



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

Celebrating 40 Years
of Christian Caring

Life and Ministries St. Mary's Episcopal Church 2017

*Where Word and Sacrament
come together
in celebration and service.*



9803 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135
239 992-4343
www.stmarysbonita.org
churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org

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Life and Ministries Directory

VESTRY MEMBERS

Bob Foltz	(239) 498-4629	robert.foltz@ahss.org
Tim Blaicher	(215) 630-6257	aablaicher2@gmail.com
Jim Howard	(239) 908-3915	wjh1@comcast.net
Paul Judkins	(585)-967-4182	judkpa@comcast.net
Dan McClean	(239) 908-9450	danthemanmcclean@gmail.com
Renee Osborne	(316) 655-0335	renee@midwestsinglesource.com
Jesse Roberts	(239) 498-4629	jarobertsmd@yahoo.com
Les Rooker	(239) 593-5957	rrooker@yahoo.com
Jeanette Turansky	(239) 405-1783	jmturansky@gmail.com
Denise Wallace	(239) 947-5197	denise@premierlandtitle.net
Otis Wragg	(239) 405-8702	owragg@comcast.net
Fr. Michael Rowe	(239) 992-4343	rector@stmarysbonita.org

VESTRY COMMISSIONS

Senior Warden	Bob Foltz	(239) 498-4629	robert.foltz@ahss.org
Junior Warden	Tim Blaicher	(215) 630-6257	aablaicher2@gmail.com

FACILITIES COMMISSION

Chair & Vestry Liaison	Tim Blaicher	(215) 630-6257	aablaicher2@gmail.com
	Les Rooker	(239) 593-5957	rrooker@yahoo.com
Gardens Committee	Bill Gilmore	(239) 633-1751	Billgill39@yahoo.com
	Cherrill Cregar	(239) 498-1925	clregar@gmail.com
Columbarium	Tim Blaicher	(215) 630-6257	Aaablaicher2@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

Chair	Fr. Michael Rowe	(239) 992-4343	rector@stmarysbonita.org
Vestry Liaison	Denise Wallace	(239) 947-5197	denise@premierlandtitle.net
Family Life	Denise Wallace	(239) 947-5197	denise@premierlandtitle.net
Adult Formation	Fr. Michael Rowe	(239) 992-4343	rector@stmarysbonita.org
Order of St. Luke	Cherrill Cregar	(239) 498-1925	clregar@gmail.com
Cursillo	Brian Cleary	(239) 265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
Contemplative Prayer	Jim Fox	(239) 992-7552	jimffox@frontiernet.net
Men's Ministry	Brian Cleary	(239) 265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
Librarian			

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Chair	Rick Smith	(203) 733-3611	muldune3@gmail.com
Vestry Liaison	Paul Judkins	(585) 967-4182	judkpa@comcast.net
Social Media	Theresa Rowe	(239) 298-6095	theresamaryrowe@gmail.com
Brochures	Joanna Wragg	(239) 405-8702	wragg.joanna@gmail.com
Miscellaneous	Stephanie English	(239) 390-2881	Sae1581@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT COMMISSION

Chair	Hilton Jervey	(239) 498-0695	hje123@verizon.net
Vestry Liaison	Bob Foltz	(239) 498-4629	robert.foltz@ahss.org
	Fr. Michael Rowe	(239) 992-4343	rector@stmarysbonita.org
	John D. Osborne	(239) 676-9805	JHO@midwestsinglesource.com
	Joanna Wragg	(239) 405-8702	wragg.joanna@gmail.com
	Joe Daniele	(239) 948-4629	daniele0077@aol.com

FINANCE COMMISSION

Chair Vestry Liaison Treasurer	Dan McClean	(239) 908-9450	danthemanmcclean@gmail.com
	Moe Courchesne	(239) 390-9936	cour51@icloud.com
	Beryl Chickerella	(614) 296-9224	nanaberyl@aol.com
	Jim Fowler	(239) 992-9943	jefmefone@aol.com
	Les Rooker	(239) 593-5957	rrooker@yahoo.com

