

# Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021



ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2022

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### **Prayer for the Parish**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Prayer for the Meeting**

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the annual meeting of St. Mary's Church for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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# Agenda

## 2022 Annual Meeting of the Members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Bonita Springs, Inc

Sunday, January 30, 2022

The Annual Meeting will take place after the 10 AM Eucharist in the Parish Hall.

The agenda for the meeting is as follow:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening prayer.
3. Approval of the Minutes for the 2021 Annual Meeting
4. Report of the Nominating Committee
5. Election of new Vestry members
6. Appointment of the Senior Warden
7. Expression of thanks to retiring vestry members
8. Report of the Senior Warden
9. Report of the Treasurer
10. Report of the Rector
11. Questions from members and discussion
12. Closing Prayer
13. Adjournment

Please note:

The new Vestry will meet immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall, conference room 1 .

# The Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

## CANON VII

### Congregational Governance

**Section 1. Annual Meeting.** A Congregation shall hold an annual meeting every year. Unless otherwise specified in the Congregation's bylaws, the annual meeting of the Congregation shall be within one hundred twenty (120) days before or on the twenty-eighth (28th) day of February.

**Section 3. Electors.** a. As used in these Canons, an elector is a lay communicant member of a Congregation who is sixteen (16) years of age or over, whose name is duly enrolled as such in the Register of the Congregation, who is regular in attendance at divine services, and who makes stated contributions of record to the general support of the Congregation. A qualified elector of a Congregation is entitled to vote in all congregational elections and on all matters that come before the Congregation for a vote.

**Section 4. Congregational Council.** a. Each Congregation shall have a congregational council, which may be called a vestry or board of trustees or similar name, according to the choice of the Congregation. To be qualified to serve on the congregational council, a person must be an elector of the Congregation and eighteen (18) years of age or older.

**e. Wardens.** The Congregation's bylaws shall provide for the selection of wardens of the Congregation. The Congregation's bylaws shall provide that the term of office for the wardens is one (1) year, and that a person may not serve as a warden for more than three (3) consecutive terms. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, the selection of wardens shall take place at the first meeting of the congregational council after a congregation's annual meeting, as follows:

1. The member of the clergy in charge shall appoint one (1) member of the congregational council to serve as the Senior Warden. If the Congregation does not have a member of the clergy in charge, the members of the congregational council shall select the Senior Warden in the same manner as it selects the Junior Warden.
2. The members of the congregational council shall select one (1) member of the congregational council to serve as the Junior Warden. Unless otherwise provided in the bylaws, the selection of the Junior Warden shall be by majority vote of the members of the congregational council.

**f. Officers.**

1. The congregational council shall annually select a secretary, who need not be a member of the Congregation. The secretary shall ensure that the minutes of congregational council's proceedings are taken and reported, attest to the public acts of the Congregational council, preserve all records and papers belonging to the Congregation, perform such other duties as shall be legally assigned, and faithfully deliver into the hands of a successor all books and documents of the Congregation that may be in the secretary's possession.
2. The congregational council shall annually select a treasurer, who need not be a member of the Congregation, to perform the duties incumbent upon that office. The treasurer shall furnish a bond of suitable amount. The books and accounts shall be audited annually and at any other time the congregational council may direct. The offices of secretary and treasurer may both be held by the same person.

# Annual Meeting Minutes 2021

## Annual Meeting The Parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs Diocese of Southwest Florida Sunday, January 31, 2021

**Call to Order:** Father Faupel convened the meeting and led us in a prayer by St. Francis.

**Approval of Minutes for the 2020 Annual Meeting:** Father Faupel asked for approval of the minutes of the January 2020 Annual Meeting. These were approved.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** The Senior Warden, Bob Foltz, gave the report of the nominating committee, proposing new members Diana Dearth, Joan Frey, Annette Leahy-Judkins and Chester Phillips.

**Election of Vestry members:** The proposed new members were elected, and the 2021 vestry was commissioned by Father Faupel.

**Report of the Treasurer:** John Craun reported that the budget was balanced (surplus of \$132) at the end of 2020, thanks in part to the PPP (Paycheck Protection Plan) loan provided by the government. It is anticipated that this loan (\$66,000) will convert to a grant and that our application for 2021 will be approved. John noted that there was some confusion in the pages of the Treasurer in the Annual Report and said that corrected pages would be issued.

**Report of the Senior Warden:** Bob Foltz expressed regret that because of the pandemic we were unable to give a farewell party for Father Michael at the time of his retirement in April and expressed the hope that, when circumstances permit, we do so. He briefly reviewed the devotion, progress, and very fine work of the search committee, explaining that the vestry will have a group of 4 final candidates to review and from which to select the new Rector. Final steps will be approval by the bishop, offering of an employment contract, and then announcement of the appointment of the new Rector. Bob emphasized most strongly the importance of confidentiality of this process.

**Report of the Priest-in-Charge:** Father Faupel expressed his deep appreciation to the parish and, especially, to the staff, for their support during his tenure as Priest-in-Charge.

**Presentation to retiring Vestry Members:** Retiring vestry members Ruth Davies, Hilton Jervey, Holley Pittman and Jill Smith were recognized and given a Book of Common Prayer/Bible as a token of appreciation.

There were no questions or discussion. Father Faupel gave the closing prayer, then closed and adjourned the meeting.

## Report of The Vestry Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the 2022 Annual Meeting consisted of Tim Blaicher, John Craun, Bob Foltz, Jon Gunger and Paul Scheible. The Committee is nominating four parishioners to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve on the Vestry for three year terms. The Vestry approved the nominations at its meeting on December 21, 2021, with the Rector abstaining.

The four nominees are: Chris Davies, Sandy Renner, Kathleen Palaia and Joanna Wragg.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Foltz,

Senior Warden and Chairman of the Nominating Committee

## Nominees



**CHRIS DAVIES** and his wife, Ruth have been members of St. Mary's for about a decade. They first attended the Advent Service and were impressed and moved by the quality of music. Chris grew up in the Church of England being baptized by the Bishop of Lancaster and confirmed by the Bishop of Croydon. As a young boy, Chris was a chorister and trained in the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Anglican church music is particularly close to his heart.

Chris and Ruth attend the 10 AM worship service. Chris was asked by the Vestry in April 2020, to act as Chair of St. Mary's Rector Search Committee. This was a great honor and allowed further study and understanding of the Parish, both its strengths and weaknesses. Chris has been a Senior Warden elsewhere and involved in various aspects of church matters for most of his adult life. He and Ruth ran a covenant support group at their house to meet, study the Word and socialize.

Chris works full time and is a shareholder in the Naples – Mercato office of Dentons Cohen & Grigsby. Dentons is the largest law firm in the world with 207 offices in 82 countries. His practice is focused on real estate and condominium and homeowner association law in which he is a recognized expert. In July 2021, Chris was appointed to serve on the Life Safety Advisory Task Force created in the wake of the Champlain Towers South tragedy.

