



St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2024

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin
2325 Union Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

www.smvsf.org
(415) 921-3665

Table of Contents

A Letter from Our Associate Rector.....Page 3

A Letter from Our Music Director.....Page 4

SWEEPS Vestry Portfolios.....Page 6

Community MinistriesPage 6

Worship Ministries.....Page 9

Education Ministries.....Page 13

Pastoral Care.....Page 14

Parish Life MinistryPage 16

Building and Grounds Report.....Page 19

Finance Ministries.....Page 21

2024 Budget Summary.....Page 23

Photos from Our Common Life This Past Year.....Page 24



A LETTER FROM OUR ASSOCIATE RECTOR

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.
So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of
faith.*

Galatians 6:9-10

My dear siblings in Christ,

It has been such a joyous and encouraging year of ministry at St. Mary's, and I feel very clearly the winds of the Holy Spirit invigorating and driving us to bless one another and the broader community around us with the hope and love made known to us in Jesus Christ. The world around us is desperately in need of hope, peace, and love, and that is something I find in abundance here at St. Mary's in a variety of ways - the hope of the laughter of children running through the courtyard, the peace of the words of ancient liturgy connecting with our modern lives, and the love of parishioners caring for one another and for the weakest among us.

As I reflect on the past year of ministry, there are too many highlights for me to list here, but I rejoice in particular at the number of our children and youth choir members who have been baptized into the resurrection of Christ, including three at our inaugural Easter Vigil in Golden Gate Park. With the uncertainty in the wake of the pandemic, it is encouraging to now see so many of our ministries re-starting, new lay leaders coming forward, and new faces in the pews on Sunday. God has truly blessed us with all that we need, and I give thanks for your generous sharing of your time, gifts, and financial support.

St. Mary's is a flourishing Christian community because of you all and your dedication to, as Paul writes to the Galatians, "work for the good of all." I hope that you will join me in celebrating and giving thanks for all of the gifts given through and on behalf of this community, that it may be a sign to the world of God's Reign among us.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Kira Austin-Young
Associate Rector



A LETTER FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

We have had a full year in the music department at St. Mary's. This time last year, I was on my sabbatical, studying organ improvisation in the French style with Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, the Organiste Titulaire at L'Église St-Sulpice in Paris. Much of the Episcopal liturgy requires the organist to be able to improvise, and improvisation is a skill that is learned, not bestowed from above.

Highlights from the fall season include the U.S. premiere of Ian Venables' *Requiem, Op. 48*, which we performed in the context of our All Souls' Eucharist, alongside the Schola Cantorum of St. Dominic's Catholic Church. We had a full complement of Advent and Christmas offerings, including the much-celebrated Festival of Lessons and Carols, as well as processions for Sankta Lucia, La Virgen de Guadalupe, and the Visitation of the Magi, all of which featured our Children and Youth Choirs.

In the spring, our Parish Choir performed Bach's *Passion According to St. John* as a Lenten Candlelight Concert. We performed this in the spirit of its original context: in the vernacular (English), and with congregational singing. During Holy Week, soprano Ellen Leslie gave the world premiere of Byron Adams' *Stabat Mater*, which he wrote specifically for Ellen. When we approached Byron over three years ago about writing us a piece, we immediately agreed that the text would be the *Stabat Mater*, a 13th-century hymn depicting Mary standing before the crucified Christ. This summer, our Parish Choir looks forward to participating in a choral workshop with Maria Forsström, in a featured event at the American Guild of Organists' National Convention in San Francisco.

Last fall, we launched a new organ scholar position, which was created for my former student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Jameson Caps. Jameson provides occasional organ voluntaries, plays hymns in our liturgies about twice per month, and accompanies our choir. He has grown significantly in the past year, and we have all benefited from his beautiful music.