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) COMMISSION

Officers

Co-Chair & Vestry Liaison	Renee Osborne	316-655-0335	renee@midwestsinglesource.com
Co-Chair	Jane Battina	405-0494	janelizabeth2@hotmail.com

Committees

Fund Raising	Renee Osborne Jane Battina	316-655-0335 405-0494	renee@midwestsinglesource.com janelizabeth2@hotmail.com
Hospitality	Rusty Rooker	593-5957	lrrooker@yahoo.com
	Barbara Wallace	757-650-2972	Barbara.k.wallace18@gmail.com
Coffee Hour	Helen Mallon	273-6273	
Foyer Groups	Susan McClean	908-9450	susanmcclean@gmail.com
Funeral Receptions	Twinky Otis Yvonne Graff	498-9604 498-1706	twinkyotis@aol.com sunshine4244@me.com
Lunch Bunch	Doris Bialowas	248-8686	dorisbialowas@comcast.net
Receptions	Rusty Rooker	593-5957	lrrooker@yahoo.com
	Barbara Wallace	757-650-2972	Barbara.k.wallace18@gmail.com
Mission & Ministry	Elinor Foltz	498-4629	meremortal1@gmail.com
Programs	Vivi Curt Jill Smith	777-3326 718-619-0678	Vivicurt1@aol.com rdh71@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP/CHURCH GROWTH COMMISSION

Chair & Vestry Liaison	Jeanette Turansky	405-1783	jmturansky@gmail.com
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OUTREACH COMMISSION

Chair	Fred Cable	498-5530	fredC698@aol.com
Co-Chair	David Wallace	947-5197	davidanddenisew@aol.com
	Brian Cleary	265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
PennyWise Thrift Shop	Brian Cleary	265-1238	bpc@bonitabeachpools.com
Vestry Liaison	Jim Howard	908-3915	wjh1@comcast.net

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Chair and Vestry Liaison	Jesse Roberts	498-4629	jarobertsmd@yahoo.com
Pastoral Care	Elinor Foltz	498-4629	meremortal1@gmail.com
St. Martin's Ministry	Elinor Foltz	498-4629	meremortal1@gmail.com
Card Ministry	Pat Nelson	952-955-2579	bybee.nelson@gmail.com
Shawl Ministry			
Social Services	Joanna Pace	405-8573	joannepace10@gmail.com
Social Services	Joe Daniele	948-5598	daniele0077@aol.com
Social Services	Keel Jones		
Cancer Survivors	Elinor Foltz	498-4629	meremortal1@gmail.com
Veterans Ministry	Bill Gilmore	297-2746	billgill39@hotmail.com

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Chair	Joanna Wragg	(239) 405-8702	Wragg.joanna@gmail.com
Vestry Liaison	Otis Wragg	(239) 405-8702	owragg@comcast.net

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Chair	Fr. Michael Rowe	992-4343	rector@stmarysbonita.org
Co-Chair	Gail Goggin	594-5689	gailgoggin@gmail.com
Vestry Liaison	Otis Wragg	405-8702	owragg@comcast.net
Altar Guild	Sandra Beihl	498-9867	sbeihl8474@comcast.net
Lay Leaders	Bob Raubolt	947-1311	bob@bonitamgmt.com
	Jenny	410-703-3919	acejennys@gmail.com
	Gail Goggin	594-5689	gailgoggin@gmail.com
Stations of the Cross	Christine Julander	947-2017	dcjuland@gmail.com
Music Ministry	Brian Aranowski	598-2304	musicstmarys@aol.com
Evening Prayer			
Customary Coordinator	Tim Blaicher	215-630-6257	aablaicher2@gmail.com

NOTES



Dear members and friends of St. Mary's,

In writing to the Christians in Ephesus, St. Paul says, "There is one body, and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all but each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."

In this booklet, you will get some sense of the wide variety of gifts God has given to St. Mary's Church through our members. The ministries and activities of our parish cover the whole spectrum from spiritual formation through care for others to the upkeep of our buildings and property.

