



St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2023

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Dear Friends in Christ,

Looking over these pages, I must say that I am rejoicing! The Spirit's abundant presence in and through our collective lives astounds me. I am so deeply grateful for the many, many people and the myriad of ways that we are gathering to receive the love of God and bear Christ into the world!

This past year has been one of joyous rebirth. Ministries dormant during the pandemic restrictions have come alive once again. New ministries, like our Vital and Thriving process, invite us to go deeper into our lives of faith and listen for God's preferred and promised future in our lives today. What a blessing all this is! Again, I am profoundly grateful for all those who call St. Mary's your faith home.

I hope you will read over these stories of fellowship and ministry and rejoice as well. I hope that if you are not involved in one of these amazing ministries, that you will consider joining one. I hope that if you feel the Spirit moving you in ways that you don't see represented, that you will talk to Rev. Kira or me about discerning a new ministry in our midst. It is our common connection and participation that makes us such a vibrant place of Grace, surrounded and supported always by the presence of God, the Love of Christ, and the Power of the Spirit.

Gratitude, Grace, and Peace,

The Rev. David Erickson
Rector



A LETTER FROM OUR ASSOCIATE RECTOR

“Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It has been a joy and a blessing to do ministry among and alongside you during this program year, and as we pause some of our programming for the summer, I see so many signs of life and growth. There is indeed, as the old hymn says, a “sweet, sweet Spirit in this place” that we call St. Mary’s. Re-convening and re-starting many of our ministries in this time period as COVID has waned has not been easy, but I am so grateful for your energy, passion, dedication, and commitment to the work that God has called us to in this city and for your welcome and embrace of my presence here.

Naturally, it has taken the last year to orient myself and get to know the St. Mary’s community, and I look forward to building on the foundation that we’ve laid, especially in the areas of our common life that I primarily oversee: Christian Formation, Outreach and Evangelism, Justice Ministries, and Parish Life. To nuance Paul’s writing to the Philippians, it is not that we should completely forget what lies behind us, as we have learned a lot during the years of pandemic, but it is a reminder that we are called to look forward to what God is doing both in our midst at St. Mary’s and in the world around us and to partner with God and one another to build God’s Reign here on earth.

I firmly believe that God has equipped the people of St. Mary’s to step up to the challenges in the world around us and to witness to a loving and reconciling God whose Spirit is an active and vibrant presence in our church and in our lives.

Blessings,



The Rev. Kira Austin-Young
Associate Rector



A LETTER FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

I finish off our choral year at St. Mary's with a full heart. At the end of this year, we have about 15 choristers who sing *every Sunday* during the choir year. This represents a substantial increase in participation, compared to recent years. Part of the focus of my Sabbatical in December was to observe and learn about chorister programs in the UK. The great cathedrals and collegiate churches of England all are supported by singing from children choristers; however, in their system, the choristers are students at the associated primary schools, where children receive tuition assistance for participating in the cathedral choirs. Amongst a global decline in church attendance, our Children's and Youth Choirs are growing and thriving. This is remarkable considering our chorister program is an after school program, which requires considerable commitment from the families involved. I would like to credit the dedication and amazing work of Marla Perkins, our Music Associate, whose work with us is a gift and blessing. I would also like to thank the parents who make a sacrifice and commitment to support the musical formation of their children and the music ministry of our church. Finally, I would like to thank all of the choristers in our program for lifting up our liturgies with talent and joy.

Our Parish Choir also continues to thrive, and we are continually attracting new members to St. Mary's through interest in our fierce choral program. Our Parish Choir has enjoyed several highlights over the past year, especially a joint All Souls' Eucharist with the Schola Cantorum of St. Dominic's Catholic Church. Together, we performed Mozart's Requiem, complete with orchestra, in both churches. This was an exciting opportunity for us, and I'm pleased that we will join forces with St. Dominic's for two liturgical performances next year.

I am convinced that music is a great evangelist of the church, and my leadership of our program is guided by this conviction. Let no music we make be for our own glory, but for the Glory of God.

