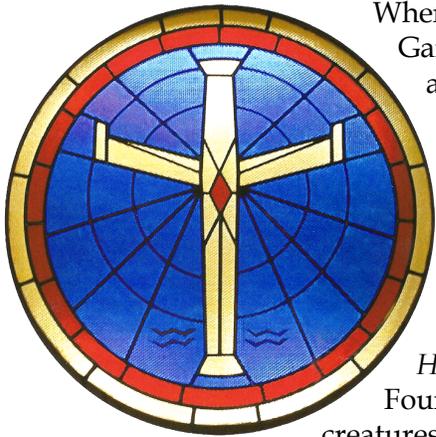




A Lenten Message from Our Priest-in-Charge

Remember You Are Dust

On Ash Wednesday I will invite you to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer and fasting and self-denial; and by meditating on God's holy word. These are excellent Lenten Disciplines. If you have participated our series of Wonderful Wednesdays you will immediately recognize that these disciplines have been incorporated into those four sessions where we focused on Meditation, Prayer, Fasting and Study. If you are like me, you have been conditioned to use these disciplines to examines our lives in terms of our sinfulness. Undoubtedly there is value in this approach to Lent. We all have sinned. We all have fallen short of the mark that God intended us to achieve. Yet I am not convinced that this is the best way for us to understand the purpose of Lent.



When you come to the service on Ash Wednesday, Mother Gail or I will stand before you, make the sign of the cross and say: *"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."* It is taken from part of God's curse on Adam and Eve for their disobedience. Thus, the statement rightly points to our personal disobedience. But it also points to something else that I think would be more helpful to us to reflect upon as we incorporate our Lenten disciplines. It points to the beginning of the creation story: *"And God formed humankind from the dust of the earth. He breathed into his nostrils and we became living beings."*

Four things follow from this statement: 1) We are earth creatures; 2) Because of this we share many of the same qualities as other earth creatures, 3) this lump of clay is not self-starter; 4) Our humanness depends on the gift of God's breath which is graciously given. But this gift of God's lifegiving spirit never becomes our property. From the beginning of creation, we have been dependent on Him for this gracious gift of breath which makes human life possible.

This dependence is not the result of the fall, it is the result of creation. What we discover in the story of the fall is that we humans seek to escape the modest status of creatureliness and engage on a dangerous venture of trying to be like God. It is a mission impossible. In the end we are called upon to acknowledge our dependence on God and to live within the boundaries He has set for us. Thus, when we are called to remember that we are dust, I believe it is not primarily to acknowledge our sin and guilt, but rather an invitation to rethink our true identity as creatures of God, kept alive by His good gift of breath.

But this is not all Ash Wednesday signifies. This earth is not our final home. The longing to transcend our present boundaries is also God given. It was only the means that

humankind has sought to achieve this that God has condemned. We are dust, but we are also created in God's image. When we receive the sign of the cross, it is a sign that calls us to remember that we are destined for a life other than the one we now know. As we prepare our hearts for Lent, may we remember that we are dust. May we do so gladly without anxiety in the knowledge that God's own image is placed upon us by God Himself.

Fr. Bill Faupel
Priest-in-Charge

Lent 2021

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, February 17th. This season of the year which in the early church began as a time of preparation for Holy Baptism at Easter is now time for all Christians to return and be refreshed in our Christian faith and to renew our walk with God.

Our Church invites us into Lent this way (BCP page 265): *"I invite you, therefore in the name of the Church to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."*

Please do take part at the noon Ash Wednesday Eucharist and plan your Lent in a way that allows God to refresh and transform you. The Lenten Rule and Opportunities and Resources which follows are designed to help you.

Lastly, please plan to participate fully in Holy Week from **Palm Sunday** March 28 through Easter, April 4. The full schedule is elsewhere in this issue.

Lenten Opportunities and Resources

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th with the Eucharist at 12 noon.

Saturday and Sunday worship continues at the usual times with scriptures, music, prayer and ceremonies attuned to the season of Lent.

Weekday Eucharist on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday continue as usual as does Evening Prayer Monday through Friday. Plan to take part during Lent.

Stations of the Cross starting on February 19th, the first Friday in Lent at noon and continue to Good Friday.

Please arrive a few minutes early.

Contact Pamela Stamper if you would like to lead or assist one Friday.