Our chorister program continues to grow and attract new families to St. Mary's. We have a total of 22 children and youth who rehearse 1-2 times per week and sing every Sunday. We modified our rehearsal set-up with the purchase of new stools, allowing the choristers to sit in a semi-circle around the grand piano in the choir room while we rehearse. This has facilitated better focus and a more productive rehearsal. This Spring, we performed our Children's Choir Musical, which was an original work by Marla Perkins called *Jesus Healed*. Marla wrote it for our choristers during the pandemic, and it was designed to be performed over Zoom. We gave it a proper premiere this year—in front of real humans! The kids did a terrific job, and we are thankful to Marla for the many gifts that she brings to our church.

Our choir vestments have been in continuous use for decades, and have become tattered to the point that they are no longer working for us. Thanks to the vestry's support, we currently have new vestments being made for us at this moment. After researching several manufacturers and comparing fabric samples, we settled on Watts & Co, which is widely regarded as having the highest quality and craftsmanship in their liturgical outfitting. By this fall, you are likely to notice something different about the appearance of all of our choirs.

Our music program is one of the hallmarks of our vibrant life at St. Mary's. I am deeply thankful for the work of all of our musicians and music staff for the ways in which they enrich our lives, to the clergy and vestry for their support of our cherished program, and to the congregation for placing a high value on the importance of sacred music. It is a joy to serve with all of you.

Blessings,

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

Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (Neat)

Over the last twelve months, St. Mary's Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT) has welcomed seven new people seeking asylum in the United States. These courageous people include a family of four from Guyana, a father and son forced to flee Nigeria, and a native international aid worker from Mauritania. In welcoming these people to San Francisco, we have worked with other aid groups in Imperial, San Diego, San Antonio, Austin, New York, and Minnesota; attorneys in San Diego and San Francisco; and countless local and state organizations and agencies. We have secured housing, legal representation, and medical care; registered people for ESL, college, and high school classes; provided food and clothing; and even welcomed the birth of a new American citizen (our second in two years). We work with the individuals to identify and *meet their own* needs and priorities, always in support and partnership, never in the lead. In 2023, Episcopal Impact Fund awarded St. Mary's a third \$5,000 grant in support of our migration ministry, and St. Mary's vestry added an additional \$5,000 above the initial budget. With significant legal and housing expenses mounting, this additional support is especially needed and deeply appreciated. Members of the St. Mary's migration ministry team include Anne Williams, Barbara Marré, Georgene Keeler, Greer Hopkins, Gerson Marcony Bolvilto Grijalva, Susan Gamboa, David Crosson, Mari Coates, Nancy Clark, and Susan Barber. Contact clergy if you, too, feel called to welcome those who sojourn among us. There is plenty of work to do.



Left: St. Mary's parishioner Phil Albert who successfully sued the U.S. State Department last year to return Ukrainian's Alex and Katya from Europe, where they were waited for seven months for action on their visa applications.

Middle: St. Mary's migration ministry team celebrating the fifth anniversary of Marcony's asylum and his recent application for American citizenship.

Right: Anthony family from Guyana: Mother Deone, daughter Kenisha, son D'Anthony, and baby Divine.

Imagining Ministries Within the Justice System

Living in San Francisco, public safety is of concern to us all. The best way to impact 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. We are so grateful to the St. Mary's congregants who have become volunteer pen pals to women in prison through our relationship with Hope Beyond. We hope to expand this ministry with more pen pals – 200 are on a wait list – and providing needed toiletry items for release. We also hope to expand our work to seniors releasing from prison. I am a 50-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 lconnelly@successfulreentry.com or 415-806-2105. Thank you.

Tidings of Comfort & Joy

Since 2004, St. Mary's has held a fundraising event in the lead-up to Christmas. With the disruption from COVID, we were unable to hold the holiday gathering. In late 2023, Carol Harris, Vicki Baker and Nancy Clothier teamed up to bring back Tidings of Comfort and Joy this year. We also enlisted the help of Anne Kieve with her historical knowledge. Due to time constraints, it was on a much smaller scale than in the past, but turned into a great success. We decided to raise funds for only one organization, The Gubbio Project.