Chris and Ruth live in Naples. They spend summers and Christmas on a lake in northern Minnesota and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. They are blessed with two children and four grandchildren, all of whom live locally, and two Golden Doodles!



**SANDRA RENNER** earned degrees at Illinois State University (magna cum laude) in English and theatre education, a Master of Arts degree from Northern Illinois University in theatre/ acting and directing, a Master of Science degree also from NIU in School Administration and a Doctorate from Loyola University Chicago in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

Professionally, Sandra began her career as a high school English teacher and theatre director. After four years of teaching, she was promoted to English department chair, then to a leadership role in the District office. Next, Sandra served as Assistant Superintendent of Homewood-Flossmoor High School until she was appointed as the Superintendent of Schools for Butler School District 53 in Oak Brook, Illinois, in 2003. She served as Superintendent for 10 years until she retired in 2013. From that time until June 2020, Butler District 53 employed her as their part-time Business Manager and Treasurer, managing all finances, facilities, construction and many personnel functions.

Sandy is a lifelong Episcopalian, and has sung in the church choir since 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. She is an active volunteer at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, singing in the choir and reading at the altar. Some will remember *Love on Broadway*, the fundraiser she directed for the church. She and her husband Dr. William Renner have lived in Estero since 2004. Together they have three daughters and five grandchildren. The Renners are also members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in LaGrange, Illinois and have another home in Homer Glen, Illinois.



**KATHLEEN PALAIA** after attending services at several churches in the area I began coming to St Mary's in 2016, attending the 8:00 AM service semi regularly as a snowbird January through April. I was very active in my Church in the Bronx for 15 years and really came to St Mary's with the intent to stay anonymous which I managed to do for several years. Once my husband Vinny and I moved here full time in November 2019, I found I missed my involvement in my spiritual home. I saw a request in the bulletin for ushers and that is where I started.



I was a career banker, starting as a teller in 1975 and ending my career as a Sr Vice President in 2007. I worked for Lincoln First Bank, Chase, Commercial Bank of NY and Wachovia. I worked in banking operations, both loans and deposits. I was a branch manager for a time, regional manager for a group of branches and was very successful. The industry changed and bankers became salespeople, so I decided babysitting for my grandkids was much more rewarding. I was grateful to have that job for 9 years. We now have 8 grandchildren and go up to NY every few months to give them a hug.

I was raised a Roman Catholic and was received into the Episcopal Church at Grace Church in the Bronx in 2002, At Grace Church I served as the treasurer for 10 years, altar guild, lector and vestry member for 3 separate terms.

Vinny and I reside in Ft Myers and love retirement. We enjoy golf, traveling and entertaining friends in our home. We are very blessed, and I feel grateful and honored to serve in several capacities at St Mary's. I serve as an acolyte, usher, usher scheduler and as a member of the finance commission.



**JOANNA WRAGG** grew up in Orlando, graduated from Florida State University and lived 40 years in Miami before retiring to Bonita Springs. After brief careers in teaching and in social work she returned to journalism at the Lakeland (Fl) Ledger, then a New York Times company newspaper, later working at The Miami News and The Miami Herald. She and her husband were owners with Ramon Casas of Wragg & Casas Public Relations, then the largest public-relations company in Florida.

Joanna grew up Roman Catholic, converted to The Episcopal Church as a college student and married a cradle Episcopalian. She has served as vestry member and eucharistic minister in previous parishes and at St. Mary's is the altar-team leader at 10 a.m., a member of the Order of St. Luke, and a member of the Communications Commission.

She has been married to Otis Wragg for 58 years and they have two children and two grandchildren, all living in the Broward-Palm Beach County area of Florida.

## **Report of The Senior Warden      C. Robert Foltz**

The year of our Lord 2021 was a significant year for St. Mary's.

Soon after our last Annual Meeting, the Search Committee presented the Vestry with a list of three candidates to become our new Rector. All three were eminently qualified. After interviewing all three individually at both a reception and a session in the church proper, the Vestry unanimously elected Father Ryan Wright.

That action was the most significant action the Vestry took in 2021. It has proven to be a blessing for the parish. I believe that Father Wright has done an outstanding job in the eight months that he has been our Rector. I have told him that on several occasions. I believe that we have grown as Christians and that we will continue to grow as Christians under his leadership. We are, I believe, at the beginning of a renaissance, a rebirth in our faith. I look forward to it.

I want to pay tribute to Father Bill Faupel who guided us through this transitional period between Rectors. His devotion, guidance and cheer sustained us. I am glad to he continues to serve us.

I want to conclude by stating how honored I am to be your Senior Warden. I love my faith; I love this parish and I love my job.

God bless us, one and all.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Bob Foltz,

Senior Warden

# Treasurer's Report for 2021 – John Craun

## 2021 Operating Results

The chart entitled “Overview of Revenues & Expenses” shows that we ended 2021 with a deficit of \$30,178. This was better than the budgeted deficit of \$46,877 (indicated in the chart as a draw from savings) primarily due to our receiving a second PPP loan of \$63,800 (which has already been forgiven by the government) and to parish support being \$28,174 (4.9%) above budget (\$601,794 versus \$573,620). These improvements in revenue were offset by expenses that were \$69,694 (10.3%) above budget. The areas with the biggest expense increases compared to budget were clergy, music and property. Clergy support was greater due largely to Father Ryan starting earlier than budgeted. Music expenses were increased at Father Ryan's request and with Vestry approval because the original budget was too small. Property expenses reflected a year with several repair and maintenance challenges that had to be addressed.

## Restricted Accounts

In addition to an annual operating budget of almost three-quarter of a million dollars, St. Mary's had \$321,687 in receipts and \$225,808 in expenditures last year through various restricted accounts, as summarized in the chart entitled “Restricted Accounts Overview”. Major items of note included \$63,230 in outreach spending, raising and spending \$66,710 for the pipe organ (which was fully paid for), raising \$75,743 for a new front signage and landscaping project, receiving \$55,075 in memorial gifts, and spending \$53,250 for facilities renovations and repairs.

## Balance Sheet

As shown in the chart entitled “Balance Sheet Highlights”, St. Mary's ended 2021 with a healthy balance sheet. Our total financial assets increased by \$309 thousand to \$1.9 million, with no debt. This increase resulted largely from good investment performance in the two endowment accounts, which together grew by \$181 thousand, and the total balance in restricted accounts growing by \$96 thousand. Our total current assets (including Penny Wise and ECW) increased to \$550 thousand and the two endowment accounts increased to \$1.35 million.

