

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 31 January 2021

2020 Parish Activity Report



Photo by Peter Guyton on 24 December 2017

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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The Reverend Nathan Wilson Ferrell, Rector
The Reverend Christine A. Bennett, Deacon

Table of Contents

2021 Annual Meeting Agenda	page 3
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes	page 4
Voter Qualifications	page 5
Slate of Nominations for 2021	page 5
Biographies for 2021 Vestry Nominees	page 6-7
Financial Reports from the Budget and Finance Committee	
2020 Statement of Financial Position - Balance Sheet	page 7
3-year Actuals with Operating Budget 2020 and 2021	page 8
2020 Change in Funds Balances	page 9
2020 Summary of Invested Funds	page 9
Budget Comments	page 10
Rector's Report	page 11
Deacon's Report	page 12
Warden's Report	page 12-13
Committee, Guild, & Ministry Reports	page 13-37
How we CELEBRATE	
Acolytes	page 14
Altar Flower Guild	page 14
Altar Guild	page 14
Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Euch. Visitors	page 15
Healing Team	page 15
Kneeler Guild	page 15
Music Ministry	page 16-17
Ushers	page 18
How we HONOR	
CARE Team	page 19
Churchyard Committee	page 19
Common Ground	page 19
Formation Groups	page 20
Formation Groups on Sunday	page 20
Be Still on Sunday	page 20
Be Still/Centering Prayer on Monday Evenings	page 20
Wisdom Seekers	page 20
Merton Group	page 21
Quiet Mornings	page 21
Youth Programs	
Guiding RAY	page 21-22
Guiding SAY	page 22
Ignite – Middle School Youth Group	page 22
Young Life	page 22
Hospitality	page 23
Memorial Reception	page 23
Newcomers Welcome Team	page 23
Prayer Partners	page 23
Prayer Shawl Ministry	page 24
How we SERVE:	
Altar Flower Delivery	page 24
Blood Drive	page 25
Buildings and Grounds	page 25-26
Casserole Ministry/Meal Train	page 26
Office Angels	page 27
Outreach	page 27-31
Souper Supper	page 31
Stewardship Annual Giving	page 32
Stewardship: Planned Giving	page 32
Fundraisers	page 33
Garden Redesign 2018-2020	page 34-5
2020 Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine	page 35
Clergy, Staff & 2021 Vestry	page 35
Our Parish during 2020	page 36

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary
Annual Meeting of the Parish
Sunday 31 January 2021 at 11:45 AM

OUR MISSION: At The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary, we are building authentic, vibrant, Christ-centered community as we ...

- ❖ **CELEBRATE** the goodness of God and the gift of life,
- ❖ **HONOR** the presence of Christ in one another, and
- ❖ **SERVE** the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Schedule for the Day: Our Episcopal Visitation

- 9:30 AM Family Chapel –on ZOOM with Fr Nathan and Bishop Brown
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist on Facebook *LIVE*
Bishop Thomas Brown, presiding and preaching
- 11:45 AM Annual Meeting of the Parish,
followed by Q & A time with Bishop Brown

Annual Meeting Agenda

Report on Quorum and Call to Order	Nathan Ferrell
Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes	Nathan Ferrell
Report of Nominating Committee + Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates	Matt Fulton
Election of the Slate	Janet Bowne
Election of new Nominating Committee	Janet Bowne
Review of 2020 Finances and 2021 Budget	Ben Parks-Stamm
Acknowledgments and Thanks	Aaron Splint
Necrology: remembering our faithful departed	Nathan Ferrell
Adjournment and Blessing	Nathan Ferrell

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish: 26 January 2020

Jim Kane called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM

Report on a Quorum and the Call to Order: Senior Warden, Jim Kane, reported that a quorum (50) was present (63 members signed-in) and the meeting began.

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Moved by Aaron Splint and seconded by Becky Pride, to accept the minutes from the 2019 meeting. The motion passed without discussion.

Vote on Changes in Parish Bylaws: Please see page in the Annual Report. Ed Ainsworth moved, and Cindy Horton seconded the Bylaw change. Discussion followed regarding history and process. The motion passed.

Report of Nominating Committee: Peter Fitch, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported on the slate of new Vestry members

- Senior Warden – Janet Bowne (filling the vacancy left by Jim Kane. for one year term)
- Junior Warden – Aaron Splint (two-year term)
- Vestry members to serve three-year terms:
 - Rick Hirschman
 - Tom Pettengill
 - Will Salomon

Linda Eaton moved, and Nadine Timberlake seconded the slate of nominations and the motion passed.

Nominations were taken from the floor for Diocesan Convention Delegates (Oct. 17 in Portland). They include:

- Nadine
- Timberlake
- Lucy Ellis
- Bonny Rodden
- Betsy Stoddard

Alternates

- Jim
- Stoddard
- Maggie Gardner
- Janet Bowne
- Aaron Splint

Stan Eaton moved to elect the slate as presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Pride. The motion passed. Jim Kane thanked the Nominating Committee for their good work.

Election of new Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee work will begin in summer months and culminate with the Annual Meeting and is comprised of 3 members of outgoing Vestry and 2 other members of the congregation.

- Nominations included: Matt Fulton, Jessica LaPlante, and Sandra Couch Kelly as outgoing Vestry members; Maggie Gardner and Marian McCue as members of the congregation.

Stan Eaton moved, and Bob Timberlake seconded to elect the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Review of Parish Finances and Budget: Questions and discussion followed.

Jennifer Gregg asked a question concerning exceeding the budget on natural gas expenses and if a study had been made to better understand why. Garry Bowne responded: Yes, a study was made and concluded that last year was much colder than previous years.

Ed Moser asked if Diocesan Fees are standard and do we have any say as to how much we pay? Jim Kane responded that Diocesan Fees are based on the number of parishioners and are mandatory.

Jennifer Gregg asked about progress of the Stewardship Campaign. – how does this compare to former years – it is usual to have this much outstanding? Janet Bowne explained there has been a change in the approach to pledges in that many do not pledge yet donate regularly. Current pledged amount is near \$230,000 (from close to 102 households). In addition, there is close to \$20,000 remaining from the 2019 budget with another \$60,000 needed to meet the pledge goal.

Will Chappell asked a question about the proposed budget and why we propose a budget with a deficit? It was explained that we take a conservative approach to budgeting, but that most of our expenses are fixed. In most years, the proposed deficit is reduced by revenues that exceed expectations. What is needed is for more members to make a pledge, so that we can more accurately predict our revenues in advance.

Maggie Gardner asked questions about Royal School of Church Music funds and who determines what to do with those funds since we are not currently running the program. Janet Bowne responded with assistance from Garry Bowne: Since we are not officially running that program right now that line item is a placeholder for youth music. Money that has been donated specifically for Royal School of Church Music is held in a separate fund. The donors' relatives have been contacted and indicated they would like to support the youth music program.

Acknowledgements and Thanks

Janet Bowne acknowledged Beth Shaw and all the Office Angels who did a great job putting together the Annual Report and directory; Megan for her wonderful work with our youth and Sunday School; Samiyah for caring for our nursery-aged children; Deacon Christine and Organist Bruce Fithian as well as Father Nathan for all they give to our parish and the broader community.

Jim Kane was thanked for his service over the last 5 years as our Senior Warden. In his honor a tree will be planted in Saint Mary's garden.

Thanks to retiring Vestry members: Maggie Gardner, Peter Fitch, Len Taylor, Ed Ainsworth. In their honor foundation plantings will be planted.

Necrology: Father Nathan prayed for the names of those whom we have lost over the last year.

Other business and News:

Nathan was asked to share information about a large wood carving of the Last Supper that was recently donated to Saint Mary's. We will find a place on the campus where it can be enjoyed by all.

Adjournment and Blessing: Ed Ainsworth moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Eaton. The motion passed and all stood for the Dismissal and a Blessing offered by Father Nathan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Kane

Voter Qualifications

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of Saint Mary's, membership in the parish and voting privileges at the annual parish meeting are defined as:

"Any person age fifteen years or older, who has attended and supported the Church for six months and accepts its Constitution, shall be considered a voting member of the Parish. Members who have not attended or supported the Church for a year may cease to be a voting member of the Parish."

Slate of Nominations for the Year 2021

Our parish needs to elect Wardens, to fill positions on the Vestry, and to elect delegates to Diocesan Convention. We are grateful for the following parish members who have agreed to serve in the following ways, if elected by the parish:

Wardens:

Senior Warden: Janet Bowne Splint (two-year term)

Treasurer: Ben Parks-Stamm (one-year term)

Vestry:

Three new members to serve three-year terms:

Tom LaPlante, Pat Peard, and Rudy Israel (term expires in January of 2024)

Convention Delegates: Four in 2021, based upon our 2019 Average Sunday Attendance.

Nominations for Convention Delegates will be accepted from the floor of our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee: Matt Fulton (Chair), Sandy Couch-Kelly, Jessica LaPlante, Marian McCue, and Maggie Gardner.

Candidate Biographies

Janet Bowne, Senior Warden

My family settled in Hampden, Maine, after my father retired from the Air Force. We attended the local UCC church there. I came to Saint Mary's in 1985. Garry, my husband, and I were newly engaged. He is a lifelong Episcopalian from Massachusetts. Living and working in Portland, I had driven by S. Mary's many times and was drawn to its beauty and peaceful setting. It seemed the natural choice for Garry and me as we began our life together. Our adult children, Garrett, and Caroline were baptized and attended church school here.

I've served in many positions at S. Mary's. In the 90s, I served on the Vestry. I currently am a co-chair of the Altar Guild and chair the Stewardship Committee. Saint Mary's is our family. I was also the co-chair of the discernment committee that brought Father Nathan to Saint Mary's and was active on the Legacy Cabinet that renovated and expanded our parish house. I have served as Junior Warden for several years and have just filled a one-year vacancy as Senior Warden, and I look forward to continuing to serve as the Senior Warden. Saint Mary's is blessed with a rich history of dedicated parishioners.



Ben Parks-Stamm, Treasurer

Ben Parks-Stamm serves as Onpoint's Director of Financial and Administrative Services. Ben is a seasoned financial management professional with many years' work in accounting and financial analysis roles, most recently serving as Onpoint's lead in both areas. Prior to joining Onpoint, Ben owned and operated a small business in northern Maine.

Ben, his wife, Betsy, and their children, Polly, Brownlow, and Agnes, have been active in Saint Mary's life for several years. We welcome his continued service in this role and Ben welcomes any feedback from the parish.



Pat Peard, Vestry

I am a retired attorney who practiced at Bernstein Shur in Portland for thirty years. I was a litigator and was practice Group Leader for the Labor and Employment Group and founded and chaired the Education Law practice. My clients included the University of Maine System, the University of New England, Bates College, College of the Atlantic and the Maine College of Art. I also represented thirteen private secondary schools and the Maine Association of Independent Schools. I was also fortunate to have represented the Episcopal Bishop, Chilton Knudsen, in a lawsuit for the Church. Finally, I was honored to serve on the firm's Board of Directors for 20 years. I would appreciate the opportunity to see if any of these skills could be of benefit to Saint Mary's.

Another important part of my life in Maine has been using my legal skills in court cases and in leadership in referenda campaigns to help secure equal rights for the LGBTQ+ individuals and families of Maine. I continue to pursue these issues in retirement.

I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland and was baptized and confirmed in the Presbyterian Church which was my mother's church. However, my paternal grandmother was a member of the "high" Episcopal Church, and she made sure that I spent a great deal of my time with her at St. David's. I was received in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Brown at a ceremony at Saint Mary's in November 2019.

My wife, Alice Brock, and I have lived in the Portland area since 1983. Alice taught history for 40 years and recently retired after a distinguished career at Waynflete School. We thank everyone for our warm welcome to the church and look forward to continuing to be of service at Saint Mary's.



Tom LaPlante, Vestry

Tom is a life-long Mainer, growing up in Auburn. He was raised Catholic and was received into the Episcopal Church in 2003 when his oldest two sons were confirmed. Tom has filled many leadership roles at Saint Mary's and can be counted on to assist on many outdoor and indoor projects, but you'll probably know him best as the chief Usher on Sunday mornings.

