

## Minutes for the March 14, 2021 Annual Meeting

- The 2021 annual meeting began via Zoom at 11:30.
- The 2021 Annual meeting begin with Prayer and Opening Remarks by Fr. Joseph Smith
- Fr Smith acknowledged all the hard work of each member of the St. Mary's Staff and his wife Sharon Smith; outgoing Vestry Secretary – Ginna Anderson; Outgoing Vestry Members: Marylu Hill and Toni Hoffacker; as well as the wardens, Janice Radford and Pat McKay, who both agreed to serve one additional year. Fr Smith acknowledged also acknowledged the hard work of outgoing parish treasurer Jeff Alayanakian.
- Voting was done by acclamation.
  - Vestry Members – Christopher Hart, Mary Tatnall, Eris Wickersham
  - Diocesan Delegates Christopher Hart, Allyson Radford, Eris Wickersham
  - Rector's Warden – Janice Radford
  - People's Warden – Pat McKay
- Treasurers Report -was present by Jeff Alayanakian
- A report on the Air Handler Project and its finances was given by Pat McKay
- Mother Lucy Ann Dure addressed the congregation in regard to her first year at St. Mary's.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

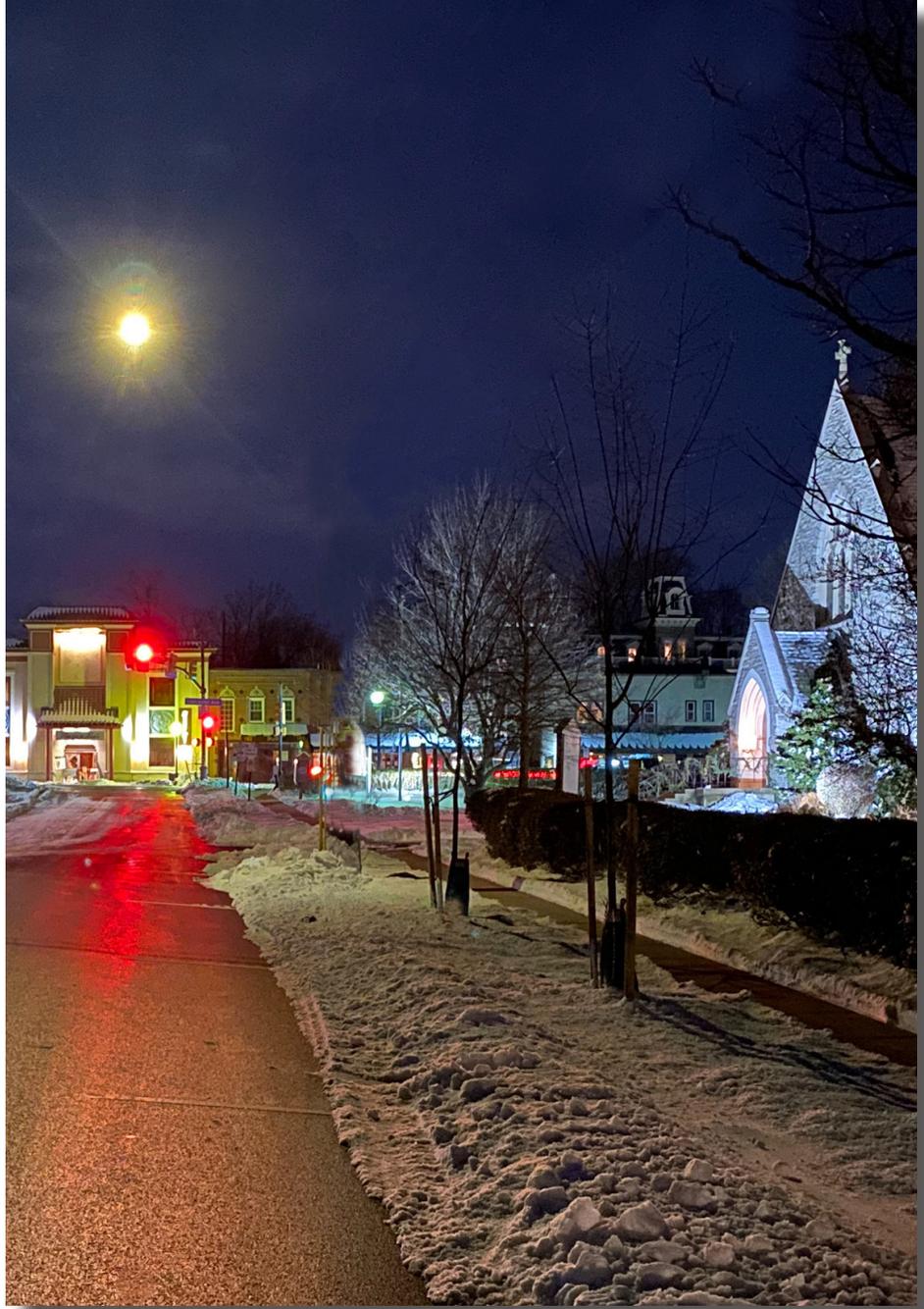
# SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