God bless you all.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Eric Choate
Director of Music



SWEEPS VESTRY PORTFOLIOS

Community Ministries

Georgia Burke Lu, Vestry Member

Margaret Stafford and David Crosson, Lay Coordinators

The Revs. Kira Austin-Young & Tim Smith, Clergy Coordinators

Community ministries are an integral part of our life at St. Mary's. Involvement with service to our wider community is an important way that we live out the promises we make in our baptismal covenant, both to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves," and to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being." We work to alleviate the immediate needs of our fellow humans and also to change the broader structures that contribute to human suffering. Below are highlights from some of our many community ministries. Please join us in this fulfilling and life-giving work!

Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT)

Over the past three years, St. Mary's-Sherith Israel NEAT has accompanied eighteen people seeking asylum and lives of independence and dignity in the United States. These have included amazing souls from Colombia, Venezuela, Ukraine, Guatemala, Mexico, Afghanistan, Argentina, and Honduras. Our goal is to assist these aspiring and inspiring people in achieving lives of independence and dignity in the United States. Over three to six months we help them find work and housing, obtain medical coverage and care, secure legal counsel, and learn how to negotiate everything from transportation systems to government bureaucracies in their new home.

In this past year we have worked with a partner organization in San Antonio to bring two young men to the Bay Area from transitional situations in Tijuana. We also are working with a young Ukrainian couple (photo at bottom of page) that has been living in an apartment in Richmond and has job opportunities in the tech industry. Unfortunately, that couple is now living in bureaucratic limbo in Poland, awaiting the American consulate in Frankfurt to act on a visa that has already been approved.

St. Mary's parish and parishioners continue to generously engage in this ministry: doubling the parish budget; individually donating an additional \$4,000; obtaining a \$5,000 Episcopal Impact Fund grant; donating furniture, furnishings, and clothing; securing housing; and even providing *pro-bono* legal counsel.

If you are interested in exploring how you might contribute to—and grow in—this ministry, contact Greer Hopkins at greerhop@comcast.net.

St. Mary's NEAT members: Anne Williams, Barbara Marré, Georgene Keeler, Greer Hopkins, Marcony Grijalva, Susan Gamboa, Mari Coates, David Crosson, Nancy Clark, and Susan Barber.

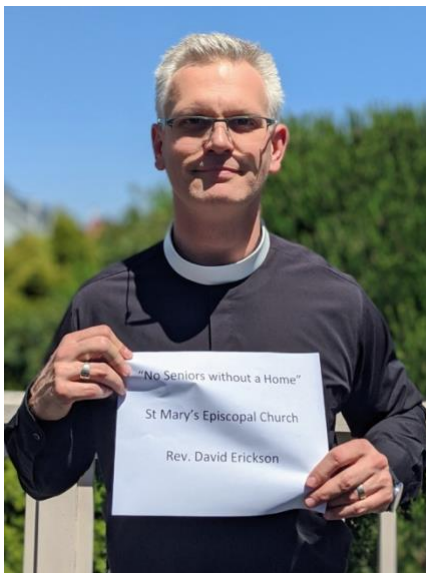


Faith in Action Bay Area (FIABA)

Home is Sacred Initiative

Faith in Action is the largest faith-based community organizing NGO in the country. Its local affiliate, Faith in Action Bay Area, helped facilitated the re-emergence of St. Mary's justice ministries six years ago. FIABA is comprised of leaders from more than 100 congregations and schools in San Francisco and San Mateo counties who work across lines of class, race, language, and age to initiate institutional change within our communities. Its work is intensely relational and is guided by those who are most directly affected by inequality and injustice, especially immigrant families, elders, youth, and people of color.

As identified by the people most directly affected, FIABA is now concentrating on housing inequity and insecurity. Last fall, FIABA leaders made a presentation to St. Mary's on Prop M, which was approved by 55% of voters in November. Prop M will tax empty residential rental units



to create a fund to subsidize rents for people spending more than 50% of their income on rent. FIABA is now working with all levels of governance to ensure that those tax revenues are used as intended to provide critical housing assistance for low-income seniors and families. This spring, over 100 FIABA colleagues joined others from around the state to argue for state rent protection legislation in Sacramento.