Please use this booklet to learn about St. Mary's, to ask for help and to offer yourself in service in a way that is appropriate for you.

God bless you. In Christ,

Reverend Michael Rowe
Rector

FACILITIES COMMISSION

The Facilities Commission is charged with overseeing the upkeep and improvements of the facilities and grounds of St. Mary's campus. This includes building maintenance and repair, parking lot maintenance, signage, safety issues and new construction.

The Facilities Commission meets monthly on the second Saturday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parish Life Center to discuss the progress of current projects and to get input on future projects and work days. Having construction and repair knowledge is helpful, but not essential, and new members are welcome and invited to become a part of this ministry.

Flora-Linda Garden Committee supervises and maintains the plants and shrubbery in the Flora-Linda Garden. We will also plan, construct and maintain flowerbeds to provide seasonal color for the garden. It is a working "hands-on" ministry. Those willing to get their "hands dirty" are invited to join us at any time.

Columbarium: The Chapel, with its beauty and inherent dignity, 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. It brings the past and present together in body and spirit.

St. Mary's Columbarium provides an affordable alternative compared to other methods and is a visible sign that the church cares for its members and believes in life after death. By being in close proximity to the earthly resting place of loved ones not only does it provide great comfort in a setting of dignity and respect, but also a feeling of togetherness. In addition, this method enables family members to visit the departed more frequently.

The Columbarium Manager assists the priest and family in acquiring the niche of their choice, insures that the plates are properly engraved and is responsible for making sure the urn is available and placed in the niche in accordance with the family's wishes. This ministry includes being available to meet with the family to discuss the acquisition of their niche and answer any questions they may have regarding the procedures followed when placing a loved one in their final resting place.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Christian formation is a lifelong journey of growth and enrichment that all Christians are called to undertake. Becoming a deeply formed Christian takes time and commitment. The process starts at our baptism and continues throughout all the stages of our lives. As Episcopalians, we draw on a variety of sources as we reflect on our faith and spirituality, including the Old and New Testaments, the traditions of the Church, and our individual experiences. Given that Christian formation is a lifelong activity, here at St. Mary's we offer formation / education opportunities for children, youth and adults.

Adult Education/Formation Ministry The purpose of the adult education and formation ministry is to provide many opportunities for you to grow in your faith and to connect in the church community through live classes, Bible study, online study, prayer and quiet days. As a seeker or believer, our starting place is in worship. In Advent and Lent we offer a Quiet Day. An opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth is offered through a weekly Bible study on Wednesday morning at 10:30 am and Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. We also offer the Revised Common Lectionary Bible study weekly during season.

Cursillo/Ultreya is an international movement that originated in Spain with the Catholic Church. The Episcopal Church participates by offering an intensive short course in living the Christian life so that emerging lay leaders and clergy may transform their own lives and the lives of others around them to become effective Christian evangelists. The focus is on growing Christ-centered leaders. It encourages Christians to strengthen their faith, reach out to share their time, treasure, and talents with others bringing them to the Christian faith. Under direction of the clergy, it gives lay people an opportunity to lead.

Ultreya is the monthly follow-up meeting in which Cursillistas renew their commitment and are encouraged to “go forth” and demonstrate Christian behaviors and acts to others, both inside and outside the church. Ultreya's are open to any parishioner that might be interested.

This ministry will serve both parishioners and non-parishioners of St. Mary's that Cursillistas interact with in their lives

Men's Ministry invites all men at St. Mary's to fellowship periodically throughout the year. The group meets to plan and discuss functions and events as the need arises. We currently need men in leadership positions. The Men's group hosted a fish fry during Lent this year.

St. Mary's Library in the Parish Life Center is available for all members and seasonal visitors. We currently have more than 2,000 books, audiotapes, DVDs, VCR tapes and CDs for inspiration, education, and Bible study or for just plain enjoyment. This is a self-service library with directions posted in the room. All books may be borrowed for a period of one month. The library is open at any time the Parish Life Center is open. The adult education / formation commission invites new contributors, ideas and participants into the fold. Our mission is to help achieve spiritual transformation through offerings in faith and love. Do you have a passion that can be transferred into our parish mission?

