

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024



ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025

Church Office: (239) 992-4343
9803 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
P.O. Box 1923
Bonita Springs, FL 34133
churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org
www.stmarysbonita.org

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

2024 Annual Meeting of the Members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Bonita Springs, Inc

Sunday, January 26, 2025

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

The agenda for the meeting is as follow:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening prayer.
3. Approval of the Minutes for the 2024 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 member
8. Report of Senior Warden
9. Report of the Rector
10. Report of the Treasurer
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 Library.

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 Sunday, January 28, 2024

.....
The Parish of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Bonita Springs

.....
Diocese of Southwest Florida

Call to Order: Fr. Wright led an opening prayer for the Parish.

Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting: A motion to approve was made, seconded, and adopted by acclamation.

Report of the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee consisted of Bob Foltz, Diana Dearth, and Chester Phillips. Four persons were nominated by the committee: Nelson Burr, Joan Croteau, Jack Sites, and Ron Westrom. There were no other nominations. A motion was made and seconded to elect those four nominated and the motion was passed by acclamation.

Appointment of the Senior Warden: Fr. Ryan Wright appointed Bob Foltz as Senior Warden for the next year.

Expression of thanks to retiring Vestry member: Diana Dearth was thanked for her service and presented with a Bible as a token of the church's appreciation.

Report of the Senior Warden: Bob Foltz said he is happy to be the Senior Warden and to witness the wonderful spiritual growth that is taking place at St. Mary's Church. He especially cited the Gilmore Ordination, ECW, Men's Group, Coffee Hour, the sign, Daughters of the King and Alpha. Worship is excellent and with growing attendance, and the Commissions and activities of the church are busy and productive.

Report of the Rector: Father Wright said he feels blessed by excellent and growing worship, outreach, and multitude of programs. He also took a minute to make clear 4 types of endowment that we have at St. Mary's: (1) regular endowment (from which we draw some operational funds), (2) Flora-Linda gardens endowment, (3) Sign and front garden endowment, and (4) the new Capital Projects endowment. St. Mary's is doing well with endowments but still has significant shortfall with raising money for operational expenditures via the annual pledge drive. He hopes to reach a point where we can cover all operations and remove no money from the endowment to augment giving.

Report of the Treasurer: Kathleen Palaia reported that the Vestry has adopted a budget which projects a shortfall, but a smaller shortfall than was initially projected for the just-ended year. Some factors in the budget improvement were (1) bringing most accounting and bookkeeping functions in house (performed by Ian Mitchell and Kathleen Palaia), (2) performing the annual audit in house (with thanks to Wendy Scheible), (3) elimination of the Sexton and replacing that

employee with a cleaning service. Kathleen cautioned that important things that belong in the budget are not – there is no provision for the paid choir singers (supported by donations to the Choir Angel fund) nor for the compensation of Fr. Bill Faupel (funded by a bequest for calendar 2024). It is hoped that the operational donations will improve so that these items can be encompassed in the budget and that we can depend less on income from the endowment.

Questions from the Members:

- (1) How can we have a budget when the pledge campaign is only now underway? Kathleen Palaia responded that the Finance Committee projected expectations for the pledge drive based on last year's actual numbers. Kathleen believes the projections are accurate.
- (2) Has church's insurance premium gone up this year? Fr. Wright responded that it had gone up significantly to \$60,000, a more than \$10,000 increase in a year. Fr. noted that we are insured by the Episcopal Church Insurance Company, which is very solid, and have full coverage with enough in endowment to cover the deductible. The Diocese also has a multi-million-dollar umbrella policy that extends the church's coverage.
- (3) Why is there no budget support for the music program? Kathleen Palaia and Bob Foltz explained that in budgeting we have only the money we have, everything cannot be covered, and there have been a number of difficult choices, but the church's leadership believes the budget reflects the best choices available at the time they were made. Joanna Wragg added her hope for a very successful pledge drive which would allow things like the music program to be supported in the future.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Fr. Wright led the Parish in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Bob states that he is happy for our parish and happy to be the Senior Warden.

Report of the Treasurer: Father Wright introduced Kathleen Palaia, Treasurer, and stated that the amount of work that she has done is incredible. The Vestry set a high bar of demanding clear and understandable financial statements. We now have accurate and clear financial statements. Kathleen stated that she took over in May and began by saying that we are not a wealthy parish. We have worked hard to strive for a balanced budget but there are expenses which exceed income. We need plate and pledge contributions to keep running. The numbers are real, not guesstimates. There have been no increases in salaries, no bonuses for the staff but dental benefits have been added. The accountant position has been eliminated. Father Bill Faupel's salary has been paid for by an anonymous donor. There is no budget for the choir but is funded separately with a separate financial drive. The Diocesan assessment has increased by thirty-three percent. Personnel costs are the majority of the financial spending and we are in line with other churches in Southwest Florida. We continue to give back to the community through Outreach efforts. The challenges for the coming year include:

- Growing our church.
- Striving to increase the average pledge to greater than \$5000 plus.
- Capturing streaming members to contribute to the church.
- More volunteers needed.
- Contributions needed for the endowment to save for the future.

Kathleen Palaia concluded her comments by thanking the Finance Committee and all their contributions and suggestions.

Father Wright concluded the meeting with a heart felt thank you to all the church staff and the lay staff.

Questions were invited and a short discussion followed. Father Wright led the Parish in a concluding prayer. Meeting was adjourned.

Report of The Vestry Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the 2025 Annual Meeting consisted of Chris Davies, Kathleen Palaia, Sandy Renner, Joanna Wragg and Bob Foltz. The Committee is nominating four parishioners to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve on the Vestry for three-year terms.

The four nominees are: Pam Stamper, Tony Sabol, Daniel Troup, and Bill White.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Foltz,

Senior Warden and Chairman of the Nomination Committee

Nominees



Pam Stamper

I was raised in the Methodist Church, converted to Roman Catholic in 1987 and was received into the Episcopal Church In 2004. I became a member of St. Mary's in 2017.

My college education was at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) in Portales, New Mexico. I have worked as editor of a small town newspaper, a bank teller, teacher in a community college and over 20 years in the general insurance and real estate fields.

I have one daughter, three grandchildren and six great- grandchildren. I have lived in the Southwest (New Mexico, Texas, Colorado) until I moved to Florida in 2016 to be near my daughter.

