



# St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2021

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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# 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 2020 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*

St. Mary's has been participating in the San Francisco-Marín Food Bank weekly home delivery program since January 2016. We deliver groceries directly to isolated people who can still cook but who physically are unable to pick up food from a store or distribution center. In December 2020, the pandemic forced reorganization of the ministry, so that teams now pick up the food directly at the Illinois Street warehouse. Currently, three St. Mary's teams deliver to 40 individuals weekly. In 2021 alone, the teams have delivered 1,000 bags, totaling 25,000 pounds of groceries. We are blessed that several people outside of St. Mary's continue to join parishioners in this critical ministry. Food ministers include: Anne Williams, Edwin Waite, Alisa Quint, Ellen Pendergast, Aron O'Connor, Rob Noeller, Amy Nachman, David Crosson, Nancy Clark, Georgia Burke, and Davidson Bidwell-Waite. If God is calling you to *feed the hungry*, the Food Bank Pantry at Home program can set up a weekly delivery schedule convenient for you: <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/volunteer/pantry-at-home>.



## St. Mary's Justice Ministries

Over 60 people, including five other Episcopal parishes and three Jewish congregations, attended the January 2020 presentation by Noah Bullock, Executive Director of Cristosal, a human rights organization that addresses the root cause of migration in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Arising from that presentation, St. Mary's parish and Congregation Sherith Israel formed a Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT) partnership that helps newly arrived asylum seekers secure the resources to live independently in their new communities. On August 11, 24 St. Mary's parishioners joined Bishop Marc Andrus and over 600 people from 90+ Faith in Action Bay Area (FIABA) affiliates in a virtual action to demand that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors include funds in the FY 2021 budget to directly subsidize rent for those people (mostly seniors and people of color) paying more than 70% of their income in rent. Under most dire budgetary conditions, Supervisors unanimously budgeted \$3 million for rent subsidies, which was a tremendous victory for the city's most vulnerable renters. In October, international civil rights attorney and new St. Mary's congregant Almudena Bernabeu shared her experiences prosecuting international civil rights crimes, including the September conviction in a Spanish court of a Salvadorian military officer for the 1989 murder of civilians in El Salvador. Thank you, St. Mary's for continuing to live Christ's call to justice in our hurting world.

Margaret Stafford, Co-chair

David Crosson, Co-chair



Top Left: St. Mary's parishioners, families, and friends demanding subsidized rent for vulnerable seniors in San Francisco.

Top Right: Anne Williams and Marcony Grijalva with Avila family, who are seeking asylum in the United States, part of NEAT partnership with Congregation Sherith Israel.



Bottom Left: Margaret Stafford handles Q&A with Executive Director Noah Bulloch of Cristosal.



Bottom Right: International justice attorney, founder of Guernica Group, and St. Mary's parishioner, Almudena Bernabeu

## *Annual Fundraiser and Grant Program*

This past year *Tidings of Comfort and Joy* made digital and personal appeals to raise funds for small, local non-profit organizations where our grants make a difference. Thanks to the more than 60 individuals who contributed! The total donation of \$38,000 was distributed among thirteen organizations: The Brainstorm Program, City Hope San Francisco, Eldergivers, Family House UCSF, Oakes Children's Center, Raphael House, Rebuild Together, The School for Deacons, SF Night Ministry, Sojourn Chaplaincy, St. Dorothy's Rest Hospital Camps, St. Francis Living Room, and The Village Project. This Spring we followed up with these organizations, and were pleased to find that they had adapted well to COVID-19 restrictions.

