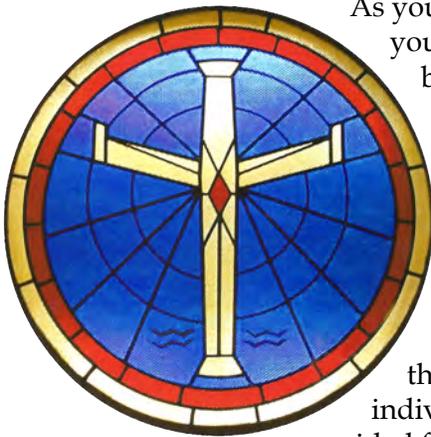




A Thanksgiving & Advent Message from Our Priest-in-Charge

Give Thanks to God!

The story is told of a country preacher who decided to skip services one Sunday morning and spend the day hiking in the wilderness a few miles away from his church. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down the mountainside. He landed on a rock and broke both of his legs. In the meantime, he noticed the bear, now angry, was charging down the mountain toward him. Frantically, he called out to God in prayer. "O Lord! I am so sorry for skipping out of services this morning. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish. Make a Christian out of that bear that is coming at me!" To his amazement, the bear skidded to a halt in front of him. It fell to its knees, placed its paws together than began to pray aloud, "Dear God, bless this food for which I am about to receive..."



As you receive this issue of *Tidings*, autumn is upon us. Many of you who summer in the North have returned to warmer breezes of Southern Florida. For all of us, our thoughts turn toward Thanksgiving and Christmas.

As the holiday implies, it is a season to give thanks for everything that God has given to us. As Christians, we are indeed thankful that God sent his son into the world as a babe in Bethlehem, that he might grow up among us, experiencing the same hopes and joy, the same suffering and disappointments that we experience as humans. We are thankful that he offered his life, that we might have life. As individuals, each of us can note in countless ways that God has provided for our needs. As a parish, he has given us so much, but mainly he has given us each other, so that together our souls might be enriched and through our gifts as talents, the work of His kingdom might be accomplished.

When we think of the origins of thanksgiving, we usually think of the Pilgrims crossing the ocean to escape religious persecution and settling in this land. Then after surviving their first winter and gathering in their first harvest they gave thanks to God and celebrated with a great feast.

But that first thanksgiving in North America was based on an earlier tradition that dates back to Old Testament times. In Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Moses commanded the Israelites to give thanks to God for delivering them from slavery in Egypt. They were to give thanks by giving God the first fruits of the harvest. Only then could they take anything for themselves.

I have long believed that the sense of joy, gratitude and thanksgiving that we express this time of year as we reflect on what God has done for us, both personally and corporately as a parish community is best reflected in our sense of stewardship. Just as Israel gave thanks to God for their deliverance, protection and provisions by giving the first fruits of their labor to him, so too, do we, as we offer to God from the abundance he has given to us.

This is especially true this year as God has walked with us through the special challenges we face in the midst of a pandemic and as we search for a new Rector. Each day of this season let us pause to express our gratitude for our blessing. It will breathe life into our souls.

Fr. Bill Faupel
Priest-in-Charge

Do You Need a Priest?

The best way to reach one of the priests is to call St. Mary's at 239-992-4343 or email churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org. Ian, Br. Thomas or one of the volunteers will be able to help you.

In case of emergencies outside of office hours, please call Fr. Faupel – Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at 859-552-3291 or Deacon Bill – Friday and Saturday at 239-571-1023.

Your clergy is here to serve, please do not hesitate to ask if you need help. Messages are checked regularly including evenings and weekends.

From Our Senior Warden

St. Mary's parish is doing as well as we could have hoped for during the restrictions of the pandemic. We continue to advocate sanitation, masks, and social distancing, observing government and Diocesan guidelines. Our Bishop has relaxed some previous restrictions and we may now return the Bibles, hymn books, and BCP's to the pew racks. Attendance may go from 25% to 50% of the building capacity allowed by fire regulation. We have regularly had about 60-70 people show up for our Sunday services, and our live streaming of the Masses has a good following. Financial stewardship has been faithful, and our parishioner-contributed income is only about ten per cent less than the previous year. There seems to be a continuation of the wonderful spirit of support and love among the parishioners of this great church.