## 2022 Budget

A letter, printed below the financial spreadsheets, from the Rector, Senior Warden and Treasurer in this year's annual report explains why the Vestry has yet to approve a budget for 2022. The right-most column in the chart entitled “Overview of Revenues & Expenses” shows the spending that the Rector and Vestry believe is appropriate for St. Mary's and the current shortfall in revenue required to support such spending. The shortfall shown in this chart reflects the total amount pledged as of January 12th. Please make your 2022 pledge to St. Mary's if you have not already done so, and if you have, please consider increasing your pledge.

<b>Overview of Revenues and Expenses</b>					
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Pledge Offerings <i>(see Note A)</i>	\$463,270	\$432,181	\$402,020	\$435,123	\$474,964
Other General Support Offerings <i>(see note B)</i>	\$215,165	\$171,530	\$163,200	\$142,231	\$148,000
Specific Offerings <i>(see note C)</i>	\$11,166	\$13,429	\$8,400	\$24,440	\$17,000
<b>Subtotal for Parish Support</b>	<b>\$689,601</b>	<b>\$617,140</b>	<b>\$573,620</b>	<b>\$601,794</b>	<b>\$639,964</b>
PPP Forgivable Loan	\$0	\$61,249	\$0	\$63,800	\$0
Draw from Savings	\$0	\$0	\$46,877	\$0	
Endowment Released Income	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$28,000
Penny Wise Released Income	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Other Income <i>(see note D)</i>	\$23,537	\$14,450	\$9,500	\$3,919	\$8,420
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$758,138</b>	<b>\$737,839</b>	<b>\$678,997</b>	<b>\$718,513</b>	<b>\$701,384</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Clergy Compensation	\$259,471	\$213,556	\$154,926	\$185,721	\$245,075
Lay Staff Compensation	\$177,077	\$201,886	\$218,897	\$216,108	\$240,611
Property <i>(see note E)</i>	\$94,018	\$113,521	\$111,400	\$125,688	\$126,135
Diocesan Assessment	\$76,523	\$77,245	\$74,044	\$74,044	\$69,370
Administrative <i>(see note F)</i>	\$76,467	\$70,574	\$80,470	\$91,195	\$82,125
Worship & Spiritual Growth	\$31,457	\$30,742	\$24,160	\$28,984	\$37,250
Music	\$29,568	\$24,871	\$8,500	\$24,272	\$45,170
Communications	\$2,946	\$5,312	\$6,600	\$2,679	\$7,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$747,527</b>	<b>\$737,707</b>	<b>\$678,997</b>	<b>\$748,691</b>	<b>\$852,736</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$10,611</b>	<b>\$132</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$30,178</b>	<b>-\$151,352</b>

**Notes:**

A. Amount for 2022 reflects total pledges received as of January 12th.

B. Other General Support Offerings include open plate, non-pledge envelope, Easter, Christmas and special offerings.

C. Specific Offerings includes contributions designated for music, altar guild, Christian formation, flowers & candles, pastoral ministries, hospitality & coffee, and funerals & weddings.

D. Other Income includes interest income, meeting room offerings, diocesan assessment rebate (if any), net proceeds from fundraising events (done in 2019 and budgeted but done in 2021), and net releases from restricted income (in 2020).

E. Property Expenses include Building & Grounds Support and Building & Liability Insurance.

F. Administrative Expenses in 2021 includes expenses for new Rector search and moving.

<b>Restricted Accounts Overview</b>				
	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>
Total Outreach Accounts	\$30,867	\$74,501	\$63,230	\$42,138
Total Clergy Discretionary Funds	\$2,149	\$7,521	\$5,056	\$4,614
Total Church Activity Accounts (see note B)	\$33,852	\$216,220	\$104,272	\$145,800
Facilities Renovation/Repairs Account	\$87,749	\$23,445	\$53,250	\$57,944
<b>Total Restricted Accounts</b>	<b>\$154,617</b>	<b>\$321,687</b>	<b>\$225,808</b>	<b>\$250,496</b>
<b>Notes:</b>				
A. This summary excludes Penny Wise, ECW and Endowment accounts.				
B. Includes \$66,710 raised and spent for the pipe organ (account balance is now zero).				

<b>Balance Sheet Highlights</b>		
	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>
Church Checking Account	\$78,869	\$239,490
Church Savings Account	\$186,110	\$150,208
Penny Wise Accounts	\$102,245	\$148,464
ECW Bank Account	\$13,886	\$11,476
Other Current Assets	\$41,013	\$450
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$422,123</b>	<b>\$550,088</b>
Total General Endowment	\$828,899	\$975,029
NT Felsberg Endowment	\$343,203	\$377,996
Less short term liabilities	\$0	\$0
Less long term liabilities	\$0	\$0
<b>Total "Financial" Assets</b>	<b>\$1,594,225</b>	<b>\$1,903,113</b>
Total Fixed Assets (land, buildings, furnishings)	\$4,141,242	\$4,141,528
Note that the church uses cash accounting and does not depreciate fixed assets.		

## **To our Fellow Parishioners at St. Mary's**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

You may have noticed that this year's Annual Report does not contain a budget for 2022. This is because when a proposed budget was presented to the Vestry at its meeting on December 21, the Vestry believed that it could not approve the budget because we had not received enough pledges. The Vestry accordingly asked us to write you this letter explaining where we are in the budgeting process.

When we talk about the budget, we believe that it is important for all of us to realize that we are talking about the financial means to carry out the mission that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has given to this parish.

In that connection, we would like to advise you that our budgeted expenses for 2022 exceed actual expenses for 2021 by \$104,045 or 14%. This is primarily due to: an increase in all salaries of 5.9% to reflect the increase in the federal cost of living index; a raise and increases in the number of staff for administration; and an increase in the music budget.

On the revenue side the 2022 budget does not contain the PPP loan income of \$63,800 from the federal government that we had in 2021 (which loan was, incidentally, completely forgiven).

As of the date of this letter, despite an increase in many pledges this year, we are still short by about \$151,000 of where we would like to be. We accordingly urge you to pledge if you have not already done so and, frankly, to increase your pledge.

Any of us are available to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ryan Wright, Rector   Bob Foltz, Senior Warden   John Craun, Treasurer

## **Report of Assistant Priest      The Rev'd. Dr. D. William Faupel**

What a year 2021 has proven to be at St. Mary's. At the time of last year's Annual Parish Meeting the Search Committee was well under way in seeking a new Rector. People were waiting in long lines and driving up to one hundred miles to get vaccinated to protect themselves from getting Covid. There was a sense of optimism in the air. As your then Priest-in-Charge, I shared that positive outlook. I felt that St. Mary's was headed for the best of possible "new beginnings". Looking back upon the year that has passed, I am convinced that this perspective has proven to be correct.

As documented in the commission reports, the daily work of the church carried on during this year of transition. I am deeply grateful to all of the parishioners who attended faithfully to their ministries. But from the beginning of the year attention was focused on the search for a new Rector. I directed many of my sermons during Lent on the need for the parish to prepare for the coming of a new Rector through self-examination and openness for the Holy Spirit to lead us in a new direction under new leadership. For me Easter was a time of special celebration.