This is classic community organizing work. It is relational, community-based, and intense. It is

also transformative, not only of the community but also for all individuals involved. If you are interested in exploring your call to this work, contact David Crosson at david48ec@gmail.com.



Imagining Ministries Within the Justice System

Public safety is of concern to us all. The best way to change that is to 'prevent' crime in the first place and to provide needed services and tools to men and women reentering the community after prison. Volunteer opportunities are numerous, including becoming a pen pal and working with seniors re-entering society. I am a 49-year professional in the field of criminal justice and re-entry. If you are interested in working with me on reimagining the criminal justice system, please reach out. We can tailor make what you are interested in. Please contact me at iconnelly@successfulreentry.com or 415-806-2105.

Winter Shelter Dinner

On Thursday, January 19 of this year, parishioners from St. Mary's partnered once again with parishioners from our neighboring church St. Vincent de Paul to host dinner for unhoused individuals at St. Mary's Cathedral on Geary.

This was the fifth year that parishioners from both churches have partnered to prepare dinners for unhoused individuals in San Francisco as part of the SF Interfaith Council's Winter Shelter Ministry! This ministry provides for parishioners from churches in the community to support unhoused individuals with overnight shelter and food during the months of inclement winter weather in San Francisco.

Working as a single team, parishioners from St. Mary's and St. Vincent's planned the meal, purchased the food, prepared it, and transported it to St. Mary's Cathedral, served it to 75 guests, and then mixed and mingled with their guests during and after the meal. A total of 20 parishioners and clergy participated in serving up a warm and delicious meal to guests who expressed their appreciation for the kindness being shown to them.

In addition, St. Mary's provided new tee shirts and socks to all of the guests.

Funding for the dinner was provided by the Episcopal Impact Fund.

Many thanks to Tom Clothier, Thayer Hopkins, Susan Barber, the Hargis family, and Revs. Kira Austin-Young and Tim Smith for their participation in this community ministry!



Project (Re)start!

Over the years our parishioners have enthusiastically supported our Giving Tree ministry as part of our Advent preparation for the birth of the Christ Child. In December of 2022, our sister diocese, the Diocese of Northern California, invited us to partner with other parishes in our Diocese of California in providing essential household and personal goods for victims of wildfire, flooding, and other disasters who have been adapting to temporary housing while rebuilding their homes and lives.

This "restarting" of life for disaster victims often takes months while they live in temporary housing until their permanent housing is rebuilt. During this timeframe disaster victims need household and personal items since they are often far removed from stores providing necessary goods or are financially challenged to purchase them on their own.

At the end of last year our Giving Tree (in the Parish Hall) was covered with ornaments containing items to be deposited into one of three different bins for disaster victims - for cleaning, kitchen, and bedroom.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all of us at St. Mary's to live out our baptismal vow to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves by partnering with a sister diocese in assisting disaster victims while they rebuild their houses and their lives. Parishioners at St. Mary's donated over 100 gifts, filling several bins that were transported to the Diocese of Northern California for distribution to disaster victims in Northern California!



Special thanks to Susan Barber, Nancy Clark, Deacon Postulant Rebekah Hays-Estera, Deacon Tim Smith, and the Rev. (ret.) Jane McDougall for coordinating this special ministry!

Gubbio Project

We had a highly successful blanket drive during Lent in addition to collecting items during Advent. We happily delivered over 300 items to St. John's Episcopal Church in the Mission for use by Gubbio. Executive Director Lydia Bransten visited St. Mary's and spoke during our Lenten Adult Formation Series. This was well-attended and well-received, including by the older Sunday School class. We had 2 lucrative pantry sales in the courtyard. We look forward to more participation with Gubbio through SMVSF group volunteers and fund-raising for their upcoming project to build showers.