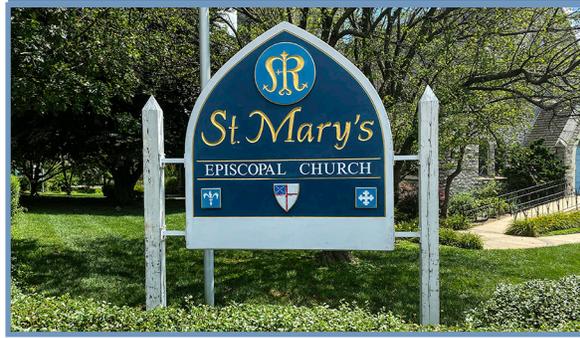
Wayne, Pennsylvania

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2020

# Annual Report





2020 began and St. Mary's seemed to be on the brink of something great. We had ended 2019 in the black. We had continued reducing our reliance on our endowment. Congregational energy seemed to be up. We had a confirmation class of 12 youth and several adults being prepared for the bishop's visit. We had a handful of baptisms and there were some new families with young children beginning to worship with us. We felt so good about our position that the Vestry and I made the decision to call Mother Lucy Ann Dure to serve as our part-time assistant rector. Nothing was going to stop us now.

And then a world-wide pandemic hit. Racial injustices and riots boiled over, triggered by the murder of George Floyd. A presidential election polarized our country; families and households were split. Relationships ended. Fear was rampant. What was going on? How could this be our world when things were looking so good?

Personally, I think I was thrown into an existential crisis. I remember having conversations with our wardens, Bishop Gutierrez and my spiritual director asking, how can I be a priest in a church that was forbidden from administering the sacraments? No longer was I able to administer Communion. No longer was I able to visit the sick in the hospital. No longer was I allowed to baptize. It seemed that everything my priestly identity was wrapped up in had been stripped away. But as the days turned into weeks and the weeks into months... we got to work. There was no time for "I" as there was an entire world out there that needed the Church to step up and be the Church. Our goal now was to figure out how to be the Church in this strange and new environment.

Technology was forced upon us. We finally moved to online giving because we had to. We all learned what Zoom was and with a little bit of trial and error, we began meeting in cyber space. Morning and Evening prayer began as we learned to use cell phones to broadcast live on Facebook, with a copy of that stream being sent out on our website too. Then a God moment happened. People started coming. Between our website and Facebook we averaged over 40 people a day at the daily office. And Sunday mornings - at the beginning of the pandemic we were double our average in-person Sunday attendance. Now we have settled into a healthy 25% increase. Giving is steady, and thanks to the PPP loan and a diocesan grant, once the PPP loan is forgiven, we will actually finish 2020 in the black.