LENTEN LEARNING DAY A Mini-Retreat in the Gardens of St. Mary's Episcopal Church



Saturday, February 27th, 2021
10:00 am - 12:00 noon
with Mother Jean Hite

Praying with God's Prayer Book
Reflecting on the Psalms of Lent

Wednesdays at 10:30 am: **Bible Study** we study the following weekend's propers (see St. Mary's website under worship for each weekend's readings) on Zoom.

Wonderful Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24: We will study the "Outward Disciplines" of Simplicity, Solitude, Submission and Service. (If you have not already done so, you may purchase the book we are using, "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster on Amazon.) For more details, see *Wonderful Wednesdays* section on page 6.

A display table in the narthex has booklets and other resources to introduce us to Lent. Please have a look and place money in the box on the wall where the Forward Day by Day booklets are.

Lenten Rule

The disciplines of Lent are designed to train us to be different. Fasting frees us from being at the mercies of our physical appetites. Study frees us from accepting uncritically the assumptions of our culture. Prayer and worship form the ultimate declaration of independence by locating the true source of power and authority in God rather than in anything of this earth.

Praying God's grace to keep a Holy Lent, I resolve to undertake a discipline covering the following areas:

- Public Worship Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week.
- Penitence: Self-examination and confession
- Personal devotions: Prayer, meditation, reading, etc.
- Fasting: Giving up certain foods or activities
- Giving: Gifts of money, time and effort to other people or worthwhile causes

Please take time to prayerfully consider your Lenten Rule and write it down.

Christian Fasting

1. Two kinds of fasting
 - corporate, for all God's people
 - personal, according to one's own Rule
2. The Episcopal Church has days of fasting, discipline and self-denial. (See page 17 in *The Book of Common Prayer*)
3. Purpose of fasting
 - sorrow for sin
 - training and self-discipline
 - freeing resources
4. Guidelines for fasting and abstinence are modest.
5. For us "fasting" from television, internet, novels or committees might free up our most valuable resource – time – to spend with God and with the people we love.
6. How will you fast this Lent?



Rector Search Committee Update

The Rector Search Committee (RSC) has been hard at work for several months and has now completed its work.

All of the candidates forwarded to the RSC by the Canon to the Ordinary, Richard Norman, were interviewed via Zoom. Candidates appeared from as far west as California, through the Midwest, and even some here in Florida. It has truly been a nationwide search.

As some candidates were eliminated, others moved forward to subsequent Zoom meetings. While the identities of the finalists remain confidential, four names have been submitted to the Canon for more detailed background checks and Bishop to Bishop clearance.

At the time of preparing these remarks, the names of the four candidates remain unknown to the Vestry and Parish. The RSC has been very strict about confidentiality and the Bishop and Canon demand that continue until the call is made for one of the four individuals to become the next Rector of St. Mary's.

February will prove to be a continuing process for discernment this time for the Vestry. Your sustaining prayers are encouraged and welcomed as we all seek to do His will. The Vestry will do an excellent job on behalf of the Parish.

I would like to thank all of those members of the RSC that worked tirelessly and diligently reading applications, preparing questions on a variety of topics for each of the candidates and reviewing the responses, interviewing, watching and listening to worship services and preaching via social media for many of the candidates over the past several months. The RSC members are Deb Haslouer, Jim Howard, Hilton Jervey, Renee Osborne, Judy Phillips, Sandra Renner, Denise Wallace, Jon Wool and Joanna Wragg.

Thank you for your prayers and please continue in that effort without ceasing!

Peace,

Chris Davies, Chair
Rector Search Committee

From Our Senior Warden

At the time this article is being written, the Rector Search Committee had completed its long, thorough and excellent work. The names of four candidates for our new Rector



were submitted by the Committee to the Diocese for background checks and calls by our Bishop to the Bishops of the four candidates. As of Thursday afternoon, January 28, this process had been completed with respect to three of the four candidates and was almost completed with respect to the fourth.

When the process has been completed, the Diocese will notify Chris Davies, the Chairman of the Search Committee, who in turn will notify me. A special meeting of the Vestry will then be called at which Chris will present the report of the Committee and inform us of the names of the four candidates, which will be kept confidential by the Vestry.

By the time you read this article, all of the foregoing may well have occurred.