Tom is an IT Manager at LL Bean and has worked there for nearly 27 years. Outside of work, he loves to golf, travel, and hang out with his dog Penny. He lives in Falmouth with his wife Jessica, and they have 3 grown sons.

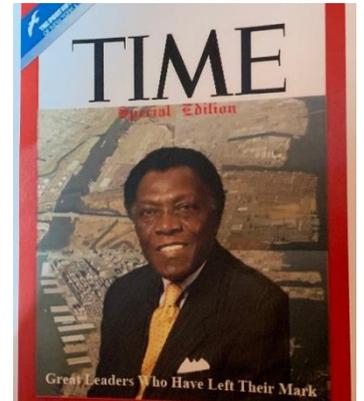


Rudy Israel, Vestry

Rudy is a registered professional engineer in the states of NY and NJ and a registered planner in NJ. Having received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and MS in Transportation Planning/Industrial Management degree from the Polytechnic Institute of New York, Rudy has over 50 years work experience both domestic and internationally. He has worked for the Exxon Corporation and the Port Authority of NY & NJ in various supervisory and managerial positions. He also owned and managed his own engineering and architectural consulting firm.

Rudy retired in 2009 and moved to Falmouth in the same year, where he and his wife, Stacey currently live. Even though retired, Rudy occasionally consults with the Port Authority of NY & NJ and has served on Falmouth's Planning Board.

Rudy has been a faithful parishioner here at Saint Mary's since moving to Maine.



Saint Mary's Financial Reports *(unaudited)*

Saint Mary's 2020 Balance Sheet *(unaudited)*

	Dec 31, 20	Dec 31, 19	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	130,971.80	96,825.15	91,485.30
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	130,971.80	96,825.15	91,485.30
Other Assets			
JM Brown Fund	513,353.04	476,115.30	446,689.00
Mellie G. Estes Fund	17,794.35	16,466.56	16,019.62
Sabbatical Investment Fund	9,213.86	6,131.56	3,418.88
Churchyard Investment Fund	88,073.78	80,578.44	73,581.31
CEW Worship Fund	496,946.92	461,013.67	447,615.71
B & G Endowment Fund	512,494.94	476,094.01	441,469.42
Program Endowment Fund	259,605.29	242,397.25	219,572.83
Total Other Assets	1,897,482.18	1,758,796.79	1,648,366.77
TOTAL ASSETS	2,028,453.98	1,855,621.94	1,739,852.07
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	0.00	2,985.19	0.00
Deferred income	47,150.00	9,050.00	1,035.37
Pledge Prepayment	46,950.06	30,397.76	39,249.03
Total Current Liabilities	94,100.06	42,432.95	40,284.40
Total Liabilities	94,100.06	42,432.95	40,284.40
Total Net Assets	1,934,353.92	1,813,188.99	1,699,567.67
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2,028,453.98	1,855,621.94	1,739,852.07

Summary of Activity & Budget *(unaudited)*

	2018	2019	2020 Budget Full Year	Year-to-Date Dec-20	2021 Budget
Operating Account					
Revenue					
General Support					
General Pledges	277,292.50	276,349.60	290,000.00	267,429.08	270,000.00
Non-Pledge Payments	10,690.00	17,756.00	12,000.00	7,062.00	8,100.00
Loose Offerings	10,363.42	14,973.32	11,000.00	6,464.85	3,600.00
Prior Year Pledges	2,280.00	3,682.00	2,000.00	1,527.00	1,500.00
Special Offerings	4,456.21	4,265.00	4,500.00	1,365.00	300.00
Unrestricted Gifts	4,647.00	4,600.00	3,000.00	14,872.45	2,700.00
Use of Parish House	13,653.00	14,287.00	13,500.00	8,634.00	6,250.00
Use of Worship Space	4,650.00	2,350.00	4,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
General Fundraisers	26,320.69	26,746.60	23,500.00	19,827.16	11,000.00
Dedicated Revenues					
Altar Flowers	1,555.00	2,600.00	2,000.00	150.00	1,000.00
Capital Projects	750.00	1,250.00	750.00	12,218.52	1,000.00
Churchyard	4,398.75	2,942.50		1,500.00	
Kneelers	2,041.00	450.00			
Memorial Receptions					
Music Fund		1,840.00			
Worship					
Dedicated Revenue - Other		2,350.29		1,000.00	
Outreach					
Souper Supper	3,629.00	3,464.00	3,500.00	3,050.00	3400
Long Creek Youth Center	500.00	500.00	300.00	-	300
In Her Presence	1,000.00				
Funds Received for Transmittal to Other Organizat	2,220.35	2,658.75	2000		
Other Outreach Revenue	-	2,915.39	2,250.00	5,564.87	
Total Outreach	7,349.35	9,538.14	8,050.00	8,614.87	3700
Dedicated Revenues	16,094.10	20,970.93	10,800.00	23,483.39	5700
Other Operating Revenues	-	-	-	-	
Total General Support	370,446.92	385,980.45	374,300.00	352,164.93	310150
Income Distributions from Invested Funds	61,184.84	66,290.68	63,500.00	71,453.24	57512.88
Total Revenues	431,631.76	452,271.13	437,800.00	423,618.17	377,662.88
Expenses					
Diocesan Assessment	55,374.00	56,302.08	57,086.00	57,085.92	59363
Personnel Expenses	220,033.00	216,748.37	231,658.50	244,753.37	200534.89
Buildings and Grounds					
Maintenance	24,034.90	28,532.14	24,645.00	25,140.53	-
Fuel	17,078.81	18,224.96	13,800.00	10,032.78	13,570.00
Electricity	6,381.33	6,510.64	6,675.00	5,848.29	6,120.00
Water & Sewer	4,954.11	5,076.82	5,181.24	5,306.25	5,303.00
Telephone	4,503.76	5,200.02	4,645.00	5,389.81	5,814.40
Waste Removal	1,054.39	1,153.71	1,150.00	1,208.41	1,200.00
Professional Cleaning	7,798.31	7,625.12	8,200.00	6,037.53	6,550.00
Property/Worker's Comp Ins	16,713.00	17,309.50	19,381.00	19,154.50	19,840.00
Taxes	5,221.04	5,424.42	5,561.99	5,518.78	5,617.35
Buildings and Grounds	87,739.65	95,057.33	89,239.23	83,636.88	88659.75
Other Operating Expense					
Office Supplies and & Repairs	6,777.91	6,656.70	6,884.08	6,147.63	-
Postage	1,115.68	598.10	1,200.00	794.27	500.00
Advertising	167.99	45.00	500.00	49.94	100.00
Vestry/Diocesan Expenses	90.94	165.92	1,000.00	30.37	100.00
Stewardship Expense					
Discernment Expense					
Professional Fees	312.00	312.00	324.00	432.00	312.00
Printed Materials	-	294.64	500.00		
Licenses & Permits	25.00		25.00		25.00
Parish Memberships			249.00		249.00
Miscellaneous Expense	843.79	183.95	988.00	492.01	400.00
Other Operating Expense - Other	-	-	-	-	
Other Operating Expense	9,333.31	8,256.31	11,670.08	7,946.22	7,786.00
Program Expense					
Worship Expense	6,086.48	8,574.13	5,850.00	4,661.62	4175
Christian Formation	3,152.87	3,833.92	7,845.00	2,928.68	2350
Hospitality	1,888.95	2,617.66	3,000.00	736.95	800
Music	6,911.65	12,957.67	8,600.00	2,502.55	2600
RSCM/Youth Choir	1,508.50	1,656.54	3,300.00	1,500.00	
Outreach	21,830.99	24,432.59	20,600.00	21,725.22	17000
Special Programs/Events	630.94	484.25	500.00	1,010.95	500
Program Expense	42,010.38	54,556.76	49,695.00	35,065.97	27425
Major Improvements and Capital Expenditures	7,975.87	9,135.64	12,500.00	8,400.00	6000
Other Expenses	(353.62)	422.00	-	709.00	0
Total Expenses	422,112.59	440,478.49	451,848.81	437,597.96	389,768.64
Change in Operating Account before Principal Distribut	9,519.17	11,792.64	(14,048.81)	(13,979.79)	(12,105.76)
Principal Distributions from/(to) Invested Funds	(6,500.00)	(7,500.00)	-	(1,652.20)	-
Operating Account Increase or (Decrease) in Net Assets	3,019.17	4,292.64	(14,048.81)	(15,631.99)	(12,105.76)

Saint Mary's 2020 Change in Funds Balances *(unaudited)*

Fund Name	Balance 1/1/2020	Revenue/ Contributions	Investment Income Net of Expenses	Expense/ Distributions	Gains/(Losses)	Transfers	Balance 12/31/2020
Operating Account							
General Fund	27,322.06	401,843.78	-	(424,581.74)	-	(719.95)	3,864.15
Designated Funds							
Souper Supper	837.15	3,050.00		(3,654.36)			232.79
Altar Flowers	3,385.03	150.00		(343.04)			3,191.99
Kneelers	2,342.69	-		-			2,342.69
Churchyard	141.25	1,500.00				(1,641.25)	-
Capital Projects	2,900.00	12,218.52		(3,610.95)			11,507.57
Memorial Receptions	508.85	-					508.85
Long Creek Youth Center	737.75	-		-			737.75
In Her Presence	-			-			-
Outreach	2,912.21	5,564.87		(5,407.87)			3,069.21
Sabbatical	-						-
Music	1,790.00	-					1,790.00
Royal School of Church Music	2,400.29						2,400.29
Furniture	550.43						550.43
Vestments	1,513.54						1,513.54
Funds Received for Transmittal Worship		-		-			-
Garden Redesign	-	(709.00)				709.00	-
Other Dedicated Funds							-
Total Designated Funds	20,019.19	21,774.39	-	(13,016.22)	-	(932.25)	27,845.11
Total Operating Account	47,341.25	423,618.17	-	(437,597.96)	-	(1,652.20)	31,709.26
Discretionary Fund	6,050.95	2,752.00		(3,640.47)			5,162.48
Legacy Capital Campaign	-	1,150.00	-	(1,150.00)	-		-
Investment Funds	1,759,796.79	5,302.20	32,401.71	(63,884.92)	163,866.40	-	1,897,482.18
Total All Funds	1,813,188.99	432,822.37	32,401.71	(506,273.35)	163,866.40	(1,652.20)	1,934,353.92

Notes: 1) Investment Funds are updated quarterly. The beginning and year-end balances are as of September 30th since quarterly statements are not received until after the year-end statements are published. The ending balance for the Investment Funds Funds reported above includes Income Net of Expenses, Income Distributions and Gains or (Losses) from 9/30/19 through 9/30/2020

2) During 2020 \$1,641.25 was transferred from the General Fund to the Churchyard Investment Fund and \$1,160.95 was added to the Buildings and Grounds Endowment. \$2,500 was transferred to the Sabbatical Fund.

Saint Mary's 2020 Summary of Invested Funds

Owned Investments							
	Balance 1/1/2020	Contributions	Income Net of Expenses	Transfers	Distributions	Gain or (Loss)	Balance 12/31/2020
Unrestricted Investments							
J.M. Brown Fund	476,115.30	-	8,734.93	-	(16,999.57)	45,502.38	513,353.04
Unrestricted - Sub-total	476,115.30	-	8,734.93	-	(16,999.57)	45,502.38	513,353.04
Temporarily Restricted Investments							
Seminary/Sabbatical Fund	6,131.56	2,500.00	94.55	-	-	487.75	9,213.86
Churchyard Fund	80,578.44	1,641.25	1,465.62	-	(3,007.11)	7,395.58	88,073.78
Temporarily Restricted - Sub-total	86,710.00	4,141.25	1,560.17	-	(3,007.11)	7,883.33	97,287.64
Permanently Restricted Investments							
Millie G Estes Fund	16,466.56	-	305.97	-	(604.52)	1,626.34	17,794.35
CEW Worship Fund	461,013.67	-	8,629.78	-	(16,618.18)	43,921.65	496,946.92
Buildings & Grounds Endowment	477,094.01	1,160.95	8,756.95	-	(17,748.63)	43,231.66	512,494.94
Programs Endowment	242,397.25	-	4,413.91	-	(8,906.91)	21,701.04	259,605.29
Permanently Restricted - Sub-total	1,196,971.49	1,160.95	22,106.61	-	(43,878.24)	110,480.69	1,286,841.50
Owned Investments - Total	1,759,796.79	5,302.20	32,401.71	-	(63,884.92)	163,866.40	1,897,482.18
Investments Held by the Diocese of Maine for the Benefit of The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary							
	Balance 1/1/2020	Contributions	Income Net of Expenses	Transfers	Distributions	Gain or (Loss)	Balance 12/31/2020
John M Brown Fund	18,441.79	-	342.56	-	(677.55)	1,824.20	19,931.00
Alida Brown A Fund	3,437.45	-	63.90	-	(126.12)	339.26	3,714.49
Alida Brown B Fund	71,805.63	-	1,334.40	-	(2,635.34)	7,087.84	77,592.53
John & CL Giffard Fund	20,979.26	-	389.93	-	(769.51)	2,068.57	22,668.25
Roger & Katherine Woodman Fund	102,138.63	-	1,898.51	-	(3,746.71)	10,071.95	110,362.38
Total	216,802.76	-	4,029.30	-	(7,955.23)	21,391.82	234,268.65

2021 Budget Comments

To the members of the Parish

LOOKING BACK TO 2020:

We ended the year 2020 with an operating loss of \$15,632.