After doing their diligent work, the Search Committee handed the Vestry the names of three outstanding candidates for your next Rector. Although I was not part of the process, I am told that while the Vestry felt that any of the three would have provided excellent leadership, your new Rector, the Rev. Ryan Wright stood in a class by himself. He was the unanimous choice. Having known Fr. Wright for the last several years, I was not at all surprised to learn that he had been offered the position and delighted to hear that he had accepted the call. I sensed indeed our

Lord has directed the process and those involved in the process had heard and responded to his voice.

It was both a joy and honor to serve as your Priest-in-Charge during the fifteen months of transition, but I was more than ready to hand the reins over to Fr. Wright when he arrived this past July.

I was grateful that he asked me to stay on in my former role as his assistant and to give leadership to the areas of Christian Formation and Pastoral Care. Elsewhere in this report you will find the accomplishment of those commissions during the past year.

I look forward to assisting Fr. Wright and sharing in the ministry of St. Mary's in the year to come.

D. William Faupel

## **Report of Assisting Priest      The Rev'd. Gail Tomei**

During this challenging year with Covid in our midst, we celebrated each day with praise to the Lord. I continue to remember the words of Palm 100,

*"Make a JOYful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness . . . "*

Due to the challenge of Covid, all meetings and classes continued to be scheduled on Zoom. However, we resumed Holy Communion in person on the weekends and during the weekdays. Many who felt uncomfortable attending the weekend worship services attended the Wednesday, Noon, Holy Communion service at which I Celebrate and preach. The first Wednesday of each month is the Healing Eucharist and has been well attended throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year I was asked to oversee the administration of Christian Formation and Pastoral Ministries. In order to become a confident leader, all those in any pastoral ministry are required to complete 17 weeks of discipleship and continue their spiritual growth as they minister to others. I lead three groups: "New Beginnings", "Seekers" and "Growing Deeper" and use most materials from Order of St. Luke [OSL].

All at St. Mary's Church are welcome to experience a study in healing scriptures by joining the short, 5-week "New Beginnings" course, "*Healing Scriptures of Jesus.*" Detailed information can be found in the Christian Formation and Pastoral Ministries reports.

I facilitated several courses during the summer months via Zoom. The 5-week course, "*A Healing Season*" was well attended. From that course the majority chose to continue with the 14-week Course, "*The Healing Scriptures of Jesus.*" This group will complete the course just before they are inducted into the Order of St. Luke, February 2022.

We also continued our "Growing Deeper" courses on Zoom throughout the summer for all Order of St. Luke members. We took a break in August and resumed all classes in September. No matter where we are staying during the summer, we are able to learn, share and pray together and, until we feel 'Covid safe', we continue to meet on zoom during the year.

Wonderful Wednesdays, 7:00pm on Zoom, was well attended. This past year we had a strong following when I helped facilitate discussion of each chapter in Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*, a well known book on the disciplines that strengthen our Christian walk. Winter "Wonderful Wednesdays" will continue to be on Zoom until further notice. We

will offer “*Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts*” as each person will take an inventory to find out their own spiritual gift. These classes will be followed by several weeks of discussion on our Episcopal roots.

By the end of the year prayer teams were able to pray in person at worship services. Therefore, we no longer need to offer “*How May We Pray For You*” cards to be filled out and placed in a basket. If people do not desire prayer in person, requests may be sent to our Power of Prayer team via email 24/7/365. Send a prayer for yourself, a friend, a relative or a neighbor to: [powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org) One of two OSL certified prayer teams are ready to receive your request. All are kept confidential. See the “Pastoral Ministries” report for more details. In December we began a monthly “Share and Prayer” session at 11:00 in the church on 1st Wednesdays of each month. Our new Order of St. Luke team of twelve is able to physically experience personal prayer in order to be better prepared to pray for others. We gather to share, learn a new prayer practice and actively pray for one another in small groups. The Healing Eucharist at noon in the chapel follows this prayer session and provides healing prayer for all who attend this service.

All those in ministry of any kind at St. Mary’s are also required to complete the diocesan mandated “Safe Church” program every three years. I volunteered to guide any who are taking this on-line course through the new diocesan web program, Presidium. The test results are automatically logged into the diocesan office. Each person who completes the course receives a certificate and sends a copy to the St. Mary’s church office for safekeeping.

The diocese requests that all active members of St. Mary’s church complete and maintain the “Safe Church” requirements as they volunteer for a great variety of ministries: Worship teams, Ushers and Greeters, Altar Guild, Welcome Wagon, Coffee Hour, ECW, New Horizons tutoring, Outreach, Pastoral ministries, Vestry, Clergy, Staff, Youth director etc. OSL members are active in most St. Mary’s ministries and continue to maintain these requirements every three years.

Various meetings throughout the month enable me to remain closely connected with our many ministry leaders. Christian Formation Commission, Pastoral Ministries Commission, Vestry meetings, Worship Commission, Staff and Clergy meetings are some examples. I look forward to continuing to meet the needs of our parishioners in all the above mentioned and more.

Since we welcomed our new Rector to St. Mary’s this summer, we are discovering all sorts of new possibilities for St. Mary’s church. New vision, great enthusiasm and open hearts will carry us through another year with the zest that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Wherever I am called to lead, whenever I am invited to preach and each time I celebrate Holy Eucharist I give thanks to God that I am still able to “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”



## Report of the Endowment Commission    Hilton Jervey

The Endowment Commission is charged with two responsibilities. First, to oversee the care and management of the Endowment Fund assets and second, to educate our parishioners about the importance of their participation in the growth of the assets by making a provision in their financial plans. Growth over time is important because it will allow St. Mary's to function more effectively through economic cycles or other adverse conditions. Over the last several years, the General Fund of the Endowment has contributed \$20,000 to the operating funds of the church. These contributions are based on a percentage of a twelve-quarter moving average of the assets. Growth in the assets allowed the Fund to contribute \$24,000 last year and this year that amount will increase to \$28,000. The Endowment Fund also has a separate trust that can only be used for the care and maintenance of the grounds surrounding the church. Those expenses have been around \$20,000 per year.

As can be seen from the table below, the Fund has shown significant growth over the last few years due to a combination of good investment performance and some significant gifts. Despite some volatility in equity prices over the last three years, market returns have well above average. Last year, the time weighted Fund return for the year was 20.2%, thanks to an equity gain of 24.5%. As of yearend, the assets were distributed as follows: 6% in cash equivalents, 12% in fixed income and 82% in equities.

