



St. Mary's Episcopal  
Church

TIDINGS

Where Word and Sacrament  
come together  
in Celebration and Service



Fall 2018



**Jim Howard**

I am privileged to Chair the 2019 Stewardship Commission for St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The theme for this year's annual giving campaign is *Transforming Generosity*, and the Stewardship program will run from October 14 thru November 22, 2018 when we will gather in our pledges and offer them at the altar.

As members of the St. Mary's Parish, we all feel blessed. We are led by a very knowledgeable and articulate Rector who is supported by an able staff. Our Christian worship is very rich and extensive, and our Outreach is impressive in its scope and generosity. In addition, our worship is conducted in a modern and very attractive sanctuary. Ample facilities are also available for the educational and social aspects of the St. Mary's program.

St. Mary's, like all Churches, is a not-for-profit organization where the main source of financial support is the generosity of its members. Due to the seasonal nature of our congregation, obtaining sufficient funds to support our programs is a significant challenge. In addition, St. Mary's has experienced a recent decline in the contributions of its parishioners. Hence, the importance of this year's Stewardship program. As Fr. Rowe so succinctly stated at a recent Coffee hour, we can either fund the programs for which St. Mary's has

been so proud, or we can only accomplish the programs we do fund.

So, please join with me and make a supportive, generous pledge to the St. Mary's Church. In the past, you may have given generously, but been reluctant to pledge a defined amount. This may be influenced by the seasonal nature of your lives in SW Florida, and by your concerns that changing conditions may influence your ability to meet a pledged amount. This is very understandable, and St. Mary's fully realizes that pledges may have to be changed. So, I am urging you to make a generous contribution to continue the very important religious and other programs of St. Mary's and to enumerate that contribution in the form of a pledge, so that we are able to formulate a more accurate budget for 2019. If this is done, we will truly live up to this year's stewardship theme of *Transforming Generosity*.

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### Message from the Rector

Grace and peace be with you all.

St. Mary's has developed substantially on several fronts during the summer months.

Two of our postulants for Holy Orders have taken major steps forward. Brian Cleary, preparing for priesthood, has headed to seminary at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific to begin the three year process of academic and pastoral preparation. St. Mary's people have contributed wonderfully

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and generously to the high costs of this process. We will welcome Brian back at Christmas time.

Bill Gilmore has completed his “field placement” assignments (being trained in churches other than St. Mary’s) and has returned to us. He is already taking on important deacon functions – organizing our participation in the Fourth of July Parade, taking communion to the sick, preaching homilies and much more. God and the Church willing, he will be ordained in December and again God and the Church willing, will continue with us at St. Mary’s.

Bob Raubolt and Anne Hartley continue their preparation, Bob in his field placement and Anne doing distance learning at Nashotah House.

Thanks to your generosity the children of our parish were able to attend camp at Dayspring and also at St. Michael’s Conference. Many of us remember how formative our youth camping experiences were and it is a blessing to offer this to the next generation. Our thanks go to Youth Director Courtney Crosby who in addition to organizing things at St. Mary’s end was also a counselor at Dayspring, watching out for our kids there.



As of August 1, our Director of Music Ministry Kathleen Pignato became a full-time staff member. She has already brought her talent, faith and enthusiasm to our worship, involving many instruments and people in praising God. She has also creatively expanded our on-line presence, with postings and videos sharing St. Mary’s faith and life far and wide.

This issue of Tidings lays out our autumn plans, a rich combination of celebration, learning, caring and giving. Welcome back to you who have been away and welcome, everyone, to St. Mary’s life and work.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Michael

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## **Stewardship Celebration Fr. Steve Cuff October 20 and 21**



Fr. Cuff will be joining us to Celebrate Stewardship at the Saturday and Sunday services.

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A native of snowy Buffalo, New York, Fr. Steve received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, majoring in Geography. Leaving his snow shovel behind, he put some Florida sand in his shoes and began a career as a cartographer for a map company in Daytona Beach, Florida. Steve said, "I've always had a passion for traveling and maps, and the work gave me insight into what helps people get from point "A" to point "B." Another blessing of those years in Florida was meeting his wife Beth, while they were both active in a local community theater.