Worship Ministries

Gloria Galindo, Senior Warden & liaison to worship

Natalie Hala, Liturgist & Verger,

Worship liaison to Vestry

Liturgy Committee: Revs. David Erickson,

Tim Smith, & Nancy Bryan

The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Eric Choate, Ashley Ryan & Natalie Hala



Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Genesis 28:15

The regathered community of St. Mary's returned to our sanctuary home to engage with a full complement of the familiar rhythms of in-person worship. We glorified God with renewed confidence that the only future worth pursuing is God's future and that our only hope to share that future is to be in a reciprocal relationship with God of receiving and bestowing grace on human relationships that are in a continuous stream of being deeply nurtured in the sacred elements of worship, praise and sacrament of Holy Communion.

The liturgical motto of our Anglican tradition, "*Lex orandi, lex credendi*" (*the way we pray shapes what we believe*) may be extended to include "*lex vivendi*" (*the way in which we live*) Returning to the Sacrament of Holy Communion in both bread and wine is a journey of returning to home and being fed at the table of the Divine. It is through these public gatherings that communally expressing the intentions of our heart each week that we grow in our faith. From this spiritual nourishment we draw from worship and our common life that makes it possible to live out our commitments to service, whether as individuals or as part of communal parish efforts to care for creation and for the people within it. Nearly 1,000 worshippers attended the 2022 Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and 2023 Easter Day services, a testament to the power of a deep internal yearning to come back home.

On behalf of the Liturgy Team, our heartfelt gratitude for all those who serve and lead worship ministries that include expansive and vital duties from welcoming worshippers to our campus to preparing our sacred space to leading the congregation in prayer. St. Mary's worship services are a dynamic, living example of unity in which we once again share one bread and one cup in praise and thanksgiving to God who always welcomes us home.

Natalie Hala, Parish Liturgist and Verger

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish, keeping with the traditional practices, symbolism and colors of the liturgical year. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards, and frequently assist with the decoration of the parish sanctuary with flowers. St. Mary's is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parishioners who represents this ministry and dedicates time and energy on Sundays for preparations.

Flower Committee

The St. Mary's flower committee is pleased to announce the addition of two new members, Alice Semler and Evie Davis. Along with Victoria Sutton, Joan Toney, Steven Currier, Joanne Squire, Alice Alick, Mary Van Zomeren and Jerry Lehman, the committee continues to provide fresh flower altar arrangements each Sunday, as well as additional window floral treatments at Christmas and Easter. All arrangements are made possible by the generous donations of church members throughout the year. Steven Currier Depont-Kalani is also available to provide custom arrangements for weddings and funerals.



Chalice Bearers

The Chalice Bearer ministry is an integral part of our worship at St. Mary's. Chalice Bearers assist the clergy at the altar during the 8:00 am service and administer the Chalice during Holy Communion at all the services. At the 11:00 am service, (and the 10:00 am service during the Summer) they carry the cross and torches during the processional, at the reading of the Gospel, and during the recessional. As well as serving on Sundays, the Chalice Bearers serve during Holy Week and during the Easter and the Christmas services. We also serve during Memorials when requested.

Pam Bledsoe does the scheduling of Chalice Bearers and Bob Bledsoe & Natalie Hala conduct training sessions several times a year.

We are thrilled to be back after the Covid restrictions. In the past 3 years however, several members have left this ministry for various reasons – moving away from San Francisco, health reasons, other time commitments. We always welcome new members to our group.

So far this year we had 1 training session taught by Natalie & have added 3 new Chalice Bearers – Cecilia Brady, Deborah Franklin, & David Hargis. With the new people this has allowed us to have 2 torches & a Crucifer at the 11:00 am service & at the 10:00 am service during the Summer. We are always looking for new people to join this worthwhile ministry.

Children's Homilists

During the program year, Children's Homilists provide "right-size" interpretation of scripture and contemporary life during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service. A dedicated group of individuals gracefully transitioned from giving virtual homilies to the fullness of interactive and joyful in-person dialogue with young members of our congregation.



Eucharistic Visitors

Thanks to Amy Nachman's leadership and willingness to schedule Eucharistic Visitors, our Eucharistic Visitor Ministry returned this month with a deep, meaningful service at The Heritage. It had been a long 3-year absence for them and us. In addition, we thank Georgia Lu Burke, David Crosson and Alexandra Grover for their eager participation in this important and beloved ministry, as well as our deacons Nancy Bryan and Tim Smith who take the Eucharist to other homebound members of St. Mary's. Eucharistic visitors are available for anyone who wishes to receive the Eucharist in their home.