REVENUES: General pledges for 2020 were \$268,429, under our budget of \$290,000 and down slightly from 2019 (\$276,350). Non-pledge payments, loose offerings, and revenue from use of the parish house and worship space were all well below budget and 2019, clearly impacted by the move to remote worship. Of special note, our Sparkles Team was able to exceed our budgeted revenue projections and their 2019 record, a truly remarkable feat given the handicaps they faced. Overall, total revenue for 2020 was \$423,618 compared to a budget of \$437,800.

Our parishioners have been incredibly generous during this trying time.

EXPENSES: Total expenses were \$437,598, which was \$14,251 below budget. Expenses were over budget for personnel (due to health insurance changes during the year) while buildings and grounds, other operating expenses (largely office expenses), and program expenses were all below budget due the reduction in in-person activity at the church.

THE ASSET SIDE:

Year-end cash increased by \$35,147 compared to the prior year-end. How did our cash increase if we had a loss for the year? The Diocese applied for a Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan and, as part of that, Saint

liability (“Deferred Income – Other”). This loan is scheduled to be forgiven in 2021. The total balance in the parish’s investment funds increased \$137,685 over the prior year. The increase included the transfer to the Churchyard investment fund, donations to the Building & Grounds endowment, plus increases in market value less distributions to support operations.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021:

REVENUES:

The general pledges for 2021 are budgeted at \$270,000 or roughly comparable to 2020. As of January 18, 2021, the Stewardship Committee reports that we have received pledge commitments of \$ 190,097. So, at this writing, we need an additional \$ 79,903 to achieve the 2021 pledge budget. We cannot emphasize how important pledges are to our financial needs. Pledges represent 71% of our total general support for 2021.

EXPENSES:

The total expense budget for 2020 is \$389,769, which is a \$65,380 (14%) decrease compared to the 2020 budget and a decrease of \$47,829 (11%) over 2020 actual results. The budgeted decrease for 2021 over 2020 actual expense is due to decreases in the personnel expense, other operating expenses, and program expenses.

The result is a budgeted operating deficit of \$12,106. The operating deficit can be significantly reduced if we can achieve or exceed our pledge budget, and other giving and fundraising. There is greater uncertainty in 2021 due to the larger public health situation and our financial outlook may evolve as the year progresses. As James 4:13 says “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

FINAL COMMENTS:

The preparation of the budget begins with the Budget and Finance Committee (BFC). After the BFC develops a preliminary budget, it is given to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for input and suggestions. The BFC meets again to review the EXCOM suggestions and make adjustments. The Vestry received the 2020 budget at its November meeting for initial study and comments. The BFC met again to review Vestry comments and suggestions and make appropriate additions or reductions. The Vestry continued to study the budget at its December meeting. Final Vestry approval was made at the December meeting.

Members of the BFC are available to meet with any member of the parish who might have questions or comments regarding the finances of the church. Please contact Beth to arrange the meeting.

Ben Parks-Stamm, Treasurer

2021 Annual Reports

Rector's Report

My fellow students in the Way of Jesus, what can we say about the year 2020? Things began well within our parish community, but life became sidetracked within a few weeks by a new infectious virus sweeping across the globe. It was the first Sunday of Lent (March 1) when widespread concern about this novel coronavirus began to be present in our community. So, we set out more bottles of hand sanitizers, hoping this would help everyone feel safer. March 15 was the last time we met in person on a Sunday morning in our usual manner. It became clear that much more than hand sanitizer was needed to keep one another safe.

As we entered the initial period of complete lockdown, we switched our Sunday worship to livestreaming over the internet on the popular platform known as Facebook. And we all had a crash course in how to use ZOOM (if only we all had bought stock in ZOOM in 2019!) We began a practice of offering Noonday Prayer every weekday over the internet as one way to build spiritual resiliency among our people.

This pattern continued until summer arrived and things began to relax just a bit here in Maine. From June 21 to September 6, we gathered for a novel Picnic Eucharist outside in Saint Mary's Garden. Each household group brought their own bread and wine and shared this among themselves as they sat on the grass.

Remarkably, the weather was nearly perfect every single Sunday!

Levels of viral infection were low here in Maine, so we moved indoors as Autumn arrived. We gathered for three Eucharists each Sunday, with a maximum



number of fifty people at each and with several safety precautions in place. This seemed to be working well, until a new wave of COVID-19 infections flooded our nation and our state. After All Saints Day, we reverted to online worship only, continuing a version of the Picnic Eucharist in which each household uses their own elements of bread and wine. But we did go back outside one more time – for Christmas Eve! At 3, 4, and 5 PM on December 24, we gathered in the Garden for a simple liturgy of Lessons and Carols. There were firepits burning, luminaries lining walkways, sheep, and goats in attendance (literally), singing of Silent Night by candlelight, hot chocolate for drinking, and children in Christmas Pageant costumes. And the weather once again cooperated with unseasonable warmth, even though thick snow blanketed the ground. What an unforgettable experience!

One other noteworthy aspect of this year at Saint Mary's has been our commitment to being an Anti-Racist Parish. When tensions exploded throughout the nation following the murder of George Floyd on Memorial Day, discussions about race and privilege entered the life of our community with more urgency than before. Over the summer, we invited all parishioners to read the book [White Fragility](#) and to discuss the reasons behind the aversions of most white people to discuss racism. Small groups continued to read other books in the Autumn and to discuss these over ZOOM. Our weekly news emails included links to media resources intended to further awareness of the many challenges surrounding race in America. These efforts will continue, because I am thoroughly convinced that God has indeed called us to act in ways that promote racial equity in our society.

Throughout this entire pandemic year, it has been wonderful to see how groups within the parish have adjusted to meeting online or to smaller events with safety precautions. You will read about all of these in the remainder of this booklet. Through it all, Saint Mary's has adapted as needed to remain true to our God-given mission while diligently working to keep one another safe and healthy. It certainly has not been easy this year, but we have survived and are still going strong. As always, thanks be to God!

Nathan W. Ferrell +

The Reverend Nathan W. Ferrell, *Tenth Rector of The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary in Falmouth, Maine*

Deacon's Report

The year 2020 is one I am not sorry to leave behind. Nathan+ and many others who have been faithful to the mission and ministry of Saint Mary's church throughout this difficult year have written about their efforts in this annual report. It is my blessing and my privilege to offer some observations from the deacon's point of view.

Worship, celebrating the Holy Eucharist together is at the heart of who we are and our life together. Because of the creativity of our rector and staff, we were able to adjust as the safety precautions changed with the growing pandemic. As Advent and Christmas approached our options were limited to broadcasting one Sunday service on Facebook Live. I have missed connecting with my brothers and sisters during the administration of communion. However, The Gospel was proclaimed, the Table prepared, and the Dismissal given with grateful, "Allelulias!" In addition, I enjoyed the challenge of offering the homily on All Saints' Sunday.

I learned to use zoom and Facebook live to participate in Wisdom Seekers; to offer Noon Prayer on Fridays and other days as the need arose. I was also able to participate in staff meetings and meetings of the Prayer and Care groups on zoom. I am grateful for these virtual opportunities to connect with others while missing in person interactions and hugs!

In the fall as I marked the 22nd anniversary of my ordination, I met on ZOOM, with Bishop Brown. The age of 72 is retirement age for deacons with the option for an annual review with the Bishop and the Rector to continue to serve for one year at a time. Having reached that agreement, I will continue to serve during 2021. I resigned as a member of the Commission on Ministry after many years as part of that diocesan body which is responsible for shepherding potential priests and deacons through the ordination process.

During 2020, the focus of my ministry has been prayer and that has been my strength and my blessing. I am deeply grateful for the strong, vibrant, committed community that is the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. Despite physical distance, our connection to God, to our mission, and to each other is unbreakable.

Thanks be to God!

Deacon Christine A. Bennett

Warden's Report

Even though this isn't the first pandemic that Saint Mary's has experienced, 2020 was a year like no other. Early on in this pandemic, Father Nathan checked the records from 1918-1919 to see what was reported about those tumultuous years. At that time, Saint Mary's was largely a family summer chapel. Even if there had been some sort of information, it probably wouldn't have been helpful to the modern day. In 2020, we started off strongly. 2019 ended with inspiring Advent and Christmas seasons, strong outreach programs in place, a robust Sparkles season and a small budget surplus after managing through years with deficits.

Things changed quickly. We ended in person services on March 15, 2020. While we had talked about offering online content, we had not yet created any programs. In just one week, Saint Mary's moved to a combination of Zoom and Facebook streaming. Father Nathan and videographer extraordinaire, Erin Ferrell, hosted services, and Formation classes moved to virtual platforms. Beth triaged calls from parishioners offering help for anyone in need and some needing help. We formed a committee of parishioners to call the directory checking on people who might be struggling. Bruce collaborated on ways to offer music for the online services. Megan Akers created new content for our families. Vestry meetings took on new urgency online. Many parishioners offered extra financial support for those in need. Souper Supper switched to curbside. We sent a donation to the Falmouth Food pantry to help with the surge in need. Christine and the CARE team helped find ways to help those who couldn't go out. Roy, our sexton, sanitized our spaces. Buildings and Grounds continued to maintain our campus. Our guilds and committees found new ways of operating. We opened our doors to the Red Cross to hold much needed blood drives. During the pandemic, a national dialogue began on racial issues. Outreach helped provide a

foundation for much needed reflection and discussion despite the restrictions of Covid 19. We settled into a normal that was anything but.

In June, we began outside services in the newly restored garden. And in September, we moved back into the church and auditorium with three services on Sundays, limited attendance, and CDC protocols in place. However, in October we moved back to online services as COVID-19 cases increased rapidly. Father Nathan and the staff began planning for three outdoor Christmas Eve services. Their creativity resulted in a wonderful and inspiring set of services with music, parishioners acting as the Holy Family and even live animals. The year ended the way it began with hope and optimism as vaccines came to market. The light was visible at the end of the tunnel, but we don't know how long the tunnel is.



Thank you to everyone who helped, supported, collaborated, encouraged, and prayed during this year. You made the difference.

Janet Bowne, Senior Warden

Aaron Splint, Junior Warden



Reports from Saint Mary's Ministries, Guilds and Committees

Our mission here at Saint Mary's remains constant as we continue to build authentic, vibrant, Christ-centered community. To do this, we:

CELEBRATE the goodness of God and the gift of life,

HONOR the presence of Christ in one another, and

SERVE the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We do this every day in many various forms, as demonstrated below.

CELEBRATE

HONOR

SERVE

CELEBRATE **the goodness of God and the gift of life**

We are committed to maintaining our traditional Christian liturgy while extending our offerings to meet the spiritual desires and needs of the wider community.