After the foregoing has occurred, the Vestry will begin having each candidate visit the Vestry confidentially. When the visits are completed, the Vestry will meet to vote on the selection of the new Rector. After the vote, I will notify Canon Norman, the Canon to the Ordinary (Bishop Smith), and the Bishop himself of our desire to call the successful candidate. Once I have the Bishop's approval, I will call the successful candidate and verbally extend the call, which the candidate will verbally accept. This will be confirmed by an exchange of emails.

The process does not end there. After the exchange of emails, Tim Blaicher, our Junior Warden, and I will negotiate the Letter of Agreement between the parish and the Rector-elect relating to the stipend to be paid and benefits. When this is signed, it will be reviewed by the Diocese and consented to by the Bishop as evidenced by his signature thereon.

The Diocese has made it clear that no announcement of the call should be made until the Bishop's consent is affixed to the Letter of Agreement. I will let the Vestry know when this occurs, and we can then make the announcement.

Please keep the Vestry in your prayers as we undertake this joyous enterprise.

Bob Foltz
Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Overview of Revenues and Expenses - 2018-2020

Results by year	2018	2019	2020	2021 Budget
Revenues				
Pledge Offerings	479,546	463,270	432,181	402,000
Other Offerings	217,465	215,165	171,530	163,200
PPP Loan	-0-	-0-	61,249	-0-
Draw from Savings	-0-	-0-	-0-	46,897
Penny Wise & Endowment Income	45,000	45,000	25,000	49,000
Other	40,889	34,703	27,879	17,900
Total Revenue	782,900	758,138	737,839	678,997
Expenses	729,977	747,527	737,707	678,997
Surplus/Deficit	52,923	10,611	132	-0-

2020 Results

As shown in the chart (*previous page*) we finished the year with a very modest surplus. This was due entirely to our having received a forgivable loan in the spring of just over \$61,000 from the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program. Without these loan funds we would have had to lay off staff or suffer a significant deficit. We fully expect to have this loan forgiven, as we met the basic criterion of not laying off any staff for the three months after we received the funds (and in fact, did not lay off any staff all year).

Our 2020 revenue was well below budget due to lower pledge and all other offerings. This was in part due to an optimistic revenue forecast but also driven by the pandemic. We are on a downward trend for parish support compared to recent years, and this challenge continues based on the results of our 2021 pledge campaign.

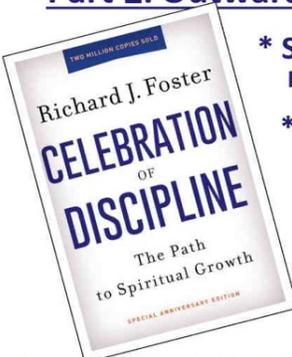
Expenses for 2020 were almost \$60,000 below budget due largely to the retirement of Father Rowe (which was not known when the budget was approved) and efforts to reduce expenses in worship and spiritual growth programs, music, and communications. Property expenses were above budget and prior years' experience due to unexpectedly high building maintenance costs.

2021 Budget

The Vestry approved a budget for 2021 at its January meeting. The 2021 budget process has been challenging due to poor pledge campaign results, uncertainties around hiring a new Rector and the effects of the pandemic. The budget submitted to the Vestry for approval is shown in the last column of the chart. Although total spending is budgeted to be \$58,710 below last year (which would almost make up for the loss of \$61,249 in PPP funds), the only way we can balance the budget is to draw our savings down by \$46,897. Parish support is projected to be down by \$39,511 and all other sources of income down by \$6,379. We had \$98,749 in savings at the end of 2020, so we have the funds to do this, but it is not a healthy prospect.

John Craun
Treasurer

Wonderful ZOOM Wednesday
for Lent, 2021 - a continuing study
Part 2: Outward Discipline



- * **Simplicity**
March 3rd
- * **Solitude**
March 10th
- * **Submission**
March 17th
- * **Service**
March 24th

In comfort of your home via ZOOM
Four weeks beginning March 3, 2021 at 7 PM
Call the church office for a ZOOM invite
Books available at church office or at Amazon

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
9801 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL. 34135
(239) 992-4343 * www.stmarysbonita.org



Wonderful Wednesdays

We will continue the study of *Celebration of Disciplines* by Richard Foster for Wonderful Wednesdays during Lent and Easter seasons.

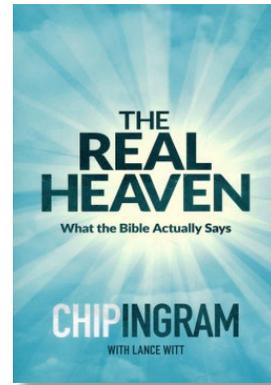
During Lent we will study the Outward Disciplines: *Simplicity*, March 3; *Solitude*, March 10; *Submission*, March 17; and *Service*, March 24.