Scripture Readers & Prayer Leaders

To date this year, 10 new or returning scripture readers/prayer leaders joined the ranks of 15 dedicated members who served faithfully on our virtual platform and have moved adroitly to the lectern in the sanctuary at the 9:00, 10:00 (summer) and 11:00 a.m. services. Each week members of the reader/prayer leader ministry brings their own unique voice to the reading of the scripture and represent our communal voice by leading the intercessions of the heart expressed in the Prayers of the People.



Ushers

The SMV usher ministry is going strong, with about 14 committed, enthusiastic individuals, each of whom serves as an usher once or twice a month during the regular season. While the number of ushers is down from the pre-COVID era, we have been able to make some adjustments (like using two ushers per service instead of three) to ensure that the services still go smoothly. I have to say that the men and women to volunteer for the usher ministry are a particularly kind and friendly bunch. That is appropriate - and important - because ushers are often the first face a visitor sees when they come to our wonderful church.

In the next few months, we plan to recruit three or four new ushers to the corps to make up for those we have lost in the last few years. And as we look forward to the coming year, all of us in the usher ministry will be doing our best to live up to the standard set by David Sullivan, who

tirelessly and lovingly served as our leader for many years, and whose memory continues to serve as our guiding light. If you are interested in joining this ministry or have a particular gift for welcome and hospitality, please contact Rick Darwin.

Youth Acolytes

The nine o'clock Sunday worship service is blessed by the leadership of a faithful group of youth acolytes. After twenty months, a stalwart group of youth resumed serving as acolytes in Advent 2021: Gloria Cebrian, Hovey Clark, John Hibbard, Jack Minick, William Minick, Noelle Winn, Thornton Wyman, and Charlotte Wyman. These young people showed amazing resilience and good humor through continually changing responsibilities due to health precautions. Since resuming in-person worship, we welcomed six new acolytes: Luke Cebrian, Nathaniel Cebrian, Phoebe de Castro, Stella Hossein, Caroline Stafford, and Rebecca Stafford. We are especially grateful for the three senior acolytes who graduated this spring after serving since fourth grade: John Hibbard, Noelle Winn, and Charlotte Wyman. We are blessed by the presence and leadership of these young people at our worship services, along with all the other ways they contribute to the abundant life of St. Mary's as choristers, Sunday School students, Youth Group members, and more.

We enthusiastically invite all our fourth through twelfth grade parishioners to join us as acolytes when we resume the 9 a.m. service in the fall.

Education Ministries

Nicole Elliott & Linda Woodworth, Vestry Members
The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector
Nancy Clark, Sunday School
Phil Woodworth, Youth Confirmation
Mike Stafford, Youth Minister

Adult Formation

As we reconvened this year, adult formation took a variety of forms. We welcomed speakers and presentations on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m., with some of the highlights being author Kevin Nye presenting about his book *Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness* and Lydia Bransten, the executive director of The Gubbio Project. Our Advent and Lenten devotionals were very well-received, and we were particularly grateful to have the Rev'd Kathy Guin lead a weekly discussion on the devotional during Lent. We look forward to the Summer in the City series and hope you will join us as we grow in knowledge and love of God.

Sunday School

We wrapped up the 2022-23 Sunday School year with an array of culminating activities and two classrooms full of students. Attendance in both classroom settings, one for older and another for younger children, was steady throughout the school year. Making all of this possible was the expertise and enthusiasm of our loyal corps of teachers. We did a tally at our annual Fishers of

Kids dinner honoring the teachers and determined that all together our teachers have brought more than 150 years (!) worth of Sunday School teaching to our parish.

With cupboards full of supplies and filing cabinets and bookshelves stocked with lessons for all themes and all seasons, we'll be ready to welcome new students and new families next year.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation was successfully conducted this past program year with three regular participants. Two of them were confirmed on June 10th at Grace Cathedral with the Rev'ds David and Kira and their families presenting them to the bishop.



