

# Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 2020

Rev: 1/17/20

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### **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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# Agenda

## Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs Diocese of Southwest Florida

Sunday, January 26, 2020

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

The Meeting will continue in the Parish Life Center to hear reports. Conversation, questions, and comments will follow.

### **Meeting in Church**

*Note: Vestry members and Nominees will line up in procession following the celebrant.*

1. Opening of the Eucharist and Call to Order the Annual Meeting
2. Approval of the Minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting
3. Report of the Nominating Committee
4. Election of Vestry members
5. Commissioning of the Vestry

### **In the Parish Life Center**

6. Report of the Treasurer
  - a. 2019 Statement
  - b. 2020 Budget
7. Report of the Senior Warden
8. Report of the Rector
9. Presentation to retiring Vestry Members and Recording Secretary
10. Questions and discussion
11. Closing Prayer
12. Closing of the Meeting and Adjournment

Please note:

The new Vestry meets briefly in the Church after the Eucharist before going to the PLC.

# 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 Minutes

## Annual Meeting of The Parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs Diocese of Southwest Florida

Sunday, January 27, 2019

### Meeting in Church

1. **Opening of the Eucharist and Call to Order of the Annual Meeting**  
Fr. Rowe opened the meeting with a prayer at 10:05 AM
2. **Approval of the Minutes for the 2018 Annual Meeting**  
Fr. Rowe moved to approve the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting (January 28, 2018). The motion was approved unanimously.
3. **Report of the Nominating Committee**  
Tim Blaicher, Senior Warden gave the report of the Nominating Committee. Members leaving the Vestry are Tim Blaicher, Bill Hammack, Renee Osborne and Denise Wallace. Nominated for the Vestry by the Nominating Committee for three-year terms are John Craun, Jon Gunger, Holley Pittman and Paul Scheible.
4. **Election of Vestry members**  
There being no further nominations received by January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the persons so nominated were all elected by unanimous voice vote of the congregation.
5. **Commissioning of the Vestry**  
Tim Blaicher then presented all Vestry members (Dann Battina, John Craun, Ruth Davies, Jon Gunger, Jim Howard, Paul Judkins, Marj Klein, Hilton Jersey, Holley Pittman, Les Rooker, Paul Scheible, and Jill Smith) to be commissioned.

Fr. Rowe commissioned Vestry with prayer and promises to serve in Christ. The congregation promised to support the Vestry in the various commissions through prayer, encouragement and help.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, the meeting continued in the Parish Life Center at 11:25AM.

### In the Parish Life Center

6. **Report of the Treasurer**
  - a. 2018 Statement
  - b. 2019 Budget

Bill Hammack gave the Treasurer's report that is also published in the 2018 Annual Report. Bill reported that we went from a \$49,000 deficit in 2017 to a \$52,000 surplus in 2018, the best performance in three years. The surplus does not include the generous gift of the retirement of our \$125,000 mortgage. Furthermore, it was not necessary to use our line of credit this year due to careful spending and planning of our expenses compared to our revenues. We will start 2019 with a strong beginning bank balance. He reminded those present to be sure to pledge, if they had not yet done so.

**7. Report of the Senior Warden**

Tim Blaicher gave the Senior Warden's report, which is also published in the 2018 Annual Report. He reported it was his honor to be the Senior Warden and thanked Bob Foltz, his predecessor and Fr. Michael and the Vestry members for their support and guidance. He was particularly pleased that faced with a daunting financial picture at the beginning of 2018, the church ended the year with a surplus. He was particularly grateful to the parishioners for their ability to step up and help St. Mary's pay off the mortgage, finance a Priest Associate as well as provide increase contributions to allow the church to end the year on such a positive note. He was also particularly grateful to his loving wife, Linda, for her strong support during his tenure as Senior Warden.

**8. Report of the Rector**

First Kathleen Pignato amended her report to graciously welcome new members of the choir and thank those returning as well as the many cantors that sing at our services throughout the year.

Fr. Michael thanked and welcomed Fr. Bill Faupel as our Priest Associate. He was also pleased to announce and welcome Bill Gilmore as our previous parishioner now Deacon assigned to St. Mary's. Other parishioners are also continuing on their journeys in the service of the church; Brian Cleary is continuing his seminary work in California. Bob Raboult is at St. Hillary's and should complete his work at the end of 2019 and Anne Hartley is strongly considering entering into a seminary school.

Fr. Michael further reported that because astonishing and transformative things can happen, St. Mary's is in stable but constrained position.

**9. Presentation to retiring Vestry Members and Recording Secretary**

Fr. Rowe deeply thanked the retiring Vestry members, Bill Hammack, Renee Osborne and Denise Wallace for their service on the Vestry and presented each of them with a prayer book or proclamation in recognition of their service. As he presented the gifts he recognized each one for their unique talents and contributions to the Vestry and St. Mary's.

Renee Osborne thanked Stephanie English for her 4+ years of service as the Recording Secretary and presented her with a proclamation thanking her.