God's nudge toward ordained ministry was birthed in 1988 and encouraged through Grace Episcopal Church in Port Orange, where the Rev. Chris Gray (now retired from St. Mark's, Venice) was serving as Rector and the Rev. Dabney Smith (now your Bishop!) was Associate Rector. Both men were instrumental in Fr. Steve's discernment and have served as models for his priesthood in more ways than they could ever know.

Vocational and financial support from the Parish and Diocese had the Cuffs pull up stakes and head north: first to Nashotah House seminary in Wisconsin then on to the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, where Steve graduated in 1993.

He served in the Diocese of West Virginia for the first six years after ordination. Fr. Steve discovered a joy in youth and camp ministry, which ultimately led him and his family to Southern Ohio in 1999 to lead the Diocesan Summer Camping Program at Procter Conference Center, outside London, Ohio. Fr. Steve went "full-time" with Saint Andrew's in 2002, until accepting a call to serve as Chaplain to the Episcopal Retirement Homes communities in

Cincinnati in the summer of 2007. On November 2, 2013, All Saints' welcomed Fr. Steve as Rector with a Celebration of New Ministry. Steve continues to cherish a relationship with their summer camping program at Procter.



THE EPISCOPAL  
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## The Last Canticle of St. Francis



On Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm Charles Baker will be performing *The Last Canticle of St. Francis* at St. Mary's Church. This play is about

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the life of St. Francis of Assisi. A reception will follow at 5:30 pm in the Flora Linda Pavillion.

This is the story of the man who was asked by God to rebuild the Church! Yet we credit him simply with blessing animals. He received everything from God because he lived with nothing here on earth. Because of his devotion, many took up their cross and followed him. Even to this day, many call themselves by his name, Franciscans. He founded one of the greatest religious orders of all time but in the end he was brokenhearted by its members. He is one of the most renowned men who ever lived and he didn't even own the shirt on his back. Come learn about the Francis who rebuilt the Church.

Charles is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City and in 1989 began to perform the lives of great men in Christian History. He has performed in *Damien* - the Leper Priest of Molokai - *I, Paul*, the life of St. Paul and *Baptizer* - the life of John the Baptist.

## **Treasurer's Report** **Bill Hammack**

The 2018 Annual Budget was approved by the Vestry in the Fall of 2017 with a projected loss of \$29,204. I asked the Vestry to approve a revised balanced budget for 2018 with Expenses being budgeted the same as projected Revenue of \$744,280. That request was unanimously approved.

Thank you to the many volunteers, who manage what we spend, and most importantly, thank you for the generous one time gifts we have received from parishioners this year. We are making good progress to be on budget by year end.

Our challenge remains that we traditionally receive more contributions in the first six months of the year than the remainder of the year. That is partly because many parishioners made pre-paid pledges in December, 2017, and we book those contributions in January 2018. In 2018, our pre-paid pledges increased \$52,000. While that is very good news for our Church, it does mean that we will most likely receive fewer contributions during the last six months of the year. Because our total expenses do not decrease, we have a much harder time achieving a breakeven in the last six months of the year. In past years, we have borrowed money from Capital Bank in the months of July through December. Our goal is not to have the need to borrow funds at what is now a 6.75% interest rate.

The above scenario makes it more important than ever to stay up to date with the pledge you made for 2018. Your generous contributions will help us report to you at year end that our Revenue covered our Expenses and allowed us to accomplish the goals we set for ourselves in our community.

As a reminder, our Net Revenue for the first six months of the year was \$96,950 as compared to \$33,184 last year. That was great news, but keep in mind, we received \$52,000 more in pre-paid pledges this year in addition to many significant one time gifts.

The complete set of Financial Statements and the Treasurer's Report for the Vestry are posted every month on the Vestry Bulletin Board in the Parish Life Center. Please read these reports carefully and let me know of any suggestions or questions that you might have.