Youth Confirmation Class:

Peter Fishman

Nicola Gnuse

Caroline Stafford

Youth Group



We have had a phenomenal year in Youth Group. The group returned to its Sunday evening meeting time to better accommodate the schedules of the Youth and to allow us to have regular meals together. We had a fairly consistent group show up, mainly from high schoolers, and we saw a fantastic increase in the number of middle schoolers this year. Activities included weekly conversation, dinner, and games, and also monthly adventures that included bowling, House of Air, and a North Beach/Chinatown treasure hunt.

The Youth Group worked in joint ministry with the Youth Group of St. James Episcopal Church on California Street. We are looking forward to continued collaboration between our groups next year as well.

In the Summer of 2022, 8 youth and 2 adults went to Los Angeles for the Youth Mission Trip. We served at the Union Rescue Mission serving meals, we supported a fundraising walk-a-thon, we explored income inequality in Los Angeles, we visited Hollywood and Griffith Observatory, and we went to Disneyland. The trip was incredibly meaningful, and the group forged lifelong bonds.

Pastoral Care

Susan Barber, Chair, Pastoral Care Team
David Crosson, Co-Facilitator of Justice Ministries
Amy Nachman, Vestry Member

We are a team of 10 members, working together to stay connected with parishioners who are unable to attend church regularly or who are going through a difficult time. We send cards of support, make regular phone calls and deliver gift bags during the Christmas holiday. We offer compassionate and spiritual support as the need arises.

We as a committee meet every other month for coffee and conversation along with either Rev. Kira or Rev. David. We would like to be in closer communication with the Eucharistic Visitors and Stephen Ministers.

Every other week, we mail the Announcements to parishioners who like to keep in touch with St. Mary's news but who are not able to attend church regularly. The Sunday bulletin is delivered each week to St. Mary's members who live at The Heritage.

Our current members are Susan Barber, Deacon Nancy Bryan, Georgene Keeler, Jeanne Lacy, Robert Manette, Amy Nachman, Rob Noeller, Polly Sanford, Anna Sylvester, and Anne Turnbull.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact the church office at office@smvsf.org.



Stephen Ministry

At St. Mary's, five Stephen Ministers provide highly-trained, Christ-centered lay pastoral care to those who are struggling through times of personal crisis. Clergy refer people to Stephen Ministry, who then walk with them as long as needed, whether one month or three years. Contact one of the clergy if you would like a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister.

Parish Life

*Barbara Bernard & Matt Spitzer, Vestry Members
Amy & Christian Cebrian, Lay Coordinators
The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector*

A parish, or church congregation, is a community of believers who grow in faith and share experiences with one another. Parish Life is how we build that community through fellowship events, fun outings, and dedicated time together. From planned meals like our Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast and Summer Kick-Off Cook-out to our yearly Parish Retreat, these are ways of fostering meaningful relationships with one another. If you are interested in helping out with Parish Life events, please contact the Rev'd Kira Austin-Young.

Vital + Thriving

We hope you had an opportunity to participate in some aspect of our Vital + Thriving initiative this year. St. Mary's was invited to be a member of the pilot cohort of the new diocesan initiative of congregational development. The process focuses on discernment, exploration, and experimentation to discover God's preferred and promised future for St. Mary's at this time and into the future. Our work is supported by the professional team of Vital + Thriving Congregations that in different forms has been engaged in the work of congregational discernment for over forty years.