2015	\$578,403
2016	\$665,011
2017	\$886,431
2018	\$807,977
2019	\$1,024,163
2020	\$1,172,023
2021	\$1,353,023

The Commission hopes that many more of us will make the decision to join our Legacy Society, composed of those who have either given immediate gifts to the Fund or who have made provision in their financial affairs for a future donation of any size. A healthy Endowment Fund can play a great role in supporting our outreach efforts. For any of our members who would like to join this kind of support, the steps needed to do so are relatively simple but should probably include legal advice.

The members of the Endowment Commission include our newest member, Annette Leahy Judkins, as well as Joe Daniele, Bob Foltz, John Osborne and Rick Smith. Ex officio members are our Rector, Ryan Wright as well as our Treasurer. Please thank them for their dedicated service.

Hilton Jervey, Chairman

## Stewardship

## Peter Stiles

This year, we presented a holistic and professional Stewardship campaign that delineated the benefits St. Mary's delivers. Giving enriches you and blesses you. St. Mary's uses your financial gifts to serve God, to care for each other, and to show our love for our neighbors. Your gifts support our ministry and our community.

This campaign had a significant impact. So far this year, we have received pledges of nearly \$500,000.00 and receipts of almost 30% of that amount paid in to date. When we compare this to last year, individuals' pledges increased 43% from 2021! However, we have received 35% fewer individual pledges than 2021. Our budget is dependent on the amount that our congregation has pledged – that is why it is so essential that we receive all pledge within the next several weeks.

## Report from the Christian Formation Commission

## Jill Smith

### Christian Formation Commission 2021 Report Annual Meeting January 30, 2022

*“As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

Christian formation is a lifelong journey of growth and enrichment that all Christians are called to undertake. Becoming a deeply formed Christian takes time and commitment. The process begins at our baptism and continues through all stages of our Christian growth. As Episcopalians we draw on a variety of sources as we reflect on our faith and spirituality which includes study of Bible scripture, Church tradition and sharing our individual experiences. Due to Covid, most teaching was on Zoom.

**Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 10:30 am on Zoom. Lectionary readings led by Clergy.

**Bible Study** - Thursdays, 3:00pm at Bentley Village, in the home of Ginny Bailey. Led by Fr. Bill Faupel. Holy Eucharist offered in various homes 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

**Christian Book Group:** Mondays, Noon on Zoom. Led by Bobbie Parini from Oregon.

**Lenten Learning Day:** Two hours of meditations and sharing held February 27th in the St. Mary's Pavilion and Garden, led by guest clergy, the Rev'd Jean Hite,.

### Annual Report: St. Mary's Library

The library has continued to promote monthly featured readings to provide program support and reflect the seasons of the church year. These are displayed in a separate bookshelf, which also features new books as they are acquired. They are advertised in the Narthex, in the service bulletin and on the church website. There are also special ongoing displays of beautiful books of photographs of sacred art and architecture, donated by Father Wright, and materials about labyrinths, including a wooden model.

Media acquisitions are now displayed and include CD's, cassettes and DVD's. Some older, but valuable, learning programs are on cassette and the library has acquired a small cassette/CD player, which supplements the existing CD player and the DVD player, all of which are available

to library patrons who wish to listen/watch individually or in small groups. Now that coffee hour is once again held in the PLC, the library is open, with sacred music playing, after the 10:00 service on Sundays.

The library continues to receive a large number of donations, which are much appreciated. Some of these books cannot be accommodated in the library and we offer free books in the Narthex, in the library during coffee hour on Sundays and, occasionally, outside the Narthex on a Sunday. We continue to try to find homes for those books that are not taken up from the free book displays.

A continuing area of concern is the number of books that have been taken from the library without being signed out or returned. An inventory this summer revealed that nearly 50 books of our collection of 1245 books are missing from the shelves and are not signed out. A list of these books was included in a Sunday bulletin with a plea to sign them out or return them; however, none of the missing books have reappeared. We will continue to try to find ways to remedy this so that we do not have to spend our budget replacing missing books. In the meantime, we are identifying those books which are deemed most important to the collection and we will begin to replace those as the budget allows.

On a brighter note, the Book Nook that was established a year ago, thanks to the generous donations of parishioners, continues to grow and now contains approximately 50 books. These books are used by our Sunday School children under the supervision of their teacher, providing them with a “library experience” as well as books to take home to read. Another corner of the library has been designated for a lending library to support the New Horizons students who are at St. Mary’s four afternoons a week for tutoring in the PLC. The lending library has its bookshelves and a colorful rug to identify it and the collection is currently being assembled with the hope that it will be up and running in a month or two. This project has been made possible through a generous gift from a parishioner and a matching grant from the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Dearth

**OSL New Beginnings:** Mondays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm on zoom, was offered during the summer months. This 5-week introductory course, “*A Healing Season,*” can be offered year-round for interested groups of four or more. Led by Mtr. Gail Tomei

**OSL Seekers:** Mondays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm on Zoom, November to March. 14-week course, “*The Healing Scriptures of Jesus,*” offered weekly as a continuation of the 5-week course. Led by Mtr. Gail Tomei.

**OSL Growing Deeper Continuing Education:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10-11:30 am on Zoom. Required for active OSL trained leaders and facilitated by various OSL members and Mtr Gail Tomei.

**Prayer and Share:** First Wednesday of each month, 11:00 am in the church, to teach and practice various methods of prayer, including hands-on praying for worship services. This precedes the monthly Healing Eucharist at Noon led by Mtr. Gail Tomei.

**Wonderful Wednesdays:** 7:00pm, Zoom. Due to Covid restrictions, we have not been able to meet in person for a meal and teaching. Various topics facilitated by Clergy.

## **Annual Report Youth Ministry:**

St. Mary's Youth and Family Ministries goal is to offer our youngest parishioners and their families a meaningful experience that enriches their lives and deepens their relationship with God as well as the church community. 2021 brought several opportunities for learning and fellowship.

In August our mini-Vacation Bible School expanded to two half day sessions with the theme God in Creation. The children enjoyed gardening, craft activities, games and music based on the parable of the sower and the parable of the mustard seed.

We also had one of our youth attend church camp at Day Spring. As a first time camper they had a positive ,enriching experience.

November brought the annual food collection for Harvest Time Ministries with the children once again assisting.

During Advent the youth were responsible for lighting the Advent wreath and reading the accompanying scripture. A Christmas luncheon for children and families was held during December and provided a wonderful fellowship opportunity. Once again the culminating activity of the year was the five o'clock Christmas Eve service.

With Sunday School as the core we look forward to more learning, fellowship, and activities in 2022 that embrace love for all as Jesus taught in word and actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Vaughn

Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## **Christian Formation for 2022**

**Wonderful Wednesdays:** February 2, 9, 16, 7:00 - 8:30pm. *"Discovering your Spiritual Gifts"* led by Fr. Bill Faupel and Mtr. Gail Tomei.