Fr. Michael reported that we have had losses in membership as well as new members. He reminded us that one of the best ways to increase our membership is by personal invitation. He also reminded us that we receive wonderful feedback from our newer members about the warm and winsome hospitality offered by our members and to continue to reach out to new faces.

Fr. Michael is grateful to God, the parishioners, his fellow clergy, the lay staff, Wardens, Vestry members, Commission chairs and their members, for their willingness to be of service.

**10. Questions and discussion**

- c. Closing Prayer
- d. Closing of the Meeting and Adjournment

There being no questions or further business, Fr. Michael ended the meeting with a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20PM



## Report of The Vestry Nominating Committee

The Vestry Nominating Committee is composed of the Vestry Wardens and three members of St. Mary's Parish. The wardens are Paul Judkins (chair) and Jon Gunger. The three congregant members were Betty Zimbardo, Bob Foltz, and Renee Osborne.

The Vestry Nominating Committee has the responsibility to provide a list of candidates to the parish congregation for election to the St. Mary's Episcopal Church Vestry. Of the twelve members of the Vestry, four members are retired each year after serving three years and by our bylaws may not succeed themselves. Retiring from the Vestry this year are Jim Howard, Les Rooker, Marj Klein and Tim Blaicher who was appointed this past year to fill the remaining term of Dann Battina.

We are pleased to nominate the following parishioners for election to the Vestry. We have found that the nominees are qualified in all respects to take on the responsibilities for a three-year term, and each has accepted the request to serve us.

- Charles (Chuck) Phillips
- David Bergquist
- Joan Croteau
- Frederick (Rick) Velde

Brief bio's are published on each of these nominees on a following this report.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Paul Judkins,**  
Senior Warden

### **Rick Velde**

Rick and wife, Carol, have been seasonal members of St. Mary's since approximately 2014. They customarily attend the 8 am service.

After graduating from the U of Tennessee Law School, Rick was a trial attorney for 41 years in Springfield, Illinois. Carol and Rick have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Both Rick and Carol have Vestry experience at Christ Episcopal Church in Springfield. Rick was the Chancellor to the Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield for 16 years. Carol and Rick appreciate the Anglican/Episcopal Church and especially St. Mary's.

### **Joan Croteau**

My Reception into the Episcopal Church occurred in 1989 simultaneously with my son's Confirmation. It was a joyous occasion. I have attempted to "walk the way" ever since. Serving as a Licensed Eucharistic minister in two Dioceses and currently now as a member of the Order of St. Luke here at St. Mary's Church has greatly enhanced my spiritual life. As an active member of an Episcopal community, I have also served as a Vestry member at Trinity Church, in Shrewsbury, MA, and served as both a Junior and Senior Warden. As is true at St. Mary's, my parish life has included many varied and ongoing activities which have been an enjoyable and enriching part of being an Episcopalian. I hope to continue this journey as a vestry member of St. Mary's.

### **Chuck Phillips**

I am a life long Christian having been raised in the Baptist and Methodist church. During my high school and college years I was active in the youth ministry in our Methodist church in Dallas Texas. I became an Episcopal in 1968 while in graduate school. I have been a member

of St. Mary's since 2013. I attend the 8am service with my wife Jan and serve as an Acolyte and Lay Leader.

### **David Bergquist**

Candy, my wife of 50 years, and I came to St. Mary's as seasonal members about 5 years ago and regularly attended the Rite I service. This past June we moved to Naples full time and now attend the 10 am service. We have participated in the Foyer Groups and gotten to know many parishioners and have gained a greater sense of the parish.

We were active for over 40 years in our previous church in Massachusetts where I was on the vestry for many years serving as both Senior and Junior Warden; chairing Stewardship and Property Commissions; serving on the Finance and Endowment Commissions. I was also active in the Diocese of Massachusetts: elected to the Cathedral Chapter; and elected to the Standing Committee; first Co-Convener of the North Shore Deanery.

Here at St. Mary's, I contributed the recent effort to revise and approve the new Parish Bylaws; and presently serve on the Worship Commission.

## **Report of The Senior Warden**

It has been a blessing and privilege to have served this past year as the Senior Warden of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The Senior Warden, also called the Rector's Warden, is appointed by the Rector and has as a primary responsibility, the role of advising, assisting and seeing to the general welfare of the Rector. A Senior Warden also assists the Rector in the direction and functioning of the parish Vestry.

The 2019 Vestry has been a pleasure to work with. These dedicated men and women have had the best welfare of St. Mary's parish in their hearts and minds and have been faithful in their dedication to their tasks. As the leaders they are, they have differing opinions and inputs as to the best way to function as a church but have been willing to express their feelings with respect for the others and support the eventual decisions of the body. Seasonal members of the Vestry have been faithful in meetings by participating in Vestry meetings by way of our tele video conferencing capability.