We enlisted cooks, bakers and craft-persons to provide items to sell for our holiday bazaar. It was a great community-building event and fun for those involved.

Amy Nachman, Carol Harris, Vicki Baker and Nancy Clothier were able to present a check for over \$14,000 to help Gubbio with their work providing services to the unhoused in San Francisco. Thank you to all who participated!

Winter Shelter Dinner

On Friday, January 12 of this year 20 very enthusiastic and dedicated parishioners and clergy from St. Mary's and friends whom they invited hosted a tasty lasagna dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral on Geary for 75 unhoused individuals who were spending the night at the Cathedral. St. Mary's is a participating faith community in the Winter Shelter dinner program sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council for the unhoused during the winter months when the weather is often inclement.

As was done in prior years, St. Mary's also provided clean socks and tee shirts for each dinner guest.

Thirty years ago St. Mary's began hosting meals for the unhoused during inclement winter weather in partnership with other San Francisco faith communities, and a long line of parishioners have participated in this special event over the years.

Funding for the dinner was provided from our parish's budget and community ministry endowment.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who participated including many repeat participants who ensure the sustainability of our ministry. Special recognition goes to Tom Clothier, who planned the menu and then

served as senior chef, Ruth Tatum, who led our serving teams for the dinner, and Susan Barber and Amy Nachman, who were responsible for acquiring the socks and tee shirts for our dinner guests.

Please join us in hosting additional dinners for the unhoused during the winter months of 2024-25! If interested, contact Deacon Tim Smith or any of the individuals indicated above.

Gubbio Project

We continue to have a thriving relationship with this important non-profit, located at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in the Mission, whose mission is to be in community with houseless people in San Francisco and provide a place for "sacred sleep," provision of supplies, chaplaincy, and community. We delivered over 600 items of much-needed supplies to the Gubbio Project after successful blanket drives during both Advent and Lent. Additionally, our financial collection from Tidings of Comfort and Joy went to Gubbio to help renovate their kitchen which will help them supply more meals for the hungry.

We look forward to increasing our participation with Gubbio through SMVSF volunteers and assisting in raising funds for their upcoming project to build showers.



*Gubbio check delivered to Lydia Bransten, Executive director of Gubbio Project.
Vicki Baker, Amy Nachman, Lydia, Carol Harris, Nancy Clothier.*

Worship Ministries

Rick Darwin, Vestry liaison to worship ministries

Natalie Hala, Parish Liturgist & Verger,

Staff liaison to worship ministries

Liturgy Committee: The Rev. David Erickson, The

Rev. Kira Austin-Young

Rev. Deacons Tim Smith, & Nancy Bryan

Mike Stafford, Eric Choate, Ashley Ryan &

Natalie Hala



St. Mary's array of worship offerings reflect the rhythms of our own lives regardless of age, perspective or tradition. The core liturgical elements of gathering, praise, communion and thanksgiving anticipate what unfolds in the long-vision narrative of redemption and offers each of us a glimpse of how our own personal storyline have and continue to intersect with it.

The liturgical motto of the 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*). Public gatherings where we communally express the intention of our hearts each week with the hope that we will grow in our faith. It is from these spiritual nutrients available through communal worship and communal life that makes it possible to live out our commitment to service as we strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, God's gift to us.

The entire Liturgy Committee offer our heartfelt gratitude for all those who serve and participate in our worship ministries. You are the lifeblood of St. Mary's worship and, each and every week, faithfully fulfill vital duties from welcoming worshippers to St. Mary's campus to preparing our sacred space for worship and prayer.

St. Mary's worship services are a dynamic, living example of unity as we share one bread and one cup in praise and thanksgiving to God, the alpha and the omega.