**Seasonal Learning Days:** Lenten Meditations planned for a Saturday in March.

**Seder Meal:** Planned for Maundy Thursday if no Covid Restrictions.

**Cursillo:** 3-day retreat weekend. Our Diocese may offer this retreat at Dayspring when Covid restrictions have eased.

**Ultreya:** Hopeful monthly celebration for all interested. Meal and specified format. Creation of evening "Grouping" groups for each person to share their habits of Study, Piety and Action. When Covid restrictions ease, we can set the evening and time.

**OSL Healing Conference:** OSL members will meet with Fr. Nigel Mumford on Zoom, Thursday, February 24, 2022, 10:00 - 12:00 am. Due to Covid restrictions we have not had a healing conference for two seasons. OSL members are encouraged to attend a retreat or prayer and healing conference annually in person or on Zoom.

# **Report from the Communications Commission      Rick Smith**

## **2021 Annual Report**

The Communications Commission manages the church's external communications: web site, Facebook page, and the church newsletter, Tidings. Additionally, the Commission takes responsibility for the livestreaming of worship services for the church.

The website was maintained and updated at least weekly throughout the year. To avoid the potential for confusion a second domain name was registered to the church so that both stmarysbonita.org and stmarysbonita.com resolve to our website. The commission decided that it was not necessary to claim the .net or any other domain names.

The Facebook page has been kept current with posts of church activities and with information about our new Rector. Our worship services are streamed to the Facebook page and past videos are hosted there.

Three issues of the Tidings newsletter were prepared and published under the Commission's auspices. It is planned that there will be three or perhaps four issues for the 2022 year.

We also placed temporary signage on Bonita Beach Road for St. Mary's Christmas worship services, and we have temporary signage that we can utilize for Easter as well. We are aware that a project is underway for a permanent improvement in signage but until that project can be accomplished, the Communications Commission can fill in with a few ad hoc signs.

The major focus of the Communications Commission was continuing to improve the streaming of Sunday services. A new audio system was installed to enhance the clarity of the audio of streamed services. We also installed a new camera at the back of the Church as a backup to the camera located on the pillar to the left of the altar. Both improved the quality of the streamed services.

The interest in streamed services continues to be high. In 2021 an average of 159 people viewed our Sunday 10:00 am service. This compares to an average of 135 people who attended weekend services in person. We have also been streaming Evening Prayer and other weekday services. While few people attend these services, an average of 41 people viewed each of these services. We are helped by a feature of Facebook which sends an alert when we begin to stream to those who have signed up for this feature.

I want to thank Joanna Wragg, Fran Stiles, David Fusaro and Chester Phillips for all of their efforts during 2021.

Rick Smith

## **Report of the Worship Commission      David Bergquist**

The Worship Commission is a committee of clergy, staff, and lay people of St. Mary's Episcopal Church who serve the parish by supporting and promoting the use of established

As required by the Canons, the de-facto chair of the Worship Commission is the Rector or Priest-in-Charge; indeed, the Commission actually functions in an advisory capacity to the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, who are the final determiner of the worship practices of the parish. All other commissions and committees may be chaired by laypersons. Membership on the Commission comprises representation by the Clergy, Music Ministry, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care, and scheduling coordinators for the regular worship services, the weekday services, and special services.

The Commission plans and discusses all the special services for the liturgical seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, etc. In addition, the Commission reviews and discusses changes and protocols for all worship services and special services at St. Mary's throughout the year. This past year has been particularly unique because of the "calling" of a new Rector, Fr. Ryan Wright, the continuing though lessening restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 virus, and the increased live-streaming of various services.

One key committee within the Worship Commission, the Altar Guild (Sandie Beihl), has filed a separate report for the Annual Report. The Altar Guild provides the support and services needed for meaningful and appropriate worship throughout the year, including all special services.

The Music Ministry, also filing a separate report, provides an expressive articulation of the parts of the worship services provided by our organist, cantors, and choir (though this past year because of the pandemic the choir's contribution was significantly curtailed). In addition, and under normal circumstances, the Music Ministry and the choir have provided special events for the enjoyment of St. Mary's and the community-at-large. Bill Elliott is our new full-time Organist and Choir Master.

Pastoral Caregivers represented by Elinor Foltz will also be making a separate report for the Annual Report.

The year ahead will again be challenging due to the continuing presence of the pandemic viruses and their affect on our worship restrictions. However, the new year also brings with it the institution of our new Rector, who is gifted in liturgical theology, tradition, and aesthetics, and the significant technological upgrade and quality of our live-streaming capability, the promise of which is a dynamic new chapter in our worship experience. However, to fully maximize the potential of these assets we need to significantly numerically increase our human resources of those servicing at Altar at several of our services.

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

Clergy:

- The Rev'd Ryan Wright, Rector
- The Rev'd Dr. D. William Faupel, Assistant Priest
- The Rev'd. Gail Tomei, Assistant Priest
- The Rev'd William Gilmore, Deacon

Staff:

William Elliott, Organist and Choir Master  
Nancy Vaughn, Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
Ian Mitchell, Parish Administrator

Laypersons:

Sandie Beihl, Altar Guild  
Elinor Foltz, Pastoral Caregivers  
David Bergquist, Co-Chair, Vestry liaison  
Gail Goggin, Ex Officio  
Jules Wallace, 5:00pm Saturday service coordinator  
Jenny Schwerdtfeger, 8:00am Sunday service coordinator  
Paul Greene, weekday and special services coordinator  
Hilton Jervey, Choir Representative  
Joanna Wragg, 10:00am service Altar party trainer and scheduler

## **Report of the Outreach Commission      Annette Leahy Judkins**

St. Mary's Outreach Commission had a very successful year in which we continued to make a difference in the lives of the people who live in the communities where we serve, and beyond. COVID continued to impact us but we were still able to respond to many needs in a variety of ways. All of these programs were possible because of the generosity of our donors and the funds made available from PennyWise and its many supporters and volunteers.

### **Supporting Our Local Communities Where We Serve**

We held two successful food drives for two of our Outreach Partners... Café of Life (March) and Harvest Time Ministries (November). The parish overwhelmingly stepped up and donated over 100 bags of food to each organization for each of the drives. We also continued to support Meals of Hope which sets up its mobile pantry on our campus every Monday throughout the year, serving hundreds of families weekly. They also generously supplied our New Horizons families with groceries just before the Thanksgiving break and, again at Christmas time, gave each family a tote bag filled with easy to prepare foods.

In September, we continued to help the food needs of the Baso farm worker community by distributing Target gift cards, based on family size, to 15 families.

In May, we responded to an appeal from the Lee County Homeless Coalition to provide assistance in placing families in homes. We provided 18 inflatable air mattresses in response to their request. This was considered a "one off" donation by both the Outreach Commission and Vestry.

We also held Snow Bird food drives in April and May. Before parishioners headed north, they donated food that was subsequently distributed to the Baso families.