## *Edward II*

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic for the past 15 months, we have not been able to provide dinners on the second Sunday evenings of each month for the residents of Edward II, the permanent supportive housing for youth in the neighborhood (Lombard and Scott Streets). However, the residents have not been forgotten by St. Mary's: At Thanksgiving the Committee contributed pies for a Wednesday night dinner provided by Larkin Street Youth Services and coffee cakes and pastries for their Thanksgiving breakfast. At Christmas the generous Committee members made lots of goodies for the 24 residents and staff, plus \$30.00 Amazon gift cards for each resident and Larkin Street staff, thanks to a few Committee members with an abundance of Christmas spirit. In April we delivered our annual Spring baskets/bags on the Saturday before Easter, which are always a hit, plus a Walgreen's gift card, all organized by Ruth Tatum. The best news of all is that throughout all the quarantining the DPH has asked communities to do, Edward II remained FREE of any Covid-19 cases, a remarkable feat while in community living.



Spring treats for Edward II. I included are some healthy snacks and fruit along with candy, 2 homemade snickerdoodles and a Walgreen's gift cards.

## Worship Ministries

*Ava Eichler, Vestry Member*

*Natalie Hala, Liturgist & Verger, liaison to Vestry*

*Liturgy Committee: Revs. David Erickson, Marguerite Judson,*

*Tim Smith, and Nancy Bryan*

*Eric Choate, Ashley Ryan and Natalie Hala*



*Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. Exodus 25:8-9*

The authors of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer accepted their charge to revise the prayer book with astounding foresight. The outcome of their efforts resulted in a more flexible framework for worship that allowed for a customized and responsive approach to how a community views its place in the contemporary world and how it chooses to worship together. The radical, transformative work of the Holy Spirit was already stirring in the world back then. Little did they know at the time that a worldwide pandemic four decades later would result in congregations being forced into discovering innovative and creative ways to worship together and remain connected as community while being physically apart. We found our sanctuary of connectiveness among the clouds of virtual technology and clung to the main sourcebook of worship as our sanctuary of refuge, safety and strength. Wherever God is, there is sanctuary.

St. Mary's embraced virtual worship services with grace, humor and with a trusting spirit confident that we would be tended by the Holy One as we shaped worship to share the love of God that transcends all spaces to be made manifest in the world. Our virtual services expanded from the 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning prayer service to add a virtual 9:00 a.m. Family Service. Wednesday 12:10 p.m. mid-week worship deftly shifted to a virtual platform. We marked the passage of time with the liturgical season, marking our liturgical year with familiar and some new approaches, we welcomed Bishop Marc to our virtual world in March 2021, integrated a marvelous children and youth musical offering into Sunday worship, and on Easter Day 2021 we gathered together in St. Mary's courtyard literally ringing in the hope of the promise of the Risen Christ as one body, together, once again. Since then, we have gathered for occasional in person courtyard Eucharist services beginning on May 2, 2021. At the time of this year's parish mid-year check-in and ministry celebration, we are anticipating the return to our beloved church sanctuary on July 4, 2021.

Worship is a collective expression of God's people being and doing together for the glory of God. Many thanks and heartfelt gratitude to those in the worship ministries who so beautifully enriched the virtual services this last year---scripture readers, children's homilists, lay officiants and others. And, abundant thanks to those in the Altar Guild and Usher ministries who have made our initial return to in-person Sunday larger gatherings such a smooth and transformative experience.

Natalie Hala, Parish liturgist & worship ministries coordinator

## **Chalice Bearers**

The Chalice Bearer ministry is truly a hands-on face to face ministry. Under the Covid circumstances our ministry couldn't continue in the same way. However, as a ministry we have tried to stay in touch with one another. We made phone calls, sent e-mails, & attended a scheduled zoom meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. A special thank you to Bruce McClatchey who faithfully hosted this meeting.

We have a friend who sends us an e-mail daily with jokes or a short video (on many subjects). If appropriate, Pam has been sending these along to everyone.

Many of us have been able to attend the Wednesday & Sunday zoom services & Sunday coffee hour. What we discovered is that many in our ministry have been working from home while educating children, & zooming far, far too much. People are zooming for work, for school, and to keep in touch with family & friends.