Acolytes

Saint Mary's Acolytes represent a faithful and dedicated group of youth and adults who assist the clergy in our public worship. We have three acolytes consisting of two torch bearers and one crucifer at the 10:15am Sunday service and Holidays during the school year. Acolytes have the summer off. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Acolytes have not had opportunities to participate in the services since March of 2020. Currently, we still have the following Acolytes on our roster:

Archer Akers	George Holt	Nat Lewis	William Rana
Jamie Akers	Maggie Holt	Michael Manetti	Emily Stinneford
Thomas Gale	Sarah Kelly	Rod McGarry	Anabelle Teng
William Gale	Lauren Lamberson	Rebecca Morgan	Cole Teng
Maggie Gardner	Kevin Lamberson	Christie Rana	
Ellie Holt	Kyle Lamberson	Harrison Rana	
Sandy Couch-Kelly, Coordinator			

Altar Flower Guild

The members of the Altar Flower Guild take great pleasure in creating floral arrangements for the Sunday services at Saint Mary's. It is because of the generosity of parishioners' donations, made prior to the Easter Season, that we can have fresh flowers each week. We also create various displays for the holy seasons of Advent, Easter, and Christmas on the altar, in the chancel, the nave, the chapel and the outdoor Easter garden. Although we vary the displays from year to year, they serve to support the worship services and add beauty and solace to all.

2020 was a challenging year for the Altar Flower Guild, but they provided fresh flowers nearly every week for the virtual services. The flowers and needed supplies come from a variety of places, including many of our own backyards and grounds of the church itself. The Altar Flower Guild contributed to funding the garden that was redesigned by the St. Mary's Garden Club. We look forward to using some of the flowers and greens from that garden as it grows and fills in.

The co-chairs are Jessica LaPlante and Onnie Hastings. The committee consists of: Onnie, Jessica, Jana Burke, Maura Fitch, Melissa Kane, Jan Mordarski, Katie Porter, Helga Ryder, Lynne Shepherd, Jan Wentling and Jan Andrews.

The Guild would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join our group, as extra hands are always needed. This is a wonderful group of talented people who would love to learn from others and share their talents. Please let Onnie (878-6684) or Jessica (650-7977) or Beth in the office know if you'd like to help in any way.

Altar Guild

The duties of the Altar Guild, though very much behind the scenes, are essential to the smooth running of our services. The Altar Guild is responsible for setting the table for the Eucharists as well as caring for the vessels, linens, and altar. As always, we work at Father Nathan's direction. During the pandemic, this was critical. We responded to each iteration of services offered throughout each phase. We welcome new members! If you feel called to volunteer with this quiet ministry, please contact Father Nathan or any of the Altar Guild members. Members: Janet Bowne and Mary Smith(co-chair), Jana Burke, Joan Dow, Betsy Elliman, Kathy Galen, Maggie Gardner, Portia Hirschman, Mary Lalumiere, Barbara Mooar, Barbara Murray, and Katie Porter

Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Eucharistic Visitors

While we have been unable to hold regular church services during this pandemic season, special thanks go to those of us who have been comfortable serving as readers during these unusual times: Terry Brown, Linda and Stan Eaton, Erin Ferrell, Maggie Gardner, Andrea Myles-Hunkin, Marian McCue, Will Salomon and Jim and Betsy Stoddard.

We have a wonderful team of persons who feel called to serve God by reading scripture, serving at the altar, and taking the Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church. **Our lectors** who have read lessons:

Al Ahlers	Maureen Manetti	Virginia Stelk
Terry Brown	Marian McCue	Betsy Stoddard
Linda Eaton	Rod McGarry	James Stoddard
R. Stanley Eaton	Andrea Myles-Hunkin	Leonard A. Taylor, Jr.
Erin McGee Ferrell	Betsy Parks-Stamm	Leonard A. Taylor, III
Diane Fletcher	Justice Pollard	Nadine Timberlake
Maggie Gardner	Rebecca Clifford Pride	Gregory W. Unfricht
Jennifer Gregg	David Robinson	
Elise Kiely	Will Salomon	

Eucharistic Ministers are confirmed adult communicants in good standing authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at the Holy Eucharist, many of whom are also lectors. **Our Eucharistic Ministers** who have serve:

Alvin K. Ahlers	Elise Kiely	James Stoddard
Terry Brown	Betsy Parks-Stamm	Leonard A. Taylor, Jr.
Diane Fletcher	Justice Pollard	Leonard A. Taylor, III
R. Stanley Eaton	Rebecca Clifford Pride	Nadine Timberlake
Maggie Gardner	David Robinson	Gregory W. Unfricht
Mary Ann McLean	Virginia Stelk	
Andrea Myles-Hunkin		

Eucharistic Visitors are confirmed adult communicants in good standing authorized to take the Sacrament to members of the congregation who are unable to be present at the Eucharist, by reason of illness or infirmity. Although we have been unable to go out and serve during the pandemic, our Eucharistic Visitor team includes:

Stanley Eaton	Nancy Lee Snow	Nadine Timberlake
Paul Engel	Virginia Stelk	Merle Marie Troeger
Rebecca Pride		

Healing Team

The COVID-19 pandemic has not allowed for in-person ministries such as the Healing Team. We look forward to being active gain once the virus is under control.

The Healing Team offers prayers during Communion at both Sunday services. A primary focus of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick in body, mind and spirit and Jesus commissioned his followers to do the same. Laying on of hands and anointing for healing is as old as the Church and an important opportunity to offer God's healing grace to one another. If interested in being trained to join this team, please contact Deacon Christine or Lee Snow.

Kneeler Guild

It has been a quiet year for the Kneeler Guild. Just as we were planning to have a dedication for 5 of the undedicated kneelers, the virus hit and brought all to a standstill. Work does continue stitching the St. Maximillian and the St. Joseph kneelers.

The Kneeler Guild includes Helga Ryder, Hannah Russell, Debby Hammond, Barbara Murray, Grace Robinson, Jessica LaPlante, Jana Burke, Ginny Stelk, Pat Rogers, Priscilla McGarry, and Jan Mordarski. If you are interested in joining the Kneeler Guild, please contact Jan Mordarski at janmordarski@gmail.com or 899-4099.

Music Ministry at Saint Mary's

On January 5, the new year began with wonderful music provided by the Saint Mary Choir: a beautiful setting of Thomas Troeger's memorable poem **The Hands that first held Mary's Child**, accompanied by cello soloist, John Bennett. Further anthems included the traditional French carol **Far away, what splendor comes this way?** and the jubilant **The Old Hundredth Psalm** by R. Vaughan Williams, accompanied by Edward Mitchell, Trumpet soloist for the annual meeting service.

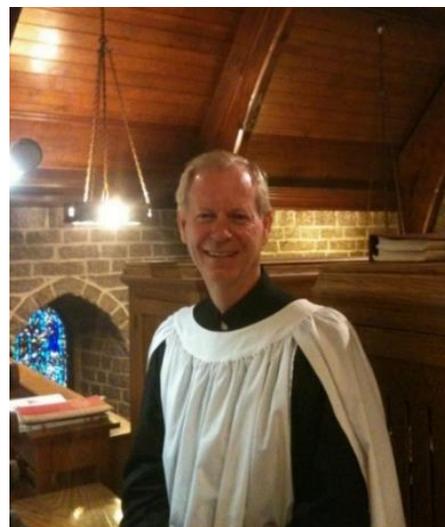
This year the Candlemass celebration occurred on Sunday February 2. This beautiful service commemorates the faithful Simeon's wonder at seeing the future Messiah at the temple. It is during this service that candles are traditionally lit to re-enact Jesus's presentation in the temple. So, fittingly, we began with a procession of lighting the candles as we sang Simeon's words 'A light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel,' accompanied by the Saint Mary Bell Choir. The service continued with the offertory anthem, the **Prayer for the Blessing of Light** by Malcolm Archer.

Further highlights of the Epiphany season included a very moving setting of **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** by Edward Bairstow.

On March 1, the first Sunday in Lent, we continued the tradition of singing in the chancel to enhance this season of reflection, including the singing of the psalms in plainchant. That afternoon the choir, the Bell choir and Father David Illingworth as presider presented a beautiful Lenten Choral Evensong, with responses and prayers settings by John Saunders and an eloquent setting of the **Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Simeon's Song) on Plainchant Themes** by Gerald Near. Towards the end of the service, the electricity suddenly went out, and we had just enough light from the stained-glass windows to sing the last responses and final hymn.

We were able to participate in two more Lenten Sunday services before COVID shut down our usual participation. This was quite a shock to most of us, as we had looked forward to the most solemn part of the church year, Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday. It took us months to adjust to the new reality and find ways to help lead our congregation with music and song. The services were held in the chapel but with no choir. Since we could not meet for rehearsal, we organized zoom sessions where we could learn some beautiful anthems and practice the hymns. Kue John Lor would record me playing the accompaniments on the organ, send the recording to each choir member, who would then record themselves singing their individual part. This took a lot courage and commitment from the singers, as they would have to hear the accompaniment with earphones on one device, and then record themselves on another device. Then they would email their recordings to Kue John Lor, who would undertake the intensive and time-consuming job of combining all the recordings into a 'Virtual Saint Mary Choir.' This recording would then be played on Father Nathan's laptop for the Sunday service in the chapel. In this way, starting on May 24, we presented the anthems **Come ye faithful** by R.S. Thatcher, **Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song** by Alan Smith, **Taizé chants**, as well as the beautiful hymns for Pentecost.

In the spring, although folks were not able to be in the sanctuary to enjoy our beautiful Casavant organ, Bruce participated in making a video of an organ recital that was posted on our web site. The recital included pieces by Dietrich Buxtehude, Bach, and contemporary British composers. Kue John Lor videotaped and edited the recital. In the fall, when we could enable people to safely be in our sanctuary, Bruce joined Joel Pierce, choirmaster, and organist of St. Alban's church in a joint organ recital of music by masters of the Baroque. Mr. Pierce played the Prelude and Fugue by Vincent Lübeck (a contemporary of Bach) and the Suite du Deuxième Ton by Louis-Nicolas Clérambault (illustrating the colors of the French Baroque on our instrument), and Bruce performed two chorale preludes by Buxtehude and Bach's vivacious Prelude and Fugue in D major.



Then in June, the ‘Picnic Eucharists’ began to take place in our beautiful garden, and choir members continued to lead the service in song in a safe environment (since the garden is a large space, we were all able to be masked and safely apart from each other). I would move the digital piano out onto the grass, and the result was truly charming. We are so blessed to enjoy our campus environment. The choir rehearsals continued zoom sessions, and choir members sang the anthems **Be Still, for the presence of the Lord** by David J. Evans, Frank’s **Panis Angelicus** as well as the hymns for each Sunday. We were also graced by the talents of John Bennett, who found a shady spot under the trees to play some beautiful cello solos by Bach.



In September, the weather got cooler, so we had to return to the church sanctuary for Sunday services. This meant that the choir members could still no longer be able to sing together, but that we could at least enjoy the wondrous pipe organ that we are blessed to have and enjoy the artistry of John Bennett on cello. The continued lock down of singing and the stigma that singing will represent in our society is one of the great tragedies of this pandemic. I have spent my life singing and teaching singing, and the fact that this fundamental source of joy is linked to disease will be a concept that will be very hard to change, even after our world recovers from these many months of trials. On the other hand, once safe measures are in place, my hope is that everyone will again value the need for song and music and gathering to be imbued with the healing power of music.

Some brave souls participated in some festive outdoor Christmas eve services, and we were able to enjoy Christmas carols outside under safe conditions.

As we look forward to the future of our lives at Saint Mary, we continue to find ways to support one another and discover new ways to continue our mission.

One of my fervent wishes is that we relaunch the Royal School of Church Music program at Saint Mary’s. The joy of presenting our Episcopal heritage to our young members would be one of the ways we can attend to their spiritual and aesthetic needs. The program would introduce children to our grand musical traditions of hymns, liturgy, the joy of singing together, learning the fundamentals of reading music (using the excellent RSCM notebooks) that will carry on through their whole lives, and especially the unique happiness found in gathering in an ensemble to create musical harmony. Joel Pierce, the organist/choirmaster at St. Alban’s Church has started a youth choir program at his church, and it is my hope that the two church youth choirs can combine to lead Choral Evensong services and Eucharist services. In the meantime, we just must be patient and look forward to the times when we can all gather together in worship.