During the Easter season the study will resume with the Corporate Disciplines: *Confession*, April 7; *Worship*, April 14; *Guidance*, April 21, and *Celebration*, April 28.

As we move into the season of Pentecost, Pete Stiles will lead us on a study of Heaven, based on the book entitled *The Real Heaven: What the Bible Actually Says*, by Chip Ingram. More details on that study will be forth coming in the next issues of *Tidings*.

All sessions will be held through **Zoom**. Be sure to contact the church office to receive your weekly invitation to participate.

Fr. Bill



From Our Postulants

I arrived at St. Mary's in October of 2011. Jeannette Turansky joined the church around the same time. We came from different places and were separated by decades of life experience; however, we had a common friend who introduced us - his name was Jesus and he came from Nazareth.



Jeannette lost her husband earlier that year and had returned to the Episcopal Church after his passing. We became friends through events like foyer dinners, ALPHA meetings, OSL, Cursillo, mission work in Honduras, and the activities go on and on. Jeannette became a regular at family holiday meals and we often shared time together in Christian fellowship. My friendship with Jeanette lasted a decade

and it continues to this day in prayer. Like so many friends at St. Mary's who have gone before us, she is in the cloud of saints who are with us every day; we just need to remember they are here.

Jeannette loved Jesus, the church, and the sacrament of communion. She poured out her spirit on the prayer station for her brothers and sisters in need, brought the scripture to life as a lector, and practiced neighborly love with everyone she encountered. In her last years she worked serving Alzheimer patients in their homes and as a leader of pastoral care and mourner's path. God's grace was with her and she was given a special gift in her final decade - to share her heart and grow closer to God. She served Christ to the end and I am honored to call her my friend.

Jesus called his disciples his friends and he called the people who do the will of God his family. At St. Mary's we are a family and we share in friendship, that is the essence of The Kingdom. The journey of life and service that we share in is unique and a special gift from God. We have all come from different places and experiences, but God has brought us together as God's children - to become friends and to love each other. This love forms us into better human beings and creates bonds that are eternal.

Lord, thank you for all of the loving relationships we share in our spiritual journeys. Help us continue to share that love with the world and our brothers and sisters close to home. Amen

I miss you all. As I finish my final year and look forward to ordination, I hold St. Mary's in my heart.

Peace,
Brian

Postulant Updates

Dear St. Mary's family,

I am a "middler" - halfway through my Masters of Divinity program at General Theological Seminary. We are still following a COVID plan to stay safe. Last Thanksgiving, GTS courses and worship went fully online, so I came up to Massachusetts to quarantine with my parents and celebrate the holidays. We are all staying well, praying for the same for you, and that a vaccine will be widely available soon.

Spring semester begins next week. I'm taking Advanced Anglican Theology, Hebrew reading, Pastoral Care, and lots of liturgics ("Mass class" and Preparing the Feast, a class that explores different sources of materials for Holy Eucharist). I'm still the chief sacristan in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, organizing the outdoor services from mid-March through mid-May.

From May through August, I will be a Chaplain Intern at a Harvard-affiliated assisted living center called Hebrew SeniorLife. This required program was cancelled last summer, so I am thrilled to have a chance to do it this summer.

My field placement at a neighborhood parish is enriching, because it gives me a chance to serve the community. The Church of the Holy Apostles has a soup kitchen that served 2 million meals last year! I am preaching for the parish on Zoom and will run a four-week adult forum in April.

I'm looking forward to returning to Bonita Springs to see you. I miss you all. Please pray for me.

Grace and peace,
Anne Hartley

Power of Prayers

Our new ministry, PoP (Power of Prayers), is ready to receive your prayers for family, friends and loved ones. Either fill out a prayer request card any time you are at church and put it in the basket OR send your request via email to: powerofprayers1@aol.com

A team of Order of St. Luke certified prayer warriors will pray for your request for thirty (30) days. If your request needs further prayer, please re-submit for another thirty days of prayer.

Yolanda Naimoli,
PoP Team Leader



St Mary's Music Notes

St Mary's musicians are unstoppable in their praise of the Lord!