Natalie Hala, Parish Liturgist and Verger

The Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of SMV members who prepare the church for worship services. This includes three services on Sundays, as well as special seasons such as Christmas week and Holy Week. The Altar Guild is also responsible for weddings, baptisms and memorial services. Our duties include the care and maintenance of linens, vestments, candles, silverware, as well as the wine and wafers. We are so thankful to the members of the altar guild who ensure that our worship services are beautiful and run smoothly and who are good stewards of the needed items for worship. The time commitment is once or twice a month, depending on members' availability. It is a very flexible commitment if you are interested in joining us.

Contact: Gloria Galindo - gloria.gtgg@gmail.com, or Nancy Clothier - namcmc@pacbell.net

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 11:00 a.m., (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 and may be asked to assist at weddings and funerals.

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

Following is a list of the Chalice Bearers – Trey Hunter & Susannah Cornes are new in 2024. Thank you for your ministry this year!

David Crosson, Rod Dugliss, Cecilia Brady, Steven Depont-Kalani, Susannah Cornes, Deborah Franklin, Eden Gallenter, John Hayashi, Russell Fudge, David Gibson, Trey Hunter, Aubrey Hargis, Betty Hood-Gibson, Josie McGann, David Hargis, Fran Hegeler, Bruce McClatchey, Sandy Stadtfeld, Jane Ross, Mike Stafford, Ilia Smith, Debbie Veatch

We are always looking for new members to this ministry so if you are interested, please contact the clergy or Pam or Bob Bledsoe. 415-374-7241 pamelabedsow077@gmail.com

Children's Homilists

During the program year, Children's Homilists provide age appropriate interpretation of scripture and contemporary life during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service that includes interactive and joyful dialogue with young members of our congregation. The Children's Homilist ministry doubled this year with the addition of 5 new children's homilists for the ministry to grow to a total of 10 members.



Eucharistic Visitors

Our Eucharistic Visitor Ministry is going strong with monthly visits to The Heritage and visits to other homebound members of St. Mary's. It is a deeply gratifying experience for all involved.

We thank Amy Nachman, Georgia Burke Lu, David Crosson, Alexandra Grover and David Hargis 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 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

Each week at the 9:00, 11:00 a.m. (and, in summer, the 10:00 a.m.) worship services, members of the Reader & Prayer Leader ministry bring their own unique voice to the reading of the appointed scripture and represent our communal voice by leading the intercessions of our community's heart expressed in the Prayers of the People. During the last year, St. Mary's Scripture Reader and Prayer Leaders nearly doubled in size bringing the size of this ministry near its pre-pandemic size of around 50 parishioners.



Ushers

The SMV usher ministry is going strong, and we have added three new, enthusiastic ushers in the past year to greet Sunday attendees and welcome people to St. Mary's. Ideally, two or three more volunteers would help us staff the services during the program year, as well as funerals and memorial services. Those who 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. We are an enthusiastic and helpful bunch, and we all find that our service as ushers helps us to connect more deeply and personally to the St. Mary's community.

If you are interested in joining this ministry or have a particular gift for welcome and hospitality, please contact Rick Darwin.

Youth Acolytes

Our 9 a.m. Sunday worship service is blessed by the leadership of our youth acolytes. We began the fall with ten returning acolytes. Due largely to their enthusiastic service, by the spring, six new acolytes had joined us – a 60% increase! Our current acolytes are: Gloria Cebrian, Luke Cebrian, Nathaniel Cebrian, Imogen Cornes, Ren Cornes, Phoebe de Castro, Stella Houssain, Catherine Karvosky, Allie Magher, Henry Magher, Jack Minick, William Minick, Kyle Napolitana, Caroline Stafford, Rebecca Stafford, and Thorne Wyman. We are grateful to Jack Minick, our sole graduating senior who resumed service after the pandemic hiatus. The joyful presence and faithful 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—are a gift and an inspiration. They remind us that youth are vital leaders of our current church, not only our future church.

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.

Flower Committee

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin and its parishioners are delighted to have a very talented group of flower-arrangers decorating the church every Sunday. The flower committee also provides arrangements for special events such as weddings, funerals and memorial services.