Our Steering Team of Kira Austin-Young, Amy Cebrian, Rick Darwin, Rod Dugliss, David Erickson, David Gibson, Georgia Burke Lu, and Debbie Veatch, has met monthly and attended all-day quarterly pilot-cohort gatherings since May 2022. Our first phase was focused on listening to one another and God. Our Listening Team of Donna Davidson, Lynne Dombrowski, Cynthia Harper, John Hayashi, and Kathleen Murray held confidential conversations with a small, representative group of St. Mary's parishioners. Approximately 75 parish households responded to our online survey. A highlight of our process was the robust and joyful participation of approximately 60 people at our Congregational Timeline Event in October, where we shared our experiences of Red Letter Days (day/event/person you are proud of), Blue Days (day/event/person you are not proud of), and Green Days (day/event/person that gives you hope for our future) from our individual and collective history at St. Mary's over the years. The Vital + Thriving professionals used all of the data gathered through these three sources of listening to compile three reports which are available to all to read and may be found on St. Mary's website. We used these reports as the foundation for our Corporate Spiritual Discernment Event in March, when approximately 40 parishioners gathered for a half day to collectively reflect on and discuss where God is calling us at this time and place. Shortly thereafter, the Steering Team joined the Vestry during their retreat to further discern a missional opportunity to more deeply explore and experiment with during the next phase of our process.

When St. Mary's program year begins in the fall, the second phase of Vital + Thriving will focus on the missional opportunity of engaging with the younger generations of San Franciscans, single or partnered, with or without children. A Missional Innovation Team is forming to focus on this phase of exploration and experimentation in partnering with our San Francisco neighbors. We will

keep you informed of this continuing work and how you may participate.

Thank you to all the members of the Listening Team, Steering Team, and parishioners who participated this past year. This work of discovering and exploring ways to bring to life God's preferred and promised future will be ongoing. We invite you to ask questions, offer ideas, and join us in this joyful and holy process to share God's boundless love and grace that we experience with our neighbors.

Affinity Groups

In addition to the below affinity groups, St. Mary's also has other small groups of parishioners who gather around a specific passion, demographic, or issue. Currently, these groups also include Young Professionals, LGBTQ+, and a Men's Group.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King are a National Order for women who undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. The chapter at St. Mary the Virgin meets once each month after the last morning service with The Rev. David Erickson and The Rev. Kira Austin-Young sharing the duties of our Chaplain.

This year, we continued our meetings by Zoom. We are grateful to Betty Hood-Gibson for her support with this process. We communicate regularly with the Pastoral Care Committee and pray each day for those who need prayers and communicate by email to keep up with additional prayer requests.

We sponsored an in-person Quiet Day on February 11, 2023. The Rev. Kira Austin-Young presented on the theme "A Light to Enlighten the Nations— Reflections of Jesus at the Temple." We started with lunch together, after which, three reflections were presented with periods of silence following. We concluded the afternoon with a Eucharist in the chapel.

Members of the St. Mary's Chapter

Malaney Wood Johnides, President

Betty Hood-Gibson, Vice President

Gloria Powell

Catherine Secour, Secretary

Anna Sylvester, Treasurer

St. Mary's Columbarium Committee

The Columbarium at St. Mary's offers a place to memorialize parishioners and their loved ones in the serenity of our inner courtyard. This facility is unique in San Francisco, where there are few cemeteries, and few outdoor columbaria. With a distinctive natural stone design that complements St. Mary's architecture and gardens, the Columbarium contains 145 niches, each sized to accommodate up to two crematory urns.

The Columbarium was dedicated in 2007, owing to the faith and effort of a passionate ad hoc committee. Its operation - including niche reservations, preparations for interments, and final sealing - is performed by Parish staff and lay ministers. Members of St. Mary's may inquire about the columbarium for themselves and their loved ones by contacting the Parish Administrator. If you are interested in the continuing work of the columbarium, please contact Sandy Stadtfeld or Deborah Franklin.



Building & Grounds Report

Arthur Perkins, Building and Grounds Chair

Russell Fudge, Vestry Member

Alex Lei, Sexton

St. Mary's Buildings & Grounds are in good shape and operating properly. The Vestry over time has set aside a capital reserve fund out of long-term investments to defray the cost of major repairs, replacements and acquisitions. The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund as of May 31, 2023 was approximately: \$488,169. Since May 31, 2022, the Capital Reserve Fund had additions of \$20,843 from bequests and gifts, and expenditures of \$61,328 for replacements and major repairs and maintenance, about \$17,000 of the expenditures were for work done before May 31, 2022. Over the past year, St. Mary's Campus has experienced a number of repairs, replacements and improvements under the supervision of Mike Stafford, the Building & Grounds Committee and the Vestry. The major items are detailed below.