Here at St. Mary's I am general manager of St. Mary's Thrift Shop, I am a member of the Altar Guild, I am a lector and an usher. I am a member of the Worship Commission.



Anthony J. Sabol Jr (Tony Sabol)

I was raised a Roman Catholic, following in the faith with my wife Coleen and our family of three children. The church's evolving staunch position on many social issues had left me believing that leadership was interpreting Christ's message in ways I could not accept. Coleen began investigating faith-based alternatives and met with Father Bill Faupel. After hearing the Anglican Catholic message of inclusion we began attending services at St Mary's and have continued since 2021. I volunteer as an usher and assist with the Outreach Commission and Thrift Store. In 2024 I led the audit committee. These experiences have further engaged me in the parish as well as confirmed my faith through St Mary's Episcopal Church.

My career with Nalco, a premier water treatment chemical and services company, was in developing and executing sustainable, technical solutions for water-related human health, environmental and industrial process challenges from strategic planning to operations management. I currently, independently consult for companies interested in improving their strategic direction for their water system solutions.

Education:

B.S. Biology - Kings's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA

M.S. Environmental Science - University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT



Dan Troup

I am a cradle Episcopalian, transferring my membership from Christ Church, Winchester, VA in 2017. I grew up in Illinois and earned a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Kansas, where I met my wife Jane. I worked for 40+ years in the consumer-packaged food industry, retiring in 2010 as V.P. of National Fruit Product Company, and served eight years on their board of directors. Tired of being snowbirds, we became full time Floridians in 2020. I serve on the greeters committee and have volunteered through St. Mary's with New Horizons and Meals for Hope, and now in a high school mentoring program. Jane and I have two children and four grandchildren, all living in Virginia.



Bill White

I am 77 yrs old. Born Feb 29th 1948, leap year so I say I'm really only 19 yrs old. Fun. I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan area. Education: I have a B.S. in Economics from Central Michigan University and a JD law degree from Wayne State University, Detroit. I never practiced law but entered the family business for 42 years and retired in 2016. I have 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren in Michigan. Bea and I were married in 2018, and now I have 13 grandchildren!

I was raised in the Methodist tradition. Joined the Episcopal church in 1980. Went to Cursillo in 1984. I was on the Vestry for 13 years, 6 of which I served as senior warden and loved it. During this time, I learned so much about our faith in Christ and our beautiful church. I have been a snowbird member of St Mary's since 2002. Bea and I are now Florida residents, and reside in Bonita Bay for 7 months, and up north for 5 months in the summer. The people of St. Mary's are the most active and dedicated parishioners i have ever experienced. I look forward to serving our Lord and all of you on our Vestry.

Report of the Senior Warden C. Robert Foltz

The year of our Lord 2024 was again another significant year for St. Mary's.

Our parish continues to grow in our faith and to serve the Lord and our neighbors as a vibrant, cheerful Christian community. We continue to have great leadership and preaching from our clergy and to have an increasing ministry of the laity. The laity – you and I – are leading more of our activities and the clergy are becoming our coaches.

We are, I believe, financially strong and in that connection have been able to give our clergy and staff raises for 2025 to cover a significant increase in the cost of living over the past few years.

Our average Sunday attendance has been steady for the past three years.

What strikes me even more this year than all the foregoing is that we are becoming increasingly joyful in our faith. We have always been a devout parish. I sense that we are going beyond devotion to being deeply joyous and happy in being Christians.

This is all by the grace of God.

Thanks for letting me be your Senior Warden in 2024. I am honored to serve. 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

Report of the Junior Warden, Joan Croteau

Junior Warden Report 2024 with Facilities Commission

We began the year with prayerful thanksgiving for the successes of the previous Junior Warden and with optimism to continue serving Saint Mary's parish to the best of our ability.

As with every property, maintenance, repair, and renovation are a continuing process. After meeting with the Rector, assessing priorities, and learning our way around, we began in earnest. Areas of focus included: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC); Lighting; Fire Protection and Fire Department re-certification; roofing, gutters, and underground drainage; Flora Linda Gardens and landscaping; hurricane preparation and cleanup; and toilet upgrade.

After a few incidents, it became obvious that toilets would become high on the priority list. With research done, eleven Kohler low-flow flush toilets were purchased, installed, and old ones removed. This replacement qualified St. Mary's for a rebate from Bonita Springs Utilities (BSU). It would have been great if the actual process went as smoothly as writing about it.

HVAC repair, maintenance, and replacement are ongoing as we have twelve units on campus making this always a high priority. The clergy and staff have been on the scene when AC has not worked. Creating a comfortable work environment is a must. Five units needed maintenance and another had to be replaced.

Lighting includes outdoor evening lighting, timers, indoor bulb replacement, directing existing lights, fixing faulty switches, and the installation of a new Gospel light in the center aisle. We thank everyone who has spent time replacing light bulbs. This area is still in process.

During the year certain components of the Fire Protection system were found to be faulty and needed to be replaced. All work has been accomplished, and Saint Mary's is certified in compliance.

Our upper main metal roof over the sanctuary was replaced eliminating leaks in our Sanctuary. Underground storm drains were cleaned and protective screening added, limiting flooding in front of the office and in the parking lot. Gutters surrounding the church, the Pavilion, and Penny Wise were cleaned. All sprouting trees, soil, and debris were removed from the gutters, again helping to minimize excess water concerns.

Our Flora-Linda garden is lovingly nurtured by Linda and Steve Burdette. Together we have sponsored a few Saturday spring cleanup sessions, pruning flowering bushes, raking, planting, and mulching to generally spruce up the grounds. We were blessed with help from Cherrill Cregar and Betty Folkerth. Gardening is an ongoing process, as is pulling out downed palm fronds and weeding. We invite any of you interested in helping with the task of beautification to please make the Burdette's, Paul, or me aware. We are happy to have you join us. The Labyrinth was power-washed and readied for its special day. Our lovely marble statue of St. Mary was cleaned of all mold and mildew, allowing her beautiful countenance to sparkle.

We also hired an arborist for large-scale tree trimming. Branches were raised and campus looks open and bright. Luckily this was completed prior to hurricane season. Broken branches or snapped tree damage incurred as a result of the hurricane was trimmed without the help of an arborist.