### **International Support**

Life Giving Waters, an organization which works in South America to bring water to remote villages, is led by our own parishioners, Bruce and Cherith Rydbeck. They received a St. Mary's grant for their continued mission and engineering work in those remote locations. David Smith received parishioner support for the India schools appeal.

### **Kindness for Kids Program**

The Outreach Commission which leads The Kindness for Kids Advent and Christmas program covering five (5) non-profit organizations, initiated a change in focus, and as a result, a new logo and name were created. The program is now referred to as **St. Mary's Kindness for Kids** program.

From "newborns to 12 years old", 86 children from five organizations received age-appropriate gifts generously provided by members of the parish. And, their parents received Walmart gift cards ranging in value from \$50 to \$75. In total, we distributed 56 gifts cards with a total value of \$3,175. All New Horizons and New Beginnings children also received personally selected books for their gift bags.

Our **Acts of Kindness** initiative, started in 2020, supported three newborns this year. Since its inception, this program has helped six new babies and their families with strollers, clothing, car seats, diapers, etc. We also provided clothing to a young girl in a local community who arrived from Guatemala with her father to start anew in this country.

### **New Horizons Super Kids Club (SKC) Program**

2021 presented a number of challenges to the New Horizons program. Covid issues had a negative impact on attendance by both students and volunteers in the beginning of the academic year. In addition, several changes in site leadership caused some disruptions in the program. By the end of the calendar year, and after a meeting with the senior management, issues seemed to settle down. We look forward to another successful year of hosting the New Horizons SKC.

A 4-week summer camp was held in early summer which was fully subscribed and we started the 2021-22 academic year with 29 students, and a significant wait list. We no longer offer virtual tutoring. We hosted a Thanksgiving reception in November and were pleased to see a large percentage of the children's parents and family members attend. It was the biggest turnout we have had since the program began at St. Mary's in 2019. In December, we held a Christmas Party which included games and pinatas and the distribution of Christmas gifts donated by parishioners and friends of St. Mary's. Mother Gail did a presentation and Annette Leahy-Judkins explained the Nativity story, using a manger and figurines. Jon Gunger manned the pinatas which were the hit of the outdoor games.

We have also started an initiative to improve reading skills. A plan for a Reading Enhancement Program received Vestry approval and the diocese gave St. Mary's funding of \$1,800 for seed money to stock the library with new books. This grant was matched by a generous member of our parish. A small section of the Parish Library has been designated for a lending library for the SKC students. Bookshelves were installed by Paul Scheible and treasures from Penny Wise were discovered by Ian Mitchell. We expect to have the library up and running in early 2022.

### **Outreach Grants**

In December, Vestry approved the Commission's recommendations for 2022 grants. We were given a budget of \$55,000. The following organizations will receive a supportive grant from St. Mary's in January 2022: After the Rain; Café of Life; Harvest Time Ministries; Life Giving Water; Literacy Council of SWFL; LOVE, Inc; Community Cooperative Meals on Wheels; New Horizons of SWFL; Our Mother's Home; Meals of Hope; The New Beginnings; and, the General Theological Seminary.



## **Administrative Changes**

At the beginning of the year, we established a successful liaison program with our outreach partners which was helpful for all parties. We hope this can be continued in some manner.

In September, Judy Hall, Outreach Commission Chair since 2020, announced her resignation as of December 31, 2021. Annette Leahy-Judkins has agreed to assume responsibility for the Outreach Commission.

## **Report from Penny Wise Thrift Shop**

**Paul Scheible**

The dedicated volunteers and generous donors of Penny Wise continued to have a very large impact on the well-being of our community and St. Mary's. This year witnessed a multitude of activities in addition to the many tasks associated with running a store of this size. A summary of our activities appears below.

Sales and operations:

- Annual sales yielded net profits somewhat more than \$110 thousand
- Resulted in two checks to St. Mary's for \$55 thousand each (one to fund outreach and the other for St. Mary's)
- Maintained 5 open days in-season and 4 off-season
- Limited covid impact to a masking requirement for part of the year
- Revised price guidelines and policies for jewelry, clothing and general merchandise
- Revised policies on items we cannot accept for donation
- Donated and shipped 40 cartons of winter clothing to the Dearborn County Clearing House for Emergency Aid

Physical plant:

- Made roof, plumbing and ceiling repairs in workroom
- Re-keyed doors
- Planted a new garden out front (thank you to the Ades)
- Installed new LED lights throughout store
- Installed a new safe
- Installed new security cameras at front checkout desk
- Installed new countertop displays
- Power washed sidewalks
- Investigated replacing rear doors and floors

**Pastoral Ministries** involves outreach to others through a variety of ministries.

Trained leaders provide care for one another, care for self and care for those in need of a pastoral visit. Qualifications for each are varied. All have completed seventeen weeks of *Healing Scriptures of Jesus* and maintain an annual membership in the International Order of St. Luke [OSL]. Each OSL member has made a commitment to continue their spiritual growth through “Growing Deeper” classes offered two Thursdays each month. OSL members are also invited to “Share and Prayer,” a monthly gathering for teaching and prayer, which meets before the Healing Eucharist the first Wednesday of each month. The current OSL team consists of 31 members. Four more are taking classes on Monday nights and will be inducted into OSL in March.

**Power of Prayer [PoP] team:** Prayer requests are sent to: [powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org](mailto:powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org) throughout the year. The Pastoral Ministries Chair, Yolanda Naimoli, receives these prayers and sends the request to one of two pastoral ministries. Prayer requests for St. Mary’s parishioners are sent to the Pastoral Care team. Prayer requests, for friends and loved ones, are sent to the Power of Prayer team members for 30 days of prayer. If a request needs further prayer, another prayer request may be submitted. The PoP team is OSL certified. Prayers are kept confidential.

**Pastoral Care:** For parishioners who are unable to attend weekly church services due to illness or physical challenge. The Pastoral Caregiver contacts their assigned person for prayer, encouragement and Holy Communion. Each Caregiver is vetted by Clergy before being placed on the Pastoral Care [PC] team. Communication skills, sensitivity, deep spirituality and confidentiality are primary. Pastoral Caregivers must be OSL Certified, licensed by the diocese as Lay Eucharistic Visitors and trained for home/hospital visits. They must also maintain the Diocesan requirement of completing five units of “*Safeguarding*” classes every three years.

**Prayer at Worship Services:** In the Fall, prayer teams were finally able to pray with people at the close of each worship service. At least two OSL trained prayer partners are present for those attending each worship service who desire prayer. All prayers are kept confidential.

**Healing Eucharist:** First Wednesday of each month. Healing litany, the sermon and anointing with prayer are offered as we focus on healing both body and soul. Holy Eucharist is also offered every Wednesday at Noon, January to May.