Children's Sunday school gathers during the 10am Sunday Worship Service. Parents may bring their children directly into the Parish Life Center to register and find the best Sunday school group for their child, before joining the worship service. Our TYKES, (children up to 5 years) receive special care from a certified nursery employee. Our KIDS CONNECTION (ages 5 and up) learn Bible stories and enjoy Godly Play activities that follow our liturgical year. If your child wants to participate in the worship service, they may sit with other youth in the reserved pews to the front left of the church. They will find journals there for taking notes. We invite all baptized children to join their parents for Holy Communion, or to receive a blessing. Teachers and helpers bring the children from class to the service during the “Passing of the Peace.”

OSL (Order of St. Luke's) Ministry- Our purpose is to help bring comfort and healing, in body, mind and spirit, to any who reach out for the assurance that Jesus Christ hears and answers their prayers. We are not healers; we believe that we are simply the “conduit” between our Lord and the persons we anoint, lay hands on and pray for. James 5 VS 13-15. The people involved in this ministry serve at each of the three weekend services at prayer stations located around the church for anyone seeking the laying on of hands and prayers for themselves, loved ones or friends. On these occasions, we pray in teams of two. We are also available by appointment for soaking prayers done by a team of three or more Order of St. Luke lay prayer ministers for a more extended period of time (20 minutes to an hour). There are also occasions at services when people come to us to offer prayers of thanksgiving for prayers answered. We welcome others who are interested in being a part of this special ministry. We provide classes, training and continuing support for all of the Order of St. Luke's prayer team members.

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

The mission statement of the Communication Commission describes this commission's ministry.

"The Communication Commission waits for, listens to and spreads the word of God. We tell and retell our story."

(Adapted from the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida Communications Task Force's theological and mission statements.)

The Commission is here to assist departments in their communications efforts. Communications is important to our success. We ask that you keep us posted on your endeavors. We are always in need of volunteers - <mailto:communications@stmarysbonita.org>

ENDOWMENT COMMISSION

The mission of the Endowment Commission is to grow and manage the endowments for St. Mary's so that the earnings from endowments eventually provide 20% of the church's operating funds.

Endowments provide a vehicle for parishioners to insure the growth of St. Mary's beyond their immediate contributions. Gift planning is a wise and meaningful use of the personal resources with which God has entrusted us.

Planned giving programs now available at St. Mary's may be designated for the church's general fund or directed toward more specific uses, projects or commissions. Each of us needs to consider how we might wish to express our commitment to St. Mary's. The following are some suggestions:

- Bequest in a will or trust
- Charitable gift annuities
- Pooled income fund
- Charitable remainder trust
- Gifts of life insurance

The current members of this commission are Hilton Jervey, Joe Daniele, John Osborne, Joanna Wragg, Bob Foltz and Father Rowe.

FINANCE COMMISSION

Commission manages the planning and administration of the financial resources for St. Mary's. The functions are divided into several areas and are chaired by the Treasurer who is a Vestry Member.

Cash management – volunteers who meet every Monday to count and sort Sunday contributions and credit to correct member. Fun and fellowship early Monday morning, we are always looking for more people.

Operations – member manages the ACS Accounting and Member software system for St. Mary's. Post payments each week to individual members accounts, ensure funds are deposited into bank accounts. Also manages the on-line bill payment and member contribution web site, which allows members to make contributions on line.

Accounting – is handled through a third party CPA firm which meets periodically with the Finance Commission to review accounting and financial performance, and plan and administer the annual budget.

Accounts Payable – one function of the Commission is to review all invoices and requests for reimbursements and ensure that they have proper approval and are coded to the correct General Ledger accounts for CPA to process.

Special Projects – at least once a quarter the Commission puts together an all church mailing to send out contribution statements.

