



## *Greetings from Our New Rector*

### **A Message from Fr. Ryan Wright**

This is a joyous time as I anticipate arriving at St. Mary's as your new rector. It is timely that I am writing you during this Pentecost season. This long season is commonly referred to as ordinary time, but this year, this time, is anything but ordinary. For over two years now we have been surrounded by disease and division bringing to our lives chaos, fear and isolation.

As Christians we have not been alone during these trials, Christ has been with us. Through these difficulties we have found ourselves with unexpected time and quiet, which has led many of us to reevaluate our priorities, goals and lifestyle.

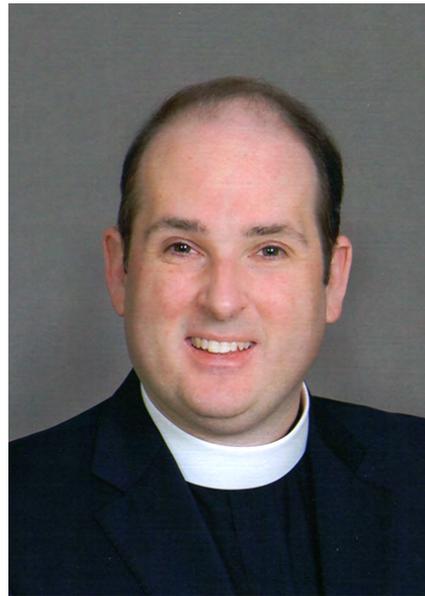
All this brings to mind John 15: *"He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit."* This Gospel speaks of a season of pruning, abiding and our dependence on Christ as our vine, our source.

For us a time of pruning is a call to work, to trim away the parts of our lives that do not serve Christ and feed our spirit. If we do this spiritual work we are prepared for a season of new growth.

This Pentecost, we begin a new growth together. Growth that will blossom into a new season. In this we will be bound together in Christ as we bear an abundance of fruit. *"A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."* (Luke 6:38)

So come let us grow together and follow Christ as he writes a new and joyful chapter here at St. Mary's.

Fr. Ryan Wright  
*Rector*



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## A Message from Mother Gail

*Planted firmly in Christ, we have bloomed!*

What a fabulous year we've had! That's pretty flippant to say during this period of sequester due to COVID19. Yet it is true! St. Mary's has not skipped a beat. Worship continued as we devised ways to lead the entire congregation "live stream" with no more than ten people present in the entire church building. We bloomed as we learned how to embrace the homebound who were not 'tech savvy' with notes, phone calls and plenty of prayer. We reached out to the entire St. Mary's Church community with offers to join a bible study or prayer group or work outside to maintain our beautiful gardens.

We "zoomed" together for scripture study, meetings and growth groups. We continued through the season to expand church attendance as we remained masked, were vaccinated and offered many opportunities for prayer, outreach, fellowship and classes on Zoom. What joy we feel when we can see others "from the neck down". What joy we feel as we sing, pray and worship together, and receive the "body of Christ". What joy we feel as we connect with one another through elbow bumps, twinkling eyes and vocal greetings.

Our Joy bloomed as we studied scripture and prayer with many, via Zoom, who may have never opened the bible before. Over the past twelve months eighteen brave souls accepted the challenge, first, of completing a five-week study on the healing scriptures in



*The "Gails": Gail Dunn, Mother Gail Tomei and Gail Goggin*

Care, Power of Prayer ministry, Centering Prayer, Prayers of Hope for the unchurched, Prayer Shawl ministry and several formation opportunities continue to sustain those who participate.

Are you interested in joining a ministry at St. Mary's?

the Gospels. Twelve chose to continue through the "season" as we studied twenty-six more scripture passages. This amazing group is now "Going Deeper" as we apply disciplines in Christian growth to our lives and pray for others. Souls bloomed as twelve joined the Order of St. Luke as members in March. Each has branched out into a variety of St. Mary's ministries as they become leaders right where they are planted.

Our "senior" members of Order of St. Luke continue to nurture their souls as the 'Growing Deeper' group digs into varied studies and prayer. These leaders are blending with the new members to become one group. All are invited to become "buddies" as they mentor one another in small accountability groups.