Bruce Fithian

The Saint Mary Handbell Choir

Alice Brock, Mary Ann McLean, Tim Record, William Record, Betsy Stoddard, Joyce, and Len Verey

The Saint Mary Choir

Sopranos: Maria Belva, Lesley Dolinger, Toosie Smith, Nadine Timberlake

Altos: Linda Eaton, Betsy Stoddard, Jamie Szal, Jane Tholen

Tenors: Bruce Fithian, William Salomon, James Stoddard, David Vernier

Basses: Stanley Eaton, Gregg Fergin, Rick Hirschman, Kue John Lor, Thomas Pettingill, Justice Pollard, Tim Szal



Ushers

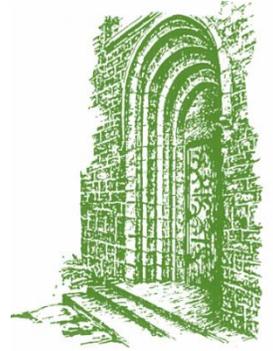
Ushers play a key role in helping ensure that our clergy and congregation feel welcome and have the support they need to participate fully in and enjoy our worship services. We are the first people parishioners and new visitors see when they come through the door and may be the last, they see when they leave, so it's an important ministry at Saint Mary's.

As with most activities, Ushering was put on hold due to COVID-19. When services (outdoors) resumed, a small group volunteered to lend support. A heart filled thank you goes out to Joyce, Len, Steve, Aaron, Charlie, Steve, Chris, Tim for being there.

We have a great group of people and we have fun ushering together. Serving as an usher is a good way to serve the parish and make some new friends at the same time. It doesn't require a significant time commitment, and it is a wonderful opportunity to experience our services from a slightly different perspective. Usually, each person ushers only once a month, and if you can't make your scheduled time, others are always available to cover for you.

It is best to have a balance of "veteran" ushers and new recruits, and we welcome new recruits that would like to join. Even if your schedule makes it difficult for you to commit to a regular rotation, we welcome the opportunity to include you on a standby list of potential fill-ins whom we might call upon in those instances when the regularly scheduled usher has a last-minute conflict. We would like to express our thanks to all the individuals who served as ushers throughout 2019 and look forward to having them continue their service in 2020.

We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you might have about how the Saint Mary's ushers might better support your individual needs or those of the congregation at large during our worship services. If you'd like to join our ministry, contact Tom LaPlante at (207)272-5621 or via email at tlaplante@llbean.com.



Our present ushers are:

8am Service:

Al Ahlers
Rayle Ainsworth
Ed Ainsworth
Baer Connard
Lee Van Dyke
Charlie Hurdman
Jim Kane
Len Taylor
Jennifer Gregg
Greg Unfricht
Steve Conley

10:15 am (9:30am) Service:

Harry Duvall
Mark Bentley
Chuck Horton
Tom LaPlante
Aaron Splint
Ryan Stinneford
Aaron Splint
Dawn Yerkes and her son Noah
Joyce Verey
Len Verey

Alternates:

Rod McGarry
Megan Akers

HONOR

the presence of Christ in one another

We are committed to the spiritual growth of all God's children. We are committed to treating all people with dignity and respect and to increasing the care we provide for one another.

CARE Team

This is one of the ministries that was able to communicate during the pandemic and meet monthly through Zoom. In 2016 we formed a CARE group (Community Actively Reaching Everyone) of loving parishioners to work with our clergy to care for each other - concentrating on keeping track of everyone in our parish family who might need special attention. A chart was created with names on the left and columns for various possible ministries, such as delivery of casseroles and soups, cards, phone calls. Due to the Coronavirus, we did suspend all in-person actions such as Eucharistic Visits with Communion, and rides. This group has met most every month since with all discussions within this group are confidential. We would love to have anyone interested join this ministry group at any time. Call Beth at the office or Lee Snow at 781-2309, nlsnow@aol.com or come to a meeting. Prayer Partner members, led by Becky Pride, meet on Zoom with the CARE team every month as many parishioners are in both groups. We are delighted to have Deacon Christine and Fr. Nathan present at most meetings. Deacon Christine can be reached at deacab@maine.rr.com

Churchyard Committee

As a reminder to all Saint Mary's parishioners, if you are thinking about where to place your remains upon your passing, Saint Mary's Churchyard (cemetery) has many spots open in both Saint Mary's Woods and the Burial Garden. Please contact Beth Shaw or Hugh Smith for more details.

Given the impact of the corona virus, little was able to get done in 2020. In addition to ongoing maintenance such as mowing, collecting leaves and some pruning, Lucy Ellis continued to maintain the berm along Foreside Rd by weeding, removing bitter-sweet vines and adding mulch with the help of Jim Stoddard. Lucy also worked on maintenance of one of the interior berms. Members of the Buildings & Grounds Committee edged and tilled the walkway through the Burial Garden to remove moss grow and control the growth of weeds and grasses. The committee is working with Pine Grove Cemetery on possibly removing dead trees and overhanging branches along our common border. Due to the virus, no committee meetings were held.

Please contact a member of the committee if you have questions and would like to help us with our work. The committee consists of Hugh Smith (chair), Ed Ainsworth, Becky Pride, Virginia Stelk and John Teets.

2020 Churchyard Activity:

Lots Acquired:

During the year, 3 half units were acquired in the Churchyard.

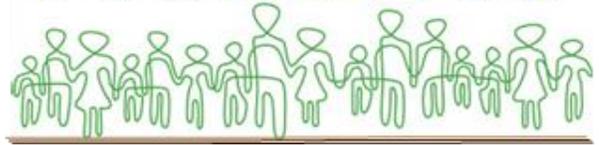
Common Ground

Our weekly (when school is in session) Thursday evening gathering called Common Ground continued for several weeks in 2020 until all things were stopped with the pandemic lockdown in March. In January and February, we had wonderful presentations from Casco Bay CAN, Maineworks, parishioner Betsy Parks-Stamm speaking about her research on Self-Regulation, parishioner Wallace Ragan teaching about The Divine Comedy of Dante, New Mainers offering International Cooking Lessons, and a time for Ice Skating at Twombly Pond. A Lenten program called "Faith for Exiles" was beginning when all programming had to stop.

Hopefully, we will be able to start up again before 2021 ends.



FORMATION



Formation on Sundays

In September 2018, we made a slight change in our Sunday morning schedule to create space for a brief time of “**Formation**” together. This is thirty minutes for coffee and conversation or for prayer and meditation.

Sundays in 2020, Deacon Christine led a prayerful group meeting in the Guild Room as well as offering a Pandemic support group based on living with Hope.

In 2020, Fr Nathan offered three Sunday Formation programs before the pandemic lockdown began. These included “How to Pray with Your Hands” involving prayer beads, “The Four Greek Words for Love” from the writings of C.S. Lewis, and a Lenten Study of “Faith for Exiles” from the Barna Research Group. This Lenten series was stopped by the pandemic.

Be Still on Sundays

In response to the pandemic, “Be Still on Sunday Mornings” transitioned from in-person gatherings in the Chapel to Zoom. “Be Still,” coordinated by Merle Marie Troeger, Becky Pride, John Bennett, and Jennifer Gregg, is a contemplative group that begins with a five-minute quiet, centering period, followed by the introduction of a poem, scripture or other art form for contemplation and group response. The session concludes with five minutes of quiet reflection and a prayer.

Changing, overarching themes carry us along during the year. In 2020, these included “The Beatitudes,” “Hope,” “Resilience,” “Patience,” and “Grace.” A modest group of 10-18 participants enjoys the intimacy of small group sharing, with hopefully personal enlightenment and growth experienced. Please know that you are welcomed to join this group at any time. Contact Jennifer Gregg, our Zoom master, or Merle Marie or Becky Pride to receive the readings in advance and to be informed on how to access our Zoom meetings, the links to which are in the weekly e-news.

Be Still/Centering Prayer on Monday Evenings

In response to the pandemic, “Be Still/Centering Prayer on Monday Evening” also transitioned from personal gatherings in the Chapel to Zoom—and also invited the Centering Prayer group at St. Albans to join us. Led by Jennifer Gregg, we begin with a short Taizé chant (digitally accompanied) before entering into 30 minutes of silent reflection. There follows a short reading from scripture. We continue drawing from The Gospel of Thomas in 2020) with short periods for directed reflection, followed by time for response, as desired. All are welcome to drop in at any time. Contact Jennifer Gregg with questions or just click on the link provided in the weekly e-news.

The Wisdom Seekers

Wisdom Seekers is a group of inquisitive individuals who read and study the scripture lessons for the next Sunday. We ask questions as to how the writers of the Bible understood God’s working in their lives, and how we can apply this to our lives today. We gather via Zoom each Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 to share our ideas and learn from each other. New people are always welcomed to join our merry band. Nadine Timberlake, coordinator

Merton Group

“Merton Group” meets typically meets from 3-4pm in person in the Chapel, but during the pandemic has moved to Zoom. This is a small, spiritually diverse, inquisitive, tolerant, open-minded, and supportive group of self-described “seekers.” We meet to read and discuss a selected work that draws from the Christian and other faith traditions to help us reflect on our own and world's spiritual roots and fuel personal growth. Because we read aloud to each other, there is no “homework,” regular attendance is not necessary, and the nature of the reading lends itself easily to those who wish to join the group “mid-book.” Authors this year included William James (“The Variety of Religious Experience” and Barbara Brown Taylor (“The Luminous Web”). All are welcome to visit or join the group at any time. Contact Jennifer Gregg with questions or click on the zoom link provided in the weekly news.

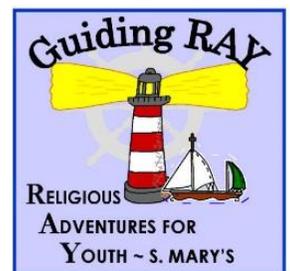
Quiet Mornings

Quiet Mornings invite us into a few hours of contemplation and prayer around a theme, led by Merle Marie Troeger. A Lenten Quiet Morning was planned for March 21 just as the COVID 19 pandemic was declared. The theme was “The Anointing Woman.” She’s the person who appears in all four gospels, anointing Jesus before his death. While there is some mystery about her actual identity (each Gospel tells the story a little differently) there is no question about her devotion to Jesus.

As 2020 progressed we became adept at zoom and so were able to hold an Advent Quiet Morning on December 12. Our theme was “Healing Stories” taken from the ministry and life of Jesus. We focused on five: the woman whose back was so twisted she was bent over and couldn’t look up (Luke 13:10-13); the paralyzed man carried on a stretcher and lowered through the roof where Jesus was teaching (Luke 5:17-20, 25, 26); a woman who had suffered hemorrhaging for twelve years (Mark 5:25-34); the blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, (Mark 10:46-52); and the madman of Garasene. (Mark 5: 1-9, 11-15). We used artwork, poetry, music, and prayer to delve deeper into these stories and spent time in silence contemplating their meaning for our lives now during a pandemic.

Guiding RAY

Our Guiding RAY program was ably guided by Megan Akers throughout 2020. The program began the new year with great energy. In particular, we had the wonderful challenge of handling many newborns and infants in the Nursery. Sadly, all of this stopped in March with the coronavirus lockdowns. Megan adapted to these new circumstances by offering seasonal bags of formation resources that families could take home. She also invited our young people to continue gathering on Sunday mornings through ZOOM to learn about the Bible and about the teachings of the Church.



In the summer, the Guiding RAY garden was successful in growing vegetables for the Falmouth Food Pantry. Since we could not offer our traditional Christmas Pageant, Megan worked diligently to find families willing to participate in our outdoor Christmas Eve celebrations. Because of this, we had many members of the Holy Family, soldiers, shepherds, and angels in attendance. It was a wonderful and memorable time.

Sadly, due to financial constraints caused by the pandemic, the position of Director of Christian Formation was terminated at the end of 2020. When COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our community, we look forward to launching Guiding RAY once again with new energy and enthusiasm.

Guiding SAY: Singing Adventures for Youth

Before Guiding RAY classes began, all young people were invited to gather downstairs with our own Maria Belva for fun singing. No special skill or experience was required, only a willingness to sing together. The Guiding SAY children were just getting started in 2020 when the pandemic hit. Our thanks to Maria Belva who led this group in joyful noises.