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## 50th Annual Convention Features Presiding Bishop Curry

Each year, the Diocese of Southwest Florida gathers for Diocesan Convention, held the second weekend of October.

This year, the diocese is celebrating its formation and 50th Convention. To mark the occasion, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, will come to Punta Gorda to mark the occasion, including preaching at the Friday Holy Eucharist. The diocese is invited to attend Friday night's Eucharist.



Friday's events include the following of interest to visitors:

- 2:30 p.m Plenary session with Bishop Curry

- 4 p.m. Tea and cookie break
- 5 p.m Holy Eucharist with Bishop Curry
- 7 p.m. Light reception on the terrace overlooking the Peace River

2018 marks our Fiftieth "Golden Jubilee" Convention. Founded Oct. 16, 1969, our diocese began at a meeting chaired by Bishop Henry I Louttit in Redington Beach. Our "mother" diocese (the Diocese of South Florida) divided by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1969 in South Bend, Ind. into three jurisdictions (Central Florida, Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida) after a decade long period of planning and discussion. The first Diocesan Convention was held at St. Mark's Church, Venice, Nov. 19, 1969.

Presiding Bishop Curry, the former Bishop of North Carolina, was elected in 2015 at General Convention. The 2018 convention will be held Friday Oct. 12, with official business session on Saturday, Oct. 13. It will be held, as in past years, at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center.

A ministry mall, workshops, worship and dinner highlight Friday's activities. On Saturday, voting clergy and delegates from the diocese's 76 congregations will gather to approve the 2019 budget, consider resolutions, elect persons to various boards and committees and hear Bishop Dabney Smith's convention address.

Follow the Annual Convention page for details on the convention, including workshops, elections, speakers and accommodations. For those who are official delegates, you do not need to register for the afternoon. However, others wishing to attend should contact the diocese so that we have a proper count of guests.

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## News from our Postulates

### Bill Gilmore

I am getting ready to start my 4<sup>th</sup> semester in the School of Ministry (the diaconate training program). This has been an amazing journey that started over 3 years ago with a long discernment process that was prayerfully accomplished with my discernment team of Tim Blaicher, Jeanette Turansky, Denise Wallace and Ian Mitchell. With vestry and diocesan approval, I started classes every other Saturday at Dayspring. Each semester we cover subjects, such as Old Testament I & II, New Testament I & II, the Gospels, Theology, the book of Common Prayer, Church History, Episcopal History, Community development and many other church studies.

In addition to the course work I have completed a 1-year deacon internship at St. Hillary's Fort Myers and a clinical pastoral care program over a 3-month period.

There are several steps along this journey. First there is an Aspirant, then a Postulant, then a Candidate for Holy Orders and finally ordination. I am currently in transition between Postulant and Candidate. If everything follows schedule I will be ordained on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. After ordination there are 2 more years of classes at Dayspring in the School for Ministry.

This has been a deeply moving experience. My relationship with God has grown stronger and new doors open each day as I learn new things and delve ever deeper into the word of the Lord.

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### Robert R. Raubolt

I am rapidly approaching the end of the first semester of fieldwork at Saint Hillary's by serving as the deacon intern as well as filling in as needed. At the end of July I did the homily for the two Sunday services and have been making pastoral care visits for the two St Mary's parishioners that are in assisted living facilities in Fort Myers.

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### Brian Cleary

Greetings from Berkeley California, Church Divinity School of the Pacific!



It is about 60 degrees here tonight, with a high of 74 today. I have checked into the dorm which is just the right size for a single student.

The journey to seminary started 7 years ago when I came to St. Mary's from Weston Connecticut. The family home at St. Mary's has been a wonderful place to grow in Christ and make lasting friendships. Thanks you so much for the generosity in supporting my training here at CDSP.

It has been a whirlwind of a year; it began with visiting different seminaries. When I arrived at CDSP, it was an instant fit and the school wanted me to come full time.

Transitioning out of my family business has been emotional but blessed by God with great new employees and opportunities for everyone. I then

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did a week of missionary work in Honduras with St. Andrews Presbyterian in July; it was my sixth trip and such a rewarding spiritual and humanitarian experience.