The flower committee is primarily funded through donations for Christmas, Easter, All Saints/All Souls and contributions for specific Sundays. These donations sustain the committee

for the year. We encourage parishioners to donate to commemorate a loved one, a special occasion, in honor or thanksgiving of someone, or for baptisms on their respective Sundays.



Since the pandemic, St. Mary's has been able to enjoy these arrangements, including weddings - four so far scheduled for 2024 - and memorial services and receptions - close to a dozen over the year.

If you have a special occasion scheduled at St. Mary's such as a wedding, memorial/funeral, reception, baptism, or a special honor, for which you would like flowers, you can contact the church office or Steven Depont-Kalani.

The Flower Committee consists of: Joan Toney, Steven Depont-Kalani, Jerry Lehman, Victoria Sutton, Joanne Squire, Josie McGann, Alice Selmer, Sydney Chaney-Thomas, Jill Abelson

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

Some highlights from our year in adult formation include a variety of speakers and presenters on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. as well as a Lectionary Bible Study that convened on Wednesday mornings and a Lenten program on Monday nights. We were especially grateful to have Shawn Small in February to talk about his book *Into the Wonder* and kick-off our Lenten focus on telling our spiritual stories. Rev'd David and Rev'd Kira led presentations on scripture, and we held forums in the fall to discuss and discern the election of the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of California. Our Summer in the City series speakers will be communicated soon, and you are all welcome to join as we grow in the knowledge and love of God!

Sunday School

We are so grateful to wrap up the 2023-24 Sunday School year with an array of culminating activities and two classrooms full of students. We maintained two classrooms, one for older children and one for younger. Making all of this possible was the expertise and enthusiasm of our loyal corps of teachers - Lisa Carey, Cynthia Harper, Lisa Reynolds, Todd Reynolds, Tatiana Hodapp, Nancy Svendsen, and Donna Davidson. Sadly for us, we will be saying farewell to Lisa Carey in the fall, so if you are interested in joining this talented crew of teachers and engaging with our spectacular kids, please reach out to Nancy Clark!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation was successfully conducted this past program year with five regular participants. Three of them were confirmed on June 1st at Grace Cathedral with the Very Rev. Eric Metoyer, Phil Woodworth, and their families presenting them to Bishop Andrus and Bishop Rios.

Youth Confirmation Class:

Imogen Cornes

Ren Cornes

Phoebe de Castro

Jude Hargis

Allison Magher



Youth Group



Youth Group had another phenomenal year. The group continued its Sunday evening meeting time with games, dinner, discussion, and fellowship. We had a fairly consistent group show up, with a particularly strong showing of middle-schoolers, which bodes well for the future. Activities included weekly conversation, dinner, and games, and also monthly adventures like bowling, a movie night, and a North Beach/Chinatown treasure hunt. Mike Stafford and Riley Haggin headed up the group, and we were very happy to welcome Patick Linstrom as an adult youth group volunteer into the fold this year, who brought energy, wit, and wisdom every week!

In the Summer of 2023, 14 youth and 3 adults from St. Mary's and Christ Church Los Altos went to the Nambale Magnet School in Nambale, Kenya for the Youth Mission Trip. We worked in the classrooms with the students, worked on the school grounds on the farm and in the kitchens, and we spent hours joyfully singing, skipping, playing, and praying with the students. After 10 days at the school, we had a 2.5-day safari in the Masai Mara National Park, seeing a different manifestation of the beauty of God's creation in the elephants, giraffes, warthogs, and lions. 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 11 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. We now have a closer communication with the Eucharistic Visitors and Stephen Ministers.

Rev Kira and/or Father David regularly attend our meetings.

