



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

For the 2020 Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin
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AGENDA

- 1 **Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** **The Rev. David L. Erickson, Rector**
Hymn #686 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing'
- 2 **Remembering the Faithful Departed Parishioners:** **The Revs. David L. Erickson, Nancy Bryan, and Tim Smith**
- 3 **Review Canons and Bylaws for Voting Qualifications and Establishing a Quorum:** **Debbie Veatch, Sr. Warden**
- 4 **Election by Acclamation and Introduction of Vestry Class of 2023: (*profiles in the Annual Report*)**
John Adair
Nancy Clothier
Stephen Gamboa
Rebecca Peacock
- 5 **Election by Acclamation and Introduction of SF Deanery Delegation for 2020:**
Roulhac Austin, convener
David Crosson
Steven Currier
Rick Darwin
Jeff Landry
Fred Martin
Gretchen Lintner
7 alternate positions are available.
- 6 **Stewardship:** **Allan Jergesen, Vestry and Jim Griffith, 2020 Stewardship Chair**
Questions and Comments
- 7 **Finance Reports:**
 - 7.1 2019 Financial Report Arthur Perkins, Vestry and Finance Committee
 - 7.2 2020 Budget as approved by the Vestry Matt Bartlett, Vestry and Finance Chair
 - 7.3 Legacy & Endowment Betty-Hood Gibson, Treasurer
 - 7.4 St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Fund Ruth Tatum, St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship ChairQuestions and Comments
- 8 **Vestry Report** **Debbie Veatch, Sr. Warden and Christian Cebrian, Jr. Warden**
 - 8.1 **SWEEPS model of vestry portfolio oversight**
 - 8.2 Community Ministry Cynthia Harper and The Rev. Tim Smith
 - 8.3 Worship Deborah Franklin and Eric Choate, Director of Music
 - 8.4 Education Laura Akel and Will Long
 - 8.5 Communications Molly Irwin
 - 8.6 Parish Life Christian Cebrian
 - 8.7 Pastoral Care Georgene Keeler and The Rev. Nancy Bryan
 - 8.8 Buildings and Grounds Arthur PerkinsQuestions and Comments
- 9 **Senior Warden's Report** **Debbie Veatch, Sr. Warden**
- 10 **Rector's Report** **The Rev. David L. Erickson, Rector**
Hymn #488 'Be Thou My Vision'
- 11 **Closing Prayer** **The Rev. David L. Erickson, Rector**
- 12 **Adjourn for Lunch: Debbie Veatch**

PROFILES: CLASS OF 2023 VESTRY NOMINEES



John Adair

John grew up in the Minneapolis area and regularly attended St. Luke's Episcopal Church with his family. He received a BA with distinction from Northwestern University and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley. John is a real estate investor and is currently the Founder and Managing Partner of Glencrest Group. Prior to Glencrest, John was the Principal in charge of capital transactions for Prime Residential and an attorney with Orrick. He is a licensed real estate broker, active member of the California State Bar, and has passed all three levels of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam. John lives in San Francisco with his three children. He enjoys outdoor adventures in his free time, especially skiing, mountain biking, and surfing. John's nonprofit leadership experience includes service on the Boards of The Little School and the Northwestern University Leadership Circle.



Nancy Clothier

Nancy is a native San Franciscan, her great-grandfather having arrived in the city in 1855. She and her husband Tom raised their 3 children in the Sunset district of the city. After moving to the Marina district, Nancy decided to return to her Episcopalian roots and visited St. Mary's. The kiosk in the courtyard mentioned many outreach programs so she joined that committee. With her experience in computers and websites, she gravitated to the Communications Committee when they were researching starting a website for St. Mary's. That was in 1999. Besides working on the website, Nancy has been part of pastoral care, outreach, serves on the Altar Guild, works on the Tidings' committee handling the finances and the Grant Team. Nancy was the secretary/clerk of the vestry for 11 years. Besides enjoying spending time with her children, granddaughter and friends, she and Tom enjoy traveling and spending time on their classic boat. St. Mary's has been and continues to be an important part of her life. There is a kindness at St. Mary's that she doesn't find everywhere in the world. Nancy's husband Tom has become involved in the Thursday Food Delivery and assisting in the Winter Shelter Dinners, preparing and serving meals for homeless men.



Stephen Gamboa

Stephen Gamboa, MD, MPH. I was raised in South Carolina in the Presbyterian church. But after 12 years at an Episcopal school, Episcopal summer camp, and youth group at the Episcopal church in Charleston, becoming an Episcopalian was inevitable. I earned an AB in Art History from Davidson College (alma mater of Stephen Curry) and an MD from the University of North Carolina. I completed two residency trainings, one in Family Medicine and the other in Emergency Medicine. Early in my career, I earned an additional degree in health policy and management at Harvard University. I currently work at Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco as an emergency physician and a hospitalist, which means that I care for patients sick enough to be in the hospital or emergency room. I also teach medical students and residents as an Assistant Clinical Professor at UCSF. Before coming to St Mary's, my family and I were parishioners at the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. When we moved to San Francisco in 2016, we quickly found a spiritual home at St Mary's. We feel immensely blessed to be part of the community we've found here. As parents, we've especially appreciated how St Mary's supports our children in their spiritual journeys. I'd be honored to serve as part of your vestry and hope that I'm able to use whatever talents I've been given to serve the parish.



Rebecca Peacock

I am more than honored to serve the St. Mary the Virgin church and community. If you haven't met me yet, I'm originally from the Philadelphia area. I graduated with a Bachelors in Philosophy in 2015 from Eastern University and later moved to the Bay Area to be closer to my then-boyfriend Kyle Peacock. After we got married, we joined All Souls Episcopal in Berkeley and fell in love with the best parts of life in the Episcopal Church: music, fellowship, love, and community. After moving to San Francisco, where I work as a legislative aide for the City and County of San Francisco, we started looking for a new church to attend and stumbled on St. Mary's. From the first Sunday, we knew we were home. Here we have found a living, thriving, and welcoming community. We have been attending for a year and a half now and have been blessed to participate in the adult choir and young professionals' ministries. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve the church on a leadership basis and hope that it brings me to a deeper understanding of God, self, and community.

2020 SAN FRANCISCO DEANERY & DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

1. Roulhac Austin, Convener
2. David Crosson
3. Steven Currier
4. Rick Darwin
5. Jeff Landry
6. Fred Martin
7. Gretchen Lintner

Seven alternate positions are available.