Because of COVID19, we created several new prayer ministries to meet most every need. Pastoral

Just because it is summer, do not hesitate to contact the church office to say you are interested in whatever your heart directs. Join us for weekly study of the lectionary or let me know if you'd like to begin the five-week study on the "Healing scriptures". Perhaps you'd like to share a prayer need. Send it to [powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org)

**The Reverend Gail Tomei**

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### ***A Penny From Heaven - When God Gives You a Nudge***

Have you ever stopped to ponder the times in your life when God may have given you a little nudge? Since hindsight is said to be twenty-twenty, it's probably easier to recognize those places from a distance. The other day as I was preparing to go to a bible class, it occurred to me I might never have read the Bible from cover to cover if it hadn't been for a young Jewish girl.

Maybe I should back up and start from the beginning. I've always felt that God was a major player in my life. As a child I was taken to Sunday school, but when I was grown it was up to me to decide whether I wanted to continue that pattern.

Like many young couples, my husband and I came back to church after our first child was born. We knew we wanted to give our children the same good core values we'd been taught. A life built on a firm



foundation, just like a house, has a much better chance of surviving the vicissitudes of life. (Math. 24-27) I couldn't give my children my own strong feeling of connection with God. All I could do was expose them to a situation where seeds could be sown. In time they might germinate into a deep love and faith in God. A spiritual journey is a very individual trip. You can't make the journey for someone else.

From this vantage point in life, it seems as if those busy young years of parenting flew by. Before we knew it our children were off to college.

One Christmas, our younger daughter Robin brought her college roommate home to spend the holidays with us. Penny was a delightful young Jewish girl who had decided to convert to Christianity. She said her parents didn't observe the Jewish faith, so she was in a sense freer to choose her own spiritual path.

We were her first hosts in a Christian home at Christmas time. Penny was excited and I was a little nervous. I hoped her parents wouldn't think we were trying to corrupt their daughter. None of us, including our daughter, had anything to do with her decision to become a Christian. That was between Penny and God. We treated Penny just like family and included her in our celebrations and trips to church.

All this happened about fifteen years ago, so my memory is a little spotty. What I do remember is that Penny asked me a lot of questions, questions I couldn't always answer. I

also remember Penny, the new convert, was reading the Bible, a book that I, the cradle Christian, hadn't read yet. Yes, parts of the Old and New Testament are read to us each Sunday but no, I had never joined a Bible class and struggled to understand the book our church is founded on. I felt more than a little remiss.

Christmas vacation ended. The girls went back to college and before long they were graduating. At that point, Penny and Robin's paths separated. But Penny – or maybe I should say God through Penny – was still going to have an influence on my life.

One January, after another Christmas break, I was sitting on Robin's bed as she packed to go back to Georgia. She was either in graduate school at that time or had just finished. As I sat on her bed enjoying the last of my daughter's company, my eyes perused her bookshelves. They came to a stop on "*The One Year Bible*". Penny had given Robin that book. It's the Bible divided into 365 daily readings. If you read about twenty minutes a day, you should finish in a year. I thought about Penny, the questions she asked that I couldn't answer and her desire to learn. I asked Robin if she was planning to take the book back with her. When she said no, I asked if I could borrow it. By the following January I had finally read the Bible through for the first time. Better late than never!

Many years have passed and I've been attending Bible classes for years now. I have no idea where Penny is and she probably has no idea she was an instrumental prod in my spiritual growth. But it seems very fitting that Christ was a Jew and it was a bright young Jewish convert to Christianity who brought a Bible to our house that gave me a nudge along the path to the "Narrow Gate". (Math.7:13-14)

As I read over this story from my life, it reminds me that God can use each of us for his purpose, whether we realize it or not. A gentle irritant in my life become a catalyst for change. Like an oyster who changes an annoying grain of sand into a pearl, we too can be changed if we're willing to pay attention to our lives while listening hard to God's call. God is the premier pearl maker.

God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. God bless you Penny, where ever you are.

**Georgia Beckley Jervey**

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## Treasurer's Report

April year-to-date revenues and expenses both look good compared to the budget. Total revenues of \$379,358 were \$72,192 above budget primarily because we received a second PPP loan for \$63,800 in late March. We fully expect to have this loan forgiven. Total parish support in the form of pledges and other offerings was \$8,014 (2.8%) above budget, which is also good.

Total expenses of \$229,605 were almost exactly on budget (just \$283 above). Some spending areas were a bit over or a bit under budget, but there was nothing way out of line.