We will soon be looking to appoint nominees to replace four retiring members of that governing council. Early in November, I will join with the Junior Warden and three congregational members to constitute a nominating committee to come up with four names to submit to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. I would be glad to know of any volunteers or suggestions for members to serve on the nominating committee or for interest in serving on the Vestry. According to our by-laws, Vestry members must be church members (or associate members) over the age of 18 years, who are willing to serve for the term of three years.

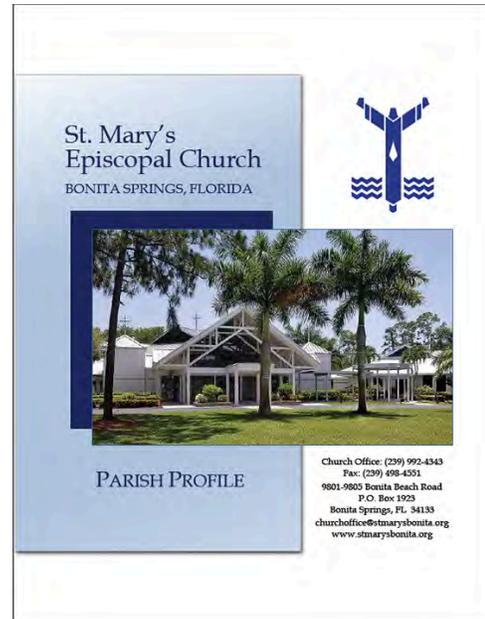
Our Rector Transition process is proceeding notwithstanding the challenges from the pandemic. The Rector Search is now “live” and the Diocese has published our vacancy to the “Jobs and Calls” section of the Episcopal News Service. The posting is also available on the Diocesan website and in the newsletter published by Nashota House Seminary. Applications are due no later than November 15, 2020. The Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary will review the applications and forward a list of eligible candidates to the Rector Search Committee (RSC) in a handover meeting via Zoom between the RSC and the Canon. Then the RSC will go to work in earnest. This step in the process will take some time. The RSC has been asked to present the three most attractive candidates to the Vestry who may select and call the future Rector, probably in early 2021, if all goes well.

We thank the Parish for all of your prayers for the Rector Search and humbly ask that you continue to pray for St Mary’s and those involved in this discernment.

The Parish Profile is an interesting and informative publication which has been provided to Diocese to institute our rector search. It is available to members of the Parish, with booklets available in the Narthex and on the website.

Paul Judkins
Senior Warden

If you would like to read the Parish Profile, just go to the St. Mary’s website (www.stmarysbonita.org) and look for "**Rector Search Update**" on the HOME page: click the link in the blue button to view or download .



Prayer for St. Mary’s Rector Search Committee

LORD, we give thanks for all good stewards in particular those who have volunteered to devote their time and talents to choose three candidates to present to the Vestry for consideration and approval as our new Rector.

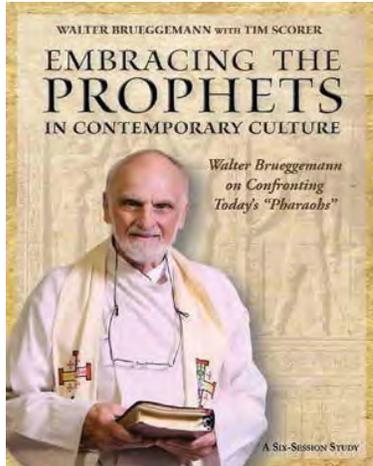
These volunteers are well versed in the desires of our parish through study of our questionnaire and profile and have agreed to listen to our LORD for pure discernment.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving, guidance, unity and peace. We pray that those charged with the search process will find the Rector that God has prepared for our call. We give thanks for the strength and unity of our search committee and pray for their wisdom.

Thank you, Chris Davies, Chair, Hilton Jervey, Vestry Liaison, Deb Hanslouer, Jim Howard, Renee Osborne, Judy Phillips, Sandy Renner, Denise Wallace, John Wool and Joanna Wragg. Composition of the Search Committee

Embracing the Prophets

St. Mary's begins the fall season of Wonderful Wednesdays with Fr. Bill as he introduces us to Walter Brueggemann, arguably America's leading Old Testament scholar. In a four-week series of CD's, Brueggemann guides us through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture. He identifies the cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel's history, that connects it to the sociological, economic and spiritual status of America today.