Planning and Budgeting – the Commission works with all other Commissions in St Mary’s to forecast and plan annual budgets each year. They are approved by the Congregation at the Annual meeting and administered by the Finance Commission the next year.

The Commission meets periodically on an as needed basis. With members coming and going, the Finance Commission is always looking for talented volunteers who are willing to help service and support St. Mary’s. If you are interested in serving, please speak to the Treasurer, one of the Wardens, or Clergy.

MEMBERSHIP AND GROWTH COMMISSION

The Membership and Church Growth Commission adopted its own mission statement to, “welcome the Christ in every person who visits St. Mary’s and to inform, integrate and incorporate those who are new to us and those already a part of our parish life with God’s love and grace.” Our goal is to grow our membership and overall church attendance, which is accomplished by the Membership Commission, Ushers and Greeters and Worship Commission working together to help make St. Mary’s Church a place that visitors will want to call their parish home.

The Membership Commission finds creative ways to welcome visitors and new members. Greeters at the door welcome everyone at all services, encourage all visitors to fill out our visitor’s card and nametag application. They also extend invitations to visitors on Sundays for refreshments, conversation and fellowship in the Parish Life Center. The Membership Commission hosts Newcomers Orientation Dinners throughout the year for visitors and newcomers. Various representatives of the clergy, Vestry and Commission Chairpersons provide information on the life of the parish and opportunities for ministries.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

The commission supports agencies in Bonita Springs, Naples, Lee and Collier counties and beyond U.S. borders. The commission conducts food drives that benefit Bonita Springs Assistance, Harvest Time Ministries and support for emergency appeals for both food and clothing by the American Red Cross and Salvation Army. An annual Theological Education grant provides funding to Episcopal seminaries, Nashotah House and the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South.

Multiple blood drives are held annually, with donations handled by the Bloodmobile that comes to the Church property. A United Thank Offering is sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary’s and supported by the commission and parishioners. Other financial support is provided annually to the Smith Ministries in India, the Deanery Dominican Republic School in San Francisco de Macoris. This commission also supports “Meals of Hope” in Collier and Lee Counties as well as an annual St. Mary’s Mission to Honduras. Penny Wise provides funding for grants awarded annually by the commission. In addition to appeals and annual grants, the Outreach Commission supports Episcopal Relief and Development charities. The commission continues to seek ways to expand Outreach to the parish and the surrounding communities.

Penny Wise Thrift Shop

At least 100 volunteer members and friends of St. Mary's Church are currently operating PennyWise Thrift Shop. The Outreach Commission and the Vestry currently share in each year's net profit. One portion goes to local and international charities, and the other portion goes into a restricted church account for capital improvement projects. Through 2014, we have donated \$809,950 to approved charity outreach, \$1,339,978 to Church Mortgage, Capital Fund and Operating Budget and \$30,000 toward the Endowment Fund. This brings our cash contributions in over 25 years to \$2,179,928.

The funds are generated by sales of donated furniture, clothing, small appliances and household items. Goods are donated not only by generous members of the church, but also by their friends and neighbors in the community. We contract with people to pick up and deliver large items of furniture. Volunteers attend a short training program before becoming part of the working group. A nine-member board of directors, who are church members, governs Penny Wise. Board of Directors' term is three years. There are no paid employees.

Please consider joining us as a volunteer to work a three-hour shift once a week. It is a wonderful place for you to get to know your fellow parishioners. This work is enjoyable and very important to St. Mary's.

- Hours: 11 am – 2 pm year round
- Monday through Saturday

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) COMMISSION

ECW is a group of women working together to promote fellowship and spiritual growth. ALL women of the parish are members of the ECW and are invited to participate in all events. Regular monthly meetings, held on the second Thursday of the month at 1PM, begin with a brief business meeting followed by a program or event. Everyone is invited to bring their lunch and come at noon for a social hour.

Book Club - meets the first Monday of the month discussing a book selected by members of the committee together with Mother Bobbi.