We are still working on some things too. Our children and youth programs will need to be revitalized. Fellowship has been hard to imagine with quarantine. Hands on outreach projects have had to take a different form than we are accustomed. Sure, the pandemic has not been very



conducive for enthusiasm and volunteerism, but if St. Mary's is going to do more than just exist, our members will need to do more than just tune into a livestream once we are able to again safely assemble. Being the Body of Christ; being stewards over all the blessings and resources in which God has entrusted us, means that we all need to do our part. We will need to adapt to our changing circumstances and get to work doing God's will.

Sisters and Brothers, we have much to be thankful for. In a time when we can see more than a handful of businesses in Wayne shuttered up...in a time when churches are making decisions about staying open or permanently closing because of finances...in a time when our world is searching for something beyond the same old same old - we, the Church, are in the position to be just the answer that the world needs.

During a recent Vestry retreat, after studying John 21: 4-8, we were asked what St. Mary's might look like if we cast our nets out on the other side of our St. Mary's boat. Yes, things might look a bit different, but let's face it, they already look different. At the writing of this article, yesterday was Wednesday. Instead of the normal hustling and bustling Noah's Ark, we had three college kids attending classes and doing homework in the youth room. We had two middle school kids being taught in the Fr. Greene Room. We had one 5<sup>th</sup> grader and his father working remotely in the Navaho room because of no internet at home. And we had four preschoolers learning how to read through a literacy program in the lower wing of the Parish House. Instead of our normal choir practice, we had the first of a series of Lenten presentations on hymnody by Dr. Gordon Turk via livestream from the choir loft with over 100 participants. And all through the day there were cars dropping off food just as quickly as people were getting food from our Little Free Pantry. And all of this new hustle and bustle was bookended by Morning and Evening prayer with 30-40 people in attendance. Yes, the Church looks a bit different. But on the inside, we are still the Church being the hands and feet of Christ in the world. There is no existential crisis here.



# THE RECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Fr. Joseph

# THE ASSISTANT RECTOR



It was a year ago at the Annual Parish Meeting when I first came to St. Mary's as Assistant Rector, just three weeks before sheltering in place for the pandemic began. I only knew one or two people from St. Mary's at that point, but I knew I was to work with the Adult Formation Committee and with Father Joseph, leading worship.

Then — the pandemic. No sharing in the sacraments— no in person Holy Communion. No Coffee Hour (the “Eighth Sacrament”). No choir. No social gatherings. An empty church. Zoom meetings and classes. Virtual reality. And then — all the rest of 2020.

“How can we sing the Lord's song upon an alien soil?” —the Psalmist asks in Psalm 137.

Though we at St. Mary's are not exiled in Babylon, many times this past year I have felt like we are strangers in a strange land. In the first aftershocks of Covid's arrival, the abyss of the dark, empty nave stared back at me as I sang the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil. But the Paschal candle —and the light of Christ — shone into the void, and we sang the songs of redemption into the darkness. I learned that whether we are in church or worshipping remotely, even then, the Spirit of God is with us all, and none of us are alone.

Worshipping at St. Mary's these past 12 months has been an exercise in faithful fasting from the familiar, especially from the joy and reassurance of our brothers and sisters gathering together to be the Body of Christ in worship, fellowship and service. Missing the congregation has been deeply challenging —even for someone like me, who does not know you as Father Joseph does. God's love is shown to us not only in Word and Sacrament, but in and through each other. Like manna in the wilderness, our live-streamed Morning and Evening Prayer and Sunday services have sustained us while we have fasted from the physical presence of our congregation. Our spiritual community of prayer is essential, wonderful, and beneficial. But we long for each other's presence in flesh and blood, just as we yearn for the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine, to become for us His Body and Blood. It is a double deficit for our congregation to be without both material Communion and each other. Yet God's Spirit is with us all in this wilderness.