Our Episcopal signage on Bonita Beach Road has been refreshed. After hurricane damage, these signs needed to be refastened due to wind damage. Of course, the goal is to make Saint Mary's Church inviting and appealing to all who pass by and to those who join us. Thanks to Sandra for arranging the cleaning of the pew cushions and kneelers.

We encourage parishioners to participate in the continuing process of maintaining our beautiful parish home. Please let the office know if you have a project or a suggestion that you think might enhance Saint Mary's. We will try to address each and every suggestion and take your concerns seriously. Thanks to everyone over the past year who has worked to improve our campus. Special thanks go to our clergy, Father Ryan, Father Bill and Mother Gail, and to Ian, Sandra, and Kevin, who spend so much of their time working for us each and every day.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Croteau, Junior Warden

Paul Croteau, Facilities

Finance Commission Report

The Finance Commission serves to assist the Treasurer and Vestry on the Church's financial matters. The commission members are Kathleen Palaia (Treasurer and Chair) Wendy Scheible, Chris Davies, Sandra Renner and Carolyn Saxton. We met three times this year.

Treasurer Report

This year we finished the year nearly even, with a budget of over \$733K. We accomplished this by only taking a withdrawal of \$25K from the endowment fund. We also deposited \$1,300,000. into the endowment fund.

We have increased pledges by \$50K and increased # of pledges by 15, this is unheard of in today's environment.

Costs continue to rise in all areas, with insurance increasing to \$64K in 2025.

The choir expenses were paid for by parishioners who donated to "Music Angels"

Majority of outreach donations from St Mary's are the direct result of income from "Penny Wise"

Budget 2025

The Vestry has approved the budget for 2025. The budget is in balance due to the withdrawal from the endowment of \$90K. This will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

We have increased the salary of Fr Ryan, after two years.

Ian Mitchell and Sandra Cecchini saw slight increases

A new position of handyman has been filled, part time one day per week.

Revenue and Expenses 12/31/2024

	Actual	Budget	Difference	Notes	Annual Budget
Revenues					
Pledges	\$ 507,240	\$ 505,000	\$ 2,240		\$ 505,000
Plate	\$ 114,082	\$ 125,000	\$ (10,918)		\$ 125,000
Endowment	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -		\$ 25,000
Pennywise	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -		\$ 30,000
Other Income	\$ 10,425	\$ 12,000	\$ (1,575)	Interest, flowers, rent, etc	\$ 12,000
Released from Restricted	\$ 45,660	\$ 45,660			\$ 50,000
Total Income	\$ 732,407	\$ 742,660			\$ 747,000
Expenses					
Clergy Salary-Benefits	\$ 242,548	\$ 256,045	\$ 13,497		\$ 256,045
Lay staff Salary-Benefits	\$ 187,810	\$ 200,960	\$ 13,150		\$ 200,960
Prop Insurance	\$ 45,500	\$ 60,000	\$ 14,500		\$ 60,000
Building and Grounds	\$ 97,760	\$ 86,800	\$ (10,960)		\$ 86,800
Admin and Finance	\$ 45,240	\$ 40,527	\$ (4,713)		\$ 40,527
Spiritual Growth	\$ 2,620	\$ 1,500	\$ (1,120)	Christian Formation & Yout	\$ 1,500
Worship	\$ 24,430	\$ 21,500	\$ (2,930)		\$ 21,500
Membership	\$ 2,878	\$ 3,300	\$ 422		\$ 800
Music	\$ 2,676	\$ 1,600	\$ (1,076)		\$ 1,600
Diocesan Assesment	\$ 82,075	\$ 84,000	\$ 1,925		\$ 84,000
			\$ -		\$ 2,500
Total Expense	\$ 733,537	\$ 756,232			\$ 756,232
Net Position	\$ (1,130)	Expenses over Revenues			

Cash balances (2accounts)	\$ 151,718	
Restricted totally restricted	\$ 119,785	All restricted accts minus Memorial Funds
Real Cash	\$ 31,933	

Clergy	\$ 21,000	Monthly
Staff	\$ 16,750	Monthly
B&G	\$ 7,234	Monthly
Assesment	\$ 7,000	Monthly
Insurance	\$ 5,000	Monthly
	<u>\$ 56,984</u>	

\$683.800. annual fixed costs

Balance Sheet Highlights

	<u>Dec 31, 2024</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2023</u>
Church Checking Account	\$40,331.	\$42,323.
<u>Church Savings Account</u>	\$111,387.	\$136,885.
Penny Wise Accounts	\$132,513.	\$162,168
ECW Account	<u>\$33,750</u>	<u>\$11,476</u>
Total Current Assets	\$317,981	\$352,852
Total General Endowment	\$1 239,425	\$2,331,214
NT Felsberg Endowment	\$346,278	\$326,400
Capital Projects Endowment	\$ 1,249.618	0
Signage Endowment	\$391,290	0
Less <u>Short Term</u> Liabilities	\$27,071	\$21,432
Less <u>Long Term</u> Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Financial Assets	\$3,516,521	2,989,154

Restricted Account Highlights

	Beginning	Ending
Total Outreach Accounts	\$44,504	\$37,150
Total Church Activity Accounts	\$34,527	\$51,457
Facilities Reserve Account	\$44,443	\$15,813

St Mary's Accounts		Actual	Proposed Budget 2025
		"2024	2025
400100	Pledge Offerings	\$ 507,240	\$ 520,000
400120	Plate Offerings	\$ 114,082	\$ 140,000
Non-Operating Receipts			
400300	Bequest	\$ 45,660	
400200	Endowment Released Income	\$ 25,000	\$ 89,293
400210	Interest Income	\$ 1,532	\$ 1,500
400305	Christian Formation Offerings	\$ 5	\$ 1,000
400306	Altar Guild Offerings		\$ 600
400310	Flowers and Candle Offerings	\$ 4,782	\$ 5,000
400315	Pastoral Ministries Offerings	\$ 5	
400340	Meeting Room Offerings	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,800
400345	Fundraiser Income		
400400	Pennywise Income	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
400490	Other Released from Restricted Inco	\$ -	
410000	Diocesan Assessment Rebate	\$ 1,925	
Total Non-Operating Receipts			
Total Revenues		\$ 732,531	\$ 789,193