Fundraising - Various fundraising events are held throughout the year to support the many programs and ministries at St. Mary's. A major themed event is planned for the first quarter of the year facilitated by a team of dedicated parishioners. Other events include a "Stay at home tea" in June or July, bake sales, and additional "fun" fundraising opportunities.

Hospitality - This committee facilitates the many receptions at St. Mary's including those for Baptisms, Conformations, Bishops visits, Priest's luncheons, some funeral receptions, and retirement parties.

Coffee Hour - is offered after the 8am and 10am services which provides an opportunity to enjoy refreshments with fellow parishioners and to meet and greet newcomers. Occasionally, special forums are offered.

Foyer Groups - are small groups that meet in each other's homes to enjoy a meal and fellowship with other parishioners in a casual environment. Participants may be asked by their host/hostess to contribute a dish toward the meal. These groups are formed three times a year.

Lunch Bunch - gathers on the fourth Thursday of the month at a predetermined restaurant. All women are invited to join for fun and fellowship.

Programs - provides faith-based and informational speakers, arranges day trips and other activities for the monthly meeting. Suggestions are most welcome.

Ministry - plans opportunities for spiritual growth.

Mission & Outreach - We reach out to serve the needs of our community, Diocese and the world.

PASTORAL MINISTRY COMMISSION

Pastoral Care Team is a lay-led ministry that keeps in touch with our parishioners who are sick and in need of special prayer. We have a card ministry and maintain the weekly prayer list. Eucharistic Visitors, licensed by the Bishop, are trained to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion in homes, hospitals and care centers. Some qualifications include sensitivity, communication skills, deep spirituality and confidentiality. Also, Safeguarding Our Children training is required for all who participate in this in-reach ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry is an important addition to pastoral care ministries. The shawls provide warmth and comfort for body and soul to those in need, sickness or adversity. This rewarding and fun service for the knitters in our church also affords a time of prayer as they knit.

Social Services is a service where we provide advice on accessing social services in Collier and Lee Counties.

Cancer Survivors offers a discussion support group as well as other related help.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

The Stewardship Commission leads the parish community toward continued growth of God's Kingdom here at St. Mary's through responsible, faithful and generous giving.

The main undertaking for the Stewardship Commission is the Annual Pledge Campaign, which ensures that St. Mary's has the necessary operating funds to carry out and enhance its ministry. The Stewardship Commission welcomes volunteers.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

This team of staff and lay people serve the church by supporting and promoting the use of sound liturgical principles and practices. The commission ensures that these principles and practices are consistent with the Canons, Rubrics, By-Laws and Regulations of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Further, the commission requires that the principles and practices are appropriate for the building space set aside for the classical worship at St. Mary's.

Membership on the commission represents key organizations of St. Mary's including the Clergy, Altar Guild, Lay Leaders, Lectors, Music Ministry, Prayer Ministry and a Scheduling Coordinator for each of the worship services. If you are interested in any of these ministries, see page 14 of this booklet for the director of that particular ministry.

Altar Guild is a fulfilling and rewarding ministry for those seeking to serve the Lord "behind the scenes." In our commitment to serve the Lord, the Altar Guild selects the proper clergy vestments and prepares the altar before and after each service. We have 4 teams with approximately 3-4 people on each team, allowing for each team to be on duty once a month. We welcome new members who feel a calling to this holy ministry.

Acolytes assist the clergy during all liturgies conducted in the Church. Acolytes light the candles and

assist at the offertory and Holy Communion. We cross-train and license those parishioners who are willing to participate. Lay Leaders also provide ongoing training for this devoted group of individuals. If you are interested in becoming part of this important ministry, please call the Lay Leader in charge of the service you usually attend. Contact information is listed under Worship Commission, Lay Leaders, on page 3 of this booklet.

Eucharistic Ministers administer the elements during celebrations of the Eucharist and must be licensed by the Bishop. They are cross-trained by Lay Leaders to help with other parts of the worship service.