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

Our current members are Susan Barber, Sandy Briggs, 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

Stephen Ministry is an international network of local congregations that provide long-term, Christ-centered, lay-based pastoral care to individuals in crisis. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of intensive training in everything from listening skills, crisis management, and grieving to confidentiality and the use of uniquely Christian resources. This year's class of Stephen Ministers marks the tenth anniversary of Stephen Ministry at St. Mary's. In other milestones, this year St. Mary's sponsored the Rev. Stacey Grossman as a Stephen Leader, and the congregation of Grace Cathedral joined St. Mary's in a shared training class of eight. This year's class of Stephen Ministers includes Debbie Veatch, Michael Stafford, and Trey Hunter from St. Mary's and Nancy Wilson, Barbra Ruffin-Boston, Steph Hester, Evan Deocariza, and Pedro Conceicao from Grace Cathedral. Other active St. Mary's Stephen Ministers include Christine Wardell, Ruth Tatum, Arthur Perkins, Jerry George, and David Crosson. Contact a member of the clergy for more information on Stephen Ministry.



2024 combined Grace Cathedral-St. Mary's Stephen Ministry training class. Back Row: The Rev. Canon Mary Carter Green, Pedro Consiecao, Nancy Wilson, Barbra Ruffin-Boston, The Rev. Stacey Grossman (Stephen Leader), Steph Hester, Michael Stafford. Front Row: David Crosson (Stephen Leader), Evan Deocariza, Debbie Veatch. Absent: Trey Hunter.

Parish Life

*Barbara Bernard & Whitney Gough, 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. The goal behind every Parish Life Event is to build meaningful Christian community together, as well as having fun and enjoying one another's presence. Over the past year, we inaugurated a few new traditions like St. Mary's Goes to the Ballpark to cheer on the Giants and Spooky Sunday around Halloween. We've enjoyed eating together at lunch after the Annual Parish Meeting, the Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast, dinner on Maundy Thursday, and the Summer Kick-Off Cook-out. In December, we caroled up and down Union Street bringing joy to our neighborhood. At the Parish Retreat, we made new friends amid the beautiful backdrop of Bishop's Ranch. Thank you to everyone who helped put on these events - from set-up, cooking, cleaning up, and planning. If you are interested in helping out with Parish Life events, please contact the Rev'd Kira Austin-Young.

Vital + Thriving

In 2022, St. Mary's was invited to be a member of the pilot cohort of Vital + Thriving, a new diocesan initiative of congregational development meant to help Episcopal congregations in the Bay Area discover God's preferred and promised future and build Beloved Community.

Our first phase was focused on listening to one another and God: we held confidential conversations, conducted a survey of over 75 parish households, and held events to take in knowledge and information about the lives, needs and opinions of St. Mary's parishioners and how the parish as a whole thought we should move forward. These events led the Steering Committee and the vestry to discern and identify our congregation's missional opportunity: equipping and forming the next generation of Christians in San Francisco with a particular focus on families with school-age children and young professionals.

With this direction, our second phase of Vital + Thriving has formed a Missional Innovation Team to focus on this phase of exploration and experimentation. The team of Rev'd Kira Austin-Young, Heather Coyne, Whitney Gough, Aubrey Hargis and David Hargis, along with Steering team member Deborah Veatch, has met regularly, asking ourselves: Where and to whom is God calling us in this time and place? What can we do to be a more missional church overall? How can we modernize and innovate for the next generation? We have continued our listening efforts from Phase one, drilling down further by having many meaningful conversations with parents of young families new to St. Mary's, as well as young professionals who just found our church recently. Through these conversations, we are beginning to discern how to partner with the next generation of Christians in San Francisco, and what St. Mary's specifically can offer, also brainstorming amongst ourselves to continue to search for where we are called and what is needed among this specific cohort.

In tandem, we have started to do small experiments that you might have noticed in the last few months: pop-up events to draw joy and community among our children, such as the Children's Choir "meet the cast" party after the Choir Musical in May; spreading the word about St. Mary's and sharing useful content and resources on our social channels with a new digital evangelism effort, and assessing our

community's physical spaces to see how we can modernize them to create an inviting and comforting space that welcomes young people. We continue to engage in spiritual practices like Dwelling in the Word and to discover further what we are called to do and hone our efforts.