Remembering the Faithful Departed Parishioners of St. Mary's in 2019



*Elizabeth Bivins
Carol Ann Kirkland
Robert LaFreniere
Frank Maynard
Bruno Schatz
Lynda Spence*

STEWARDSHIP

Jim Griffith, 2020 Stewardship Pledge Chair

Allen Jergesen, Vestry Member



2020 Annual Appeal

“Come, Belong, Bless, Give.” These four simple words capture the theme of the 2020 Annual Appeal and our vision for our parish as it seeks to live its mission of receiving the grace of God and bringing Christ into the world. The great hope for all is that St. Mary’s continues to be a place of love and joy. A place thriving with life and offering the fullness of life that is the way of Christ.

As of January 15, 2020, total pledges totaled \$734,665 representing 202 pledging units. The 2020 goal is \$825,000 with 220 pledge units.

Annual Appeal efforts involved many. Stewardship Committee members were Creighton Reed, Kyle Peacock, Fran Hegeler, Stephen Hibbard, Betty Hood-Gibson, Allan Jergesen, John Hayashi, Peter de Castro, Anna Sylvester, Stephen Gamboa, and Donna Davidson.

Starting in April, 2019, Committee members canvassed over 50 parishioners to learn what message would be important to incorporate into an Annual Appeal, asking:

1. Why did you come to SMV?
2. Why do you stay?
3. What do you hope the future brings to SMV/

From the responses we developed a new brochure with the theme: “Come, Belong, Bless, Give.”

More details about the campaign effort:

- Annual Appeal six-week effort kicked-off on October 13th and ended on Sunday, November 17th.
- All parish members were mailed a brochure and letter, urging them to participate by making a financial pledge.
- Follow-up emails, phone calls, and letters were sent by Committee.
- Each Sunday during the campaign a parish member delivered a short speech. The comments alternated between “Facts and Fiction” and “Testimonials of Faith and Pledging.” Thank you to Amy Nachman, Saskia Lofti, Anita Osib, Rod Dugliss, Kathleen Murray, Matt Bartlett, Anna Sylvester, and Allan Jergesen for participating.
- To be transparent, the 2019 budget was posted on the narthex door for all to see.
- We tracked campaign financial progress by a “Cable Car Climbing the Hill” on the church narthex door.
- On November 17th, we celebrated the end of the campaign with cake in the courtyard!

Going forward, the Committee will continue to follow-up with parishioners who have historically pledged but not yet responded to the 2020 Annual Appeal. The effort will extend into late spring.

Planning for 2021 Annual Appeal will begin in April, 2020.

FINANCE FOR 2019-2020

*Matt Bartlett, Vestry Member & Finance Chair
L&E Board, St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Fund*

These ministries focus on carrying out the vestry's fiduciary duties to assure the prudent investment and management of our funds to support ministry and terrestrial concerns like lights, heat and insurance:

Legacy and Endowment Board

This advisory committee meets quarterly to review the investment advice and returns of our financial advisors concerning endowed and vestry-directed investment accounts.

In 2019, gifts were given to St. Mary the Virgin in memory of the following people:

Noble Robert Ackerson	John Traina
Elizabeth Bivins	Nicolas Traina
Bob LaFreniere	Joan Wild
Frank Maynard	Carl Zachrisson
Lynda Spence	

St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Fund and Awards 2019-2020

The St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Fund was created by a generous bequest of an anonymous, long-time parishioner of St. Mary the Virgin. This gift funds undergraduate college scholarships for young women from the parish. Awards totaled \$44,000 and were awarded to eleven undergraduate women for the 2019-2020 academic year. These young women have been actively involved in the life of St. Mary the Virgin and have demonstrated exceptional service, commitment and participation in our youth programs over the years. The recipients and the schools they attend:

Ainsley Ball	Junior, Tufts University
Fiona Bean	University of Montana/Davidson Honors College
Audrey Prescott	University of California Los Angeles
Sophie Reynolds	Cornell University
Camilla Sigmund	Georgetown University
Corinne Sigmund	Vassar College
Catherine Silvestri	Cornell University
Eva Smith	University of California Santa Barbara
Sadie Ray Smith	Carleton College
Frances Sutton	Pomona College
Ginny Woodworth	Seattle University

Bequests of 2019

In 2019, bequests were made to St. Mary the Virgin by:

Frank Maynard
Lynda Spence

2019 INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY
As Approved by the Vestry on January 22, 2020

OPERATING REVENUE

PLEDGE INCOME:	792,162
OTHER INCOME:	
Plate offerings, non-pledge operating income prior year pledge payments, Easter and Christmas offerings, investment transfer, building use, and other income	238,915
TOTAL INCOME:	<u>\$1,031,077</u>

EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION MINISTRY:	50,249
Includes church school directors' salaries and materials, nursery care, youth program, adult education, and Christian community.	
WORSHIP MINISTRY:	309,144
Includes salary and benefits for Rector, Associate Rector, assisting clergy and verger/liturgist and worship supplies.	
MUSIC MINISTRY:	160,017
Includes salary and benefits for music director, children's choir director, organ and piano maintenance, music scores, section leaders, and other musicians.	
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT:	166,932
PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:	8,111
Includes community outreach, clergy pastoral needs and support for the diocesan deanery.*	
FINANCIAL:	54,363
Includes salary and benefits for parish accountant, payroll service fees, and audit/compliance expenses.	
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION:	125,935
Includes salary and benefits for parish administrator, office supplies, photo copy equipment maintenance, computer support and upgrades, postage, printing/paper, and phone/internet costs.	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:	151,577
Includes sexton salary and benefits, building repairs and maintenance, rectory costs, utilities, janitorial service, garden care, and general liability insurance.	
STEWARDSHIP, HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:	4,749
Includes stewardship mailings, communications, coffee hour, vestry expenses, newcomers' hospitality.	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,031,077</u>

TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSES **-0-**

*Outreach contributions for Tidings of Comfort and Joy, and collections for Evensong totaling \$40,656 are not included in this amount.