A surplus for the early part of the year is expected. This surplus is expected to diminish over the summer as revenues decline while expenses continue largely unabated. The key is that the second PPP loan means we should be able to avoid ending the year with the substantial deficit (\$46,877) that we budgeted and reported at the annual meeting.

John Craun  
*Treasurer*

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## Postulants Update

My second (“middler”) year at the General Theological Seminary draws to a close. We continued to worship outside as much as possible during spring semester, enjoying the waves of blooms: crocuses and snowdrops, then daffodils and tulips, then lilies of the valley and lilacs. When I left, we were being showered with maple helicopter seeds. Truly spectacular!

The first year in seminary, I learned Hebrew and used it to interpret the Old Testament. This year, I translated Greek to begin to explore the New Testament. I delivered sermons in class and on Zoom

for my field placement parish, the Church of the Holy Apostles. I studied some of the Old Testament women--Hagar, Rahab, Ruth and Miriam--and shared their stories in a 4-week Adult Forum, also on Zoom. We have not yet met in person for worship at Holy Apostles, but I will continue to work with them next year in a wisdom-year residency twenty hours a week.



This spring, I studied Pastoral Care to prepare for a Clinical Pastoral Care program this summer. Hebrew Senior Life is a Harvard-affiliated assisted living facility outside Boston. This eleven-week program is run by a priest and a rabbi who bring in clinicians and researchers to teach us about end-of-life issues, dementia, trauma-informed care, secular spirituality and more. When I served on St. Mary's pastoral care team, our tools were the Book of Common Prayer and a communion kit. This program teaches us what's helpful (listening, being aware of our own emotions as we serve, being present) and what's not (judging, problem-solving, etc.) when serving residents. This experience will help me to better serve my future flock.

I'm so looking forward to returning to St. Mary's this year to see all of you and to meet the new rector, and I'm excited to get to see Vivi Curt in Massachusetts in June. She is bringing a gift, Fr. George's communion kit. I am honored, because Fr. George's pastoral presence at St. Mary's inspired me to enter into discernment. I will use the gift to strengthen and renew God's beloved.

Please pray for me, as I continue to pray for God to bless you.

Peace be with you,  
Anne Hartley

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## St Mary's Music Notes

*St Mary's Music Ministry continues to Rejoice in the Lord, always!*

Easter Joy came early for St Mary's music ministry this year, with longtime choir member Sandy Renner joining the cantor corps, and violinist Virginia Garner Cullison offering her talents to the Lord.



*Left & below: Parishioner and lovely violinist Virginia Garner Cullison*



*Above: Choir members Jeanie Temby and Sandy Renner looking beautiful as always.*

The Music Ministry was delighted to present another new offering in our series of Annual Special Events: our 1st annual **LENTEN LAETARE SUNDAY** Program of Lessons and Songs. Becky Rife accompanied the Concert from the excellent electric piano, a gift of Renee Osborne.



*Pictured from L to R: Jim George, Sandra Renner, Jim Howard, Sara George, Hilton Jervej, Becky Rife, Georgia Jervej, Jeanie Temby, Barbara Howard, Diane Thomas, Virginia Cullison*



*Choir members Georgia & Hilton Jervey, with Paul Greene, Rick & Jill Smith, and Dave Smith*



What makes the organ so specially fit for worship? St Mary's organ has three keyboards (Swell, Great, and Choir) and a full pedalboard. Each division has its own set of sounds available by pulling drawknobs (*seen above*), giving lush and beautiful music for worship.

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

# Ministries

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## Youth Ministry

St. Mary's youth continue to explore ways to best love God and love others. The children learned about the season of Lent and discussed ideas for keeping a holy Lent. Due to COVID-19 a traditional Easter egg hunt was not held. Instead, each child designed their own special Easter egg. Each egg was then placed in an individual Alleluia basket for the children to search for. It was a fun activity for all!

During Eastertide we have been walking with Jesus and learning about his final teachings after his resurrection and before his ascension into heaven. The children made paper sandals to symbolize this walk. We are looking forward to Ascension Sunday and celebrating the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday.

Mothers were honored on Mother's Day with a hand designed planter and plant.

Service projects included helping with the collection of food for the Cafe of Life and making and sending cards to shut ins. The children love participating in these activities and it is a great opportunity for them to engage with the church community.

Summer activities feature a miniature golf outing and a mini two-day Vacation Bible School.