The series seeks to answer such questions as: What was the message of these remarkable poet-prophets in their own time and place? What is their message for us today? How has the contemporary church been coopted by culture? What steps can we take to reclaim the prophetic message of justice, nonviolence and hope?

Each of sessions begins with a 10-15 minute video presentation by Brueggemann. Fr Bill will then lead a 45-50 minute discussion period that follows. The series will come to your living room on Zoom at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays, November 11 & 18 and December 2 & 9. Contact the church office to enroll in the program.

Advent Meditation Morning

All are invited to Advent Meditation Morning, Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. to noon, in the Flora Linda Garden led by Mother Gail Tomei. Wear your walking shoes and a mask and be prepared to slowly saunter through several wondrous adventures as we embrace our own 'turning points' of Christian growth. We will 'walk on water' with Jesus, remind ourselves of the infilling of the Holy Spirit at our baptism, learn new ways to walk the Labyrinth and make a pet memory at the St. Francis memorial.

Linger with Mary as we learn about the history of this statue and why she is a focal point of the garden and of St. Mary's Church. Be affirmed in our own Christian growth as we marvel at the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly in our new Butterfly Garden. And then we will rest as we sit in the pavilion and share insights through various uplifting meditations. It's a great beginning as we await the "advent" of the birth of Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Let's take this time to refresh our soul as we gather and pray and praise the Lord for His forever loving embrace.

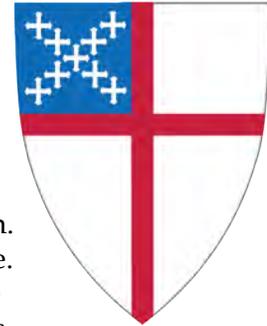


And, of course, we will gather little surprises for your 'goodie bag' throughout our walk. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex by mid-November or send an email by

December 1, to Mother Gail Tomei: gtomei@stmarysbonita.org or the church office: churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org

Gail Goggin: A Servant of the Lord and His Church

In the course of almost three decades, Gail Goggin has given full measure of her grace, wisdom, and gifts to the life and ministry of St. Mary's parish. Just a partial list of her involvement and service includes: three and a half terms on the Vestry; two Rector Search Committees; two Music Director Search Committees; Stewardship; Long-Range Planning; Christian Formation; and Worship Commission. In several of these areas she either chaired or co-chaired the committee. In fact, to paraphrase St. Paul, "...if there is any excellence and if there anything worthy of praise..." about St. Mary's parish, Gail Goggin has probably had a role in it, This is particularly apropos when referring to our liturgical life.



How and where did her desire and commitment to serve Christ and his Mystical Body, the Church begin? A cradle Episcopalian, Gail was raised in Brookville, Long Island, but attended church at the Church of the Advent in Westbury, Long Island. The liturgical orientation and spirituality of the parish was Anglo-Catholic, and she became engrained with not only the ceremonial aspects of its worship characteristics but infused as well with the truths it conveyed about our spiritual heritage and tradition. This foundation carried her through to her nursing studies at the St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, which was closely tied to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York City. One of the largest churches in the world, St. John's worshiped in the manner Gail knew and meant most to her...Anglo-Catholic.

In time, marriage brought her and her family to Mendham, New Jersey and St. Mark's parish where she served on the Vestry and at the Altar. It too was Anglo-Catholic liturgically. Though a relatively small parish, St. Mark's nevertheless sent five parishioners on to become priests; including two women who were ordained in the mid 1970s. These women followed closely the initial group of eleven women ordained in the 1974 historic service in Philadelphia. Her family having essentially matured to where her youngest was now a teenager, she decided to leave nursing and pursue a highly successful career in residential real estate, including executive managerial positions.