Many were so overwhelmed that they could not find it in their energy or emotional reserves to add another zoom to the schedule. Others simply tried to give folks some grace and a little peace during an inordinately difficult time.

We miss being together & look forward to a time when we can serve once again at St. Mary's.

Pam & Bob Bledsoe

## **Education Ministries**

*Gloria Galindo & 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**

St. Mary's was able to offer a robust selection of Adult Formation classes using Zoom.

From October to March, five small groups met to discuss issues of race and identity using the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground curriculum. The foundational readings and documentaries led to conversations that were enlightening and challenging, heart-breaking and joyful. Most of the participants are now looking for ways to continue their understanding of race and the role it plays in our lives and society, and ways that we as individuals and a community can begin repairing the brokenness caused by racism.

In addition to Sacred Ground, in the fall St. Mary's offered a program called The Way: Start Here, which involved presentations by several members of St. Mary's about how they engage in the life of the Church. There were presentations on worship, pastoral care, Christian formation, outreach and justice, and evangelism. The presentations were well attended and led to great conversations about how we can grow as disciples of Christ.

Finally, our Lenten series was called God With Us in the Wilderness, and focused on how we are experiencing God in this wilderness time of the pandemic and in other wilderness times of our lives. Topics discussed included isolation and loneliness, the societal wilderness of racism and failed institutions, and the

wilderness of grief and loss. Members of St. Mary's led the presentations and discussions, and we were able to process together how we experience times of wilderness, how we experience God in those times, and how we can reach out to others in those times.

(Adult Formation Team: Rev. Marguerite Judson, Georgia Lu, Alan Mata, Sandy Stadtfeld, Mike Stafford)

## Sunday School

The 'second semester' of Sunday School for the 2020-21 year saw a continuation of our 9:00 a.m. Zoom family service. Several families attended regularly as did several of last year's teachers who also presented homilies. A weekly highlight at the end of the service was 'Goldfish Half Hour' led by Jackie Schroeder. Spirited kid interactions were always in evidence.

During Lent we provided light touch teaching materials and for Easter equipped families with supplies for an Easter symbols scavenger hunt at home. In the month of May we provided childcare at the 10:15 Presidio Morning Prayer service, which was seldom utilized. Beginning in May we started offering childcare outdoors at the 9:00 a.m. on-site Eucharist services, which is meeting the needs of our young children.



As to the year ahead, we await marching orders from the diocese but hope to have a version of the Sunday School of pre-pandemic times.

## Confirmation Class

We were delighted to virtually walk with nine members of our 2021 confirmation class as they prepared for this sacrament on June 12, 2021.

This was the first St. Mary's confirmation class to meet exclusively on Zoom for a jam packed series of classes, at least monthly, starting in January. Phil Woodworth and the Rev. Marguerite led the classes and Linda Woodworth provided the technical assistance for the group to gather virtually.

The June 12th ecoConfirmation at Blackie's Pasture in Tiburon was the first time this group gathered in person - but hopefully, not the last! The class of 2021 is being joined by several youth who were in earlier classes (2020 and 2017) for the ecoConfirmation this spring.

We look forward to resuming in person classes for the Confirmation Class of 2022. And to the Diocese announcing when Confirmations will be held at the Cathedral when most of the youth in our 2020 Confirmation Class can make their adult professions of faith.

## Youth Confirmation Class of 2021:

Hovey Clark, Jr.  
William Maxwell (Max) Glen  
Henry Harmon Gnuse  
Sophia Rose Gnuse  
Caroline (McCoy) Heaton  
Colby Elise Heaton  
Jack Alan Pendergast  
Catherine (Cate) Woeber  
Montgomery Woods



## Youth Group

The Youth Group met throughout the pandemic every week on Zoom. The regular check-ins and games were a great way to stay connected with each other, as well as to vent, smile and decompress. In the fall and again in the Spring we were able to meet in person for physically-distanced lunches or trips to Ghirardelli, and it was a joyful relief to be together again! The annual Youth Mission Trip will be the week of June 21, and will involve service and fun around San Francisco.