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



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## St. Mary's "OUTREACH" Is For "All Seasons"

Our mission of helping all God's children doesn't take a summertime break or vacation. The needs may change, but they are always there. With the help of our generous parish, the Outreach Commission is prepared to address those needs throughout the year!

## New Horizons

The Super Kids Club tutoring program ends in May, but that doesn't mean we turn out the lights in the Parish Life Center until Fall!

Our Agreement with New Horizons has been renewed for a new year, starting with an intensive summer reading program for up to 24 children. This starts mid-June and ends in Mid-July on a Monday - Friday morning schedule. Food for breakfast and lunch is provided by the Summer Food Service Program for Lee County. Hungry children cannot learn! St. Mary's volunteers are needed to serve and clean up the ready-to-serve items, thus allowing the New Horizon teachers to dedicate their time to teaching.

Tutoring will begin for the new academic year at the end of August. The Outreach Commission hopes to enlist volunteers for this special outreach need. In addition, we are planning to launch a book and magazine drive this Fall to help build enrichment programs for the children, in addition to supporting their tutoring needs for reading and homework assignments.

Contact Annette Leahy-Judkins if you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities.

### Food Distribution

Meals of Hope will continue its Monday schedule throughout the summer months, giving free food to Lee County residents. Because local agricultural work slows down, the needs actually increase.

Outreach Commission volunteers will once again distribute Publix gift cards for food in June and September to families of the Baso Community. Fathers often leave the area for other migrant camps in the North, leaving their families behind because of camp housing restrictions. Those left behind are often without supportive assistance.

### Helping The Homeless

At this time, St. Mary's is considering a new initiative with the Lee County Homeless Coalition. In response to a request from them, we would provide "Welcome Home Kits" for families who are newly housed, as part of their "100 Households in 100 Days" program. In most cases, these families arrive in the area with only the clothes on their backs. We already have Harvest Time Ministries and Penny Wise's support to provide household items, cleaning supplies, bedding and other miscellaneous furniture for new tenants to ensure a successful placement.



### New and Noted

We welcomed **Mel Bennett**, one of our parishioners into the Outreach Commission this year. **Judy Hall, Chair of Outreach Commission** was chosen by New Horizons as their Volunteer of the Year for St. Mary's Super Kids Club

### Until We Are Together Again

St. Mary's Outreach Commission wishes our parishioners a blessed and safe summer season and we look forward to your return later this year, rested and eager to share your ideas, talent and time with our different outreach opportunities.

Annette Leahy-Judkins  
*Outreach Commission*

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## St. Mary's Library News

The St. Mary's Labyrinth has featured in our Advent and Lenten Learning days this year. Parishioners are invited to visit the labyrinth and take advantage of special labyrinth walks for various seasons of the church year. These are described in the brochures now available in the box located at the labyrinth.



The labyrinth display in the library has been moved to a more prominent position above the children's Book Nook and includes a labyrinth model and books about labyrinths that are available in the library.

Diana Dearth

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## Penny Wise Thrift Store

Despite COVID, Penny Wise has managed to stay open this year. Careful procedures including masking and hand sanitizing have kept all staff safe and business able to proceed successfully. We are pleased to report that our revenue this year to date has exceeded that of 2020 and has reached the level of 2019. One source of our increased revenue has been the sale of jewelry. Thanks to Nancy Rasmussen we have beautiful jewelry in a wide range of prices. In addition we have received many new donations of high quality clothing, housewares, and furniture. Don't hesitate to call the store during business hours (239-947-3363) if you need help transporting furniture

Several improvements have been made to the store. The entrance beautification efforts by volunteers Lucinda Ade and her husband Gary have resulted in attractive entrance areas on the back side of the store. We are grateful for a generous gift certificate from Driftwood Garden Center of Fort Myers. Lighting improvements have been made throughout the store courtesy of Al McKinney.



Penny Wise jewelry has enjoyed a great season this past year and the volunteer staff wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has donated or purchased some of the lovely items in the newly expanded jewelry department. We could not have



this success without the generous donations from our church and community. Please think of Penny Wise for donations of both fine and fashion jewelry, designer handbags and accessories as you do your spring cleaning. All fine jewelry and designer items are researched and priced

appropriately. We have created a following of customers looking for the unique and special; we are in constant need of new items.

Penny Wise continues to be open from 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Working in the store continues to be a rewarding experience and Penny Wise continues to need volunteers. Proceeds from the sales will continue to enrich our community outreach, where there are many needs during the summer. Please contact Paul Scheibel or Pam Stamper if you are able to help out.