And God has been at work to nurture our spiritual growth. After George Floyd was killed in late May, many of us needed “to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church,” and to



have a heart-to-heart talk with each other even if it could only happen on Zoom. In our “Holy Conversation,” we shared our feelings and respected each others’ feelings, and those who attended stepped out of our comfort zones and risked an open encounter with the pain and sin of racism, in ourselves and our country. Noah Lanouette’s reading of his poem that day engaged our hearts and emotions in a courageous, personal and loving way. Though our conversation was virtual, it was indeed “holy ground.” We were reminded that it is by such honesty and vulnerability as Noah’s that God’s Love teaches and transforms us. The Holy Spirit was with us, both speaking and listening.

...which leads me to what excites me about the year ahead, and what I dream for the future. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is present at St. Mary’s in ways that transcend the traditional barriers of walls and space, and reconfigure the familiar ways we understand both “church” and “community.” This is the Holy Spirit of the Resurrected Christ, after all, Who, when He appeared to the disciples in the upper room, “where the doors were locked for fear of the Jews,” came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (John 20) How can we, as the Body of Christ, animated by His Spirit, pass through doors and walls which separate and divide us from those who so desperately need the message of Christ’s Peace and reconciling Love?

Challenging as this past year has been, we have ample clues from our pandemic experiences which show us the way to follow Him, and many reasons to be bold in hope. Continuing our live-streaming of services, Healing Ministry, Taizé services, outreach ministries— we have a treasure of riches of faith at St. Mary’s —so many gifts and so much gratitude to God! If we would keep it, we must give it away.



# THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

Submitted by Mother Lucy Ann



Serving as Rector's Warden in a "normal" year is a privilege, but serving in the year of a global pandemic allowed me to witness first-hand the dedication and ministry of our priests, Father Joseph and Mother Lucy Ann. Their first priority was to deliver The Word and to connect to those who remain at-home and hungry for prayer and fellowship.

### *How has the pandemic affected this ministry?*

At the time I wrote the Annual Report for 2020, our Vestry had begun the process of discerning the direction St. Mary's would take in its mission and ministry. When the pandemic closed our doors to in-person worship, this needed to be put aside to address pressing issues of developing a virtual ministry to reach our parish and community safely and broadly.

### *One Exciting Change*

The challenges the pandemic brought presented an opportunity for our leaders to look deeper into how to reach out to those in need of worship and connection. As a result, the livestreaming services have reached not only our own members, but they have been followed by seekers as far away as Colorado! A new (to St. Mary's) ministry has emerged.

### *Accomplishments*

- With the hard work of Jeff Alyanakian and Debbie Ealer we were able to secure pandemic related loans and grants which, when added to the generosity of our parishioners, allowed St. Mary's to end 2020 financially sound.
- Using Bishop guidelines, a small group of vestry members, led by Jim Anderson, developed and implemented a safety protocol for in-person worship.
- A request went out to the Parish to help defray costs of replacing the air conditioning system estimated to be about \$103,000. We are grateful to our parish family who have generously donated and pledged over half of that amount.

### *Exciting Change for 2021*

The Vestry is now able to return to the discernment process. We held a Vestry retreat led by Diocesan Canon Kirk Berlenbach and are encouraged by the outcome of this retreat and how we will move forward in our ministries.

### *Dream for the Future*

My dream for St. Mary's is that we learn to take full advantage of our wonderful location in the heart of Wayne to become a place where, not only our own members, but the broader community is drawn to our ministries through outreach and liturgies.



Serving as St. Mary's People's Warden over the past year has been a gift! Despite the Pandemic, it has been amazing to see parishioners share their Time, Talent, and Treasure to press forward to serve God and St. Mary's.

### *How has the Pandemic affected this ministry?*

As People's Warden my ministry shifted from physically being present with parishioners to helping to create protocols to keep people safe when we can all be physically present again.

### *Three Accomplishments This Past Year*

Thanks to Father Joseph and Allyson Radford, we continue to worship in person and by live streaming. They continue to garner technology to make it better and better, and we plan to continue to live stream after the Pandemic. Through this gift, we have new people attending and supporting St. Mary's.