Lay Leaders are also known as masters of ceremonies. They are licensed as Lay Leaders and serve the parish priest in organizing, teaching and leading the sanctuary servers at all services. Their ministry is to make sure the services proceed without complications and errors. Lay Leaders assist in providing an atmosphere of reverence and holiness, free from distractions in the sanctuary for the priest and the congregation.

Lay Readers are licensed by the Bishop and trained in all phases of liturgical service by the Lay Leader. They may conduct Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline in place of a priest. They may also lead these services at the local assisted-living facilities.

Lectors proclaim the lessons and lead the Prayers of the People during Holy Eucharist. Lectors do not have to be licensed yet they receive on-going training to maintain a high standard of excellence. Lectors are also trained by Lay Leaders to serve as torchbearers and crucifers.

Ushers and Greeters are needed for the Saturday night service, Sunday services, weddings, funerals and other special events throughout the year. Serving as an usher or greeter is a great way to meet other members of the congregation. You may work seasonally or year-round to suit your own schedule and can participate at the service that you prefer. You will work with an experienced mentor until you feel comfortable in your role.

Greeters are the first to welcome people to St. Mary's. Greeters ask visitors to sign the visitors' book, give them a temporary nametag and answer any questions a visitor may have. Greeters ask if anyone without a nametag would like one ordered. For a newcomer, the answer to "Where is the restroom?" is vital information!

Greeters assist the ushers during the worship service. Afterwards, they make sure that visitors receive a jar of honey, a St. Mary's brochure, and are thanked for coming and invited to come back. Greeters personally invite and escort visitors to Coffee Hour in the Parish Life Center where they are introduced to other members of the congregation.

Ushers are the second wave of hospitality. They open the doors to the nave and hand out the bulletins. Ushers make sure each person has a place to sit and escort latecomers to their seats. They count the people in the congregation so that the appropriate amount of wine and wafers is available during communion. Ushers and greeters collect the offering and assist the steady flow of worshipers to the communion rail.

After the service, the ushers tidy up the church pews. Ushers are also responsible for calling 911 should there ever be an emergency. They know the location of medical supplies, the telephone and fire extinguishers.

Music Ministry - The Choir of St. Mary's is made up of approximately 30 members from

Southwest Florida and attracts some of the area's finest singers. The group sings at the weekly 10 am Parish Mass (Fall thru Spring) as well as special services such as the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, Choral Matins, Choral Evensong and Missae Cantata. Professional cantors provide musical leadership for other services. Rehearsals are held Wednesday evenings, September through May, beginning at 7 pm. A minimal ability to read music is required.

The Choir upholds the rich tradition of Anglican choral music, with the choral library containing some of the finest repertoire of Anglican choral music including settings of Evening Services and Choral Masses. It is Music Ministry's mission to uphold the highest standards of excellence in the musical arts and to offer its beauty to the parish and greater community. If you feel a calling to this ministry, please contact Brian Aranowski, Director of Music.

Office Volunteers

Our church is a busy place and it takes volunteer power to make things happen. If your gifts include the skill to answer a phone, greet a newcomer, post a letter, or use the computer for word processing, you are qualified. Add to these skills, being a good listener, processing information with discretion and compassion, and being able to "stare chaos in the face" and not flinch when things get hectic, these people are the ones who keep us going and doing God's work. If you have the time, the talent and the desire to help, please call the church office.

ST. MARY'S CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Rowe, Rector	rector@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. Robert C. Douglas, Priest Associate	rdouglas@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. Bobbie Parini, Priest Associate	bobbieparini@aol.com
The Rev. Al Salt, Assisting Priest	alemsalt@comcast.net

ST. MARY'S STAFF

Brian Aranowski, M.Mus., Director of Music	musicstmarys@aol.com
Ian Mitchell, Parish Administrator	churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org
Barbara Williams, Office Assistant	officeassistant@stmarysbonita.org
Sandra Gunger, Sexton	sandyg1964@mail.com



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
9803 Bonita Beach Rd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

P.O. Box 1923
Bonita Springs, 34133
Tel: 239-992-4343
Fax: 239-498-4551
www.stmarysbonita.org