2020 BUDGET SUMMARY

As Approved by the Vestry on January 22, 2020

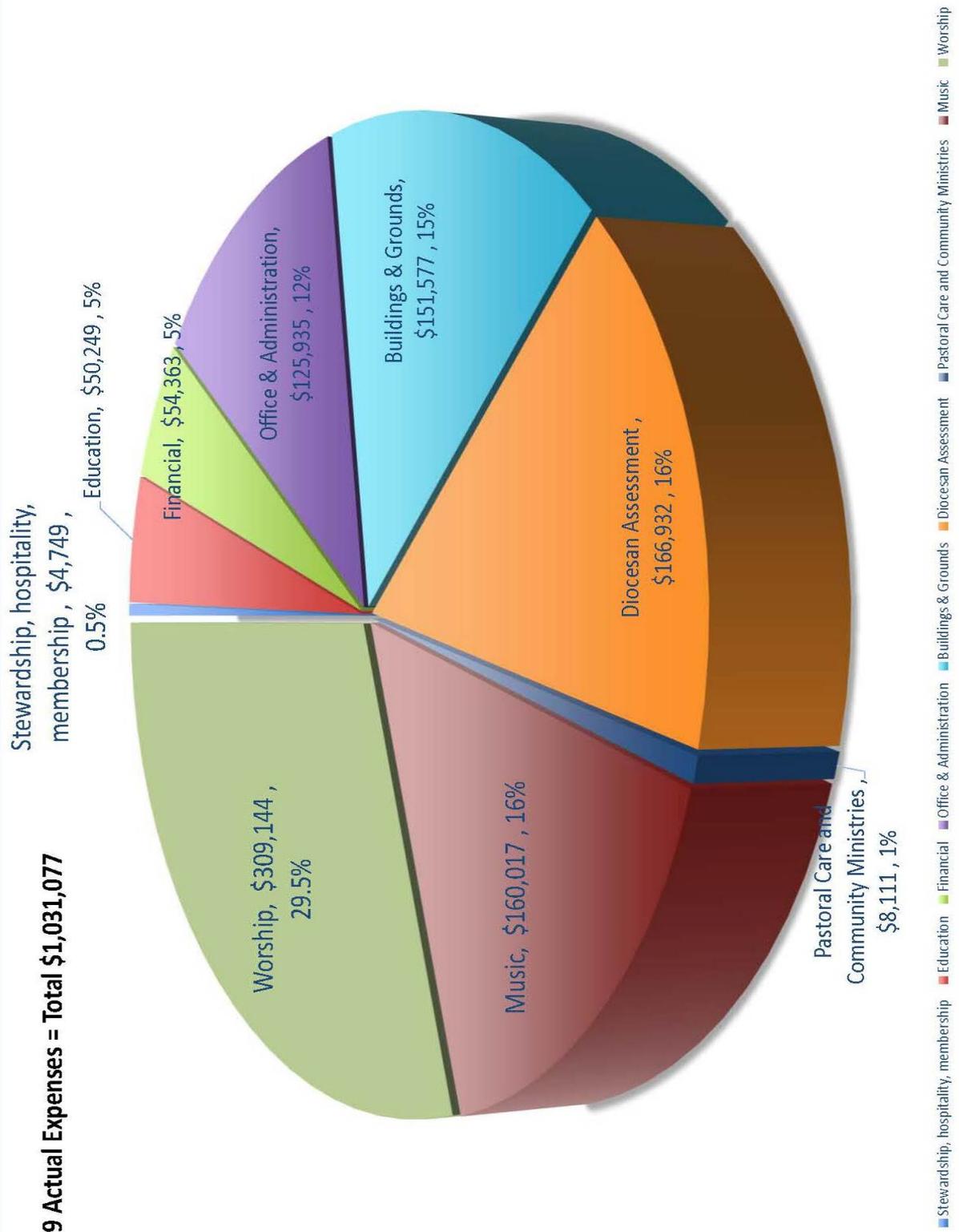
OPERATING REVENUE

ANTICIPATED PLEDGE INCOME:	820,000
OTHER INCOME:	230,743
Plate offerings, non-pledge operating income, prior year pledge payments, Easter and Christmas offerings, investment transfer, building use and other income.	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>\$1,050,743</u>

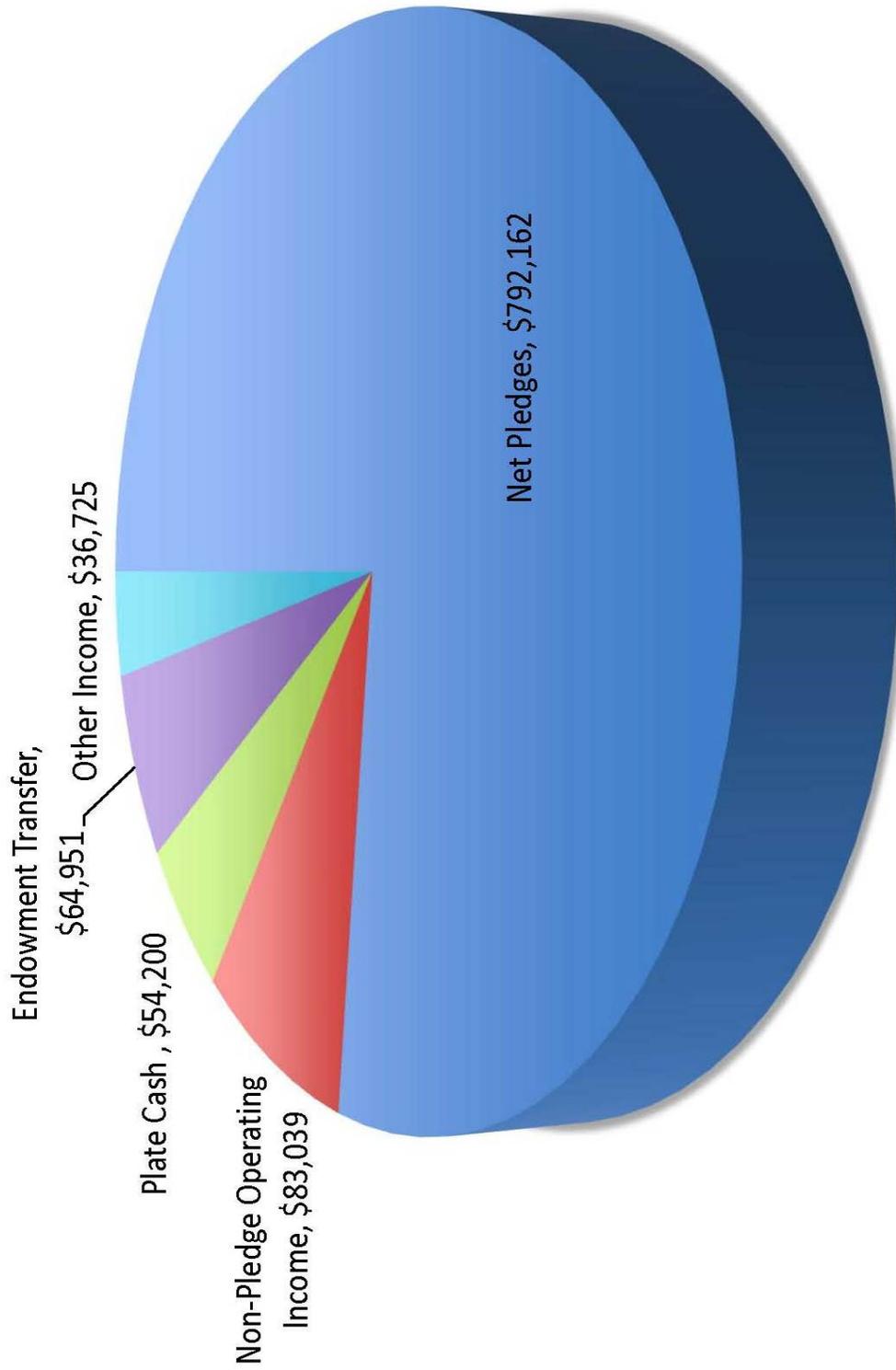
EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION MINISTRY:	59,341
Includes church school directors' salaries and materials, nursery care, youth program, adult education and Christian community.	
WORSHIP MINISTRY:	322,873
Includes salary and benefits for Rector, Associate Rector, verger/liturgist, miscellaneous worship and clergy expenses.	
MUSIC MINISTRY:	166,894
Includes salary and benefits for music director, children's choir director, organ and piano maintenance, music scores, section leaders, and other musicians.	
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT:	172,437
PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:	9,080
Includes community outreach, clergy pastoral needs and support for the diocesan deanery.	
FINANCIAL:	48,536
Includes salary and benefits for Finance Manager, payroll service fees, and audit/compliance expenses.	
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION:	119,656
Includes salary and benefits for parish administrator, office supplies, photo copy equipment maintenance, computer support and upgrades, postage, printing/paper, and phone/internet costs.	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:	164,393
Includes sexton salary and benefits, building repairs and maintenance, rectory costs, utilities, janitorial service, garden care, and general liability insurance.	
STEWARDSHIP, HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:	<u>8,450</u>
Includes stewardship mailings, communications, coffee hour, vestry expenses, newcomers' hospitality.	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,071,560</u>
2020 PROJECTED NET DEFICIT	<u><\$15,917></u>