Eventually in her mid-fifties, she moved to Southwest Florida and St. Mary's parish, chosen again primarily because of its Anglo-Catholic ethos. As mentioned at the outset, she has given enormously of herself to the very fabric of the life of the parish. Gail has a wonderful capacity to reflect on how her experience in the ministry and mission of the parish shapes her vision concerning its future. For example, she views the calling of the new rector to be an articulate. She sees a need for a revitalization of the parish to be more welcoming, inspirational and inclusive.

Interestingly, while she remains partial to her Anglo-Catholic liturgical preferences, she recognizes that in order to grow we may need to be flexible and offer occasional family friendly worship opportunities for those who, initially, might find our ceremonial inclinations daunting. Inevitably there will be change, but she sees it optimistically, as an opportunity not a threat. Such is the grace and wisdom of one who puts the welfare of God's kingdom and St. Mary's ahead of her own preferences and agenda. This is her indelible mark on St. Mary's for twenty plus years, for which we are the grateful beneficiaries. Thank you, Gail.

David Bergquist

Youth & Family Ministries

We have been blessed to safely open up our Sunday school program and provide an opportunity for children to meet and continue to grow in their faith and understanding of Jesus' teachings.



As an extension of Sunday School a half day mini-vacation Bible School was held on August 28th. The children enjoyed outside activities which included a nature walk and scavenger hunt to explore God's creation, rock painting, and lunch which of course consisted of pizza. The painted rocks were placed around St. Mary's and have brought many smiles to parishioners faces.

St. Francis Day provided an opportunity for the children to encourage parishioners to honor their

beloved, deceased pets by writing an inscription on a rock which was blessed by Father Faupel and placed by the children at the base of the St. Francis statue in St. Mary's pet cemetery. The response was overwhelming and heart warming. Thank you to everyone that helped make this first time activity such a success.

As we move forward into advent season we know that this year is going to look very different from past years. The youth are looking forward to opportunities to express gratitude and love during this special season. The five o'clock Christmas Eve service will once again be a family service with the youth participating. If you cannot join us in person we hope that you will be able to participate by watching the live streaming.

Yours in Christ, Nancy Vaughn
Director of Youth and Family Ministries



The 2021 Stewardship Campaign

"Freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:8

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign is underway. By now you should have received a letter along with a pledge card and a postage paid return envelope. You are asked, please, to make a pledge for 2021 to St. Mary's.

There are many, many good reasons for our financial support. To me the most important reason is the deeply loving and joyous Christian spirit at St. Mary's. We are committed Christians and we are worshipful Christians. We pray before we act, indeed we pray in order to act.

From this spirit of faith flow many good works. To name but a few: **Penny Wise, New Horizons, Meals of Hope, Pastoral Care, Altar Guild, ECW** and our **Outreach** Grant programs, which benefit the local area of Bonita Springs and surrounding towns.

We are truly a thriving branch office of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church - even in the midst of the current pandemic and our search for a new rector.

I hope that you will pledge generously for 2021. Thank you.

C. Robert Foltz,
Chair - 2020 Stewardship Campaign

FAMILIES IN NEED

Families all over the county are coming to St. Mary's Mondays 1-5 p.m. for free food distribution sponsored by **Meals of Hope**.

Volunteers needed: please bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and a mask!
We are working in shifts so any amount of time is a valuable asset. A hot but rewarding afternoon in the Florida sun for these volunteers.

We pray that God be with us now and always....

New Library Collection for Children

Library volunteers are pleased to announce the creation of a Children's Collection located within the St. Mary's Library. The new children's lending library is a work in progress that in time will include board books for the littlest ones, picture books for all ages, and chapter books for older youths and young adults. The collection will include Bible stories, biographies, inspirational works, and stories that lift the spirit.

Coming this fall and spring we will have completed our wish list and will invite others to help us build the collection by donating a book in honor of a loved one or marking a special day. Your caring gift will be celebrated with a commemorative bookplate designed by our librarians.

Visit the library soon to see the exciting new collection, just look for the rug of many colors.



The New Butterfly Garden

Something new has sprouted at St. Mary's!

During the Dog Days of subtropical August, while the pandemic kept us out of air-conditioned theaters and restaurants, and while our Northern Lights members were enjoying the relative cool of their various summer climes, the Garden Stewards of St. Mary's were busily at work.