Expenses			
Operating Expenses			
Clergy Compensation & Benefits			
500100	Clergy Salary & Housing	\$ 188,017	\$ 203,891
500103	Clergy FICA Allowance	\$ 7,825	\$ 8,000
500105	Clergy Retirement	\$ 21,724	\$ 22,000
500110	Clergy Health/Life Insurance	\$ 20,504	\$ 20,501
500115	Clergy Auto & Travel	\$ 2,698	\$ 2,000
500116	Clergy Telephone Allowance	\$ 1,615	\$ 2,000
500120	Clergy Continuing Education	\$ (634)	\$ 2,000
500122	Clergy Supply	800	\$ 600
500124	Deacon Expenses	\$ -	
500126	Rector Expenses	\$ -	\$ 500
Laystaff Compensation & Benefits			
500200	Laystaff Salary & Wages	\$ 150,608	\$ 185,208

	"2024	2025
500205 Laystaff Retirement	\$ 13,264	\$ 15,500
500210 Laystaff Health/Life Insurance	\$ 2,376	\$ 3,000
500215 Laystaff Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,590	\$ 13,000
500220 Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 1,080	\$ 2,000
500225 Laystaff Continuing Education	\$ 221	\$ 1,000
500230 Contract Labor		
500715 Substitute Organist	\$ 9,750	\$ -
Operations Support		
Administrative Expense		
500310 Office Supplies	\$ 2,718	\$ 3,000
500320 Postage	\$ 2,219	\$ 2,200
500330 Computer Expense	\$ 14,516	\$ 12,000
500340 Copier Expense	\$ 8,791	\$ 8,000
500350 Telephone & Internet	\$ 9,424	\$ 8,000
500360 Meetings & Conventions	\$ 2,070	\$ 3,000
500370 Building & Liability Insurance	\$ 37,995	\$ 64,000
500380 Miscellaneous	\$ 40	\$ 100
Financial Expense		
500410 Accounting Fees	\$ 100	
500420 Audit Expense	\$ -	\$ 150
500430 Bank & Payroll Service Fees	\$ 3,330	\$ 3,300
500440 Credit Card & Vanco Fees	\$ 1,224	\$ 1,500
500450 Stewardship Expense	\$ 400	\$ 500
Building & Grounds Support		
500500 Building Maintenance	\$ 34,975	\$ 20,000
500502 Cleaning Maintenance	\$ 29,212	\$ 29,000
500505 Building Supplies	\$ -	\$ 400
500515 Small Repairs	\$ 528	\$ 530
500510 Grounds Maintenance	\$ 11,945	\$ 18,000
Utilities		
500550 Electric	\$ 15,021	\$ 16,000
500560 Water	\$ 2,472	\$ 3,000
500570 Other Utilities	\$ 3,608	\$ 6,000

	"2024	2025
Worship, Music & Newcomer Support		
500600 Altar Expense	\$ 2,091	\$ 2,500
500620 Christian Formation	\$ 1,841	\$ 1,000
500630 Flowers & Candles	\$ 12,458	\$ 12,500
500650 Hospitality & Coffee	\$ 3,064	\$ 3,000
500660 Library	\$ 220	\$ 200
500680 Youth Program	\$ 779	\$ 750
500690 Worship Expenses	\$ 971	
500720 Streaming Services	\$ 4,475	\$ 4,800
Musical Support		
500700 Instrumental/Organ Repair & Maint.		\$ 300
500701 Music & Repair	\$ 1,075	\$ 1,000
500705 Special Occasion Music	\$ 1,600	\$ -
Membership/Newcomer Support		
500790 Membership & Newcomer Expens	\$ -	\$ 300
500795 Member Badges	\$ 550	\$ 500
Communications		
500800 Advertising	\$ -	\$ 500
500810 Website	\$ 1,780	\$ 1,780
600100 Diocesan Assessment	\$ 82,075	\$ 80,183
Total Expenses	\$ 725,005	\$ 789,193
Total Deficit	\$ 7,526	\$ -
		Extra 60K from Edowment
		to Balance
Outreach and Mission	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000

Report to the 2025 Annual Meeting

The Endowment Commission is charged with two responsibilities. The first is to oversee the care and management of the Endowment Fund assets. The second is to educate our parishioners about the importance of participation in growing the assets of the Fund through provision for St. Mary’s in their financial plans. The latter is critical in maintaining St. Mary’s role as a beacon in our community for both spreading the Word and ministering to its needs, even while economic circumstances fluctuate. The Fund’s current contribution to our operating budget is \$37,000 per year, up from \$20,000 in 2020. The Fund also has separate funds that are designated for landscaping expenses, maintenance of our new sign and major capital projects.

After 2023’s significant growth in assets as a result of both two generous donations as well excellent investment performance, the Fund’s assets continued to benefit from further donations and another year of robust investment performance. The time-weighted rate of return for the total fund was 19.8% in 2024. As of yearend, the Fund’s assets were divided as follows: cash equivalents 16%, fixed income 3% and equities 81%. Growth in the Fund over time can be seen in the table below.

2015	\$578,403
2020	\$1,024,163
2021	\$1,172,023
2022	\$1,353,025
2023	\$2,692,581
2024	\$3,225,611

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. For any of our members who would like to support this vital means of keeping St. Mary’s a force for good in our community and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion, the steps needed to make such a provision are relatively simple but should probably include legal advice.

The current members of the Commission are Nelson Burr, Bob Foltz and Carolyn Saxton as well as our Rector, Ryan Wright and Treasurer, Kathleen Palaia, who are ex officio members. Please thank them for their service.

Hilton Jervey, Chairman

VESTRY/ANNUAL MEETING REPORT: STEWARDSHIP

From Chris Davies, Stewardship Chair

Rejoice in our Future

The 2025 Stewardship campaign is already well underway. The pledge-card packet was sent out by the Church Office on January 17 and my Stewardship letter was sent with an Email blast also on January 17. On Sunday January 19 I addressed the congregations at each of the three weekend services. It is expected that the clergy will remind parishioners of the importance of the Stewardship Campaign over the next several weeks.

A return envelope was included in the posting and an In Gathering weekend will take place at the services on February 22-23.

Results will be reported at the March Vestry meeting.

