Julander, Stations of the Cross
 Sandy Renner, technical consultant

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Goggin

ALTAR GUILD 2016

Another year has come and gone for those of us who devote our time and energies in preparing the Lord's Table and sanctuary for the more than 312 Eucharistic services held regularly at the main and chapel altars, and even in the Flora Linda garden. We also prepare a communion basket for bi-monthly services at Bentley Village, set-ups for Messy Church in the Parish Life Center, prep for funerals, weddings, baptisms, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, as well. We are busy folk.

St. Mary's Altar Guild is a ministerial wellspring of high spirits and camaraderie with a little more than 25 members currently serving on a rotation basis each month. In 2016, we happily welcomed Billie Barnes, Janet Cervinka, Kathy Heuckling and Becky O'Donnell into the fold. We are always recruiting.

Sadly, as one door opened, another closed and we paid our respects to long-time Altar Guild faithful, Nancy Foley, Pat Shillito, Eleanor Shihadeh (in absentia), and Tom Fox.

A donation enabled acquisition of the new Marian chasuble with attendant stoles to be worn by clergy for the annual St. Mary's Day service and other appropriate occasions throughout the year.

A heartfelt thank you to all who sign-up to sponsor weekly altar flowers and to those donating toward the poinsettias and lilies that grace the sanctuary at Christmas and Easter. Thank you, too, to all who contribute plants/flowers during Holy Week that we may re-create a Garden of Gethsemane setting for the Maundy Thursday vigil in the Flora Linda garden. We are grateful.

Juliette Shaheen and Molly Anderson have my undying gratitude for once again co-chairing the annual palm cross workshop held in the PLC the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

A fun-filled event with all ages invited and involved. Rather habit-forming, actually.

As is Altar Guild, itself. I remain totally in awe of the dedicated and committed men and women in this wonderful ministry who keep us running smoothly from one service to the next.

Quietly serving behind the scenes with respect and reverence for our mission, we are Altar Guild.

Sandie Beihl Directress

Music Ministry 2016

Annual Report

St. Mary's Music Ministry, dedicated to the liturgical worship of the parish, offers music to the glory of God and maintains the highest standards of Anglican choral practice.

The Parish Choir

The Parish Choir continues to be the cornerstone of musical leadership at the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Eucharist October through May as well as for services during Holy Week and in the presentation of special musical offerings which included two services of Missa Cantata, two services of Choral Matins, the annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, and the annual Carols and Anthems for Christmas Eve. New members are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry during most of the program year.

The Parish Cantors

Our team of four cantors serve in musical leadership for the Saturday 5 p.m. weekly Eucharist throughout the year and lead the singing at the 10 a.m. Sunday Eucharist when the Parish Choir is in summer recess. They also serve for funerals, weddings and other special services throughout the year.

Concerts

The choirs of The Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University returned to perform in concert in spring with great attendance and accolade.

The Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida presented its first concert held at St. Mary's Church in November.

Both concerts drew almost full-house attendance. Concerts such as these establish a healthy and open relationship between the parish and local musical organizations and centers of higher learning and benefit not only St. Mary's but the greater Bonita Springs community at large.

With approval and support from the Rector, Vestry, and Worship Commission a newly-created fund has been established called "Friends of Music at St. Mary's Church." Donations to this account will complement the current "Brian Aranowski Endowment Fund" which provides for future growth and development. "Friends of Music at St. Mary's Church" will provide for current concert expenses and hopefully self-sustain that program through generous donations from both parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

Musical & Liturgical Public Relations

The success of both liturgical and special musical offerings is critically dependent upon the proper dissemination of information and its content. Jim Bixler has continued in this role and I would like to thank him for his exceptional ability and many hours of dedicated time volunteered in maintaining good working relationships with our local press media. Jim also has also ensured that the parish's music web site remains up-to-date and, in working with our parish webmaster Chester Phillips, both gentlemen have created a first-rate, attractive and informative vehicle for information dissemination. Jim also serves as music liaison with the parish's Communications Commission.

(continued)

Concluding Remarks

St. Mary's is indeed blessed to have a thriving ministry of music thanks to all who are involved, and I am very grateful for the abundance of talented individuals who help us worship God through music. May 2017 see continued joy and growth in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted in Christ's Service,
Brian Aranowski, M.Mus., Director of Music

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
*"Where Word and Sacrament
come together
in celebration and service."*

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Rowe, Rector
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The Rev. Bobbie Parini, Priest Associate
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The Rev. Al Salt, Assisting Priest
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The Rev. Gail Tomei, Assisting Priest
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Brian Aranowski, M. Mus.: Director of Music
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Barbara Williams, Office Assistant
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Sandy Gunger, Sexton
sandyg1964@mail.com

Outgoing Vestry members as of January 29, 2016
Brian Cleary, Dann Battina, Les Rooker, Morris Courchesne.

If the vote of the Parish is in concurrence, the membership of the Vestry would be:

Class of 2017: Bob Foltz, Rick Smith, Jeanette Turansky, Otis Wragg
Class of 2018: Tim Blaicher, Renee Osborne, Dan McClean, Denise Wallace
Class of 2019: Dann Battina, Jim Howard, Jesse Roberts, Les Rooker

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**The Reverend Dr. Michael G. Rowe, Rector
St. Mary's Episcopal Church**