In the unused space between the marble statue of St. Mary and the back wall of the church, next to the air conditioning units, a plan took shape. First, the grass was dug out and replaced with rich top soil. Then a new lattice-work barrier was installed to conceal the AC units and provide a support for climbing plants. Stepping stones were laid to invite visitors in from the sidewalk on the way to the outdoor chapel.

Then plants – lots of plants! Milkweed to feed the caterpillars of monarch butterflies, passion vines for the zebra longwings and gulf fritillaries, Dutch pipe stem for swallowtails and others. In all, host plants for at least six different species of butterfly!

And hibiscus, butterfly bush and other flowering nectar plants to feed the adults, complementing the flowering shrubs already in place behind the Flora Linda Chapel.

Finally, the Cregar bench, filling the empty base left by a previous furnishing. And Voila! The St. Mary's Flora Linda Butterfly Garden!

A quiet space for peaceful prayer, contemplation, and appreciation of the wonders He has given us.

Be sure to visit soon!

Joanna Wragg



Treasurer's Report

While this has been a challenging year for St. Mary's financially because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are doing reasonably well. Parish support in the form of pledges and envelope offerings is down by only 8% compared to last year. This is our biggest source of revenue (fully 75% of the annual budget) so while we are doing well in this area, it is important for everyone to fulfill their pledge and make their usual gifts during the fourth quarter.

Revenue that is typically associated with attending worship services (such as open plate, flowers, candles, hospitality, and other offerings) is, not surprisingly, way down compared to last year (off by 55%). Your generosity during the closing months of the year with these other offerings would be helpful.

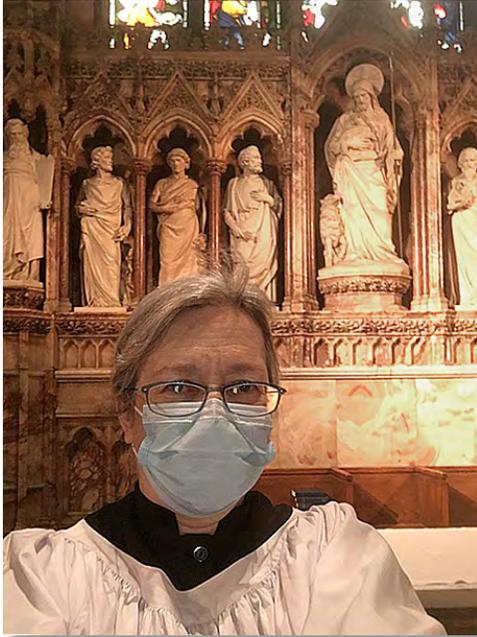
The Vestry established a revised budget for this year during its June meeting because of the major disruptions to our original budget caused by the pandemic and the departure of

Father Rowe. We are on track with this revised budget for both total revenues and total expenses through the end of September. The key to a successful year for us financially will – as usual – be strong parish support. Thank you for your generous giving to St. Mary's.

John Craun
Treasurer

Postulant Updates

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." - John 6:35



Greetings from General Theological Seminary!

I'm back in New York, and though some things are very different (worship outdoors, masks everywhere, social distancing, and every restaurant has a little outdoor cafe in the road), the work of the gospel is the same.

I'm a middler student now, studying Episcopal Church History, Canon Law, Homiletics, and Hebrew reading. As chief sacristan, I set up the services and make sure they go smoothly. This semester, I also get to work in a parish for the first time. The Rev. Anna Pearson, Holy Apostles' rector, has given me a lot to do: preaching, running an adult forum class in the spring, leading Compline with another postulant on Zoom. If you're interested in watching online, email me at ahartley@gts.edu, and I'll send you directions.

During the week, Holy Apostles transforms into a soup kitchen and food pantry to feed upwards of 200 neighbors a day. My time in the food pantry feeds my soul. One lady was excited to be getting an eggplant so, she announced delightedly to everyone around her, she could make "eggplant parm"! When I saw her again this week, I asked her how it turned out. She used the cheese in the bag. It had turned out well.