2019 Actual Expenses = Total \$1,031,077



2019 SMV Actual Income = Total \$1,031,077



St Mary's Expense Trends 2014-2019B



St. Mary's Revenue Trends 2014-2020B



WORSHIP & ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

Year	2017*	2018*	2019*
Average Sunday Attendance <small>*Total Sunday attendance divided by Sundays of that year.</small>	227	206	228
Sacramental Statistics			
Baptisms	21	19	18
Confirmations	19	27	13
Weddings	5	1	1
Funerals & Memorial Services	6	7	6

NOTE: Interim period ended Sept. 2017

VESTRY REPORT FOR 2019

*Debbie Veatch, Senior Warden
Christian Cebrian, Junior Warden*

This year, we experienced the blessing of having two permanent full-time clergy. As of August, David has been our Rector for two years and Marguerite has been our Associate Rector for one year. Our new clergy focused on getting to know us and where we have been and, in turn, we focused on getting to know them as our Rector and Associate Rector.

The Vestry has had the opportunity to focus on learning more about what it means to lead by following in Jesus' Way of Love at this time, in this very special community of St. Mary's. We began the year with all members of the Vestry, not only the four new members, at an orientation day in February. We spent time getting to know one another and considering what it means to work together. In March, we held our retreat, starting Friday evening with an opportunity to get to know one another more over dinner and discussion about group norms. We spent Saturday in reflection and planning. With the guidance of a facilitator, first we engaged in sharing our expectations of how the Vestry and the Rector would work together this year. This provided clarity about how we would collectively lead St. Mary's. We spent most of the day brainstorming about hopes and dreams for St. Mary's, distilling these into categories, and ultimately discerning three goals on which we committed to intentionally focus during 2019:

- Newcomer and Parishioner Engagement
 - Outreach and communications
 - Newcomer welcome
 - Engagement and integration of parishioners, new and long-standing
- Increase Participation in Financial Giving
- Support Family Ministries

We formed Vestry teams for each of the goals, which met regularly and independently to discern, plan, and implement action in furtherance of these goals. We included a status check-in during Vestry meetings.

For the first time, we held a Mid-Year Parish Check-In Meeting in July. We shared our goals and followed our SWEEPS approach to sharing highlights of our various ministry areas. Parishioners fully engaged in asking questions, making suggestions, and finding connections between ministry areas. One result was the updated *Ministries Brochure* that describes each of our ministry areas and how to become involved. We also shared the state of our finances based on five months of income and expenses. This led to further questions and suggestions. David thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion, and encouraged everyone to continue sharing their ideas and join the Vestry in praying and discerning how to proceed. Parishioners accepted David's call and through their prayers and discernment, the Holy Spirit moved many to increase their pledge or make additional financial gifts. At the end of the year, our financial situation had been transformed so that we ended in the black, with a balanced budget.

The Vestry thanks each parishioner for their gifts of time, talent, and financial resources that allow St. Mary's to do God's work. We pray that you are blessed by your involvement and the relationships that develop therefrom.

The Vestry

Class of 2020

Deborah Franklin
Allan Jergesen
Georgene Keeler
Debbie Veatch

Class of 2021

Laura Akel
Matt Bartlett
Christian Cebrian
Molly Irwin

Class of 2022

Cynthia Harper
Will Long
Arthur Perkins
Sheila Santangelo

Tatiana Hodapp, Recording Secretary and Clerk

SWEEPS VESTRY PORTFOLIOS

Community Ministries (formerly Service)

Cynthia Harper, Vestry Member

Margaret Stafford and David Crosson, Lay Coordinators

The Revs. Tim Smith and Nancy Bryan, Clergy Coordinators

Community ministries are an integral part of life at St. Mary's. Involvement with community ministries is an important way that we live out 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 peoples and respect the dignity of every human being." Below, are 2019 highlights from some of our many community ministries. Our *Ministries Brochure* provides a comprehensive list of the variety of ways to become engaged in community ministries at St. Mary's. Please join us in this fulfilling and life-giving work!

San Francisco/Marin Food Bank: Delivering food to those in need throughout our city

Our parish partnership with the SF/Marin Food Bank prospered and grew in 2019 as a stalwart group of parishioners continued to deliver food every Thursday morning to disabled and elderly individuals in San Francisco who are unable to procure food on their own. After starting in 2015 with just a handful of parishioners volunteering and five recipients of food in late 2015, our food delivery ministry has grown to 30 regular and part-time volunteers and 66 recipients of food. In 2019, we made over 3000 deliveries of food throughout the city. Also, in 2019 we partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in providing additional food to our recipients. We are very grateful to our volunteers for their presence and compassion in ministering with food-insecure individuals in our community! We invite parishioners and friends to join and help us grow our ministry!