(Youth Ministry Team: Riley Haggin, Mark Nelson, Mike Stafford)

Below: Youth Group Sunday meeting in-person.



Right: Youth Group Sunday meeting over Zoom



## Pastoral Care

*Josie McGann, Chair, Pastoral Care Team*

*David Crosson, Co-Facilitator of Justice Ministries*

*Sheila Santangelo, Vestry Member*

During the past year, our ministry team has continued to stay in close contact with our parishioners, “Covid Style”, via phone, sidewalk visits and front door visits. We ourselves, have met via Zoom since June, 2020 and continue to do so, although we long to meet in person.

At Christmas time, we continued our goody bag deliveries with tea and an original card created by Pam Sauer. We were gratefully assisted during Christmas and Easter by Joann Squire and the flower guild in delivering poinsettias and Easter bouquets.

We increased our phone visits to check in and remind our homebound parishioners that we are still available. Anna Sylvester stayed in close contact via phone with parishioners and assisted two parishioners with vaccine registration. Susan Barber and Rev. Nancy Bryan made several front door visits, while Jan Bolles kept us informed of our Heritage friends during their shutdown. Pam Sauer stayed in touch with our “Union Street elders” by meeting on the corner of Steiner and Union, six feet apart, when they were able. Georgene Keeler and Jeanne Lacey kept us informed of any needs via the walking group, who met online when they couldn’t be together. Robert Manette faithfully checked in with Cynthia MacKay via phone. Jan Bolles sent many beautiful notecards created by Jeri Lehman and George Irving helped with kind notes to those in need. Pam Bledsoe loves helping out by sending online notes and Susan Crown wrote many beautiful handwritten cards.

Deacon Tim and Deacon Nancy were especially helpful in keeping our team informed of parishioner’s needs.

Despite the many Covid restrictions during the last twelve months, we feel that we continued our mission of providing compassionate spiritual support to parishioners in need.

If you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact the church office at [office@smvsf.org](mailto:office@smvsf.org). If committees are not your thing, then consider joining our dedicated group of volunteers whom we call on for meal delivery and mailing of notes.

### *Stephen Ministry*



Stephen Ministers are highly trained lay people who bring Christ-centered pastoral care to people who are hurting in any way. After twenty weeks (fifty hours) of training, six new Stephen Ministers were commissioned in February 2020. Three moves, one birth, and one returning individual leave a net of nine total Stephen Ministers available: Current Stephen Ministers include Christine Wardell, Ruth Tatum, Nancy Svendsen, Sheila Santangelo, Josie McGann, Gerald George, Arthur Perkins, David Crosson, and Harold Cranston. At this writing, three Stephen Ministers have accepted care receivers. Special thanks to the Rev. Don Brown and

the Rev. Nan Slavin for joining David Crosson in leading the training. In November, St. Mary's Stephen Ministry became a spiritual referral resources for Support Circle Clinics, which serves women and men throughout the Bay Area who are facing unplanned pregnancies. We are very excited about the potential of sharing God's grace in new ways through this innovative partnership. We encourage you to recommend to one of the clergy anyone who you think might benefit from the pastoral care of a Stephen Minister.

## Parish Life

*Steve Gamboa, Vestry Member  
The Rev. Marguerite Judson, Associate Rector*

The resourcefulness and creativity of St. Mary's was particularly vivid in parish life during the pandemic.

One of our first Covid specific strategies was to experiment with gathering in various parks for morning prayer in small groups which were led by members of the congregation. We discovered that the Presidio and St. Mary's courtyard were the most popular locations, and that participants particularly enjoyed the chance to reflect on Scriptures together.

Members of the congregation reached out in three rounds of parish wide phone calls, checking in with people and keeping connections to St. Mary's strong. Vestry and some twenty other volunteers made the phone calls. There were other volunteers who drove throughout SF - and beyond - to deliver small candles, blessed on Candlemas, to members so that we could share the light of Christ throughout Lent.