This autumn, even given the pandemic social distancing restrictions, our music ministry found many new ways to celebrate together in song, all live streamed and recorded on our parish Facebook page (you may find them, listen, and enjoy, anytime at the links below):

Fr Bill approved our new All Hallow's Eve program, which featured readings by our professional actor member Charles Baker, as well as solos sung by Taylor Hill and Charles A. White. <https://www.facebook.com/430496057007482/videos/384805695881388>



We also presented a lovely Thanksgiving Program, with several choir members seated safely apart in the sanctuary. <https://www.facebook.com/430496057007482/videos/881901552615797>



Michiko Fox sang a gorgeous song for us in Japanese, while preparing the Altar for worship.

<https://www.facebook.com/430496057007482/videos/741742073409030>

One Special Song series continued to add more gems for all to enjoy online.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/430496057007482/2340438406259577>





Charles A White, Diane Thomas, Mary Koenig, Rachel Elmquist, and Helen Tintes carried us through Christmas.

Fr Bill preaching at Christmas <https://www.facebook.com/430496057007482/videos/424465002026161>

Advent Lessons & Carols was reformatted to keep everyone safe, while continuing the beautiful tradition of seven readings, along with hymns and anthems.



More Music News



Taylor Hill has been a beloved cantor for our parish since 2019. We are very proud of her new role that she has been awarded with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and we are blessed that she will remain in Florida with us for a few more months.

At left, Taylor and Fr. Bill

Sandy Renner is a long time active and valued choir member, and we are delighted that she has joined our Sunday cantor rotation.

At right, Sandy Renner, Renee Osborne and Hilton Jervey



The Music Ministry is delighted to present another new offering in our series of Annual Special Events: a special **LENTEN LAETARE SUNDAY** Program of Lessons and Songs -- this year on March 14, 2021.

We are thrilled to be making this addition to our already joyous offerings along with All Hallows' Eve each October; Thanksgiving Program each November; Advent Lessons & Carols each December; Epiphany Feast Day Choral offerings each January, ECW Valentine Day Hymns each February.



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

Ministries

OSL Healing Prayer Ministry

After months of observing people line up in cars and even some on bicycles, to get a gift of free food from Meals of Hope, the Order of St Luke decided to do something more than observe. The Monday before Christmas a small group of us gathered prayer cards, hand sanitizer, put on our masks and went over to the driveway at St Mary's to offer prayers. We divided our tasks, taking turns as we passed from car to car handing out the prayer cards and pens. We told the people as they waited in line that they could write their prayer requests and we would collect them and pray for them and for those who were heavy in their hearts.



At first some seemed unsure of our offer but with our reassurance they started writing and eagerly handed them back. A team of two began our prayers and continued to rotate our tasks. For the cards written in Spanish, we called out to Deacon Bill Gilmore, who was keeping watch over us, and when we had need, he brought over an interpreter from the food truck workers. We were there from 12:30pm until almost 4:30pm and had 74 cards turned back to us. Many of them had multiple names on the cards.

We were truly glad we had taken the opportunity to serve the Lord in this way. We plan to get another OSL team to make the commitment for February and perhaps all through the spring once a month. When people are in need of food or prayers, we know the Lord Jesus would want us to serve.

For comments or questions, you may contact: Cherrill Cregar, Cherrillcregar@gmail.com or Joan Croteau, joancro@yahoo.com

OSL - New Members

Order of St. Luke has exciting news. Several St. Mary's members signed up for a five-week bible study this summer. Upon completion, they were invited to continue exploring healing scriptures for another twelve weeks via the Order of St. Luke Certification program. Many have already become involved in various prayer ministries offered at St. Mary's church.



We are delighted to announce that twelve of these 'Seekers' will complete the course in mid-February and choose to be inducted as full members of Order of St. Luke at the 10:00 am Sunday service, February 28.