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

It has been a privilege and joy to be able to serve St. Mary's as an Assistant Priest under the leadership of Father Wright during the past year. My responsibilities include:

1. Oversight of and participation in Pastoral Care,
2. Participation in Christian Formation,
3. Assisting Fr. Wright in the liturgical services,
4. Involvement in planning through participation in:
 - a. Weekly
 - 1) Clergy Meetings and
 - 2) Staff Meetings
 - b. Semi-Monthly
 - 1) Pastoral Care Commission Meetings
 - c. Monthly
 - 1) Vestry Meetings,
 - 2) Worship Commission Meetings,

During the course of the year, as part of Christian Formation I taught:

1. A thirteen-week session on Paul's letter to the Romans,
2. A twelve-week study of the four Gospels
3. A five-week course on the book entitled: *Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls*

In addition, I led the first-year class of **Education for Ministry**, as we studied the whole of the Old Testament over the course of thirty-five weeks. I also participated this past fall in David Bergquist's stimulating five-week course on the book *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*.

I celebrated 12 monthly Eucharist services at Bentley and 12 monthly Recovery Eucharists, in addition to my regular rotation of preaching, celebrating and assisting at St. Mary's principle Saturday/Sunday services. During the course of the year I prepared and preached 25 sermons and conducted six funeral. In addition, I made 16 hospital visits and 56 home visits. I conducted six funerals but no baptisms or weddings this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. William Faupel+
Priest Assistant

CHRISTIAN FORMATION Annual Report for Year 2024

Submitted January 2025

Acting Director: The Rev. Gail Tomei

Afternoon ALPHA was the highlight of the 2024 winter season. Offered after lunch, snacks were available for this ten-week course affirming our Christian faith. Mother Gail used videos by Nikki Gumbel. Church members bonded in small groups.

Bible Study led by Father Faupel, continued on Zoom at 10:00 Wednesdays throughout the summer months. The studies included the epistle of Romans and a walk through the four Gospels. David Bergquist led "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" and Fr. Bill followed with a study of the "Dead Sea Scrolls." During the winter months of 2025 Fr. Bill will offer a 16 week, in-person, study in Genesis.

Children and Youth Ministry met every Sunday and other times throughout the year. During the summer, Nancy Vaughn moved out of state and was replaced by a new director, **Jules Wallace**. The Youth offer to help during coffee hour, often greet attendees before the 10am Worship Service and began a weekly in-depth study of the catechism in preparation for Confirmation in 2025. They also led a wreath-making class in December. Jules and all the youth serve at various worship services including the Christmas Eve service. The youth will be attending various camps and "Happenings" at Dayspring in 2025.

Annual Report for Youth Activities

Hello,

My name is Juliann and it is an honor to be youth coordinator for St. Mary's church. I have been serving and worshipping at St. Mary's almost my entire 49 years on this planet. I am a Florida native and proud to call myself a Bonitian.

I was absolutely overjoyed to receive the invitation to join St. Mary's staff. I am a "both feet" kind of Christian. Fortunately my children enjoy this about me. They love to be involved and interact with the parishioners. Of course the love and welcome we have received is second to none. This is why we are so blessed to call St. Mary's our home.

I look forward to any and all opportunity for us to serve with our family here at St. Mary's. Here is what we have done and will continue to do with and for St. Mary's:

- Continue studies in confirmation. Working with “I will with God’s help” curriculum.
- Continue to work with Joanna Wragg as altar servers and lectors
- Continue to work with greeters at the start of services
- Participate in coffee hour rotation
- Continue to greet and usher at concerts
- Register for youth events at the Episcopal Youth center at Day Spring (i.e. New Beginnings, Happening and Summer Camp)

Please consider inviting us to serve with you in your respective ministries, we are happy to be of service.

Daughters of the King [DOK] Bethany Chapter, led by President, Joanna Wragg and co-president, Yolanda Naimoli, is part of Christian Formation. A separate DOK report is included in the St. Mary’s Annual Report.

Education For Ministry [EFM], led by Fr. Faupel, began to meet weekly in January. The six attendees completed various years of the four-year study offered. Seven attendees will continue weekly study as it begins another cycle January 2025.

Library, administered by Diana Dearth, is part of Christian Formation. Diana will submit a separate report in the St. Mary’s Annual Report booklet.

Order of St. Luke [OSL] report is now under Pastoral Ministries. However, OSL “**Continuing Education**” includes formation via SEEKERS and GROWING DEEPER classes. Thus, this part is under Christian Formation. Those in the “Seekers” class study the “Healing Scriptures of Jesus,” offered on Zoom for five weeks in September. **Cathi Ratay**, leader of OSL formation, has completed a complex national OSL certification process that establishes her as the facilitator for all OSL formation. Cathi will lead in-person Seekers classes for ten weeks in 2025 in preparation for induction into OSL in April. After induction, all OSL members are required to attend monthly ‘Growing Deeper’ classes, year-round, for continuing education.

Other Formation opportunities:

Weekly Wednesday HOLY EUCHARIST is offered at Noon to all as a mid-week renewal of our hearts. The Healing Eucharist is offered the first Wednesday of each month. This intimate time of worship is offered during the winter ‘season’ and is led by Mother Gail Tomei.

The MINISTRY FAIR in January advertised all St. Mary’s ministries. Each ministry was represented by it’s banner in procession at the Sunday worship service. The Parish Hall was filled with tables of information for each of the ministries. Representatives stood by each display to encourage, explain and invited people to volunteer.

SEDER is offered annually during Holy Week before attending the Maundy Thursday service. A gathering of about 60 people walk through the Jewish Passover remembrance dinner with a Christian twist. Sips of wine/juice follow a distinct pattern of remembrance. We then follow Christ to the cross, offered as the ‘4th cup’ through the three days of Triduum services before Resurrection Sunday.

Safe Church, Administered by Mother Gail Tomei. Enhanced online modules via **Praesidium** are required for specific ministries at St. Mary's Church. New Vestry members complete 5 required modules. All others complete 4 required modules.

Healing Eucharist is offered each 'First Wednesday'. **During Lent** we offered **Stations of the Cross** at 11:00 each Wednesday before Holy Eucharist. We will do the same in 2024.

DOK Annual Meeting Report Submitted by Joanna Wragg, President,

The Bethany Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King enjoyed a blessedly successful first year I 2024. Two new members came in, bringing us to a total of 15 lay members plus our chaplain, Mother Gail Tomei.