Stewardship of "time, talent and treasure" is always a challenge of church leadership. Although we can always use more of each, the congregation of our parish has been amply generous, and we have been able to get things done. We cannot say enough in appreciation to the many volunteers who make our church accomplish God's work. Many dedicated parishioners work both visibly and behind the scenes to keep the parish operating. We have ushers and greeters, altar servers, the altar guild, kitchen workers, Penny Wise, money counters, the librarian, ECW, people who assist in the church office, the volunteers in the choir, Prayer shawl crocheters/knitters, members of the Vestry and the several people who head church commissions, or are members thereof. I should also thank the several clergy, deacons and retired priests who assist in our Eucharists and Pastoral Care without compensation.

We have a dedicated church staff, who also contribute to our broad mission. They are continually busy doing their appointed duties, but we find them always ready and willing to help individuals of the church, visitors and each other to get God's work done.

All churches, especially these days when we have so much competition with entertainment, social media and declining respect for church affiliation, are concerned with church growth.

That continues to be a concern of ours to grow “out” but let’s always remember that our real objective is to grow “up” towards our loving Heavenly Father and his Son who would lead us to real happiness. Quality needs to trump quantity every time!

I have challenged the Vestry and now I challenge each of our congregation to strive to “accentuate the positive” about St. Mary’s. It should be our duty to God and our church to make everyone who arrives on our campus happy that they have visited here.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Paul Judkins**

Senior Warden

## Report of The Priest Associate

What a joy it has been to be part of St. Mary’s parish this past year! As I look back, I stand amazed at all the ministry, meetings, activities and fellowship that takes place within the parish. I feel truly blessed.

My responsibilities for the year focused on three areas: Pastoral Care, Bentley, and the weekly worship services.

The Pastoral Care team currently consists of Jeanette Turansky, chair, Anastasia Burke, Cherrill Cregar, Joe Daniele, Elinore Foltz, James Fox, Michiko Fox, Bill Gilmore, Yolanda Naimoli, Richard Norris, Holley Pitman, Bob Raubolt, and myself. We meet each Wednesday for an hour and half during which time we discuss a chapter in a book appropriate for Pastoral Care, update each other on the persons we have called upon, and uplifts those on our parish prayer list in prayer. Normally, the number on our list ranges from 50-60 persons; approximately half are parishioners, and half are relatives or friends of parishioners. We urge all parishioners to let us know when they or their loved ones are ill or in hospital.

I have been especially pleased with how the Ministry at Bentley has progressed during the past year. The twice monthly Eucharist now averages about twenty-five. A number of persons from our Pastoral Care team participate, serving as acolytes, lay readers, chalice bearers and prayer partners. Special thanks go to Pam Stamper and Becky Rife who provided special music for our Easter and Christmas services.

In June we began a weekly Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles using N.T. Wright’s, *Acts Study Guide*. For additional background material to supplement our discussion, I have used James D. G. Dunn’s, *Beginning from Jerusalem* which provides the history of the church from Pentecost through the death of St. Paul in the mid 60’s. Fifteen people have participated in the Bible study over the course of the six months with an average attendance of 10.

Most of you have come to know me in the regular weekly services where I share responsibilities with Fr. Rowe as Celebrant and preacher.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Fr. D. William (Bill) Faupel**

# Financial Reports – 2019

## Finance Commission Report

The Finance Commission serves to assist and advise the Treasurer and the Vestry on church financial matters. The commission members are Tim Blaicher, Beryl Chickerella, John Craun (treasurer and chair), Joe Daniele, Peter Ong, Wendy Scheible and Rick Smith. The commission met seven times during the year, and focused its efforts on (1) reviewing the church's regular financial statements, (2) implementing recommendations from the 2018 internal audit, (3) implementing an upgrade to the church's financial software, and (4) preparing the 2020 budget. All of the audit recommendations not already implemented have been assigned and should be completed during 2020.

## Treasurer's Report for 2019

### 2019 Results

We finished the year with a modest surplus (\$10,611) which the Vestry has decided will be added to the building renovation and repair fund. All expense areas were below budget, except clergy and staff compensation were slightly above budget with Vestry approval.

Looking at the balance sheet, our total financial assets at year-end were \$1.4 million, an increase of \$243k during the year. Most of this increase (\$172k) was in the endowment as a result of good investment performance. We had no debt at any time during the year.

In addition to the roughly \$0.75 million that runs through the revenue and expense statement, the church had \$147k in revenues and \$121k in expenses in its various restricted accounts. The biggest use of such accounts was for Outreach.

### 2020 Budget

The Vestry has approved a balanced budget for next year, but the budget assumes we can realize a significant increase in parish contributions (by \$34k or 5.5%). We think this increased parish support is achievable given the modest increase we have seen in attendance and the results to date in the pledge campaign. If parish contributions don't materialize as budgeted, we will need to reduce expenses or run a deficit or some combination thereof.