In our baptismal covenant, the priest prays that we may receive "the gift of joy and wonder in all [God's] works." People pass through the pantry with a sense of wonder, gratitude, and joy, even as they struggle to carry the heavy grocery bags outdoors. We help them fit their bags into all manner of wheeled carts, wagons, and luggage, or just sling them on slim shoulders. They notice and appreciate when we load the bags carefully, so their eggs don't get smashed.

We are called to feed the hungry. This means giving those in need delicious fresh food with respect and love, while they feed our spirits with wonder and gratitude. This mutual ministry may be a key to our salvation. May the bread of life give us strength to do the work of the gospel, recognizing that this sacred work has the power to save souls, including our own.

Please pray for me.

God bless you all,
Anne Hartley

Ministries

Outreach Commission News

The COVID-pandemic has not stopped our Outreach Commission from serving the needs of God's children during these uncertain times. Your prayers, generosity and kind messages over the past six months have helped us forge ahead and we are grateful. And as the Holy Spirit helps to guide the Commission, we are making plans which will take us through the end of 2020 and into 2021.

Kindness for Kids

Our annual **Kindness for Kids** program, in partnership with Episcopal Church Women (ECW), will kick off its 4th year on November 13th. **The Giving Tree** will be set up in the narthex and will be decorated with information tags for specific children and their wish list toy. Children from **Harvest Time Ministries, New Horizons Super Kids Club**, and new this year, children with mothers in our family outreach organizations – **After the Rain** and **Our Mother's Home** – are all included. We have eliminated clothing items and, in lieu of them, we will give each family a gift card to Walmart. This simplifies the process for you, our donors and supporters, who may or may not be local or comfortable doing holiday shopping. Detailed information will be available in November.

Harvest Time

Harvest Time will begin their food distributions to the local communities they serve in November. To assist them we will hold a food drive on November 7 & 8. Grocery bags and food lists will be distributed the weekend of November 1 & 2. They also can be picked up in the narthex before the actual food drive. The food distributions take place every other weekend from November to March. The schedule will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board in the Parish Life Center and in the Church's weekly e-blast. The food packing takes place at a local storage facility on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The food distribution to the two local communities is on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Judy Hall (jhall3544@gmail.com) for details if you want to volunteer.

Meals of Hope

Our successful fundraising effort in support of Meals of Hope officially ended in mid-September. The final results were: \$7,135 from 31 individual donations; \$500 from ECW and \$2,000 from Outreach for a grand total of \$9,635. The \$2,000 will be treated as a 2020 grant. At this time, Meals of Hope plans to continue its weekly food distribution into 2021. They are continually in need of volunteers to assist with the food distribution on our campus every Monday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Just come to St Mary's any Monday and there will be representatives there to sign you up.



St. Mary's Outreach Grants for 2020

Invitations were sent out to a dozen Outreach Partners at the end of September. Applications will be evaluated in November and the recommendations for funding will be approved by Vestry in December. Funding comes from the work of Penny Wise's wonderful, dedicated volunteers who take your treasures and turn them into cash ... and so the cycle "of helping others" continues.

Our annual Outreach Sunday event that showcases our outreach partners normally takes place in late October. We will reevaluate a new date for it in early 2021 as we monitor restrictions for gatherings guidelines.

New Horizons

There are 33 children, grades 1-5 enrolled in St. Mary's Super Kids Club. 19 are enrolled in classrooms and 14 are doing virtual learning with a dedicated group of St. Mary's tutors. Even with "best efforts" this is not ideal for the children. St. Mary's coordination team is now working on plans with New Horizons to re-open our PLC as a safe tutoring center to include social distancing, protective equipment and specialized cleaning. There may still be a small group which will continue with virtual tutoring. More information will be available by the end of October.

Judy Hall

Chair - Outreach Commission

St Mary's Music Notes

St Mary's is thrilled to welcome another lovely new cantor to our worship service leadership: Diane Thomas has been a member of the Choir, and now has stepped up to minister as a cantor.

Diane joins Taylor Hill, Mary Koenig, and Charles A. White as our core cantors giving us their heart and soul during this challenging season. God bless you, Diane, Taylor, Mary, and Charles.

Our parish music ministry rang out into the world when



L to R: Jayne Uckotter; Marty & Doug Schray; Lana & John Martindale.