*Brian Clearly in Honduras*

My final weekend at St. Mary's included being able to preach and worship with everyone was a story book transition to my new chapter out west. Thank you for the fantastic Eucharist, music, coffee hour, cake, and presentation of love and encouragement; I am blessed to call you my brothers and sisters.

I travelled out to California with my sister and just put her on the plane back to Florida. What an amazing and huge country we live in. Our road trip lasted 7 days and ventured through beautiful mountain ranges, lakes, plains and rivers. God's artistry on display every miles of the trail. It was sad to say good bye to my travelling companion who made me laugh and cry all the way out.

I start orientation on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and classes the following week. I am very excited to start. I am spending the next two weeks setting up my place, reading, and I have already picked up a job this weekend to make a little extra money. I will be keeping everyone informed of my progress with a blog through the church website.

I plan to return in December for a couple of weeks and hope to preach and serve at weekend and Christmas services. I will be keeping you all in my heart and prayers also remember to look me up if you come to the Bay Area. May God's Peace fill your hearts and minds.

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## Classes for the Order of St. Luke Prayer Ministry

The new study for the OSL Team Prayer Team Ministry will begin the week of October 17th. If you feel called or are curious about this special ministry contact Cherrill Cregar at 239-887-1939 or [Cherrillcregar@gmail.com](mailto:Cherrillcregar@gmail.com) by September 12th. Pre-reading required for study. Guaranteed to be a life changing experience.

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## ECW UPDATES

Many thanks to all ladies who have contributed to the 'Stay at Home Tea'... the ECW annual Summer Fund Raiser.

We hope you enjoyed your "cup of tea". We greatly appreciate your feedback and support! It's not too late to send back your comment card along with donation. Return in the self-addressed envelope you received or drop by the church office. We hope you are all having a joyful and blessed summer!

## SAVE THE DATES

*St. Mary's ECW Christmas Tea*  
*Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4PM*  
*More Details to Follow*

## 2019 Fundraiser



**Saturday, February 9, 2019**

## Kindness for Kids

Annette Judkins and Sandy York



Please Plan on Helping

Harvest Time Ministry and Episcopal Church Women (ECW) have joined together for children in need who live in 2 neighborhood communities which house families of day laborers and migrants right here in our own area.

In the next few months, we will be asking St Mary's family to support this special holiday project. With your help, we will be able to prepare gift bags containing new clothing and modest "wish list" toys for an estimated 120 children, ranging in age from infants to young teens. These gift bags will be delivered in December by volunteers at a special holiday gathering within each of the neighborhoods.

These are the only Christmas presents the children are likely to receive. Your help can make a big difference. We will need donations, shoppers, gift bag stuffers and a few volunteers to help distribute the gifts in December, shortly before Christmas.



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The Kindness for Kids project will kick-off in October, with information being sent out through

Church newsletters and weekly bulletins. Please watch for important timelines and opportunities to participate.

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## Music Program St. Mary's Choir



### Kathleen Pignato

St. Mary's is delighted to announce the return of our Sunday 10am Choir this season on October 7, 2018. Rehearsals will resume on October 3, 2018 every Wednesday starting at 7:00pm.

We are pleased to share the happy news of the addition of Becky Rife to our Alto section and Emily Edwards to our Soprano section. All voices and instrumentalists are welcome to join our beautiful Ministry of Music in Worship. For more information contact Kathleen at [music@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:music@stmarysbonita.org) or simply come to a rehearsal to experience for yourself.

We are also excited to welcome back the ChoRuss Vocal Ensemble on Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. They gave an outstanding performance earlier this year and we expect the same in November.

### - A Voice from the Heart – I Sing in the Choir Georgia Jervey

*Philippians 4:6 – Be anxious for nothing, but everything by prayer and supplications, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.*

When I hear these words I hear music. One of the joys of being in the Choir is that we get to sing some of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. That makes the words more memorable, and for me, when you add music to beautiful thoughts, the meaning deepens and your heart is touched. I think that God knows when we sing from the heart.