*SMEC Year-end financial charts follows on next page*

# 2019 Year-End Financials

## Overview of Revenues and Expenses

|                                   | 2020<br>Budget   | 2019<br>Actual   | 2019<br>Budget   | 2018<br>Actual   | 2017<br>Actual   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Contributions <i>(see Note A)</i> | \$653,000        | \$619,236        | \$632,000        | \$674,749        | \$665,959        |
| Offerings                         | \$60,700         | \$59,199         | \$52,100         | \$22,262         | \$17,920         |
| Endowment Released Income         | \$20,000         | \$20,000         | \$20,000         | \$20,000         | \$16,400         |
| Penny Wise Released Income        | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         | \$25,000         |
| Other Church Activities           | \$15,500         | \$11,166         | \$13,500         | \$16,289         | \$24,416         |
| Other Income <i>(see Note B)</i>  | \$23,200         | \$23,537         | \$13,700         | \$24,600         | \$17,292         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>              | <b>\$797,400</b> | <b>\$758,138</b> | <b>\$756,300</b> | <b>\$782,900</b> | <b>\$766,987</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Clergy Compensation               | \$268,130        | \$259,471        | \$256,902        | \$264,642        | \$299,231        |
| Lay Staff Compensation            | \$193,915        | \$177,077        | \$173,548        | \$145,842        | \$154,929        |
| Property                          | \$114,800        | \$104,347        | \$106,000        | \$107,759        | \$112,364        |
| Diocesan Assessment               | \$77,245         | \$76,523         | \$80,000         | \$84,685         | \$84,685         |
| Administrative                    | \$62,410         | \$66,138         | \$66,500         | \$64,282         | \$77,621         |
| Music                             | \$31,500         | \$29,568         | \$35,300         | \$23,965         | \$44,564         |
| Worship & Spiritual Growth        | \$38,600         | \$31,457         | \$29,450         | \$30,268         | \$29,395         |
| Communications                    | \$10,800         | \$2,946          | \$8,600          | \$8,534          | \$14,168         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>             | <b>\$797,400</b> | <b>\$747,527</b> | <b>\$756,300</b> | <b>\$729,977</b> | <b>\$816,957</b> |
| <b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>        | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>\$10,611</b>  | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>\$52,923</b>  | <b>-\$49,970</b> |

*(see Note C)*

### NOTES:

- A. Contributions for 2018 exclude a special one-time gift of \$125,000 in order to make historical comparisons more consistent.
- B. Other income is net of fund-raising expenses, and such expenses are not included in total expenses.
- C. All of the surplus in 2019 will be transferred to the Restricted Account for Facilities Renovation & Repairs.

## Balance Sheet Highlights

|                                 | 12/31/18           | 12/31/19           |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Church Checking Account         | \$279,381          | \$93,421           |
| Church Savings Account          | \$0                | \$203,988          |
| Penny Wise Accounts             | \$63,259           | \$90,794           |
| ECW Bank Account                | \$9,038            | \$12,419           |
| Other Current Assets            | \$8,788            | \$15,583           |
| Total Current Assets            | \$360,466          | \$416,205          |
| Total General Endowment         | \$582,230          | \$699,855          |
| NT Felsberg Endowment           | \$265,747          | \$320,061          |
| Less short term liabilities     | -\$15,120          | \$0                |
| Less long term liabilities      | \$0                | \$0                |
| <b>TOTAL "FINANCIAL" ASSETS</b> | <b>\$1,193,323</b> | <b>\$1,436,121</b> |

## Restricted Accounts Highlights

|                                       | Beginning        | Revenues         | Expenses         | Ending           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Outreach Accounts               | \$25,164         | \$87,433         | \$69,766         | \$42,831         |
| Total Church Activity Accounts        | \$54,272         | \$32,231         | \$41,346         | \$45,157         |
| Facilities Renovation/Repairs Account | \$20,903         | \$27,111         | \$9,500          | \$38,514         |
| <b>TOTAL RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS</b>      | <b>\$100,339</b> | <b>\$146,775</b> | <b>\$120,612</b> | <b>\$126,502</b> |

# Report of the Endowment Commission

## Finance Commission Report

The Endowment Commission is charged with two responsibilities. First, to oversee the care and management of the Endowment Fund assets and second, to educate our parishioners about the importance of their participation in the growth of the assets to accomplish the goal of providing a resource for St. Mary's to sustain its affairs when adverse conditions arise. Currently the Fund contributes \$20,000 annually toward the operating funds of the church, slightly more than its annual income, and also, under the terms of a trust, pays a significant portion of our landscaping expenses.

As can be seen from the table below, the fund has shown substantial growth over the last five years, a combination of a number of contributions and investment performance. After a weak financial market environment in 2018, the Fund experienced very strong investment returns in 2019. The totals shown each year exclude a second mortgage that the Fund holds which is currently down to \$5,000. As of yearend, the assets were invested as follows: 15% in cash equivalents, 14% in fixed income securities and 71% in equities. The assets are custodied in two accounts at Northern Trust and a checking account at the same institution. Time-weighted rates of return for 2019 were 27.1% for the total fund, 13.8% for the fixed income assets and 33.4% for the equities.