Some of the small groups which had been meeting regularly for Fall Fellowship Feasts pre-Covid morphed into zoom gatherings. Creativity abounded, including the virtual Christmas Caroling that drew members

and family from San Francisco to Virginia! One of the groups is planning an outdoor barbeque this summer, as we look forward to more in person fellowship opportunities.

Several ministries also gathered very regularly on zoom, including the Daughters of the King; Pastoral Care, the Chalice Bearers, and - most impressively - the Walking Group met on zoom twice a week!

## Affinity Groups

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

### *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 and has been for the length of her ministry at St. Mary's, guiding us as we meet. The Chapter sponsored a Quiet Day for the parish at the end of Epiphany on February 8, 2020. The Rev. Dr. Paula Nesbit guided us through meditations on "Igniting the Light of Christ." This was our last in person event.

We started meeting by Zoom in March of 2020. This was challenging and we are grateful for Natalie Hala's help in facilitating this process. Our Quiet Day ZOOM meeting was March 20, 2021 conducted by The Rev. Marguerite Judson who presented us with thoughts for meditation on "God's Grace in the Wilderness". We are grateful for those who were able to attend.

Attending services on ZOOM for Holy Week and Easter was a blessing. Our meetings continued by ZOOM. We hope in the future to provide cookies and inspirational cards as we resume gathering in person.

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 prayers.

### **Members of the St. Mary's Chapter**

Malaney Wood Johnides,  
President  
Gloria Powell, Vice-President  
Catherine Secour, Secretary  
Anna Sylvester, Treasurer  
Jan Bolles  
Alisa Quint Fisher  
Betty Hood-Gibson  
Margaret Secour



### *Women's Crissy Field Walking Group*

St. Mary's walking group has been around for 20 or so years. We have met twice a week at the Warming Hut for a walk along the waterfront followed by coffee and fellowship. When the pandemic hit, we could no longer safely meet in person so we immediately pivoted to a zoom coffee hour twice a week! One benefit was that those folks who have moved away could also join the zoom. It was a great comfort during our stay-at-home time period. We like to share our favorite books, recipes, solve problems, and network. During COVID especially the connections have fed the soul. When restrictions eased and most became vaccinated, the group changed to zooming one day a week and meeting in person another day. And now that California has officially opened up we have resumed our pre-COVID schedule of meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 at the Warming Hut for a walk followed by coffee and conversation. All are welcome to join!

## Chancellor's Report

*Guy Kornblum, Chancellor*

I am pleased to report that so far there have been no major legal issues for our Parish. I continue to monitor our activities and to coordinate with the Church Insurance Company in our effort to purchase appropriate insurance protection for our Parish activities, even if "off-campus." I wish to thank Rev, David and his staff for keeping me informed on matters that might call up issues on which your Chancellor might be called up to provide counsel.



## A LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR

*“Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”*

*Ephesians 3:20*

Dear friends in Christ,

What an absolutely strange year, or rather 15 months, we have been through! Not in over one hundred years has the church been challenged in such a drastic way. And yet, with the Holy Spirit, God’s grace and love was abundant in our lives and through our lives, in ways we couldn’t possibly imagine, and probably never would have asked.

In these pages you will read remarkable stories of how the people of St. Mary’s have practiced and manifested Christ’s grace and love this past year+. I hope you will take the time to read them, reflect on the pictures, and truly be in awe of how we have responded, not just to our circumstances, but to the power and possibility of God present with us.

St. Mary’s is a community of Christ that comes together, for worship, for fellowship, and for service. We show up, even virtually, to be present to one another and to Christ’s call in our lives. I am deeply grateful for this, and for all of you.

And I am incredibly excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us from here and knowing we will be on the journey together.

Glory to the Creating, Redeeming, and Transforming God!

*David L. Erickson +*

The Rev. David Erickson  
Rector