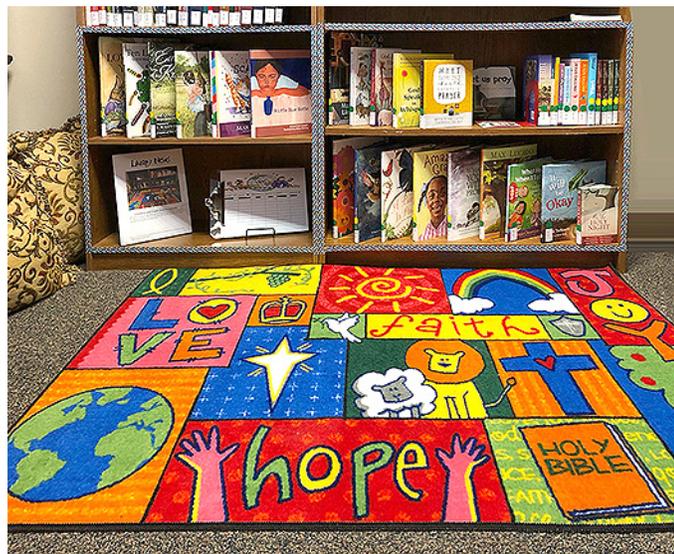
Please join us as we celebrate the following who choose to give of their time and talents in a variety of prayer ministries: Jane Bennett, Dana Billington, Anastasia Burke, Ruth Davies, Debra Johnson, Stephanie Summers, Marj Kline, Lana Martindale, Meredith Richmond, Patty Stiles, Barbara Williams, and Joanna Wragg.

St. Mary's Youth and Family Ministry - Library News

The new children's collection, christened the Book Nook, is becoming well established thanks to the enthusiasm and most generous donations of St. Mary's parishioners. A fundraiser, where parishioners could peruse "library cards" with book photos and descriptions, was held in early November. There is now a beautiful collection of 38 children's books ready for borrowing. Stop by and see!

The New Year brings the purchase of new titles featuring topics currently underserved in the collection. These include the speeches and writing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to recognize Martin Luther King Day in January. Watch for February acquisitions as well as Featured Readings for Lent and Easter.

Diana Dearth



Penny Wise Thrift Store

Come and see our redesigned jewelry boutique with its new, secure fine jewelry case and a designated sale case. We are receiving wonderful donations and, consequently, are enjoying exciting sales from our many loyal patrons and customers. Jewelry offerings are new every week!

We are in urgent need of any gently used and formerly loved jewelry pieces from your collection – we're accepting fine jewelry (each piece is researched and professionally valued), designer handbags, and fashion/costume jewelry. Please look through your personal collection for any pieces you wish to pass along – we treasure each and every one of your gifts to Penny Wise!

Be a part of the blessing chain: the joy you have in giving, and the enjoyment by the new owner. Thank you again, so very much, for your generosity!

A Volunteer's Experience

It takes a lot of people working together to keep a place like Penny Wise running smoothly. Each of us brings to the table the talents God has given us. To me, it is all those talents meshing together that makes Penny Wise so successful.

I am grateful that God led me to St. Mary's, and then told me, very clearly, where he wanted me to serve. I love all the wonderful volunteers I have met and the close friendships I have formed with many. I do everything I do at Penny Wise because I believe in our mission of helping others in every way we can. And, it means a great deal to me, that I belong to a church who puts their outreach mission ahead of the church's needs! I will continue serving Penny Wise as long as God gives me the physical and mental ability to do so. I love St. Mary's, Penny Wise, and all the wonderful people I have the privilege of knowing!

ECW News

Highlights of 2020 and Moving into 2021



ECW started the 2020 year with a Holiday Tea on January 4. Because of time restrictions in December 2019, ECW had our annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, January 4, 2020. It was a beautiful beginning to the new year. All the ladies enjoyed the Christian formation of gathering to celebrate after all the Christmas festivities had ended.

In February, St. Mary's ECW hosted the Ft. Myers/Naples Deanery meeting with 40 ladies in attendance. For our monthly gathering, ECW, along with our Music Director, Kathleen Pignato, hosted the first annual, 'Love Letters to God', an event of spiritual songs of thanksgiving, praise, and love.

We welcomed Candy Bergquist as a new Board member. Candy is the Chair and manages the Foyer Groups, (various groups of parishioners meet monthly for better acquaintance and fellowship).

ECW 'Reaching Out' combined forces with Outreach donating \$3,000 for our Summer COVID Kindness for Kids task force. These monies were spent to help our Kindness for Kids families with Publix food cards in June and August/September. A church call came out for funds needed for Meals of Hope. ECW Reaching Out donated \$500 to aid Meals of Hope.

For our March gathering, a professional orchid grower gave us demonstrations on caring and growing orchids. Also, in March, ECW participated in the Ministry Fair.