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| 2014 | \$599,092   |
| 2015 | \$578,403   |
| 2016 | \$665,011   |
| 2017 | \$886,431   |
| 2018 | \$807,977   |
| 2019 | \$1,024,163 |

The Commission hopes that many more of our parishioners will make the decision to join our Legacy Society, composed of those who have either made significant immediate gifts to the Fund or who have made provision in their financial affairs for a future donation of any size. For any of our members who would like to join this kind of support, so much needed in a world which continually seeks to circumscribe Christianity, the steps needed to do so are relatively simple but should probably include legal advice.

Currently, the members of the Commission are Joe Daniele, Bob Foltz, John Osborne and Rick Smith. Ex officio members are Father Rowe, Paul Judkins, our Senior Warden and John Craun, our Treasurer. Please thank them all for their dedicated service.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Hilton Jervey**  
Chairman

# Report of the Stewardship Commission

## 2020 Stewardship Annual Giving Program

The Stewardship Commission Campaign for 2020 was initiated on October 12, 2019 and was officially ended on November 17, 2019. This year's program spoke to all aspects of Christian Stewardship and emphasized its continued importance throughout 2020. It was repeatedly stated that Christian Stewardship was not just asking for money, but involved managing and magnifying the gifts that we have received from God and then returning them to do God's work. As Christian Stewards, we need to be generous with our time and talents as well as our dollars and cents. During the initial phase of our Stewardship program, we were fortunate to have a very effective and supportive Visiting Preacher: Fr. Brett Cane. Following his presentation, additional members of the St. Mary's congregation highlighted the outstanding programs available at St. Mary's that are worthy of the financial, spiritual, and personal support of our members.

At the end of October, a personal letter with an updated Pledge card was mailed to all members of the St. Mary's Congregation. This letter restated our commitment to the broader aspects of Christian Stewardship and then asked each member to make a pledge in support of St. Mary's dedication to God's work. The initial response was brisk with initial pledges totaling over \$400,000, but has since slowed significantly. Currently we have received \$450,000 in pledged support from 150 members of St. Mary's Congregation. We have not received a pledge from 70 Congregants who pledged last year. Another appeal for their response is planned for mid-February as part of a presentation at our Coffee Hour discussing the results of the 2020 Stewardship Program and the desire for additional pledges from the group that has not yet responded. The Vestry will also consider other approaches to this issue.

In view of these results, I recommend the following changes to St. Mary's approach to Stewardship. As over half of our congregation is still residing at their Winter residences during our Fall Stewardship Annual Giving Campaign, St. Mary's should consider scheduling our Stewardship Program for January and February. Other Florida Churches have taken this approach to the challenge of the seasonality of our membership. In addition, all activities that involve asking our congregation for monetary contributions should be strictly limited during our active Stewardship Campaign.

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to chair St. Mary's Stewardship Commission for the past two years. I have been deeply gratified and have grown spiritually through this experience. God Bless St. Mary's and the impressive work that it accomplishes to fulfill God's Work in Southwest Florida.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Wm. James Howard**

Chairman, Stewardship Commission

## Report from the Christian Formation Commission

St. Mary's has a rich and varied Christian Formation ministry that serves every age group and stage of Christian growth. The Commission strives to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be taught all that Christ commanded and to grow into Christian maturity.

The heart of Christian formation is the Eucharist and preaching. Our growth is nurtured in several weekly studies:

- ❖ **Mother Bobbie's Book Club** on Mondays
- ❖ **Bible Study** on Wednesday mornings with alternating priests
- ❖ Wednesday evenings:
  - January - 3 weeks "*Psychology & The Spiritual Life: Working Together*" by Fr. Michael, Fr. Faupel & MT. Gail
  - Winter - 6 weeks video/workbook program with Beth Moore. "*Entrusted*"
  - Spring - 5 week study of **ACTS**
  - Summer program on John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, The Virgin Mary
  - Fall - 6 week program on Bishop Curry's "*The Way Of Love*" including dinner
- ❖ **Bentley Bible Study** on Thursdays
- ❖ **Centering Prayer** on Thursday mornings
- ❖ **COMMA** - a quiet time of prayer over specific prayer requests Saturdays 6 PM

In addition, St. Mary's organized the following special learning and ongoing programs:

- ❖ **Lenten Learning Day** (3/16/19) entitled "*Forgiveness*" led by Fr. Michael and Mel Bennett M.A., cognitive behavioral therapist.
- ❖ **Advent Learning Day** (12/14/19) entitled "*Doubt*" led by Fr. Michael and Mel Bennett M.A.
- ❖ Continued support of *Cursillo* and *Ultreyea* programs
- ❖ Monthly **Men's Ministry** breakfast

Five people were confirmed by the Bishop on April 1st, 2019: Carole Cline, Walter Griffeth, Spencer Philips, James Small, Mary Lee Scanlon. Four were received into the Episcopal Church: Robin Adams, Jason Adams, Beatrice Mohr, Joseph Sasak. Two were reaffirmed into the Faith: Pamela Stamper and Trisha Evans

Our Library has been transformed and is in a separate report.

We welcome our new Youth and Family Minister, Nancy Vaughan. Please see her separate report.