One of the anthems the choir sings is “Rejoice in the Lord Always” by Henry Purcell. The words were taken from Philippians 4.4, 6 and 7. Whenever I read any of these beautiful phrases I hear in my heart the music that goes with them. I probably always will.

God only gave me a little voice to praise Him but it is a voice from the heart and I think that's the voice God is listening for.

*Philippians 4:7 – And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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## The Blessing of the Animals



The Blessing of the Animals will take place on Saturday, October 6 at 10am in the Flora Linda Garden. Father Michael Rowe will be presiding and there will be a special guest appearance by St. Francis.

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## Calendar of Events September 1 – November 30, 2018

### October 6

Saturday 10am – Pet Blessing

### October 7

Sunday 4pm – The Last Canticle of St. Francis – Performance by Charles Baker with Reception

### October 12 and 13

Friday and Saturday – Diocesan Convention with Bishop Curry – Punta Gorda FL

### October 13 and 14

Saturday and Sunday – Stewardship 2019 Beginnings

### October 20 and 21

Saturday and Sunday – Stewardship Celebration with Father Cuff

### October 25 – 28

Thursday to Sunday – Cursillo Weekend

### October 28

Sunday – Library Dedication

### November 4

Sunday – All Saints' Sunday with Outreach partners

### November 7

Wednesday – All Souls' Day Requiem Eucharist

### November 11

Sunday – Veterans Day – 4pm Veterans Service

### November 16

Friday – 7pm ChoRuss Vocal Ensemble

### November 17 and 18

Saturday and Sunday – Stewardship Ingathering

### November 21

Wednesday – Community Thanksgiving Service – First Presbyterian Church

### November 22

Thursday – 10am Thanksgiving Eucharist

### December 1 and 2

Saturday and Sunday – Advent Sunday – The new Christian Year begins

### December 2

Sunday – 4pm - Advent Lessons and Carols

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## Pictures from the Parish

🎵 St Mary's Music Ministry new growth! Bells are ringing, and Flutes are singing! 🎵

Below, St Mary's newest Ensemble – **The Bellas!** Our new set of vintage Dutch **handbells** is from the famous foundry opened in 1690 in the Netherlands, [Petit and Fritzen](#). Our colorful and copper bells have been enjoyed by our **Youth** of All Ages!



**Sandy and Jon Gunger's** lovely daughter **Meagan** has been bringing great peace and beauty to our Saturday 5pm services with her lovely flute playing. And **Rachel Ulmquist** graced our worship with her beautiful violin.



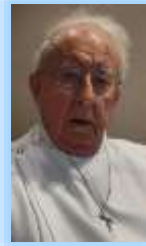
Our Choir Tenor Section Leader **Diego Davila** offered magnificent premieres as cantor, as soloist in the chanted Passion Gospel, and as organist, to add to his already stellar performances on piano at worship.



**Fr. Michael** has offered a [moving reflection](#) on one of his favorite hymns, *Be Thou My Vision*. **Fr David Oliver** sang with our choir, and brought us all songs in Swahili, French, and Anglican chant, at Holy Eucharist and Evening Prayer. And he had the **Bentley** congregation singing favorite hymns with great gusto!

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Our guest priest **Fr Bill Faupel** from Naples chanted at Holy Eucharist with us at St Mary's for his first time in many many moons, and we learned of our **Senior Warden Emeritus Bob Foltz'** choir boy days and daily prayer with hymns; and our seminarian **Brian Cleary** incorporated music in his sermon in a way new to St Mary's!



Our cantors **Adell Cotter** and **Walter Griffeth** have been carrying us through the summer season while **choir** is on break. And our dear organist **Becky Rife** again has taken very good care of us while Kathleen was away.



Our harps, large and small, continue to enchant.

**Walter Griffeth** helped lead our choir, and **Betty Salt** helped lead our young musicians.



**Kathleen Viglietta Pignato** retired her music faculty position, and assumed our Music Director post full time in August.