- Fence repairs were made along the Union Street fence line by the church.
- Coffee maker was upgraded along with the coffee beans resulting in the fabulous coffee that is served in the courtyard every Sunday.
- Name plate for Rev. Kira was installed on the corner sign.
- Sprinkler fire suppression backflow valve was replaced.
- McMillan Electric repaired the florescent light in the sacristy including replacing the ballast.
- Allied Heating replaced a malfunctioning thermostat and inspected and repaired as needed the remaining thermostats.
- Rectory painting along the side and rear together with minor repairs and replacements was completed.
- Lewis Cleaners cleaned and sanitized the carpets and carpet pads in the nursery and pre-kindergarten rooms following flooding brought on by this winter's rains.
- Rain gutters on the church building along Union and Steiner Streets were replaced with new aluminum gutters.
- Avalon Glass Works has been retained to replace and repair, as necessary, the broken windows along the Union Street side of the church.

Open items include:

- Resolving the water seepage in the south wall of the chapel.
- Making the doorbell to the church offices more robust.
- Rectory rear fence to be replaced.
- Consideration of furnace and/or furnace component replacement.
- Design and future installation of a bench honoring Manny Gabiana.

Finally, members of the Buildings & Grounds Committee walk-through the Rectory with Fr. David on April 19, 2023, and found it in good shape and in good working order.

Finance Ministries

The Vestry has primary responsibility for all decisions involving spending money.

- Each year the vestry votes to approve the annual budget.
- Expenditures over budget or not included in the budget are approved by vestry.
- Expenditures from endowed/invested funds not included in the budget are also approved by vestry.
- Every member of vestry has a voice and a vote in making financial decisions – votes are by majority.

The finances of St. Mary’s are managed by a team of staff members and volunteers.

Title:	Accountant	Chair of Finance Committee	Treasurer
2023 title holder:	Vicki Turk	Elizabeth Falcon	Betty Hood-Gibson, Treasurer Ellen McLean, Asst.Treasurer
Type of Position:	Paid staff position; reports to the Rector as an employee; supervised by the Treasurer	Vestry member who serves up to three years; voted to the vestry by the parish; appointed to the position of Finance Chair by the Rector.	Volunteers who serve an unrestricted term voted or affirmed by the vestry each year
Glo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Manages day to day finances of the church ⊗ Prepares bills for payment (does not sign checks) ⊗ Administers payroll processing and HR compliance with diocesan guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Chair of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses, and advises vestry on financial decisions ⊗ Chair of the Legacy and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Officer of the Corporation responsible for insuring best practices for all our financial decisions ⊗ Primary bank officer for bank accounts

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Records & tracks pledges including reports and donor acknowledgements ⊗ Prepares monthly financial statements for Finance Committee; Rector; vestry ⊗ Prepares required filings for all government agencies ⊗ Works with Treasurers on annual diocesan audit | <p>Endowment Board which oversees the church's investment accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Reports on monthly actual vs. budget for vestry ⊗ Communicates and gives direction to State Street Global Advisors, our investment manager | <p>(signatory on main operating account and investment accounts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ Reviews and signs off on the Parochial Report to the diocese, IRS filings, Tax Records – all official documents ⊗ Members of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses and advises vestry on financial decisions ⊗ Organizes and supervises team of accountants who count plate money and record donations |
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2023 Finance Committee Members: Elizabeth Falcon (Chair), Rev. David Erickson (Rector), Gloria Galindo (Senior Warden), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Ellen McLean (Assistant Treasurer), Matt Spitzer, Arthur Perkins

2023 Legacy and Endowment Board Members: Elizabeth Falcon (Finance Chair), (David Erickson, ex-officio non-voting member), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Eric Alt, Jim Griffith, Ashley Clark, Arthur Perkins, plus one vacant position

2023 Accounting Team: Ellen McLean (Coordinator), Betty Hood-Gibson, Nel Ellwein, Kim Regan, Debbie Veatch, Carol Harris, Claire Alt, Linda Connelly

Photos of Our Common Life This Past Year



Notes

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