The following commission members remain dedicated to the growth of spiritual development: Fr. Michael, Deacon Bill, co-chairs Jill Smith & Denise Wallace, Joan Croteau, Penny Sapp, Anastasia Burke, Jim Howarth, Diana Dearth, Kate Quarles, Nancy Vaughn, Mel Bennett, Chester Philips.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Deborah Haslouer**

## Facilities Management Commission

The Facilities Management Commission supervises the repair, maintenance and improvement of the buildings and grounds of the parish. Included in that management is the supervision of various maintenance contracts which allows contractors to accomplish preventive maintenance on our property and equipment.

Accomplishments during 2019:

- Painting of entryway, wall behind church, Pavilion and repairing fascia and gutter has been completed.
- Sound system speaker has been installed for choir.
- Completion of fountain repair remains elusive.

## Report from the Communications Commission

The primary objective of the Communications Commission is to increase awareness of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and its activities to both its members and other people in the Naples/Bonita Springs area. To this end the Communications Commission uses our webpage and social media for promotion purposes.

In 2018 the internet surpassed television as the primary advertising medium. 90% of inquiries for products or services are initiated on the internet. The reasons are lower cost and the ability to target the audience. In 2019 we pursued four initiatives with the objective of increasing visits to our webpage.

### Interviews with Fr. Michael

Videos of Fr. Michael were made available on our Facebook page. These interviews covered a variety of topics such as, **The Cardinal Virtues; "How has God been active in your life lately?"; The Importance of Vacation; Angels; Baptism; Preparing for Holy Mass;** and more. We received numerous "likes" on Facebook and experienced increased visitors to our webpage.

### Facebook "Boosts"

In 2018 we developed a database with Facebook which included 1,500 individuals in the Naples/Bonita Springs/Estero area whose search activity had indicated an interest in Christianity. In 2019 we created posters of upcoming events or activities and sent these posters to the people in our database via Facebook "boosts". We again noted an increase of visitors to our website from the boosts.

### Northern Lights/Snow Birds

In July we initiated a program in four northern areas to introduce St. Mary's to potential seasonal visitors to our area. We selected Cape Cod in July and followed with Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Minneapolis in the following three months. Using the zip codes of seasonal members of St. Mary's and area Episcopal Churches we created a data base with Facebook that we used to boost a poster entitled "Don't Leave Your Faith Behind". This poster encouraged potential snow birds to visit St. Mary's if they were vacationing in our area.

## Christian Radio Advertising

In the fourth quarter of 2019 we began promoting our activities on WAY.FM, the southwest Florida Christian radio station. WAY.FM has over 36,000 listeners in southwest Florida and offers very attractive advertising rates. We began with “Fr. Damien – The Leper Priest” in November and “Doubt” in December. We also used Facebook boosts to promote both of these events.

We had a very good year and I thank Kathleen Pignato, Chester Phillips, Theresa Rowe and Joanna Wragg whose efforts made our activities successful.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Rick Smith**

Chairman, Communications Commission

## Report from Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary’s

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 and ECW members from other parishes.

Since reorganizing and rebuilding in 2015, St. Mary’s has continued a rejuvenated ECW organization. There are exciting opportunities for leadership on the Executive Board working in partnership with the current leaders. 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-** Weekly inspirational book studies include reading, reflection and meditation with Priestly direction, committed to strengthening both the personal and collective spiritual journey.

**“Reaching Out”-** ECW reaches out with involvement in our Community and the World. Annually, “Kindness for Kids” project, in partnership with Harvest Time Ministries, spreads the love of Jesus Christ through gift-giving for 150 children living in local migrant communities.

**Hospitality-**ECW volunteers spend countless hours planning special receptions for Baptisms, Confirmations, Retirements, Deanery Meetings and Minister Luncheons. Foyer Groups which offer fellowship during dinners at member’s homes or restaurants are also planned by ECW.

**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.

**The Annual 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,*

**Renee Osborne**

ECW President

## Report of the Worship Commission

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 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.

One key Committee within the Worship Commission, Altar Guild (Sandie Beihl) has filed a separate report 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, also filing a separate report, provides an expressive interpretation of the parts of the worship service provided by our organist, cantors and choir. In addition, the Music Ministry and the choir have provided special events for the enjoyment of St. Mary's and the community at large including two Concert Series events. Kathleen Pignato is our full time Music Director.

Pastoral Care represented by Elinor Foltz will also making a separate report for the Annual report.