IGNITE Middle School Youth Group

In 2019 the Saint Mary's Middle School Youth adopted a new name – Ignite! Ignite was meeting every other Sunday in the youth room starting at 10 AM. Led by Michelle and Will Chappell, each meeting consisted of games, a lesson and fellowship. The goal was to continue to grow our relationship with God - and have lots of fun while doing it! Since this also ceased due to the pandemic, we look forward to restarting our ministry with Middle Schoolers when things begin again. In the meantime, these young people have been encouraged to participate in the online offerings of our diocesan Youth Ministry.

Young Life and Wyld Life of Casco Bay



The ecumenical outreach ministry known as Young Life continues to serve all young people in our area, regardless of their connection to any faith community. This effort is supported by individuals, businesses, and congregations of all kinds. The approach of Young Life is to not hope for young people to come to church, but rather to take the good news of God's love to them where they are – primarily at their high schools. Young Life believes that each young person deserves to hear the good news that God loves us enough even to die on our behalf in the person of Jesus Christ. Each young person is free to respond to this news however they will, and they are loved and supported by Young Life leaders no matter how they respond.

In 2018, our area also launched Wyld Life – a regular gathering for Middle School youth in the Cumberland and Yarmouth area. As with everything else, all in-person Young Life and Wyld Life stopped in March. They switched to meetings over Instagram Live which had more attendees than any in-person gatherings. Most of the ministry focus has moved to small group or personal meetings with students.

Every high schooler in the area is invited to participate, no matter what. Feel free to reach out to our area director Jordan Droge (jordanroge@gmail.com , 805-453-1999) at any time with questions, or if you would like to get involved! And see the website at www.younglifecb.com.

Hospitality Ministry

Although we have not yet filled the position of Hospitality chair, we continue to have parishioners who volunteer to make events successful, from the preparation, to serving, to cleanup. Our thanks always to Babs Bell, chef extraordinaire, for the Annual Meeting brunch and Janet Bowne for shopping and organizing the many details. Our thanks to Tim & Sarah Caven who took on the often-difficult task of overseeing the scheduling and managing of coffee hour.

Coronavirus put a halt to all other gathering events (Memorial Day Parade, the Summer dinner and fundraiser, and Kickoff Sunday) for the remainder of 2020.

Hospitality is looking forward to possibly gathering in the fall or late 2021. We are hoping someone will step up to take over leadership of this vital aspect of our community, and that new members will join this ministry! **If interested in leading or joining the Hospitality Ministry, please contact Father Nathan or one of the Wardens.**

Another thank you is to Sarah & Tim Caven for taking on the often-difficult task of organizing, scheduling and managing Coffee Hour each Sunday. Bet you can't wait to sign-up and get back in the gathering for coffee fellowship? With any question or for more information, contact Sarah or Tim Caven thcaven@gmail.com

Memorial Reception Guild

With the Pandemic, we have been unable to hold regular funerals or receptions. When we are functioning properly, we have been blessed to be able to provide warm and comforting gatherings for grieving families and friends and are so thankful to the many parishioners who generously donate most of the food and beverages for these receptions, as well as the many who provide their time and presence in the kitchen and at the reception, itself. The Memorial Reception Guild welcomes with open arms all who feel called to join us in the coming year. If you have any interest in leading this wonderful ministry, contact Fr, Nathan, one of the Wardens or the parish office. **If interested in leading or joining the Memorial Reception Guild, please contact Father Nathan or one of the Wardens.**

Newcomers Welcome Team

The Welcome Team at Saint Mary's includes the committee and members of the Vestry. Our objective is to introduce new church members to the Saint Mary's community, and to make them feel welcome in our parish family. We usually organize coffee hours a couple of times a year, after the Sunday morning services. They are held in the Auditorium like every coffee hour, so that whole families can attend.

This year, 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had no gatherings. We will return to them when it is safe to do so.

Mary Ann McLean, Chair

Prayer Partners

Special thanks to all those who have attended our monthly ZOOM meetings and who have called or emailed Lee and Becky to keep our prayers of intercession alive and well during these difficult times. Prayer Partners is a long-standing group of around 30 parishioners who pray daily for many people within and outside the parish. People ask to have their names or those of their friends or loved ones on this list. We gather regularly to go over the list, add names or uplift people, as well as to pray together and reinforce each other. The list is strictly confidential and reserved only for those who pray through the list. If you would like prayers for yourself for any reason or for a friend, or if you would like to join this praying community, call Beth at the office or Becky Pride at 781-4391 or email her at rebeccapride1@gmail.com.

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry involves knitting shawls using *large needles-size 13* and a *quite simple pattern*. You need not be an accomplished knitter to learn how to create these practical messages of comfort. They are called “Prayer Shawls” because the work is initiated with prayer, and the shawls are blessed prior to being given. One simple pattern involves casting on 57 stitches, then knitting three stitches and purling three stitches—representing the Holy Trinity. Most knitters enjoy repeating “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” with the stitches. There are other more complex patterns available, but all involve a three-stitch pattern invoking the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you need a packet with all supplies needed, contact the Parish office.



Our supply of completed and blessed shawls is on the low side, so we could use some replenishing. With our Eucharistic Visitor ministry as well as the CARE Team, we hope more parishioners and friends in the hospital, nursing homes, new mothers or someone just needing support will be given one. We look forward to being able to deliver these again. We need your help to know who needs one. Just request a prayer shawl, and it will be given.

Those interested in more details and/or participating in any of these ministries should contact Ginny Stelk at 847-3602 (lstelk@maine.rr.com). We need you.

SERVE

the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*We are committed to serving others in our community and in the world,
trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.*

Altar Flower Delivery

In 2020, we delivered flowers for just a few short weeks during Epiphany before the pandemic hit and we had to stop most all activities. During a normal year, the Altar Flower Delivery Guild delivers the flowers each week which have graced the altar to parishioners who are ill, home bound, or just observing a celebration in their lives. It is also a way of extending Sunday worship to perhaps those for whom prayers have been offered that Sunday. Our small group of dedicated members are Dawn & Noah Yerkes, Cindy & Chuck Horton, and Betsy & Jim Stoddard. Thank you for your ministry. We certainly welcome new members. Kindly consider offering your time to this ministry. Perhaps this could be a one-time 'teaching moment' for your family. It takes little time and effort and no special skill in floral arranging is necessary, but the rewards are many. Please consider offering a half hour every few weeks to this important ministry of Saint Mary's. Betsy Stoddard, Chair

Red Cross Blood Drives

In recent years, Saint Mary's has coordinated with the American Red Cross to host two Blood Drives each year: during Holy Week (Good Friday or Holy Saturday), and the Saturday after Thanksgiving. These were held as scheduled, but our cooperation with the Red Cross became much more intense in 2020.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many Blood Drives scheduled to be held at schools or businesses were canceled. This placed an enormous strain on blood supplies as maintained by the Red Cross. Saint Mary's was asked to step up and help to meet this challenge.

We did this, and in the process Saint Mary's became one of the leading Blood Drive locations in the state of Maine. We are proud to be such an important part of this effort to save lives and keep our community healthy.

Here are the total collection amounts from drives at Saint Mary's during 2020, according to an email from our primary contact at the Red Cross in Portland:

*"We ran a total of **30 blood drives** at the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary, which is just incredible. No one else ran that many blood drives during the year. Another sponsor ran 22 and another ran 20, but yours was by far the most numerous. During those crazy 12 months [of 2020], the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary and the American Red Cross were able to collect a total of **795 donations** which equates to **2,385 lives** potentially saved. That is simply mind blowing!"*



This award recognizes you as an extraordinary Blood Program Partner who stood with the American Red Cross during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your dedicated support was essential in our mission to help save lives across the country through blood donation.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail McGovern".

Gail McGovern, President and CEO

May 2020

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Despite COVID-19, the Buildings and Grounds Committee (aka B & G) was able to accomplish many needed projects while practicing safe procedures. Also, we were able to stay within our budget and using a small amount budget allowance for major projects. Following are projects that were accomplished this year.

Rectory

- Installed glass doors on the living room fireplace.
- Landscaping of the patio area and the front of the rectory was completed including transplanting certain plants and seeding along the fence. Required extensive shrub and weed removal including roots, the addition of loam and extending the landscaping timbers along the driveway.

Parish House

- Installed weather stripping on auditorium outer doors.
- Hired Dugas Construction to excavate the foundation in the corner between the men's toilet and the hall in front of the kitchen. The foundation waterproofing was re-done, and then French drains were installed to direct water to the catch basin nearby including water from a gutter downspout. Early results indicate the leak into the lower-level hallway outside the boys' rest room has been fixed.
- All three sides and trim of the chapel wing were sanding down to bare wood, coated with a primer, and then given two coats of paint. The chapel/office entrance were also sanding and painted.
- The porch and stair railings behind the kitchen were repainted as needed.
- The auditorium "Happy Summer" sign frame was replaced with freshly painted quarter round.

- Purchased and installed safety windows in fire doors. Executed by Exactitude Hardware Consultants.

Church

- Replace rubber cushions on bottom of chair legs.
- Re-caning of chairs by Hugh Smith.

Grounds

- The wood carving of the Last Supper was placed on stones next to the ledge at the south east corner of the church.
- Removed remaining section of invasive Burning Bush shrubs, planted white lilacs in the same area and planted a Redbud tree for the rectory entrance.
- All four walls and trim of the B&G shed were sanded and repainted with two coats.
- The south lawn next to the church were overseeded using a rented machine and then watered extensively. While the lawn responded to the watering, more preparation is required of areas with little or no loam and the over-seeder needs to be adjusted to cut deeper and drop more seed.
- The labyrinth was power washed to remove vegetation and dirt between pavers. Poly-sand was then applied to seal the spaces between pavers.
- New sign lighting was installed for the Saint Mary's sign next to the stone wall along Foreside Rd.
- The Burial Garden walkway was tilled and edged to reduce weeds and improve the appearance.
- Replaced one deer damaged Montmorency cherry tree in the group that encircle the Old Churchyard.

Other:

- Completed by the Saint Mary Garden Club: The last phase of the Saint Mary Garden Club project on the lawn and gardens between the Parish House and the Rectory was completed including final plantings, a new bench, and an arbor.

This year, Saint Mary's contracted with new vendors: Southern Maine Logging & Plowing Inc for snowplowing, and Hoot Landscaping for leaf pickup. Otherwise, we continued our contracts with Eric Booth for lawn mowing and odd jobs, and Roy Packard for janitorial services. Both are to be commended.

With a new year starting, hopes are that COVID-19 can be brought under control and thus be able to get back to some semblance of order. I wish to thank my crew for the outstanding work that has been accomplished this year and look forward to enjoyable work and companionship in the year to come.

James Stoddard, Chairman- Buildings & Grounds Committee

Casserole Ministry / Meal Train

This is another ministry that COVID-19 affected greatly as our mission is to share meals with parishioners who are temporarily unable to cook for themselves, and this kind of contact has not been allowed.

The Meal Train consists of dozens of Saint Mary's cooks who prepare and deliver meals to folks in our community who are in need and unable to cook following surgery or recovering from an illness or other life-changing events, such as the arrival of a new baby or other needs.

Without formal meetings and relying on internet and telephone contact, we provide meals to numerous families in our church community. In some cases, it has been for one or two days while for others we have provided weeks of meals seasoned with kindness and care.

If you are interested in helping this ministry when restrictions lift, please contact the parish office or Christie Rana.

Office Angels

Our devoted cadre of Office Angels started the year to support our Parish Manager, Beth Shaw in a wide variety of ways, including proof-reading, the preparation and mailing of the AVE and Sunday bulletins, monitoring the phones, posting Daily Meditations on the Saint Mary's website. When the pandemic hit in March 2020, most Angel jobs disappeared.

With things turning around hopefully in the fall, we can begin to welcome all who would like to spend a few hours a month folding and stapling the AVE or other mailings for Beth during the coming year.