## ECW News

### **UTO Collection is concluded!**

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church.

Thank you to all parishioners who donated to The United Thank Offering.

Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, giving thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering.

### **Foyer Groups**

Foyer Groups have been formed for April, May, and June. Signup for July, August, and September will begin in June. Watch for updates in the weekly news blast and the bulletin.



Many thanks to Candy Bergquist, Committee Chair, for her organization and management of the Foyer Groups for St. Mary's.



### The ECW tradition of our Summer Fund Raiser, 'Stay at Home Tea', continues...

ECW Ladies of St. Mary's: currently, your 'note' is in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick it up at your convenience. Remaining notes will be mailed June 1st.

Remember, ladies, there are no cookies to bake and no silver to polish.

Relax with a cup of tea, compliments of ECW, and prayerfully considering a donation. These monies support our "Reaching Out", and other activities sponsored and/or hosted by ECW.

Example: ECW recently made contributions to **After the Rain** and **Life Giving Water International**. Check your mail for the note and your 'tea'.

We thank you in advance for your donation!

### ECW Gathering

**Game n' Grub** - Thursday, June 10th 12:00PM

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship. Playing games and enjoy lunch together. ECW will provide lunch (chicken from Publix)

RSVP to [renee@midwestsinglesource.com](mailto:renee@midwestsinglesource.com) by Monday, June 7th, to allow proper planning.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - ECW Lunch Bunch Dates



### JUNE: Patio Cafe

Thursday, June 24th, 12:00pm

10711 N. Tamiami Trail, Naples

RSVP to [dorisbialowas@comcast.net](mailto:dorisbialowas@comcast.net) by Monday, June 21st.

### JULY: Bonita Brunch

Thursday, July 29th, 12:00pm

26381 Tamiami Unit 6, Bonita Springs  
(Located next to Bonefish)

RSVP to [dorisbialowas@comcast.net](mailto:dorisbialowas@comcast.net) by Monday, July 26th.



# St. Mary's Fellowship Continues Despite COVID



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## St. Mary's Summer-into-Fall Calendar of Events

Sunday, July 4	<b>Fourth of July Service</b> – <i>Fr. Ryan's first service</i>
Sunday, July 25	<b>Service Honoring Mother Bobbie Parini and Farewell Reception</b>
Mid-June to mid-July	<b>New Horizons Summer Reading Camp</b>
Sunday August 15	<b>Feast of St. Mary</b>
Mid-August	<b>New Horizons resumes</b>
Saturday October 2	<b>St. Francis Animal Blessing</b>

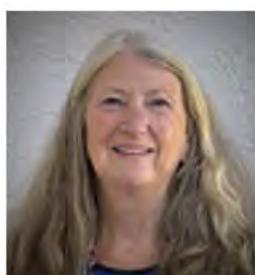


Music Ministry has a new birthday calendar hanging in the music office, to help keep us all in mind in prayer throughout the year -- the blessing God bestows upon us all through each other.

## St. Mary's Episcopal Church Vestry 2021



**David Berquist**  
WORSHIP



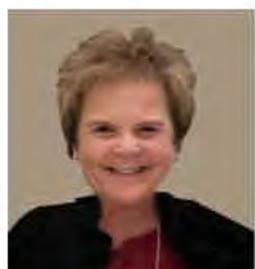
**Joan Croteau**  
PASTORAL MINISTRIES



**Joan Frey**  
E.C.W.



**Jon Gunger**  
ENDOWMENT



**Annette Leahy-Judkins**  
OUTREACH



**Chester Phillips**  
COMMUNICATIONS



**Paul Scheible**  
PENNY WISE



**Rick Velde**  
MEMBERSHIP



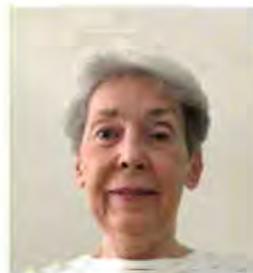
**Bob Foltz**  
SENIOR WARDEN



**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 rector, Father Ryan, 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
The Rev. Gail Tomei, <i>Priest Associate</i>	gtomei@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. Bobbie Parini, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	bobbieparini@aol.com
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Sandy Gunger, <i>Sexton</i>	sandyg1964@mail.com

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Penny Wise Thrift Shop (239) 947-3363