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

Staff:

- Father Michael Rowe, Rector and Commission Chair

- Gail Goggin, Co-chair
- Father Bill Faupel
- Deacon Bill Gilmore
- Ian Mitchell, Office Administrator

Lay Persons:

- Sandie Beihl, Altar Guild
- Kathleen Pignato, Music Director
- Elinor Foltz, Pastoral Care
- David Bergquist
- Tim Blaicher
- Gail Goggin, Ushers and Greeters
- Gail Goggin, 10am Sunday service coordinator
- Jules Wallace, 5pm Saturday service coordinator
- Jenny Schwerdtfeger, 8am Sunday Service coordinator
- Paul Greene, weekday and special services coordinator
- Hilton Jervey, Vestry Liaison

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Gail Goggin**

## Report of St. Mary's Music Ministries

God has graciously blessed St. Mary's Music Ministry once again this year, with faithful ministers, new voices, and sacred song and sounds, praising Him, and leading our worship in Glorifying God and Sanctifying His People. The year of Our Lord 2019 overflowed with continuous Beauty through Musical Offerings, from our youngsters Lydia, Preston, and Christine, dedicated harpist Pam Stamper who took time on Christmas Eve to allow our baptismal candidates Neil and Natalie to try out the instruments, our member violinist Rachel Elmquist, our new voices Helen Tintes, Lauryn Kay, Pat McKenzie, Callie Gilmore, Sam Hawken, Ralph Quarles, Kit Meade, D'Artagnan Wallace, and Charles A. White, as well as the joyful return of Charley Baker, and the continued leadership of Taylor Hill, Sandra Renner, Sakena Martin, Adell Cotter, Diane Thomas, Doris Bialowas, Jeanie Temby, Sara and Jim George, Georgia and Hilton Jervey, Jim Fox, Dick Barrett, Fr David Oliver, soloist Mary Koenig, dancer Chemaly Lima, and multi-talented Becky Rife. Choir, cantors, and organist are now resplendently regaled in lovely new robes and cottas, thanks to the hard work of Sandra Renner and Renee Osborne on the festive February fundraiser *Love on Broadway*.

Music Ministry has been delighted to be invited to lead prayer for *New Horizons* on Wednesdays, and to spend time each week making music to the Lord with the dozens of beautiful students and sweet Miss Geneva, their directress. One of our Music Director's brothers purchased several more sets of bells for her so that each child in the program could ring and sing with Geneva, Liz, Stephanie, and Kathleen at the conclusion of their Wednesday devotional.

Music Ministry moved out into the community this year at the *Bonita Historical Society Festival of Trees*, singing Sacred Songs of the Season about Trees on the lovely porch Old Route 41 at the McSwain House, and as guest music leaders at the *Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith*

Service at 1st Presbyterian Church. Music Ministry also welcomed the local community into Our House of God hosting beautiful Recitals here in St. Mary's church, by dozens of students of our neighbor *Miller Music Studios*, and of Bonita Springs pianist and teacher Larissa Chernogritskaya.

Our *St. Mary's Concert Series* was vibrant this year featuring Charles Baker as St. John the Baptist on Jan 6th; the *Ave Maria University Scholae* Feb 17th; *Symphonic Chorale* April 12th; *Marian Concert* on the Feast of St. Mary Aug 16th; Charles Baker as *St. Damien* Nov 1st; contralto Helen Tintes and organist Brice Gerlach in concert on the *Feast of the Patron of Music, St. Cecilia* Nov 22nd; as well as our annual *Advent Lessons & Carols* Dec 8th.

*Friends of St. Mary's Music* is already hard at work preparing programs for the Year of Our Lord 2020, including the exciting new series *Second Sunday Hymn Sing* beginning Jan 12th at 6pm on the Pavilion, led by our own Opry Girl Mary Koenig, and Gaither Gal Pam Stamper, with yours truly at the keys; pianist and friend Diego Davila at 7pm on Friday Jan 24th, guest concert organist Rudy Lucente (who has instruments named after him!) 7pm on Friday Feb 7th, and more.

The doors of St. Mary's Music Ministry are always open. *Come! Glorify the Lord with me!*

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Kathleen V. Pignato**

Director of Music Ministries

## Report of the Outreach Commission

The membership included Barbara Howard (chair), Judy Hall (co-chair), Annette Leahy-Judkins (Admin Officer), Edith Clayton, Dave Eifert, Bill Gilmore (also representing the clergy), Judy Hall, Pamela Houze, Jim Howard, Joyceanna Rautio, Les Rooker, David Smith, Paul Way and Sandy York.

The commission conducted or participated in the following events:

- ❖ January - India Schools Appeal; DR Schools Appeal
- ❖ February - Ministry Fair
- ❖ March - Food drive for Café of Life
- ❖ August - New Horizons Supply Drive
- ❖ September - Undie Sunday
- ❖ October - Outreach Sunday
- ❖ November - Fall Food Collection for Harvest Time; Initiation of Kindness for Kids Campaign
- ❖ December - Children's' gift distribution to New Horizons and Harvest time children

The Commission distributed the following grants in December (funds provided by Penny Wise; awards decided on the basis of submitted proposals)

- ❖ Café of Life ..... \$4000
- ❖ Freedom and Virtue Institute ..... \$2000
- ❖ Harvest Time Ministries ..... \$5000
- ❖ Life Giving Water ..... \$2000

- ❖ Literacy Council of Gulf Coast ..... \$2500
- ❖ Love, Inc. .... \$5000
- ❖ Meals on Wheels of Bonita Springs. .... \$3000
- ❖ New Horizons. .... \$3000
- ❖ Our Mothers Home of SWFL ..... \$4000