If you would like to join our team, we would welcome additional voices, especially as we do more experimentation over the next several months. Please reach out to Rev'd Kira to discuss.

Affinity Groups

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

Young Professionals



After re-emerging from COVID and a transition of leadership and membership, St. Mary's Young Professionals had an exciting and eventful year, marked by vibrant activities, increased involvement, and strengthened community bonds. Our mission to create a welcoming environment for young professionals in their 20s and 30s to explore their faith, build lasting relationships, and contribute to the church and broader community has truly come to life through our various initiatives. A few highlights of the year included:

- Happy hours: Our monthly happy hours have become a cornerstone of our ministry, providing a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere for young professionals to unwind, network, and share experiences. These gatherings have not only fostered friendships but also facilitated meaningful conversations about balancing faith and work.
- Thanksgiving "Friendsgiving" Potluck: The Thanksgiving Potluck in the Great Room was a heartwarming event celebrating gratitude and community. Everyone contributed their favorite dishes, creating a diverse and delicious feast that reflected the warmth and camaraderie of our group. The potluck was a beautiful expression of our shared blessings and commitment to one another.
- Hosted dinners: Another highlight has been hosted potlucks, where young professionals have gathered at each others' homes to enjoy good food, lively discussions, and support one another in our personal and professional journeys.

This year, we saw a significant increase in involvement, largely thanks to the introduction of a dedicated WhatsApp group. This platform has enhanced our communication, making it easier to share event details, encourage participation, and support each other daily. The WhatsApp group has fostered a sense of immediacy and closeness, helping us stay connected and engaged.

As we reflect on the past year's successes, we are excited about the future of the Young Professionals Ministry. We aim to build on our achievements, introduce new initiatives, and continue fostering a supportive, engaging, and spiritually enriching community for all young professionals, and we hope that you'll join us!

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 ministry of the columbarium, please contact Sandy Stadtfeld or Deborah Franklin.

Building & Grounds Report

Arthur Perkins, Building and Grounds Chair

Sandy Stadtfeld, Vestry Member

Alex Lei, Sunday Sexton

St. Mary's has been a spiritual center of Cow Hollow since 1888, and in this campus at the corner of Union and Steiner streets since 1891. Our buildings and grounds are infused with the 136 years of our history and tradition. One needn't look too hard to see that St. Mary's is lived in and loved - testament to the vitality and continuity of our community.



However, with all that life and activity, things get worn, squeaky, grimy, broken, and old. But don't fear, St. Mary's - the Buildings and Grounds Committee has your back. This industrious group includes Arthur Perkins (chair), Russell Fudge, Barbara Bernard, Rick Darwin, Tony Imhof, and Sandy Stadtfeld. We are happy to report that through continuous monitoring and action, St. Mary's' buildings & grounds, and those of the Rectory, are in good working order. Projects completed in the last year include:

- Replacement of the water-damaged door to the rear stairway to Fowler Hall with a new solid Douglas Fir door matching of the original.
- Testing of the south wall of the chapel for leaks, followed by waterproofing, patching, and painting.
- Repair of the detached window along the Union Street side of the church.
- Replacement of the drive belt of the fan that ventilates and cools the choir.
- Replacement of three GCFI outlets in the Fowler Hall kitchen.
- Replacement of floor tiles in the ladies' room.
- Acquisition of a custom Redwood bench honoring Manny Gabiana's 30 plus years of service.
- Purchase of an extension ladder to enable changing light bulbs in the sanctuary and other tasks at great height.
- Replacement of the public bench at the corner of Union and Steiner Streets.
- Re-finishing of benches in the St. Mary Courtyard.
- Replacement of rear fence and repair of one side fence of rectory property.
- Acquisition of a defibrillator to augment first aid capabilities.

We are currently working on these improvements:

- Restoration of the drain of our natural seep-fed basin in the main courtyard. This is a vital feature of our campus, and we are making the necessary investments to keep it flowing and teeming with aquatic life for coming generations.
- Repair and re-finishing of sanctuary pews.
- Replacement of vanity and associated plumbing in third floor bathroom of Pixley House.
- Exterior painting of Pixley House.
- Replacement of vanity and sink in one of the Rectory bathrooms.