Lay members are:

Andrea Foisy
Betty Folkerth
Cathi Ratay
Dana Billington
Deb Haslauer
Denise Wallace
Ellen Hicks
Holley Bond Pittman
Joanne Bursack
JOYceanna Rautio
Ruth Davies
Susan Celoni
Sylvia Hadley
Yolanda Naimoli
Joanna Wragg

All members of the chapter are actively engaged in service to St. Mary's parish via worship commission, ECW, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care or Order of St. Luke. Many members are involved in more than one ministry,

The chapter also is actively engaged with the larger Order and diocesan, province and national levels, attending retreats, the national convention in Kentucky, and via periodic zoom conferences. Our beautiful chapter banner, which is on display in the parish hall, includes the parish's Risen Christ logo and goes with members when they attend off-campus events.

One innovation of this chapter is the composition of the Chapter Prayer, made up of one verse of scripture selected by each member. The Prayer also is on display, next to the banner, in the parish hall.

We are blessed to be engaged in the Order's Rule of Prayer, Evangelism and Service.

Annual Report: St. Mary's Library

The St. Mary's Library collection has continued to grow and the inventory currently contains slightly over 1500 books. Book donations are appreciated and are received regularly. They are reviewed with the help of Father Bill and Mother Gail for their suitability for our library collection. Those that are duplicates or cannot be used by the library are made available to parishioners in the "help yourself" baskets located in the church narthex, from which they regularly disappear, or are offered to the Bonita Springs Library for their book sales.

Books concerning Christian art and architecture are now featured on separate shelves located just inside the door, as are CD's and DVD's, along with a CD and cassette player for patron use. In addition to browsing, parishioners can use the Patron Search function on the library computer to search for particular subjects, titles and authors available in the library. A continuing concern is the loss of books that disappear from the collection, i.e., are not on the shelves and are not signed out. At the last shelf reading over 50 books were missing. Pleas for their return have not been effective and this is an area that we need to address.

The Book Nook, a collection of books for children that was established with the help of parishioner donations in 2021, now contains approximately 50 books. It has been moved to the Youth Room where it is more convenient for their use. This has freed up space in the library for our expanding collection and obviates, for the moment at least, the need to use shelves nearest to the floor, which are not easily accessible.

We continue to display on a separate shelf books appropriate to a particular church season or topic, as well as new books. These have included books for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, and topics such as thankfulness (November) and understanding poverty, homelessness, racism and injustice – resources and hope for church and community. The list of featured reading, which includes a brief description of each book, is displayed in the library and in the church narthex. We also try to provide materials for other church programs and activities such as the Order of St. Luke, and the labyrinth.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Dearth

Annual Report for the Order of St Luke Healing Prayer Ministry 2024

The Order of St Luke became a part of the lay prayer ministry at St Mary's in 2002. Since that time our membership has grown to include 15 active members. We serve in teams of two at the prayer station after each Holy Eucharist.

We have a team who offer prayers monthly at Meals of Hope, we call it Prayers of Hope. We give out Prayer cards and over 35 to 50 cards are returned to us with multi prayer requests. Their stories are often heart felt. We welcome anyone who would like to join us for this.

We continue to meet monthly to do the business of the OSL Order to study and grow in spirit. At this time, we are studying the book HEALING written by Francis MacNutt. All our meetings are offered on Zoom and in person in the Parish Hall. We have a new student studying the 26 healings by Jesus Christ to prepare to become an active member of the Order. Our certified teacher Cathi Ratay is leading the class. We participate in a monthly Healing Eucharist with Mother Gail Tomei during season. We encourage all church members and friends to attend.

At this time, our OSL is preparing to hold a Healing Conference March 15th. Judith MacNutt is our speaker. Judith is widely known and we expect over 100 people to join us. Local churches who also have active OSL members are anxious to participate in the conference.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Croteau and Cherrill Cregar Co Conveners Ecclesia Chapter

The **OSL Seekers** class, facilitated by Cathi Ratay, is for those seeking OSL membership. They began a five-week scripture study in September on Zoom. They began the study of a revised series of 26 lessons in "Healing Scriptures of Jesus." Due to new OSL regulations, the teacher, Cathi, spent her summer months, on Zoom, being certified to teach these classes. Cathi will continue to lead the 26 lessons each Tuesday, 2-3:30, in person in the parish hall through March 2024. **April 7, 2024, our "Seekers"** will be inducted into full membership in the Order of St. Luke the Physician and became OSL prayer partners. If interested please contact Cathi Ratay or Mother Gail.

Pastoral Ministries Commission 2024 Report Yolanda Naimoli Chair

Pastoral Ministries involve 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.

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 [5] units of “*Safeguarding*” classes every three years. **All prayers are kept confidential.**

Power of Prayer [PoP] team: Prayer requests are sent to: 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 [PoP] 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. **All prayers are kept confidential.**

Order of St. Luke (OSL): 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 once a month in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. OSL members are also invited to the Healing Eucharist the first Wednesday of each month. The current OSL team consists of 15 members. Cathi Ratay, St. Mary’s Certified OSL teacher, held a 5 week OSL discernment class this Fall and a new OSL class will start Jan. 14, 2025. March 15, 2025, St. Mary’s will host a Healing Conference with widely known speaker, Francis MacNutt. Over 100 attendees are expected.

Prayer at Worship Services: OSL Prayer teams 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.**

Prayers of Hope: Offered one Monday of each month. OSL team offer prayers by distributing Prayer Request cards to all who pick up food through “Meals of Hope” in St. Mary’s parking lot. We receive approximately 35-50 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 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 Shawl Ministry: Meets every Tuesday 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. Pocket Prayer Squares are also created and distributed.

Walking the Mourner's Path: A Facilitator's Training Course will be offered at St. Mary's April 3-5, 2025. 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. St. Mary's plans to offer this program in the near future.

Report of the Worship Commission Ian Mitchell

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 liturgical principles and practices. The Commission ensures that these principles are consistent with the Canons, By-Laws and Regulations of the Episcopal Church of the United States.

As required by the Canons, the chair of the Worship Commission is the Rector; the Commission actually functions in an advisory capacity to the Rector, who is 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 challenging because of the retirement of David Bergquist who worked on behalf of the Rector as secretary. This is now covered by the Parish Administrator, Ian Mitchell. The live streaming of various services is under the purview of Junior Warden and Communications, it is intended to make this element a more robust team in this coming year.