In addition, the following funds were awarded earlier in the year:

- ❖ Guardian ad Litem..... \$2000
- ❖ Ann Hartley ..... \$1000
- ❖ Brian Cleary ..... \$2000
- ❖ Clothing Shipment..... \$ 850
- ❖ Bahamas Relief ..... \$1000

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Barbara Howard**  
 Chair, Outreach Commission

## Report from Penny Wise Thrift Shop

The Penny Wise Thrift Shop had a VERY good year. The store was open every day except Sunday from 10-3 in season, and 10-2 in the summer. A credit card reader was acquired, and revenue was up over 10%. There have been some updates to the interior thanks to Paul Scheibel, and our new treasurer, Wendy Scheibel has improved our fiscal controls.

A highlight was the ability to send 56 boxes of winter clothing collected by Penny Wise and with Outreach support to a distribution center outside Cincinnati. They made a tremendous contribution to the ability of serving individuals and families in need. Each day Penny Wise has an enthusiastic group of volunteers and they will celebrate the year with a lunch on Martin Luther King day.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Neil Frederiksen**  
 Penny Wise Manager

## Report from The Pastoral Care Commission

During the past year, the Pastoral Care ministries have continued to provide special prayer services to St. Mary's parishioners. The Pastoral Care committee continues to maintain their prayer list of those parishioners, family members and others, as requested by members of the congregation. Pastoral care committee members also visit and provide communion to those in area hospitals and care centers, as well as those parishioners who are home bound. The Pastoral Care committee also continues to broaden their spiritual knowledge, insight and discipline by studying books by such authors as Henry Nouwen and Samuel Hodges, and discussing daily meditations by Richard Rohr, Oswald Chambers and others. Additionally, we continue the bi-monthly service at the Bentley care center, which not only gives those who cannot independently attend regular services, but provides the opportunity for special prayers by members of the Order of St. Luke. The Bentley services have been very well attended by those in the care center.

The goal of the Pastoral Care Commission ministries this year, in addition to continuing to minister to the members of our congregation, is to better familiarize our members with our ministries. The commission heads will be meeting monthly to discuss possible workshops, presentations, fundraisers and other activities which will educate the congregation about each ministry and the healing prayers, communion and visitation we provide. We feel that there are many people in our congregation are not aware of who the members of our ministries are, and we want to make sure that anyone who needs healing prayer and communion, or simply a visit, at times outside of our scheduled services, knows how to get in touch with a member of our ministries.

We feel that we are truly blessed to be called to serve God and our congregation.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Fr. D. William (Bill) Faupel**

## Report from St. Mary's Youth and Families Ministry

St. Mary's Youth Sunday School attendees have been focused on the themes of love and gratitude using prayer, scripture, conversation, activities, and music. The goal is to offer our youngest parishioners something meaningful, that enriches their lives and deepens their relationship with God as well as the church community.

As an extension of these lessons the youth participated in the November food collection for Harvest Time Ministries. In December they went Christmas Caroling and visited Father Salt and Betty, Father George and Vivi, and the Bentley Bible study group. The culminating activity of the year was the Christmas Eve pageant entitled "*Twas the Night of Jesus Birth*", which was presented at the five o'clock service.

With Sunday School as the core we look forward to more lessons and activities in 2020 that embrace love as Jesus taught in word and deed.

*Yours in Christ,*  
**Nancy Vaughn**  
Youth and Families Minister

## Listing of Staff & Vestry

### SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS

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

#### STAFF

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Rowe, Rector             | rector@stmarysbonita.org          |
| The Rev. Dr. D. William Faupel, Priest Associate | bfaupel@stmarysbonita.org         |
| The Rev. Gail Tomei, Assisting Priest            | gtomei@ptd.net                    |
| The Rev. Bobbie Parini, Assisting Priest         | bobbieparini@aol.com              |
| The Rev. William K. Gilmore, Deacon              | bgilmore@stmarysbonita.org        |
| The Rev. Paula Hartsfield, Assisting Deacon      | p.hartsfield12@gmail.com          |
| Bob Raubolt, Deacon Candidate                    | bob@bonitamgmt.com                |
| Kathleen V. Pignato, Music Director              | music@stmarysbonita.org           |
| Nancy Vaughn, Youth & Families Minister          | youthminister@stmarysbonita.org   |
| Ian Mitchell, Office Administrator               | churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org    |
| Barbara Williams, Office Assistant               | officeassistant@stmarysbonita.org |
| Sandy Gunger, Sexton                             | sandyg1964@mail.com               |

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[www.facebook.com/stmarysbonita](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbonita)

Outgoing Vestry members as of January 26, 2020: Jim Howard, Les Rooker, Marj Klein and Tim Blaicher

If the vote of the Parish is in concurrence, the new membership of the Vestry will be: Charles (Chuck) Phillips, David Bergquist, Joan Croteau, Frederick (Rick) Velde

## SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Penny Wise Thrift Shop (239) 947-3363

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