Parishioners & Friends

participated in "Ring a Bell for Rosies" carrying one of St Mary's fine Dutch Petit & Fritzen bells to ring along with people in many countries on Sept 7th.

When she's not ringing, Lana helps our dear Elinor Foltz and other members of the Altar Guild prepare the Altar between the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services, while the musicians warm up nearby.





St Mary's singers took a Field Trip to St John's Episcopal in Naples, where fellow musician Glenn Saffran played lovely preludes on organ and sang and led music from the piano.

Glenn Saffran (above) of St. John's Naples. At left, Diane Thomas, Charles A. White, and Pat McKenzie.

When they are not hard at work, St Mary's Music Ministers spend good time in fellowship celebrating life events together. *At right,* Taylor Hill, Diane Thomas, Kathleen Pignato, Chemaly Lima, and Mary Koenig.



Left, Diane Thomas, Charles A. White, and Pam Stamper bring their own brand of Florida Fall color to church during these grey days of pandemic.



From the Metropolitan Opera to our humble parish, choir seasons have been postponed or canceled due to the highly contagious and deadly COVID-19 virus, which spreads more unavoidably during vocal projection inherent in singing. We will continue to sing to the Lord in

our hearts and minds. Minister of Sacred Music Kathleen V. Pignato has started work on a Sacred Music podcast, at <https://happyhard.podbean.com/> and through www.happyhard.com. All are welcome to visit, subscribe (*it's free!*), and enjoy!

Praise God from Whom All Blessing flow! Sing His Praises in Your Heart!

Christian Formation Is Alive and Well at St Mary's.

We are gearing up for our normal Wonderful Wednesday evenings beginning November 11 & 18th and continuing on December 2 & 9th. "Embracing the Prophets" by Fr Bill along with a short video by Walter Brueggemann and then discussions. Join us at 7 p.m. via Zoom and look for further announcements.

Mother Bobbi's Monday noon book club continues as they read *The Wisdom Pattern* by Richard Rohr and *The Power is Grace* by David Richo. Please contact Hugh Blair, (bhnbn224@gmail) for Zoom access.

Tidings is filled with articles of faith concerning the library, Sunday School, Order of St Luke and new courses as well as Advent Meditation Morning Day 12/5 which will be in person "In the Garden". Check it out. You will be blessed. We are blessed!

Jill Smith

Order of St. Luke

Are you interested in growing more deeply as a Christian? How about confidently forming and growing your personal prayer practice? Or, perhaps you are curious about the healing ministry? St. Mary's Episcopal Church's Order of St. Luke (OSL) offers a number of opportunities during the coming months for our congregation to focus on these learning opportunities.



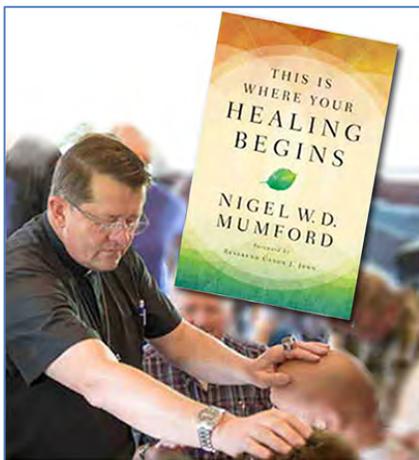
OSL New Beginnings Bible Study, a five-week study, will be offered on Zoom throughout the winter months as needed. Mother Gail Tomei will lead the groups. This course is an opportunity to explore some of Jesus's early miracles and his ministry.

OSL's 14-week course for full membership will meet on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. beginning November 12 and continuing through March 18. Study will take place in the Church Worship Space to accommodate "social distancing." Those who complete the course will be inducted March 21, 2021 into the Order of St. Luke. A membership in the National Order of St. Luke is required for participation in this course which includes a workbook and "Sharing" magazine. You must complete New Beginnings Bible Study prior to the 14-week study.

Thursdays with OSL

Current OSL members have a number of opportunities on Thursdays at St. Mary's Episcopal Church starting in November.