ECW Board members assisted the Vestry with "Checking in with Parishioners" by contacting ladies during COVID-19 quarantine and checking in on our sisters-in-Christ.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Stay at Home Tea fundraiser was delayed a month. Letters were mailed to all ladies of St. Mary's highlighting our achievements and thanking everyone for the support provided to ECW. The fundraiser was a huge success, allowing the Board to prepare the 2021 budget to include more 'Reaching Out' funds, and other activities for our church community.

The decision was made in October to cancel the annual Christmas Tea due to the pandemic and the many challenge presented due to social distancing. We plan to return to the kitchen baking and planning a grandeur event for all St. Mary's ladies!



With heavy hearts, ECW hosted the funeral reception for our beloved Fr. George. The luncheon was our way to honor God's servant and show our respect to our much-loved Board member, Vivi.

In November, ECW hosted a 'Welcome Back' luncheon as our monthly gathering. The event was held in the Flora Linda garden to enjoy fellowship with our northern ladies returning and to Kickoff our **Kindness for Kids** giving tree. This year marked our third Annual Christmas Kindness for Kids giving tree and gift tags aiding 86 children and their families.

We celebrated Christmas with 35 of our ECW ladies at Pelicans Nest Country Club with a festive luncheon.

In 2020, ECW continued our monthly tradition of **Lunch Bunch** – meeting in various restaurants for laughter and fellowship. Respecting and understanding COVID restrictions and social distances, our lunches were at outdoor venues. We meet the fourth Thursday of the month and welcome all ladies to join us. Lunch Bunch and our monthly gatherings are publicized in the weekly newsletter, the bulletin and our secretary, Diane Daniele, sends email reminders to the active ECW Constant Contact list.

ECW looks forward to rising to the challenges of the ever-changing COVID-19 environment. Adapting as we proceed forward to bring faith, hope, and love to our St. Mary's church congregation in the coming challenging months ahead of us. We look to expand our Reaching Out charity of giving to our local community and endeavor to bring monthly leadership and goods works to our St. Mary's members.

ECW 2nd Annual: *“Love Letters to God”*
Your favorite Sacred Love Songs



Thursday, February 11th at 1:00pm
In the Flora Linda Garden,
behind St. Mary's Episcopal Church

All are Welcome!

**This program is without ticket
and without charge.**



Youth Ministry

Although COVID restrictions have curtailed some activities St. Mary's youth have been blessed to continue to meet for Sunday School and engage in lessons and activities that embrace love for all as Jesus taught in word and deed.

During the month of November, the children once again assisted with the collection of food for Harvest Time Ministries. The children love doing this and it is a great opportunity for them to engage with the church community. Also, a fund raiser was held to purchase books for the newly created children's book nook section of St. Mary's library. Many thanks to all of the parishioners who so generously supported this project!

The culminating activity of the year was the five o'clock Christmas Eve service which saw Father Faupel seated in a rocking chair reading the Christmas story and the children responding with prayers of love and gratitude for the birth of our savior.

As we move forward Sunday School studies will include the significance of Lent and Easter. We also look forward to more activities engaging the youth with service opportunities such as the Spring food collection, making and sending cards to shut-ins and participating in the Empty Bowls project to feed the hungry.

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



St. Mary's Own "Art of Outreach"

While 2020 presented challenges, the Outreach Commission learned lessons along the way, found new opportunities to make a difference in people's lives, and changed some of its own Commission structure to be more responsive to its Outreach Partners.

In January we launched a new program intended to create a more seamless connection with our Outreach Partners and to offer assistance or guidance if needed. We now have Commission members assigned as Partner liaisons so that St. Mary's is more in tune with the changing needs of the communities it serves. It has been very well received by our dozen+ Partners.

2021...Sharing your TIME, TALENT & TREASURE with St. Mary's

TIME & TALENT

St. Mary's **Super Kids Club** has returned mostly to daily one-on-one tutoring in the Parish Life Center with 24 children enrolled and with all safety guidelines in place. Another small group is still in remote learning. We are encouraging our parishioners and their friends to return to this important tutoring program. COVID-19 vaccines are slowly becoming available which should be a help. When you are ready, you will be welcomed with warm smiles and excited students eager for your help.

TREASURE

St. Mary's Outreach Commission is blessed to have a special "engine" which enables us to fund our very diverse community and international projects. These are both big and not-so-big...but equally important. All of our work depends on the support and generosity of our church members, near and far, and their friends.