The Vestry 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, 2024 was

approximately: \$516,000. Since May 31, 2023, the Capital Reserve Fund and Dixon Heise Fund had additions of \$53,326 from bequests and gifts, and expenditures of \$32,836 for replacements and major repairs and maintenance.

We are planning again a clean-up for the beginning of our program year the morning of Saturday August 24. This is a great way to learn about the facility and how it works, to feel and see the result of our work together, and to get to know one another better. Lunch will be provided. Sandy Stadtfeld is compiling a work list for this event; if you know of anything that needs cleaning, fixing, disposal, or any other attention, please let him know: sandy.stadtfeld@gmail.com.

Submitted by the Buildings & Grounds Committee: Arthur Perkins, Russell Fudge, Tony Imhof, Barbara Bernard, Rick Darwin, and Sandy Stadtfeld.

Finance Ministries

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

Title:	Accountant	Chair of Finance Committee	Treasurer
2024 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
	<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 ⊗ 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 	<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 Endowment Board which oversees the church's investment accounts ⊗ Reports on monthly actual vs. budget for vestry ⊗ Communicates and gives direction to State Street Global Advisors, our investment manager 	<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 (signatory on main operating account and investment accounts) ⊗ 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

2024 Finance Committee Members: Elizabeth Falcon (Chair), Rev. David Erickson (Rector), Russell Fudge (Senior Warden), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Ellen McLean (Assistant Treasurer), Arthur Perkins

2024 Legacy and Endowment Board Members: Elizabeth Falcon (Finance Chair), (David Erickson, ex-officio non-voting member), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Jim Griffith, Ashley Clark, Arthur Perkins, plus two vacant positions

2024 Accounting Team: Ellen McLean (Coordinator), Betty Hood-Gibson, Nel Ellwein, Kim Regan, Debbie Veatch, Carol Harris, Claire Alt, Linda Connelly

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.

2024 BUDGET SUMMARY

As Approved by the Vestry on January 24, 2024

OPERATING REVENUE

PLEDGE GOAL	\$ 930,000
NON-PLEDGE DONATIONS	<u>60,000</u>
TOTAL PLEDGE GOAL & NON-PLEDGE DONATIONS	990,000
OTHER INCOME:	<u>281,973</u>
Plate offerings, prior year pledge payments, Easter and Christmas offerings, investment transfers, building use, Associate Rector housing transfer, and other income, less credit card fees.	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>\$ 1,271,973</u>

EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION MINISTRY:	\$ 66,767
Includes church school directors' salaries and materials, nursery care, youth program, adult education and Christian community.	
WORSHIP MINISTRY:	\$ 452,869
Includes salary and benefits for rector and associate rector, including associate rector housing stipend, verger/liturgist, miscellaneous worship and clergy expenses.	
MUSIC MINISTRY:	206,012
Includes salary and benefits for music director, children's choir director, and section leaders, organ and piano maintenance, music scores, and other musicians.	
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT:	170,480
PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:	10,203
Includes community outreach, clergy pastoral needs and support for the diocesan deanery.	
FINANCIAL:	64,794
Includes salary and benefits for parish accountant, payroll service fees, and audit/compliance expenses.	
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION:	147,385
Includes salary and benefits for parish administrator, office supplies, photo copy equipment lease, computer support, postage, printing/paper, and phone/internet costs.	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:	155,098
Includes sexton salary and benefits, building repairs and maintenance, rectory costs, utilities, janitorial service, garden care, and insurance.	
STEWARDSHIP, HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:	<u>9,300</u>
Includes stewardship mailings, communications, coffee hour, vestry expenses, newcomers' hospitality.	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,282,908</u>
2024 PROJECTED NET DEFICIT	<u><\$7,435></u>

Photos of Our Common Life This Past Year