**Prayer Request Cards** are **no longer** needed due to relaxed Covid restrictions. Instead, personal prayer is offered at all services and the Power of Prayer email continues to be offered at any time of day or night all year. Prayer offered 24/7/365 at the following email address: [\*\*powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org\*\*](mailto:powerofprayer@stmarysbonita.org)

**Centering Prayer:** Offered in the church sanctuary Thursdays at 8:30am and led by Richard Norris. This is a time to center the soul in prayer as we listen in silence.

**Prayers of Hope:** Offered 1st Mondays of each month. During the height of Covid, we were given the opportunity to offer prayer request cards, with clean pens, to all who pick up food through “Meals of Hope” in St. Mary’s parking lot. We receive about 50-60 prayer requests each time and many are in Spanish. Some on the OSL certified prayer team can translate requests as they pray. Prayer cards are destroyed after prayer. All prayer is kept confidential.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Parish Hall and is led by Barbara Williams. Volunteers may create specific shawl patterns at home and join the group at St. Mary's to stitch, share and pray at various times throughout the year. For those knitting or crocheting shawls, each stitch is a prayer for the person who will soon receive it. The shawls provide warmth and comfort for body and soul to those in need, sickness or adversity. Each prayer shawl is packaged with care in a labeled drawer in the storage room according to size. Anyone can take a shawl if they **sign the sheet with their name, shawl size and shawl receiver**. All shawls are blessed by clergy at a worship service as needed.

Prayer shawls are also placed in a basket in the church narthex for those who need a 'warm hug' while worshipping in the cooler air.

### **Future Ministry Opportunities**

**Prayer in the Square:** Trained OSL prayer leaders stand near Penny Wise Thrift Shop the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30am and pray. Many people seek prayer before or after they shop. Amazing stories unfold as we pray but all is kept confidential. God has used this team mightily with surprising results when we have been able to meet. Due to continued Covid restrictions, we hope to begin again in Spring 2022.

**Walking the Mourner's Path:** An eight-week, small group workshop that is grounded in prayer and led by trained facilitators. This Christ-centered program is a great source to help in the management of the grieving process. The facilitators are well trained parishioners who have a heart for those dealing with grief. An OSL trained prayer team prays off-site for each individual throughout the course. This course will be offered when a new team of volunteers is found and trained.

## **ECW Annual Report**

**Renee Osborne**

✚ ECW began the year under Covid-19 restrictions and all Board meetings met via Zoom. The Board agreed to offer outdoor monthly "Gatherings", and most were well-attended. Additionally, the Board approved, with the interim Priest's permission, for Foyer Groups to return. Foyer Groups are various groups of parishioners who meet monthly for dinner to become better acquainted.

We kicked off the year with the January ECW Gathering off-campus event at the Baker Museum in Naples. Twenty-two ladies enjoyed the exhibit "*Dreaming Forms: Chihuly Then and Now*", followed by lunch at Seasons 52.

For our monthly February gathering, we spent the afternoon with the music director leading us in a sing along of spiritual songs of thanksgiving, praise, and love – 'Love Letters to God'.

ECW ladies met in the Flora Linda in March to hear speakers, Bruce and Cherith Rydbeck, share their mission of "Life Giving Water International". ECW took this opportunity to make a donation to this worldwide non-profit organization.

In April, Nancy Riedel, St. Mary's parishioner, shared her passion for sewing Christmas ornaments, "Therapy in Ornaments". ECW ladies had the opportunity to purchase ornaments and Nancy donated the proceeds to ECW.

Keeping the tradition, ECW members gathered in May to prep and prepare the mailing for the annual Stay at Home Tea Fundraiser. 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 2022 budget to include more ‘Reaching Out’ funds, and other activities for our church community.

With summer approaching and ladies leaving for the season, the program for June was fellowship with ECW providing lunch and fellowship.

The decision was made in October to cancel the annual Christmas Tea *again* due to the pandemic and the many challenges presented due to social distancing. We plan to return to the kitchen baking and planning a grandeur event for all St. Mary’s ladies in 2022!

In November, ECW hosted a ‘Welcome Back’ luncheon as our monthly gathering. The event was held in the Flora Linda garden with ECW providing lunch and the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our returning northern ladies. The Board received notification from the Outreach Commission on changes made to the Kindness for Kids program. Changes included new logo, new name, etc.

We celebrated Christmas with 36 of our ECW ladies at Pelicans Nest Country Club with a festive luncheon.

St. Mary’s ECW made contributions to UTO, the Sarah Howell Fund, and the ECW Diocese of SWFL in 2021. The Board voted and agreed to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of the new organ. The Board also approved \$1,000. donation to Fr. Wright’s reception (date to be determined). For the Christmas season, ECW donated monies for the trumpet player on Christmas Eve. ECW Board approved expenditure for Ring Cam for St. Mary’s Thrift Shop and Cantors for St. Mary’s Choir.

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. Sandy York, ‘Reaching Out’ Chair continues to lead us to new opportunities of giving. In 2021, ECW made contributions to Lee Health “Kids Minds Matter”, Tunnels to Towers Foundation, After the Rain, and Life Giving Waters International.

In 2021, 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.

With prayers, hard work and numerous Zoom meetings, ECW continues to adapt to the “new normal”. ECW has a wonderful board of devoted ladies that brings graceful giving and hard work to keep our Christian faith and spirit of giving alive, even in these trying Covid times.

Personally, I would like to thank the board members, Diane Daniele, Doris Bialowas, Candy Bergquist, Vivi Curt, Marj Klein, Nancy Tidwell-Rasmussen, and Sandy York, for their dedication to this Board. They work faithfully as leaders in various ways to provide a vibrant and spiritual presence to St. Mary’s ECW!

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Osborne, President

## Listing of Staff & Vestry

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BONITA SPRINGS  
*Where Word and Sacrament come together  
in celebration and service*

### STAFF

The Rev'd Ryan A. Wright, Rector	rector@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. Dr. D. William Faupel, Assistant Priest	bfaupel@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. Gail Tomei, Assistant Priest	gtomei@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev. William K. Gilmore, Deacon	bgilmore@stmarysbonita.org
William Elliott, Organist and Choir Master	WElliott@stmarysbonita.org
Nancy Vaughn, Director Youth & Families Ministries	youthminister@stmarysbonita.org
Ian Mitchell, Parish Administrator	churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org
Sandra Cecchini, Office Assistant	officeassistant@stmarysbonita.org
Sandy Gunger, Sexton	sandyg1964@mail.com

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Outgoing Vestry members as of January 30, 2022: Tim Blaicher, John Craun, Paul Scheible, and Jon Gunger.

If the vote of the Parish is in concurrence, the new membership of the Vestry will be: Diane Dearth, Joan Frey, Annette Leahy-Judkins, Chester Phillips, Robert Foltz, Joanna Wragg, David Bergquist, Kathleen Palaia, Frederick Velde, Sandra Renner, Chris Davies and Joan Croteau.

**SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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