St. Mary's Justice Ministries

The fifty members of St. Mary's Justice Ministries seek personally to live justice into the world through loving relationships with our neighbors, whomever they may be. Nearly twenty parishioners, including the Revs. Tim Smith, Everett Powell, and David Erickson, have been present with over thirty immigrants in appearances at ICE courts and other proceedings. In the spring, an Asylum Team of six obtained an attorney and worked with an international support network to help G, a twenty-year old Guatemalan, obtain release from the privately-run Adelanto Detention Center and obtain asylum status. He is now living with one of the team members. Parishioners have also participated in a community-based movement to obtain San Francisco city support of limiting the amount of rent that can be charged seniors to 30% of their income. Because of our efforts, half of the Board of Supervisors have signed on to the cause, and a January meeting is scheduled with

Mayor Breed. Justice Ministers have met with HOMEY, an organization in The Mission dedicated to extracting young people from gangs. Contributions to one of our Evensongs was dedicated to support HOMEY. Twenty people attended a September program that explored the Episcopal context for justice, ranging from the Presiding Bishop through individual DioCal parishes. We also co-sponsored a program with Grace Cathedral, presented by the Justice Renewal Project. St. Mary's Justice Ministries continue to be dedicated to the proposition that justice is what love looks like in public. By living our call to justice, we are living Christ's call to bring about God's kingdom in our world.

Rebuilding Together (Formerly Christmas in April): Renovating homes of vulnerable San Francisco residents

Rebuilding Together San Francisco repairs and renovates homes and facilities of community organizations for vulnerable people of San Francisco. This year, St. Mary's parishioners spent a day at the New Traditions Elementary School. Here are some words from the school, "The kids, parents and staff are so happy! I can already tell the shade over the outdoor classroom is a hit and it makes teaching easier since the sun is no longer in their eyes. Also, it seems like the basketball players are playing even harder than before! This event truly made an impact and will continue to do so in years to come. (...) A HUGE thanks to our volunteer captains from our three amazing sponsors: Laura from Prologis, David from The Episcopal Church of St. Mary's, and Roger with St. James Episcopal Church. (...) You can really tell by the way everyone involved interacted with one another that there is deep love. I won't soon forget the selflessness I was shown."

Annual Fundraiser and Grant Program

Tidings of Comfort and Joy is our annual December event where St. Mary's raises money for local non-profits. One hundred percent of the funds directly supports community organizations. The fundraising includes the sale of holiday greens, baked goods, and contributions from benefactors through grants.

The St. Mary's Grant Team reviews funding requests from local non-profits and allocates the funds. Grant Team members visit the requesting organizations to learn about the work they are doing and build relationships between the groups and St. Mary's.

Thanks to the generosity of parishoners, this year the Grant Program is awarding \$38,400 to the following organizations:

Brainstorm Program
Eldergivers
All Saints Episcopal Church
Ecumenical House SF State
Family House UCSF
Gubbio Project
Oakes Children Center
Raphael House

Rebuild Together SF
School for Deacons
SFCASA
SF Night Ministry
Sojourn Chaplaincy
The Village Project
St. Dorothy's Rest Hospital Camps

The Giving Tree: Providing Christmas gifts for families in transition

Every December, parishioners at St. Mary's take home residents' gift requests, which hang as "ornaments" on a tree provided by the SF Guardsmen, and purchase gifts for the residents.

Our donation this year, was to an Episcopal Charities facility called 1180-4th Street, a residence in San Francisco for families in transition. We gave gifts to about 75 residents.

Winter Shelter Dinner Ministry

In partnership with the San Francisco Interfaith Council and the faith community at St. Vincent de Paul, in November of 2019 we hosted a dinner for 50 homeless men at St. Boniface Church in the Tenderloin. About 10 volunteers from St. Mary's along with a similar number of parishioners from St. Vincent de Paul purchased, prepared, transported, and served the dinner. In addition, we continued our tradition of providing gift bags of new socks and underwear for our dinner guests. Thanks to a generous grant from the Episcopal Impact Fund we were able to expand to two the number of dinners that we hosted during the 2019-20 winter season. In the middle of January 2020 together with St. Vincent de Paul, we hosted a dinner for 100 homeless men at St. Mary's Cathedral. Our deep gratitude to the parishioners from both faith communities who helped to host the dinners, and we invite parishioners to join us in hosting additional dinners during the winter season of 2020-21!

Rise Against Hunger

In May of this year St. Mary's hosted a food packaging event in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, a global non-profit dedicated to eliminating global hunger. Close to 60 parishioners and friends from the community came together and packaged a total of 12,000 meals, which together with over 270,000 meals packaged by other organizations throughout the Bay Area were shipped in late summer to the Philippines for communities in desperate need of food. This was the fourth time in four years that we packaged food for hungry members of our global community in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, and we hope to continue this tradition in 2020 and beyond!



Above: Food bank delivery volunteers wear Halloween masks created by Sunday School students.



Above: St. Mary's parishioners participate in SF Interfaith MLK march.



Above: St. Mary's SF Interfaith MLK march.



Above: Food bank deliver volunteers are ready for another delivery.

Above: The St. Mary's Giving Tree.

Worship Ministries

*Deborah Franklin, Vestry Member
The Rev. David Erickson, Rector
Natalie Hala, Liturgist & Verger*

The Eucharistic table remained the symbolic heartbeat of the life of our congregation with nearly 200 liturgical services taking place in 2019. Together, we glorified God in confidence that the only future worth pursuing is God's future and that our only hope to share that future is to be in relationship with God, a relationship that is continually nurtured by public worship. In 2019, our average Sunday attendance at worship services (ASA) grew by 10% over the previous year, a time when Episcopal Churches, nationwide, saw their annual Sunday attendance drop by 4.2% during that same period. This encouraging statistic indicates that we are attracting new or returning worshippers. Highlights of 2019 include the June Bluegrass Eucharist and the alternative summer liturgies of the revised Canadian-Anglican and Celtic traditions. These alternative ways to hear God's voice met with enthusiastic response. An overwhelming 96% of the respondents to St. Mary's Alternative Worship Survey agreed that worshipping in the Celtic tradition "broadened and/or deepened their worship experience." During 2019, 153 youth and adults served in 8 non-music worship ministries. Most Sundays, approximately 35 individuals serving in these various worship ministries partner with those in the music ministries and clergy to make our Sunday worship transformative and a dynamic, living example of unity in which we share one bread and one cup in praise and thanksgiving to God.