Behind the Scenes... Altar Guild Sandra Beihl – Director

Although 2024 posed many challenges for the Altar Guild, we have been steadfast in our dedication to serving the Lord in his holy temple.. With a minimum of 4 eucharist services per week, we undertake the responsibility to ensure that all aspects of worship involving the altar are managed properly. The Altar Guild is organized into four teams of workers, with each team scheduled for a week's duty each month. These behind-the-scenes duties include maintaining the linens, vessels, candles, priest's chasubles and supplies necessary to preparing and cleansing the sanctuary for worship. Helping us is our "linen angel," Marty Hammack, who cleans and presses the linens that are required at every eucharist. Keeping all of the sanctuary candles oiled and ready for eucharist services is Pam Stamper, our other "angel". On any Saturday morning you will see a team gathered in the sacristy, preparing the church for the next scheduled eucharist service. And before major holidays (Christmas and Easter) all teams gather to decorate the sanctuary. In this way, we not only serve the Lord, but we build bonds of friendship by working

together in the holy quiet space. Over the past several years, health issues and relocation have diminished our membership, and we are actively seeking new members for our teams. Although somewhat intimidating at first, the work of the Guild is documented, step-by-step, in a

Customary that includes photographs for reference. Each team includes at least two members, so we are never alone to complete our tasks. If this ministry appeals to your vision of how to best use your gifts to serve the church, please contact Directress Sandie Beihl (239-494-0106). You'll receive a warm welcome!

The Music Ministry,

The year 2024 started under the direction of Bill Elliott our organist and music director. Under his direction the music program was a tremendous success. The tragedy of Bill's sudden death in August left us all recognizing the depth of our loss. The foundation Bill had built allowed us to move forward with the assistance of wonderful substitute musicians. In 2025 the search for a permanent music director and choir master is a prime focus of the rector.

The organization of volunteers for ushers at each service and the acolytes, lectors has been accomplished by a team of volunteers who have given great service to the worship at St. Mary's. The bulletins are produced in the church office by Sandra Cecchini and the gathering of information for each week is a detailed and important factor in how successful this element is.

It is the intention moving forward this year to have regular meetings to assist with the worship organization in support of the Rector and clergy plans.

2024 Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Annual Report to the Parish

Betty Folkerth Co-chairs
Judy Phillips

2024 ECW Board Members:

Barbara Belliveau, Candy Bergquist, Joanne Bursack, Cherrill Cregar, Andy Foisey, Deb Haslouer, Lana Martindale, Wendy Scheible

Every month of the year, St. Mary's ECW had an active presence in the parish. Our short-term goal is to extend a welcome to every woman who attends St. Mary's and to encourage each woman to invite a friend from outside the parish to participate in ECW activities. Our long-term "stretch" goal is to refurbish the kitchen in the Parish Hall to optimize its use for parish dinners and other events that require food preparation. We have begun the process of investigating the scope and cost of this major project, and we are planning to solicit additional major contributions toward this goal (see **August** events.)

In season (November through April), we sponsored programs that began with a Holy Eucharist, provided a light luncheon and focused on an aspect of our Christian life together. At the end of season, we instituted a program to send a personalized birthday card (designed by Betty Folkerth, signed and mailed by Barbara Belliveau) to each woman in the parish. During the summer, we also prepared a bookmark hand-out that advertised every in-season program to promote attendance at our meetings.

January – "Golden Paws" volunteer training for helping wounded first responders, military, severely injured children. Thirty-one women attended.

February – PennyWise Fashion Show, Luncheon, and jewelry sale – noon- 2 p.m. Eighty-five attendees, 10 models The purpose of the event was to advertise and encourage PennyWise shopping and to inform the guests about the outreach mission and success of the shop. PennyWise volunteers also sold jewelry and accessories during intermission.

March – “Our Faith Journeys.” Several women shared their life’s most challenging time, witnessing that Jesus Christ was center in their struggle for healing. This was a powerful witnessing event that will repeat in 2025.

April was doubly busy – For the first time at St. Mary’s, ECW served breakfast to the choir and clergy on Easter morning between the 8 and 10 a.m. church services. ECW board members personally donated and served breakfast casseroles, biscuits and gravy, and a juice bar. This breakfast service was provided with thanks and in appreciation for the late Bill Elliott’s accompaniment at our Christmas Tea and PennyWise fashion show events.

April’s planned event was “Hats In the Garden.” Linda and Steve Burdette graciously presented an informational program that included a vision for refurbishing the Flora Linda Garden. More than 30 women participated, many of whom had never visited the garden before attending this program. Several women volunteered to help Linda and Steve with gardening chores.

May - June – Board met to plan programs for 2025. ECW “Stay At Home Tea” letters were sent. Sponsored coffee hour per schedule

July - Purchased new table linens – Annette Leahy-Judkins attended the annual bargain sale at Taylor Rental and selected new linens for events

August - Through a munificent gift from an anonymous member, we gratefully accepted a \$50,000 contribution towards our long-term stretch goal to refurbish the parish hall kitchen. The board decided to invest the donation with the church’s endowment investment vehicle rather than to keep it in a low-interest account while we continue to raise funds for the kitchen project.

September – October - continued to support coffee hour rotation. Planned for November.

November – “Sacred Flowers” program and plant sale by Linda and Steve Burdette. The Burdettes reviewed flowers and plants still around us today that are named in the Bible. They and other board members generously donated flowers and orchids for sale, with all proceeds given to ECW’s kitchen project.

December - On December 7 from 2-4 p.m. ECW sponsored a Christmas tea. The Parish Hall was set for festivities and traditional tea delicacies. There were 120 women from St. Mary’s and their guests in attendance. Three men from the parish ably assisted the committee: Nelson, Burr, Ian Mitchell and Chester Phillips. The preparations and execution for this party are labor-intensive, and the results have been rewarding, both in terms of financial success and warm fellowship.

Report of the Outreach Commission

Paul Scheible

Outreach Commission Annual Report for 2024

The commission recognizes several functional areas of concern which guide our efforts.

Food security is one of the functional areas. Within it, activities included seasonal volunteering with Harvest Time Ministry and food drives in support of Harvest Time Ministry and the Café of Life. Additionally, the commission distributed food gift cards over Thanksgiving to families of New Horizon students formally on campus at St. Mary’s and hosted Meals of Hope on Monday afternoons on our campus.