The first Thursday of each month, OSL Growing Deeper Study Group will focus on Continuing Education for active members. Individual modules dedicated to enhancing our prayer lives will be the focus of these sessions; each will be a dedicated lesson for that session only.



On the second and fourth Thursdays, the Growing Deeper Study Group will focus on accountability and prayer. November 12th will begin a study of Father Nigel Mumford's book "*This is Where Your Healing Begins.*" Books are available from the Church Office.

The third Thursday of each month OSL will continue to offer Prayer in the Square through 2020-2021 "season," with "safety measures" observed. Additionally, OSL will conduct a business session each third Thursday of the month.

For more information, contact Co-Conveners Cherrill Cregar (cherillcregar@gmail.com) or Joan Croteau (joancro@yahoo.com).

ECW News



Dear Ladies of St Mary's: We hope you are having a joyful and blessed summer and staying healthy!

You should have received and enjoyed this year's ECW **Stay at Home Tea** poem, note and "cup of tea". With your generous contributions, ECW continues to support our church community and the needs of those in in the Bonita Springs area. We are overwhelmed with the donations received-to-date! Thank you! If you did not receive the letter, please contact Diane Daniele at DLDaniele@aol.com. It is not too late to send your donation, using the self-addressed envelope provided or drop by church office.

We are excited to announce the opportunity for those of you who are interested, to gather with us soon! There are a few events planned, of course, socially distancing ourselves. See below for details.

ECW Gathering – Thursday, November 12th, 12:00pm In the Flora Linda Gardens

Please join us for a welcome back event and **Kindness for Kids** Kick Off!

ECW will provide boxed lunches from Jason's Deli.

A signup sheet is in the Narthex, or email Doris Bialowas at dorisbialowas@comcast.net.

Please make sure to indicate which item you prefer for lunch and RSVP by Monday, November 2nd to allow proper planning.



ECW Annual Christmas Luncheon – Thursday, December 3rd, 2020, 12:00pm **Pelican's Nest Country Club.** Socially distancing on the newly remodeled veranda! *More details coming!*

ECW Christmas Tea – The ECW Board has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's ECW Christmas Tea. While we wish we could celebrate the Advent season together, your safety is our priority.

Worship Opportunities at St. Mary's – November 2020

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist (streamed)
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist (streamed)
Thursday 7:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (streamed)
Saturday 5:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite II (streamed)
Monday-Friday 5:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (streamed)

Calendar of Events November 1, 2020 – February 17, 2021

November 1	Sunday	Intaking of 2021 Pledges
November 8	Sunday	Veterans Day Observance – All Eucharists
November 14	Saturday	5:00 pm – Eucharist Recommences
November 15	Sunday	10:00 am – New Horizons Choir
November 21/22	Saturday/Sunday	Christ the King, Last Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Ingathering
November 25	Wednesday	7:00 pm – Community Thanksgiving Service First Presbyterian Church
November 26	Thursday	10:00 am – Thanksgiving Eucharist
November 29	Saturday	Advent Begins (Lectionary Year B)
December 5	Saturday	Advent Meditation Morning
December 14	Sunday	4:00 pm – Advent Lessons and Carols
December 24	Thursday	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm – Family Eucharist 9:30 pm – Anthems and Carols 10:00 pm – Solemn Choral Eucharist (w/incense)
December 25	Friday	Christmas Day 10:00 am – Sung Eucharist (w/incense) 10:45 am – Eucharist with Carols at Bentley
January 3	Sunday	Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
January 10	Sunday	Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
January 31	Sunday	Annual General Meeting
February 5	Friday	Vestry Conference
February 7	Sunday	Candlemas
February 13/14	Saturday/Sunday	Ministry Fair (under review for COVID)
February 17	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm – Sung Eucharist (w/ashes) 1:00 pm – Ashes to Go 7:00 pm – Solemn Eucharist (w/ashes)

Final Prayer

Ever living God, strengthen and sustain Father Bill, Mother Gail, Mother Bobbie and our new, not yet known rector, that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people, the parishioners of St. Mary's. Grant that together we may follow Jesus Christ and be good shepherds of the gifts and talents that You have bestowed upon us. We pray that we may continue to grow in your word and sacrament and come together in celebration and service.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, Amen.

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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