Altar Guild and Flower Committee

In 2019, the members of St. Mary's Altar Guild prepared our sanctuary, altar and other worship spaces and sacred linens and vessels for parish life week in and out with dedication, grace, and, as needed, warm humor. Offerings of talent and time from by the Altar Guild's flower committee brought inspiration and beauty to the parish and comfort to the bereaved. Easter flowers, Advent greens and Christmas window boxes and wreathes were especially gorgeous, as always, marking each turn of the liturgical season. A few faithful AG members had to step away for other adventures this year -- Yaro Ralph, Daphne Ball and Gretchen Lintner are officially on sabbatical. And we have a few new members -- Amy Cebrian and Saskia Lotfi, among them. We'd love to have you join in the fun in 2020!

Ushers

The St. Mary's ushers sponsored a training on November 16, 2019 that offered 24 parishioners helpful skills needed in common medical emergencies. The basic first-aid training and "Stop the Bleed" seminar spurred some parishioners to seek more training -- and led the St. Mary's vestry to initiate the process of equipping the church with an automated external defibrillator (AED) in 2020. Stay tuned for further training opportunities.



Top Left: Parishioners prepare a meal for the residents of Edward II.
Top Right: An Altar Guild member prepares the numbers for the hymn board.
Bottom Left: The St. Mary's congregation celebrates with Bishop Marc Andrus.
Bottom Right: Ushers greet churchgoers and hand out the Sunday bulletins.

Education Ministries

Laura Akel & Will Long, Vestry Members

Jackie Schroeder, Nursery Care

Nancy Clark, Sunday School

Phil Woodworth, Youth Confirmation

Mike Stafford, Youth Minister

The Rev. Marguerite Judson, Associate Rector

Adult Formation

This ministry gathers clergy, staff and lay leaders to envision and produce programs for our parish to engage in spiritual exploration and growth as Christians and as Episcopalians. A variety of solo and ongoing seminars help us to strengthen our faith community by sharing our stories and exploring our spiritual concerns together. During 2019 our programs included the Lenten Program, Summer in the City series, Winter/Fall Seminar series, Adult Confirmation class and Parish Retreat programs. The Winter Seminars and Lenten Series were based on the Way of Love approach to deepen our faith by exploring how we Learn, Pray, Worship, Rest and Go out into the World. Summer in the City presented a wide range of topics; over 95 parishioners participated during the summer with an average of 17 people at each class. The Fall Seminars explored the stories of longtime Pillars of St. Mary's who make our community so strong. Fifty-five parishioners attended, averaging 13 people per conversation. We welcome program topics of interest in the coming year.

Sunday School

Ours is a family church with an extensive and well-developed children's education program. At the 9:00 a.m. service children play an integral part as choir members, acolytes, crucifers and occasionally as lectors. Recently the 3rd and 4th graders, assisted by Natalie Hala, composed special Prayers of the People. In addition to actively taking part in the service there are five levels of Sunday School classes this year, including a nursery and Confirmation class. Our loyal volunteer teachers are Cynthia Harper, Victoria Sutton and Lisa Carey in Preschool, Tatiana Hodapp in kindergarten, Donna Davidson and Gabby Taylor in first and second grades, Nancy Svendsen in third and fourth grades, Lisa and Todd Reynolds in fifth and sixth, and Phil Woodworth in the Confirmation class. It is worth noting that most of these teachers have taught for years and years. They epitomize loyalty, commitment and expertise. We hope they never wear out but we are always in need and in search of new teachers to carry on the tradition of excellent Christian education at St. Mary's.

The Sunday School curriculum has been developed and refined over the years and is designed to acquaint the children at age appropriate levels with Old and New Testament stories, church seasons and celebrations, and liturgy and worship. So far this year, we've focused on Old Testament stories but soon in this Epiphany season we'll dive into the New Testament to learn about Jesus and his teachings. The children are also encouraged to take part in outreach activities. For instance in several grades they made special seasonal gifts to include with the 63 Food Bank bags distributed by our Food Bank volunteers, children in all grades made and filled Gubbio Advent bags, the fifth and sixth graders crafted Christmas napkin rings for the holiday pantry sale and in Lent, as in years past, the Sunday School Lenten project will benefit Heifer International and for the third year the 5th and 6th graders will make special fleece blankets for the Gubbio Project.

Confirmation Class

Phil Woodworth has led our youth confirmation class for decades and uses a curriculum he had developed over the years, largely focused on the life and ministry of Jesus. He meets with the 7th graders for 40-60 minutes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services almost every week. In 2018-19 about five classes were taught by the Rev. Marguerite Judson and/or youth director Mike Stafford on topics such as the Holy Trinity and the Book of Common Prayer.

Youth Confirmation Class of 2019:

Amelia A. Alton	Robert (Bo) E. Gable	Seda J. Perry
Travis H. Alt	Dillon J. Boszhard	Isabelle R. Landry
John (Jack) S. Minick	William C. L. Reed	Cecily W. Brett Kelly
Thomas A. M. Smith	Sophie L. Jones	Celia G. B. Clark
Cameron A. Fishman		

Five adult confirmation classes were presented by The Revs. David Erickson and/or Marguerite Judson, tailored to the needs of two confirmands very familiar with The Episcopal Church and two coming from other Christian traditions. Given existing theological consensus, we focused on what distinguishes The Episcopal Church in history and practice with frequent attention to the Book of Common Prayer.

Adults Confirmed or Received in 2019:

Alexandra D. Crosswell
Calvin L. Pafford, Jr.
Michelle M. Pafford
Nancy L. W. Svendsen

Youth Group

Youth Group ministers to youth between 6th and 12th grades, meeting almost every Sunday evening of the school year in the Great Room to have dinner, play games, and engage each other in meaningful discussion about our faith and life as an adolescent. In 2019 we ended our conversations on our journeys of faith, and began conversations about God's justice in the world. Twice a year the group partakes in community service activities, including making sandwiches and delivering them to hungry San Franciscans in the Civic Center. A major part of the youth ministry is the Youth Mission Trip, a week-long mission to serve our people in need; in 2019 we traveled to New Orleans to work on a number of projects, including sorting Mardi Gras beads for a non-profit, and helping clients at a food pantry. It was a big group and a lot of fun!



Above: Sunday School children work on an art project together as they learn about Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Left: Children of St. Mary's have become good friends in the Nursery.

Below: Children in the Nursery having a grand time riding the rocking horses.



Above: The 2019 Youth Mission Trip Group pose in front of the Mississippi River.

Right: Joyful child in the Nursery.