Kindness for Kids, our much-loved Christmas project, gave us the idea to use our Partner liaisons for discovering opportunities for ACTS OF KINDNESS – for any season, with no lengthy red-tape, immediate responsiveness to personal crises, and no fanfare. For example, we have provided much needed baby clothing and equipment for four families at the Baso community who recently had babies. We intend to continue this support for other families in these communities as the need arises. Recently, we heard about a single mother with a child who experienced personal trauma during the holidays and the mother couldn't work. We responded with food assistance immediately.

Since our economy is still under siege because of the pandemic, we will continue our ongoing efforts to help with food distribution for the needy, with different projects to suit your interests: **Harvest Time Ministries; Food Drives; Meals of Hope** and our Publix Gift Card distribution. And beginning new in April, we will offer our Snowbirds the chance to donate their unopened pantry items for the communities we serve through Outreach before they head north.

Please watch for updates of all of our Outreach activities on the Church website and on weekly bulletins.

Judy Hall,
Outreach Chair

St. Mary's Worship in Your Home

St. Mary's now offers you a total worship experience of the Sunday morning 10 AM Holy Eucharist from home. Thanks to a generous donation, the church has been able to purchase state-of-the-art-video and audio equipment that brings clear video and sound to your home computer.



Videographer at St. Mary's Audio-Visual console

Enter www.stmarysbonita.org in your browser, look for **Connect to St. Mary's Online**, and click on the hyperlink www.facebook.com/stmarysbonita/. Note that there is a link below to open the Sunday bulletin that accompanies the service.

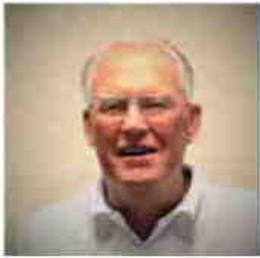
And please also remember – especially during COVID – St. Mary's still needs your support. Further down on St. Mary's website is a **Donate Now** link that you can use.

Calendar of Events

Lenten, Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule - February 16th to April 4th, 2021

Tuesday, February 16	Shrove Tuesday	
Wednesday, February 17	Ash Wednesday. <i>Lent begins</i>	12:00 noon & 7pm Eucharist
Fridays, Mar 6-Apr 3	Fridays during Lent	12:00 noon Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 27*	Palm Sunday <i>Holy Week begins</i>	5:00pm Eucharist
Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday	8:00am & 10am Eucharist
Monday, March 29	Holy Monday	5:00pm Evening Prayer
Tuesday, March 30	Holy Tuesday	4:15pm Confession 5:00pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Eucharist
Wednesday, March 31	Holy Wednesday	11:15am Confession 12:00 noon Eucharist 5:00pm Evening Prayer
Thursday, April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm Solemn Choral Eucharist & Foot Washing 9:00pm Vigil in the Garden
Friday, April 2	Good Friday	12:00 noon Liturgy of the Passion & Holy Communion 5:00pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday, April 3	Holy Saturday <i>Fasting ends</i>	7:00pm Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Baptism
Sunday, April 4	EASTER	8:00am Choral Eucharist 10:00am Solemn Choral Eucharist

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Vestry 2021



DAVID BERGQUIST
WORSHIP



JOAN CROTEAU
PASTORAL MINISTRIES



JOAN FREY
E.C.W.



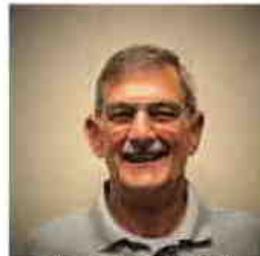
JON GUNGER
ENDOWMENT



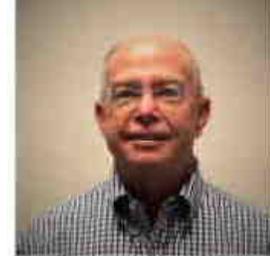
ANETTE LEAHY JUDKINS
OUTREACH



CHESTER PHILLIPS
COMMUNICATIONS



PAUL SCHEIBLE
PENNYWISE



RICK VELDE
MEMBERSHIP



BOB FOLTZ
SENIOR WARDEN



TIM BLAICHER
JUNIOR WARDEN



JOHN CRAUN
TREASURER



DIANA DEARTH
SECRETARY

Prayer for Our Parish

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*

STAFF

The Rev. Dr. D. William Faupel, <i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	bfaupel@stmarysbonita.org
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