2020 Official Office Angels: Susan Chapman, Lee Dernehl, Sheila Donaldson, Marti Galli, Maggie Gardner, Susan Grimaldi (with special thanks for posting on-line Daily Meditations every morning!), Alice Hendry, Cindy Horton, Marian McCue, Becky Pride, Lee Snow, Betsy Stoddard, and Pat Studley. Also, sincere thanks to the many “walk-ons” who responded during moments of great need!
Betsy Stoddard, Coordinator

Outreach Committee

That We All May Be One: *OUTREACH—A look back and a look forward.*

The spiritual direction of Outreach at Saint Mary's continues to be based on an understanding that we are all to be one—One with God and One with all of God's creation, human and otherwise. The aim of the committee is therefore to offer as many opportunities as possible to all in the parish to seek and find God in our neighbors—perhaps more succinctly, to seek and find God in the many, many whom we see as strangers: Those who are different from ourselves, the disadvantaged, the suffering, the hungry, those of different races, social and religious backgrounds. As such, the committee has continued to **focus its work on building relationship with the immigrant community, those suffering with substance use disorder, those dealing with food insecurity, at-risk youth—and also caring for our creation. To this, we added this year support for the parish-wide program of “Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish.**

As a committee, we continue to underscore that our activity, our work, is inseparable from prayer—that prayer and action cannot thrive or even live separately and that they form a double-helix, each feeding the other. As a result, we are gladly and enthusiastically continuing to sponsor and support two “quiet mornings” that Merle Marie Troeger has and will continue to offer for the parish in Advent and during Lent. As with everything else, COVID created the need for the Outreach Committee to pivot. While we were formulating new plans during the early COVID months, **we occupied ourselves by organizing and subsidizing the mask-making program at Saint Mary's in which several of our seamstresses made beautiful masks that benefited both parishioners and New Mainers.**

Responding to Maine's Opioid Crisis

Back in January 2020, our primary objective had been to build upon the educational program of last year regarding Substance Use Disorder by creating regular opportunities with Milestone and Maine Works for parishioners in hopes of encouraging St. Marians to spend personal time with those suffering from this disorder. COVID threw a spanner in that, so we decided instead to offer three educational programs on Stigma, a root barrier to developing relationship with those different than ourselves—including immigrants and those afflicted with Substance Use Disorder. The first presentation in October was with Suzanne Fox of the Yellow Tulip Program that offered an overview of Stigma based on her expertise with mental illness.

- We will be offering a presentation on **The Face of Stigma** as it relates to the recovery community in March—it's looking like it will be a panel presentation, either on Zoom or hybrid.
- We maintain contact with Milestone and Maineworks to plan for the time when personal involvement will again be possible.

Welcome New Mainers

- **St. Elizabeth's** - resumed in the summer Saint Mary's volunteers support this on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- **In Her Presence** – also resumed in the spring with virtual literacy classes led by a group of St. Marians.
- Going forward, we will have on **January 24 a program on the Face of Stigma** as it relates to the Immigrant community by Steve Wessler of “Community Conversations –human rights educator and trainer specializing in conflict resolution who has worked in schools to learn about how stigma presents vis-a-vis the immigrant community.
- We couldn't do the international fairs last spring to welcome in New Mainers to sell their goods due to COVID—I expect it will be spring of 2022 before we can expect to safely do something like that again.

Food Insecurity

- The usual support to the **Falmouth Food Pantry** of collecting non-perishable food stopped due to COVID – new program Victory Gardens with Guiding Ray for the Food Pantry—we enticed only a few parishioners, but it was nonetheless a big success with the Food Pantry, so we hope to do this again next spring and will reach out to other churches to join us.
- **Souper Supper** – moved to curbside – successfully—we average some 30 folks to whom we distribute 40-50 pints of soup.
- Participation in the USDA food drop-offs –distributing at Souper Supper and to the Food Pantry (Dana)

At-Risk Youth

Long Creek – Unfortunately, we have been unable to continue mentoring at this facility due to COVID. We hope to resume sometime in 2021.

Caring for the Creation

We look forward to organizing a **Coastal Cleanup** day in the spring.

Recycling/composting at Saint Mary's –we have been promoting care for the environment in the AVE through Eco-tips and we are updating the recycling/composting system in the Parish House as we await the lifting of Covid restrictions regarding its use. We continue to organize the scheduling of trash and composting collection—a team of three parishioners (Marian McCue, John Henson, and Jennifer Gregg) and fund the composting disposal with Garbage to Garden.

Support to the “Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish” Program

We serve as the staffing as needed for initiatives from Nathan and the Vestry.

The first was the reading of **White Fragility** –about 40 books were sold and the subsequent book groups attracted about 15 people.

The **book group** participants wanted to continue so there was another offering to the parish in December and another will be in January thanks to their organizers Becky Pride, Deacon Christine, and Merle Marie Troeger.

Stigma program – Learning about stigma supplements and undergirds learning about racism.

Another role of the Outreach Committee focuses on the distribution of grants on behalf of the Parish. This funding goes to those non-profits with whom we maintain a mission relationship, to non-profits suggested by and with whom individual parishioners maintain a volunteer relationship and, last but certainly not least, selected non-profits serving those in need outside our state with which distance precludes our 'hands on' involvement. Funding for these grants comes from *YOU* in the form of 5% of your pledge received last year. For this, and for so much more, we thank you. *It should be noted that "Souper Supper" was funded in 2020 by a one-time donation to this ministry at the onset of the COVID crisis by a very generous parishioner.*

In 2020, the following grants were distributed:

Becoming an Anti-Racist Parish

Four Directions Development Cooperation- \$500

FDDC is one of the nation's most successful Native American Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI). Structured as a non-profit loan pool and service provider, it seeks to create vibrant, economically healthy Native communities in Maine by broadening access to capital.

Maine Initiatives Foundation- \$500

A foundation that marries philanthropy with Social Justice. Funds will be directed to supporting Black-led organizing activism and advocacy including For Us by Us Fund, the Maine Black Caucus, BLM/Portland and Racial Equity and Justice, as well as grants supporting Criminal Justice Reform through Maine Youth Justice, a multi-racial, youth-led campaign calling for an end to youth incarceration in Maine and the closure of Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Maine Council of Churches - \$1000

Sharing common values, the members of the Maine Council of Churches act as one voice to advocate for the disenfranchised, the downtrodden and the protection of God's creation. Representing seven denominations, the Council is active in Augusta and beyond. MCC spreads its message by working with partner organizations throughout the state, volunteers, and parishioners in our 550 churches. Begun in 1938, today it is a reliable and effective voice against torture, hunger and poverty and an advocate for justice, compassion, and peace.

Food Insecurity

Greater Portland Family Promise – \$ 500

Emergency disbursement for food relief for clients housed by Family Promise at the onset of the COVID Crisis.

Cooking for Community-\$500

This totally volunteer organization raises money to support local agriculture to provide food to restaurants that, in turn, provide cooked meals distributed to the under-served and the elderly by established social service agencies. Operates in Portland, Greater Portland, Lewiston and beyond.

Falmouth Food Pantry - \$500

For over 30 years the Falmouth Food Pantry has been serving the needs of citizens in Falmouth and surrounding communities (Cumberland, Yarmouth, Portland, and Westbrook). Under normal circumstances, six volunteer managers work with other volunteers to serve clients at the Pantry, bring meals to some clients, meet large food deliveries, and stock the shelves. During COVID, food distributions are drive-by, once a week.

Cumberland Food Pantry- \$250

The Community Food Pantry services **Cumberland, North Yarmouth, Pownal, and New Gloucester**

New Mainers

In Her Presence - \$1565

(Includes \$500 emergency disbursement for food at the onset of COVID crisis and books for students)

In Her Presence is organized and led by immigrant women living in Maine. IHP strives to bring together immigrant women from across communities and generations to ensure that Maine's economic agenda includes the aspirations and needs of immigrant women. IHP creates spaces that support women's empowerment and personal ambitions without losing our unique identity and connect immigrant women and girls for collective empowerment in their communities to address common challenges and issues.

St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center - \$1000

The St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center distributes non-food essentials to the most-needy and largely immigrant community in the Greater Portland community.

Welcoming The Stranger- \$500

Welcoming the Stranger is a grassroots, secular initiative that aims to create formal friendships through mentoring relationships between local families and asylum seekers that we hope will enrich all those involved. Unlike refugees, who have been granted legal residence and arrive with access to basic resettlement services, there is no formal system in place to help asylum seekers, many of whom have likewise fled war, political turmoil, and personal danger in their native countries to seek safety at the same time, many newly arrived asylum seekers are dealing with loss, trauma, isolation, and the difficulty of adjusting to a profoundly different culture, climate, and language.

At-Risk Youth

Friends of Long Creek Development Center - \$1000

The Friends of Long Creek collaborates with the Long Creek Youth Development Center staff, Juvenile Community Corrections Officers, and other non-profits to develop and fund projects that are critical to reducing criminogenic risk factors and reducing recidivism. The projects provide access to higher education and employment training, and promote healthy relationships with family, peers and community, and positive attitudes, beliefs, and values. They also provide enrichment, recreational and sporting opportunities.

The Opportunity Alliance - MaineStay Program - \$500

MaineStay, with a capacity of 12 residents, provides trauma-informed treatment and support services to young adults, ages 18-25, who are experiencing significant mental health symptoms. Often, residents need additional support for substance misuse, trauma, and learning and developmental disabilities. Residents come from a wide range of experiences; many have been hospitalized due to mental health symptoms, incarcerated and/or experienced periods of homelessness. Due to these circumstances, many of these young people have not had the stability and support to learn basic life skills, a focal point of programming at MaineStay.

Substance Use Disorder

Maine Recovery Fund - \$500

Maine Recovery Fund is a 501c3 that provides community support to people in recovery seeking to reenter the workforce and reestablish productive life. MaineWorks provides jobs, while the Maine Recovery Fund provides wraparound services e.g., housing and transportation, tools and training that bridge the gap between hopelessness and resilience. Includes career counseling, access to social services, financial literacy, educational opportunities, through partnerships with regional government, non-profit and social service organizations.

Milestone Recovery - \$1000

The mission of Milestone Recovery is to provide the best quality of services to empower individuals with substance use and behavioral health disorders to attain stability, dignity, recovery, and an enhanced quality of life. We offer emergency shelter, medically managed detoxification and long-term treatment in Portland and Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

Casco Bay CAN - \$500.00

Casco Bay CAN mobilizes citizen involvement and multi-sector collaboration to foster a healthy community environment with norms, policies, and practices that work together to promote positive, drug and alcohol-free development for all Casco Bay youth. Saint Mary's partners with Casco Bay CAN, offering annual training sessions to brief parents, gran parents and other adult mentors about Substance Use Disorder and how to talk to at-risk family members of all ages. In non-pandemic times, Saint Mary's participates in regular gatherings of non-profit organizations organized by Casco Bay CAN to brainstorm and coordinate action.

International

Konbit Sante - \$500

Konbit Sante's mission is to support the development of a sustainable health system to meet the needs of the Cap-Haitien community with maximum local direction and support. Konbit Sante works with two hospitals and two health clinics in Haiti, providing care for over 300,000 people.

Community Life Centers of Haiti - \$700

(Includes \$200 donation for hand sanitizer kits at the onset of COVID crisis)

This is the successor non-profit organization to COCINA, which Saint Mary's had supported in years past. It is run by two former COCINA board members, both known to Saint Mary's to be good and honorable. The CLC is centered in Ouanaminth, Haiti and is devoted to reaching out to Haitian children to offer community needs and services, such as a place to gather and faith-based care to develop both religious and life skills in a safe environment.

2021 will be a year of considerable transition for Outreach as Betsy Elliman is retiring from the committee and her dedicated work with the St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center ministry. Jennifer Gregg will be stepping back as chairperson in June but will remain on the Outreach Committee. The 2021 Outreach members: Deacon Christine, Jennifer Gregg, Anne LaFond, Dana Madison, Bonny Rodden, with the critical support and initiatives of Judith Brooks, John Brooks, Marian McCue, Becky Pride and Merle Marie Troeger. We always welcome additional committee members and drop-ins of all ages (this is a great ministry for teens!) We meet as a committee monthly on the first Thursday at 4pm (currently on Zoom)

Souper Supper at Saint Mary's

Among the many significant Outreach activities, Saint Mary's "Souper Supper" has become one of the best known and "signature" Outreach activities, as it offers twice-monthly home-made soup suppers free to the community, served at table. With the pandemic, Souper Supper went curbside. While our guests desperately miss the opportunity to gather in fellowship, they still come to pick up meals of soup, bread and a sweet. We regularly handed out 30-40 bagged suppers to an average 25-30 drive-by guests.