Evangelism/Communications

*Molly Irwin, Vestry Member & Lay Coordinator
The Rev. Marguerite Judson, Associate Rector*

The Evangelism and Communication effort for SMV is threefold: (1) Outreach - in the Cow Hollow community so people know we are here and are a resource for them; (2) Newcomer Welcome - be a welcoming environment and help get newcomers engaged/integrated; (3) Engagement/Integration (Ministry Engagement) - get 100% of people at St Mary's involved in a ministry and stay involved.

This past year we have made a ton of progress in this direction:

- Three Newcomer Receptions were hosted by parishioners where a total of 33 newcomers attended.
- Reinvigorated the Welcome Team to better welcome and invite newcomers into the life of St. Mary's.
- Upgraded the Welcome Table with a tidy display rack for pamphlets.
- Parishioners were identified to reach out to (1) infant baptism families and (2) newcomers with children.
- First Annual Parish Fair - carnival games, tombola, face painting, and more! We hosted our first (in a long time) big community event in association with the local Union Street Fair as an opportunity to invite our friends and neighbors into the Church for fun and games.

- Major revision and updating of the St. Mary's Ministry Guide and widespread distribution at the Fall Ministry Fair as well as posting it on our website.
- Bookmarks created and distributed for Lent/Easter and for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
- Caroling on Union St. Dec. 21st also distributed bookmarks.



Above: St. Mary's Carolers sing on Union Street.



Above: The courtyard serves as the first point of contact for many new people seeking to become St. Mary's members. Name badges, St. Mary's mugs, and friendly people await newcomers at the courtyard welcome table.

Parish Life

Sheila Santangelo, Vestry Member

The Rev. Marguerite Judson, Associate Rector

Parish Life includes both community wide events and the gathering of smaller affinity groups. Below are some 2019 highlights of Parish Life at St. Mary's. Complete descriptions of ways to become engaged in Parish Life are included in our *Ministries Brochure*.

Shared meals are an important strand for St. Mary's community. In 2019 these ranged from a pot luck for our Annual Meeting in January, to a scrumptious Advent Dinner & Hymn Sing in December, and a catered dinner as part of our Maundy Thursday liturgy. Some of the affinity groups also hosted meals, such as the Lenten Simple Suppers and tasty BBQs in the summer.

New this year was the launch of Fall Fellowship Feasts. Over 50 people signed up to share three meals with up to seven other members of St. Mary's in each other's homes. The groups were cross sections of our community and people enjoyed the opportunity to meet people outside their usual circle of friends.

Two large events this year were notable: the Parish Retreat is a favorite across four generations of members who enjoy reflection, learning and playing together at Bishop's Ranch in May. It is always a sell-out and financial aid is available. This year we hosted our inaugural (annual!) Parish Fair on the first Saturday in June, in conjunction with the Union Street Fair. A wide range of games, face painting, bluegrass music, a prayer wall and other delights engaged many of our neighbors as well as parishioners.

Affinity Groups

These are small groups of parishioners who gather around a specific passion, demographic, or issue:

Creation Care

The Care and justice for all God's creation is a core value of The Episcopal Church. On Creation Care Sundays, we celebrate this stewardship through the liturgy, special prayers, and music, and we display our Creation Care banner. On The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we invite parishioners and the community to bring their animals for a special blessing. The Creation Care Ministry is committed to educate, act, and advocate for a sustainable future. We believe that, with the power of God's love, we can restore the web of life and leave a just, healthy, and habitable world for generations to come. Throughout the year, we participate individually in environmental seminars and events dedicated to raising awareness and responsibility for conservation of the earth's resources for all people.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is 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.

The Rev. Marguerite Judson is our current chaplain meeting with us for a year.

The Chapter sponsored a Quiet Day for the parish at the end of Epiphany in February. The Rev. Marguerite led meditations on the theme "Praying the 23rd Psalm".

We have continued with our hospitality, providing cookies on the Fifth Sundays of the month as well as handing out 'inspirational cards'. During Holy Week the members of our chapter also prepared the parish hall for the beginning of the Maundy Thursday liturgy in the Great Room. In June we provided our 'inspirational cards' to be handed out at the Union Street Fair as an invitation to come join us in the courtyard for a welcome celebration.

Our biannual election of Chapter Officers took place in July and a Service Rededication and Installation of Officers took place during the 11:00 am service on September 15, 2019.

Men's Group

This group provides an opportunity for the men of the parish to meet for fellowship, share stories, and strengthen our bonds of friendship. We also continually explore ways to welcome new members and serve the broader parish. During 2019, the Men's Group met for dinner and conversation approximately once per quarter, with themes including the challenges and pressures we face in our daily lives, and how to better serve our St. Mary's community. The Men's Group also organized and executed the Parish Barbecue in June and the SMV Parish Picnic in September. Events are advertised in the Sunday Bulletin and *Highlights*.

Young Professionals Group

The reinvigorated YP group has had another year of growing fun! We have been meeting regularly for lunch on the second Sundays of the month, as well as had many fun activities like putt putt golf and pumpkin decorating, and help serve by volunteering at Edward II and being involved in planning the Parish Fair and more. Looking forward to helping serve our community and growing together more in 2020!



Left: Members of St. Mary's Children's choir.

Right: St. Mary's Youth Group pose in front of the city hall after distributing peanut butter & jelly sandwiches.



Below:
St. Mary's Young Professionals at the Night of Light Gala.



SMV Pride

During 2019, the St. Mary's LGBTQ+ Pride Group gathered for meals and conversation at the church and in our homes, to strengthen our connections with each other, welcome new members, and discern opportunities for outreach on behalf of St. Mary the Virgin to groups that embrace and support LGBTQ+ concerns. We also participated in the liturgy and prayers on St. Mary's Pride Sunday in June 2019 and celebrated throughout Pride month with banners and celebrations in the St. Mary's courtyard. We strive to build greater awareness at St. Mary's of the needs and concerns of the LGBTQ+ community.

Women's Crissy Field Walking Group

This cross-generational group of St. Mary's women (and some men) walks Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 8:30 am. The group gathers at the parking lot at the Warming Hut and walks the length of Crissy Field--or however long you want to walk. Definitely join the group for a cup of coffee and good conversation at the Warming Hut afterward--even if you don't walk.

Below: Musicians prepare to perform for the Easter services.



Left:
Catching up
after a service.



Above: Lively conversation at the Parish Retreat.



Above:
Intense card playing during a Parish
Retreat.