Another major functional area comprises the annual grants awarded to nonprofit organizations (most of which are local). These organizations provide a diverse array of services to people in need. These grants total \$50,500 for 2025. A list of the 2025 grantees appears at the bottom of this report. A description of each organization, their contact information and history with our outreach efforts is available on request. A new Outreach Partner was awarded a grant this year.

The Children’s Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida (among many other things) has programs to help preserve families, both birth families and foster families.

Special grants totaling \$15,000 were awarded to help with relief from Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Support for literacy continues to be an area of interest, although it was focused almost wholly on the New Horizons tutoring program for children this year. Although the Super Kids Club moved off campus at the conclusion of the 2022-23 academic year we still fund a grant for New Horizons and support their efforts with volunteers. In December, we awarded a special \$15,000 grant to New Horizons which expended the remaining funds in the St. Mary’s account restricted for them. This one-time grant will fund meaningful uses. Lastly, the grant for seminary education was continued.

Another activity of the commission was the annual Christmas toy gifting. This year, children of the New Beginnings organization and the Pueblo Bonito community were the recipients.

Other activities of the commission this year included hosting coffee hours following the 10 am services, hosting a booth in the winter Ministry Fair and conducting the first Outreach Partner Sunday since the onset of the covid-19 pandemic.

Outreach Commission Grantees and Grant Amounts for 2025

After the Rain of SWFL	\$4,000	New Beginnings.....	\$5,000
Café of Life	4,000	New Horizons	2,000
Harvest Time Ministries	5,000	Our Mothers’ Home.....	5,000
Life Giving Waters International	2,000	Children’s Advocacy Center.....	2,500

Outreach Commission Grantees and Grant Amounts for 2025—continued

Love Inc. (administrative)	10,000	Seminary education.....	1,000
Love Inc. (neighbors helping neighbors)	3,000	<u>Dearborn County Clearing House.</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Meals of Hope	4,000	Total	\$50,500

Submitted by Paul Scheible

Administrative Chair, Outreach Commission

Pennywise Thrift Annual Report for 2024

The 50 plus volunteers that run Pennywise produced another successful year. We give thanks for their efforts that provided a contribution to St. Mary’s Episcopal Church of \$120,000 on sales of about \$150,000 less expenses.

In addition, 50 cases of winter clothing were collected, packed and shipped to the Dearborn County (Indiana) Clearing House for distribution to the poor.

The volunteers hosted coffee hours following the 10 am services as well as staffing a booth in the winter Ministry Fair.

Operational and other accomplishments included:

- Painting the building’s exterior
- New signage for the front entrance

- New washer and dryer and staff toilet
- New display cart for rugs
- Preparing and using the rear shed for winter clothes storage
- Finding a customer to take all the silver plate donations that are otherwise almost unsellable
- Delegating the pricing and display of art to a staff expert
- Testing shelf dividers for the linen display
- Participating in the initial church security surveillance camera assessment
- Remaining open an extra day over the off-season

The store is open 10 am to 3 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays during season and Wednesdays through Saturday off season in 2025. New volunteers are always needed and welcomed. If you would like to volunteer for all or part of a day please contact Pam Stamper at 239-284-6341.

Submitted by Paul Scheible
Chair, Pennywise Board

Membership Commission Annual Report 2024

The current members of the Commission are Nelson Burr, Chairperson and Vestry Representative, Father Faupel, Clergy Representative, Joanne Bursack, 10 am Representative, Pam Stamper 5 pm Representative. Currently the Commission is seeking a Representative from the 8 am service. **Welcome Center** Six new volunteers were added to the Greeters. New procedures were put into place to identify first time visitors and issue name badges to those who request one. The Greeters are actively working to expand the Green Dot program. The Membership Commission also participated in the Ministry Fair and the Greeters host Coffee Hour once every 6 weeks. **Coffee Hour** The Coffee Hour has been an instrumental part of welcoming new visitors as well as creating an atmosphere of fellowship for regular attenders and an opportunity to greet visitors. We have seen an increase in attendance along with an increase in giving to the Coffee Fund. Beginning December 2024 a Coffee Hour was started for the 8 am worship service. Currently this Coffee Hour has been well attended. **Goals for 2025** • Revive the Membership Commission by adding new Representative from the 8 am Worship service • Create a Welcome Packet to give to Visitors describing St. Mary’s and our various Commissions and Ministries • Increase participation in Coffee Hour • Develop job descriptions for Coffee Hour Hosts and Greeters • Create several Visitors Parking Spots • Continue the “Green Dot” program

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	churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev’d. Dr. D. William Faupel, Assistant Priest	bfaupel@stmarysbonita.org
The Rev’d. Gail Tomei, Assistant Priest	gtomei@stmarysbonita.org
Juliann Wallace, Director Youth & Families Ministries	youthminister@stmarysbonita.org
Ian Mitchell, Parish Administrator	churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org
Sandra Cecchini, Office Assistant	officeassistant@stmarysbonita.org

Listing of Vestry

The outgoing Vestry member as of January 26, 2024: Joanna Wragg, Kathleen Palaia, Sandra Renner and Chris Davies

If the vote of the Parish is in concurrence, the new membership of the Vestry will be: Chester Phillips, Robert Foltz, Gail Goggin, Joan Croteau, Nelson Burr, Ron Westrom, Jack Sites, Paul Greene and Pam Stamper, Tont Sabol, Dan Troup and Bill White.

SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Church Office: (239) 992-4343

P.O. Box 1923

Bonita Springs, FL 34133

9803 Bonita Beach Road

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

churchoffice@stmarysbonita.org

www.stmarysbonita.org

Penny Wise Thrift Shop (239) 947-3363



CALENDAR OF DATES

January 6	Epiphany	
March 5:	Ash Wednesday	The start of Lent
April 13	Palm Sunday	Holy Week
April 17	Maundy Thursday	
April 18	Good Friday	
April 19	Holy Saturday	
April 20	Easter Day	
June 8	The Day of Pentecost	The start of Pentecost
June 15	Trinity Sunday	
August 15	St. Mary's Day	
September 29	St Michael and All Angels	
November 1	All Saint's Day	
November 23	Christ the King	The last Sunday after Pentecost
November 30	First Sunday in Advent	
December 14	Gaudete Sunday	
December 24	Christmas Eve	Wednesday
December 25	The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ	Thursday

NOTES