Volunteer opportunities may be fewer with curbside service, but we are always in need of individuals to shop, cook the soup, package the suppers, distribute the suppers and clean-up. Consistent with COVID health guidelines, each task is accomplished by one person (or two, if from the same household), masked and gloved and COVID sanitizing protocols are followed.

If you wish to become involved in this very appreciated ministry you will be most welcomed. If you are not able to volunteer, you are invited to support the ministry financially by purchasing bags of delicious "Coffee by Design" coffee available during the week in the office or on Sundays during coffee hour. We wish to express our profound thanks to the parishioner whose generous one-time donation helped tremendously to fund this program during 2020.

Any questions? Just contact Jennifer Gregg (781-3366; jenniferannregg@gmail.com) or contact any one of the following whom we take the opportunity to thank for their wonderful participation in this ministry pre- and during COVID in 2020: Holly Bernstein, Alice Brock and Pat Peard, Lee Dernehl, Stan and Linda Eaton, Marti Galli, The Grace-Cleale Family, Judith and Greg Fergin, Jennifer Gregg, Jean Gulliver, Maureen Hale, Onnie Hastings, Mac Hinkel, Chuck Horton, Annie Johnson, Shari Krajlic, Bobbi MacCallum, Dana Madison, Mary Ann McLean, Marian McCue, Becky and Doug Pride, the Rana Family, David and Grace Robinson, Bonny Rodden, Chris Shaw, Ginny Stelk, Jim and Betsy Stoddard, Nadine Timberlake, Merle Marie and Tom Troeger, the Unfricht Family, Joyce and Len Verey, the Yerkes Family.

Stewardship: *our annual Campaign*

Stewardship is the process of parishioners supporting the church with their volunteer time, their individual talents, and their financial resources. The goal of the Stewardship Committee is to help ensure that Saint Mary's is on a sustainable financial footing and to work with Father Nathan to recruit volunteers.

2020 presented many challenges. Many of our parishioners were hit financially by the pandemic. Many were overwhelmed with family commitments which included home schooling children, more responsibility for older family members all while maintaining their careers. And yet, so many parishioners still found the time and energy to help with outreach efforts and helping leadership with technology, worship service support and many other projects. Many of our parishioners offered extra financial support for our outreach efforts as well as assistance with technology.

Through the Diocese, we were able to receive a paycheck protection loan from the United States government enabling us to maintain our staffing for 2020. At Saint Mary's we are blessed to have so many generous parishioners who give their time, energy, and financial support from their hearts. Thank you for helping us get through 2020!

Planned Giving: *Alida Greely Brown Heritage Society*

The Planned Giving program aims to inform and recognize those among us who wish to remember Saint Mary's with deferred gifts to help ensure Saint Mary's long-term fiscal health.

Saint Mary's Alida Greely Brown Heritage Society (named for our founder) enables individuals to make such gifts to Saint Mary's easily and recognizes those who have expressed their intention to provide such gifts as part of their estate planning. Membership may be public or private, as you so choose. If you have already provided for Saint Mary's in your will, we hope you will inform either Father Nathan or Beth Shaw so that we can properly thank you and invite you to join this society. In 2020 we were not able to host our AGB annual lunch nor any Diocesan First Light Society gatherings with the Bishop

Thank you to those parishioners who have already included Saint Mary's in their estate planning, thereby ensuring Saint Mary's viability for generations to come.

For more information on Saint Mary's planned giving program, please feel free to contact Janet Bowne (781-

3844, jmitchellbowne@gmail.com) or Beth Shaw (781-3366, admin@smary.org).



*Alida Carroll Brown,
mother of Alida Greely Brown*

Fellowship & Fundraising Events

Book, Bake and Soup Sale

This Popular Book Sale is typically held every year in the early Spring and returned in 2019 after a one-year absence under the leadership of Jan Mordarski and Betsy Stoddard with guidance from long-time organizer, Becky Pride. We were looking forward to this popular Outreach fundraiser to be held this year in March of 2020, but the coronavirus had a different plan. We had already collected used books from parishioners which we sell to the broader community, so we took a leap of faith and held the Book Sale out on the front lawn with no food during a viral lull at the end of June. Although we did not include the food portion of this annual event, the result was a successful, spread-out book sale with a limited number of people allowed, all workers and shoppers wearing masks, and keeping at least 6 feet apart. We raised more than \$1,900 that was turned over to the Falmouth Food Pantry.

Each year, all these funds are used for local mission and charity assistance coordinated by the Saint Mary's Outreach Committee. With questions or to participate, contact Jan Mordarski janmordarski@gmail.com or Betsy Stoddard jbstod@myfairpoint.com



Saint Mary's Sparkles in 2020

Sparkles typically includes the first three weeks of Advent and has just completed its 17th year. Sparkles' Mission is to be a major fund raiser and to provide an opportunity for all members of the parish community to work together in different ways. It is also a way of reaching out to the community to visit Saint Mary's to see and be welcomed to our beautiful facility.

Sparkles 2020 was reimagined considering the COVID-19 pandemic. To maintain our mission, while keeping volunteers and customers safe, we added online shopping options, while maintaining a major scaled-back version of in-person shopping. Many customers from the community expressed gratitude for a welcoming and friendly, but safe place to shop. You, our parishioners, and volunteers, were amazing in your support! Those of you who donated items, shopped either in person or online, volunteered in person and at home, and responded to our Angel Effort are responsible for raising \$19,200 for Saint Mary's programs. Thank you! Thank you!

Sparkles 2021 is likely to be quite different also, and we'd love to talk to you about it. If you have any questions or would like to participate, contact Jana Burke or Kathy Galen.



A History of St. Mary's Garden Club and Campus Gardens

The woods were cleared to build Saint Mary's Church. In fact, the property was an old farm with the farmhouse approximately where the church now stands. The area was all pasture and farmland. In 1890, a cornerstone was laid for a summer chapel dedicated by General John Marshall in memory of his daughter. The Norman tower was added in 1902 and is a landmark. In 1927, Saint Mary's constituted a full parish for the community.

St. Mary's Garden Club

St. Mary's Garden Club was organized in 1930 as a branch of the Saint Mary's Guild. The guild was composed of women who were interested in improving the church grounds and providing flowers for the altar. One of the club's first projects was planting a Copper Beech Tree near the church.

- 1931: The garden club joined the State Federation of Garden Clubs.
- 1935: Many people, other than members of Saint Mary’s Church, **became** interested and wished to join the garden club. The club amended the constitution, and membership was enlarged.
- 1943: The first church grounds committee was set up with Mrs. George Talbot as chairman. Mrs. Talbot was the mother of members Connie Kayser and Hannah Russell.
- 1944: Under Mildred Sampson’s chairmanship, the garden was laid out and planted.
- 1945: The garden club’s first flower show was held in the Parish House for the purpose of raising funds for completion of the garden.
- 1948: The Tamarack Tree was planted.

Norton Memorial Garden - 1946

In 1946, the **Norton Memorial Garden** was established, where a fence was previously located, as a memorial to Mr. Ralph Norton. Mr. Norton was Betsy Norton’s father-in-law and had taken care of the grounds for many years. The plants came from his home garden. We have a map of the garden’s original design.

- The white Kousa Dogwood was planted **in memory of Mrs. Harwood E. Ryan**, the mother-in-law of Dody and Dorothy Ryan.
- The pink dogwood tree was planted **in memory of Mrs. Thomas Sampson**, the club’s fourth president.
- The smaller blue and white **Austin Garden** was planted **in memory of Mrs. Walter Austin’s granddaughter**. Natalie Austin wrote in one of her reports – “I sometimes wonder if all members of this club appreciate the privilege of this beautiful spot in which we hold our meetings. So many garden clubs meet in civic buildings where they have no opportunity to enjoy garden work as a group. We have a chance to aid in development of landscaping to which any garden club could point with pride.”

Garden Redesign 2018-2020

In late 2017, club president, Marianne Dodge, approached Susan Carter, a member and recently retired professional landscape designer, with the idea of a complete redesign of the church’s garden. The redesign goals were increasing the church’s use of the garden, updating the garden as ADA accessible, reducing the required maintenance of the garden, addressing new light conditions, and updating the garden to incorporate current garden design theories.

Redesign work began in the winter of 2018, and the design team proposed a three-year project that was approved. The club approached the church with the proposal requesting removal of some aged trees and invasive shrubs. The church agreed and work began.

- The first year a garden path was added. The entry path is visible from the church’s entrance and intended to draw one into the garden. The garden’s central area was regraded to create a space for gathering with a slight grade to a focal point for a speaker or ceremony. A ring of Montmorency cherry trees was planted for a garden backdrop.
- The second year the bed adjacent to the rectory was planted. The design encloses the area while providing privacy for the rectory deck. In addition, River Birch trees were planted as a parish house backdrop.
- The third and final year features planting of the blue and white **Austin Garden**. The area is the primary seating area for visitors and the most visible section of the garden. A featured bench was anonymously donated in honor of garden club presidents: past, present, and future.

The Garden Redesign Committee:
 Chair: Susan Carter Members:
 Elaine Elliott, Bonnie Barthmaier,
 Margaret Curran, Lucy Ellis, Sabrina
 Warner, and Donna Wilhelm



201st Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine in 2020



The 2020 Diocesan Convention was held virtually due to the pandemic. Prior to the actual convention, the Diocese held regular town meetings usually weekly which allowed all the delegates to learn about the major items like the budget, the resolutions and other important business. These meetings were extremely helpful in making the actual convention function well. Thank you to our delegates for their zoom time! 2020 Delegates: Lucy Ellis, Nadine Timberlake, Bonny Rodden, and Janet Bowne

Worship during the year of the COVID- 19 pandemic:

- January 5, 2020 – March 15, 2020 Sunday Worship in the sanctuary at 8 and 10:15am
- March 22, 2020 – June 14, 2020 Sunday Worship livestreamed on Facebook at 10:15 with masked, sanitized, and distanced & limited attendance.
- June 21, 2020 – September 6, 2020 Sunday Worship was Outdoor Picnic Eucharist at 10:15am & 5:30pm with masked, sanitized, and distanced & limited attendance in the campus gardens.
- September 13, 2020 – December 20, 2020 Sunday Worship was livestream at 10:30am in the sanctuary with worship participants only – all being masked, sanitized, and distanced.
- December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve services held outside in the snowy garden area with live Nativity, scripture readings of the familiar story, and carols sung with masked, sanitized, and distanced & limited attendance.
- December 27, 2020 – Saint Mary’s worshipped with all parishes in the Diocese on Facebook or YouTube.

2021 Clergy, Staff & Vestry

Rector	Nathan Ferrell	nathanferrell@smary.org
Deacon	Christine Bennett	deacab@maine.rr.com
Organist/Choir Director	Bruce Fithian	bsfithian@aol.com
Parish Manager	Beth Shaw	admin@smary.org
Sr Warden*	Janet Bowne	janetbowne@maine.rr.com
Jr Warden	Aaron Splint	asplint@yahoo.com
Treasurer*	Ben Parks-Stamm	ben.parks.stamm@gmail.com
2019(Class of)	Darren Clark	ddclark@maine.rr.com
2019	Stan Eaton	stan.eaton@gmail.com
2019	Jan Wentling	janwentling@hotmail.com
2020	Rick Hirschman	rrhirschman@msn.com
2020	Tom Pettingill	thomaspettingill@gmail.com
2020	Will Salomon	wsalomon@clinical-metrics.com
2021*	Rudy Israel	RFIsrael@aol.com
2021*	Tom LaPlante	tlaplante@llbean.com
2021*	Pat Peard	peardpatricia@gmail.com

**Pending election at Annual Meeting*

Saint Mary's Parish Registry - 2020

Baptisms:

Ada Rose Carbone Fulton

Deaths:

Susan Stephens

Jean Wilkinson

Marriages:

Madeline O'Connor *and* Christopher Anderson