Building and Grounds

*Arthur Perkins, Vestry Member
Roulhac Austin, Lay Coordinator*

The Building and Grounds team oversees the care, maintenance and repair of all St. Mary's properties including the Rectory at 124 – 7th Avenue. This year, we've undertaken the following:

1. Church campus cleanup with over 24 volunteers. Here are some highlights:
 - Lauren MacDonald and Roulhac Austin tackled cleaning the mosaic tiles around the pond.
 - Sandy Stadtfeld scrubbed the narthex stone floor to get rid of the stickiness and foul smells.
 - Rick Darwin brought order to chaotic equipment closet in the courtyard.
 - Gloria and Everett Powell cleaned and dusted every wooden surface, nooks and crannies on/and near the altar -- altar rail, angels included.
 - The Johns – Balestreri and Schlesinger— cleaned and did small repairs on the pews.
 - Arthur Perkins cleaned the storage area and janitorial closet by the Great Room.
 - One young family (parents and elementary school kids) cleaned all the pre-school chairs and nursery toys.
 - Anna Sylvester thoroughly cleaned and organized the kitchen.
 - Pam Sauer was active in keeping the group fed and pitching in wherever she was needed.
2. A brass Plaque was added to the exterior wall above the pond in dedication to the gentleman who donated funds for it. The plaque was donated by current parishioners.
3. Updated CA elevator inspection status and are studying added work recommended in addition to our quarterly inspections and repairs.
4. Thorough inspections and bids obtained for water damage to the south Chapel wall.
5. Contracted to repair the kitchen cabinet that fell off the wall and to secure the double cabinets hanging above the dishwasher.
6. Our Vestry liaison, Arthur Perkins, assumed management responsibility for a 2 unit building bequeathed to St. Mary's in 2019.



Tireless efforts to clean our beautiful fountain in the courtyard.

Chancellor's Report

Guy Kornblum, Chancellor

Our parish has regularly involved our Chancellor in matters involving St. Mary the Virgin. The Chancellor is in contact with the Diocesan Chancellor. This year most matters have involved contract and related matters which are regularly monitored.

A LETTER FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Our music department has grown in significant ways in 2019. One must understand growth as a deepening of our relationship with each other and with God, and not necessarily in numbers (although we have seen a general increase in numbers involved in our music ministry). We continue to offer benefit Evensongs approximately five times a year to support local nonprofits. My hope is that this will continue to gain traction and that we can not only continue to support nonprofits, but also share the light of Christ with our neighbors who attend the services.

Music at the 9:00 service has seen some positive evolution. We have formed an adult volunteer choir that sings alongside the Youth Choir at the 9:00 services approximately once a month. Not only does this help sustain congregational singing at the 9:00 service, but also the adult choir members are able to model the expectations to which we hold our Youth Choristers (i.e. singing technique, focus during rehearsals, commitment and dedication, and carrying out their liturgical duties with dignity and poise, etc.). As a result, I have noticed a distinct enthusiasm around music at the 9:00 from choristers and congregants alike.

In order to invite more children into the music department, we have introduced a program specifically for kindergarteners, and as a result have increased the size of our chorister program. We continue to seek to grow so that we can offer high quality faith formation, music education, and a closely-knit community to the children in our parish.

Above all, I continue to ask how music can support the life of our parish and the needs of others. I remind our choir and choristers (and myself!) that excellent music is not an end, but an avenue to help people open their hearts and receive God's grace and transformational love. As long as our liturgical music is grounded in this principal, it will continue to be an integral aspect of our worship and common life together.

I thank all of the music staff, volunteers, choir members, choristers, and parents who have given so freely to the growth and development of our beloved music program.

In faith,

Eric Choate
Director of Music



A LETTER FROM OUR ASSOCIATE RECTOR

"... God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

-- Ephesians 3:20

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of growth and a few challenges.

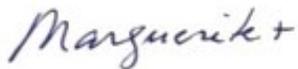
It has been a joy to grow with you in so many ways: taking my first Mission Trip (ever!) and watching community form among youth who were also new to mission trips at St. Mary's; deepening faith as both middle school students and adults prepared for confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church; delighting in the controlled chaos and great fun of events like our inaugural Parish Fair, our Fall Fellowship Feasts and our traditional Family Nativity service on Christmas Eve; meeting newcomers and learning the faith journeys of Pillars who have been here for at least four decades! And so much more.

The most notable challenge has been the time away from the parish this fall because of my foot surgery and how much slower recovery has been than was expected. But it was also a tender gift to experience the outpouring of prayers, cards, emails and help from members of this community. The compassion that St. Mary's offers to those in need is awesome - whether that is the kind of help I received, the Thursday food bank distribution, accompanying refugees, preparing meals for former foster youth at Edward II, or Stephen Ministers. And so much more.

God is, indeed, working in us to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Thanks be to God. And thank you for being Christ's hands and heart in this world.

Shalom,



The Rev. Marguerite Judson
Associate Rector



A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:20

Dear friends in Christ,

I give thanks for the great joy it is to be among you as a priest, rector, partner, and friend. As I reflect on this past year, I am thankful for the journey of Grace that we are on together, and that Christ is always in our midst.

Many of you have commented to me about the joy and life you feel growing at St. Mary's. I couldn't agree more. Dare I say, there is even a playfulness in our common life. Our Sunday attendance is growing and there is a synergy in the worship that is feeding our souls. Across the board, our ministries are enriching our lives and the lives of those in the world. New ministries are appearing with many more possibilities being spoken by people in our congregation. I am thankful for the year past and excited for the year ahead.

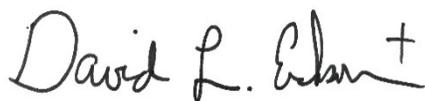
I am particularly thankful and grateful for the amazing staff at St. Mary's. It is an incredible gift and honor to serve alongside the people who work here every day and give so much of their life to God's work at St. Mary's. In particular, the addition of Ashley Ryan as our parish administrator has been remarkable. Her gift of business organization and her kind presence greatly blesses our work and everyday life. If you haven't had a chance to meet her, I highly encourage you to stop by during the week and say hello.

I am also incredibly thankful for the volunteer leadership at St. Mary's. Without the faithful and abundant effort of Betty Hood-Gibson, our treasurer, and Ellen McLean, our assistant treasurer, we would simply not function. There are others who come in to stuff mailings, organize letters, prepare for special events, care and guide our children, serve our communities, and so much more that, while impossible to name individually, collectively I give great thanks to God! This is truly what it means to be a church, to share our lives in love and service to one another and to the world.

One group I must abundantly thank is the Vestry. Their partnership and support in listening to and following the Holy Spirit's will in our common life has meant the world to me. We are truly blessed with people who care deeply for Christ's purpose to be made manifest at St. Mary's. Please take a moment and thank a vestry member for their incredible service to this place of grace.

Thank you, all, for living into our call to receive God's grace into our lives, and then be bearers of Christ into the world.

Blessings and Thanks,



The Rev. David Erickson
Rector