We are still thriving! When we drive down Lancaster Avenue and see all the closed businesses, we can look at St. Mary's and say we are still solid because of you! Each time Vestry reviews our financial reports, we talk about our challenges, but we also acknowledge we continue to stay strong. Thank you for your continued stewardship of financial pledging and serving!

We have embraced new ways to stay connected. For example, this past Christmas Eve's Nativity Service was held outside. It was amazing to see attendance not only from St. Mary's but from the Wayne community! Each week we see opportunities to join one another by Zoom such as Koffee Klatsch, Adult Formation and Bible Study. Thank you to everyone who continues these wonderful services during challenging times!

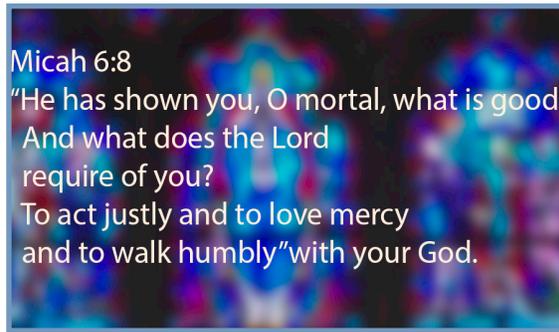
### *One Exciting Change for the Year Ahead*

Vestry recently held a retreat with Diocesan Canon Kirk Berlenbach to read scripture, reflect, and pray for strategic planning next steps. Vestry is excited to explore leveraging all our strengths and wonderful location to "cast our net" to grow not only within, but also in the larger community.

### *Dream for the Future*

We have all been challenged over the past year. As we continue in the year ahead, St Mary's will be even more united and spiritual to continue our mission to serve friend and stranger alike.

Submitted by Pat McKay



### *Three Accomplishments for 2020*

- **Online Giving** With our world rapidly changing, we researched, compared, tested, and rolled out a new online giving platform. From its implementation in late March 2020 through January 31, 2021, we have received \$ 63,780.49 via online giving alone. The cost has been minimal – with many donors choosing to add the tax-deductible processing costs to their online donations, we have had a net expense of \$ 276.66. Online giving has allowed our St. Mary’s family to continue giving faithfully, without disruption caused by pandemic, weather, or postal delays.
- **Pandemic Impact** Our Treasurer and Finance Committee worked relentlessly to explore all avenues available to help us recover from the losses sustained by COVID-19. Due to their careful management, and strong support received from the congregation, we ended the year in strong financial health.
- **Energy Savings** We no longer employ the services of an energy management company and have successfully renegotiated our electric and gas utility contracts at much lower rates. The savings are real - our total 2020 gas and electric expenses were 35 % lower than our costs in 2018 – a saving of over \$11,000 annually - and we anticipate future savings as we upgrade our air conditioner equipment and maintain favorable utility contracts.

### *One Exciting Change for the Year Ahead*

- Over the last few years several parishioners have expressed a desire to remember St. Mary’s in their estate planning. The Finance Committee is currently working on establishing a framework to facilitate this process and better communicate the many options available.

### *A Dream for the Future*

When I reflect on early 2020, with my personal and work to-do lists lengthy, I smile. God had very different plans for me than I realized. My dream for the future is really what St. Mary’s has been doing all along – to carefully discern what God is calling us to do as a parish, and to live and act in ways that are pleasing to Him. I hope we each commit to showing His love in a deeper way, and to make concerted efforts to invite people to experience God, either virtually or in person. My dream is that St. Mary’s continues to inspire all to develop a deeper relationship with their Savior, and to carry the Good News throughout their communities.

Submitted by Debbie Ealer



At the beginning of 2020 we were happy to welcome the Rev. Lucy Ann Dure as our part-time priest. We had little idea then of what lay ahead. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to look at worship very differently: we had to find ways to continue to worship meaningfully as the body of Christ, united but physically apart, all within attendance and health guidelines set by the Diocese and the Commonwealth.

We began livestreaming the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service and worked continuously to improve the experience of those worshipping from home. Lighting, sound, camera angles, even placement of the lectern were adjusted to make the service more meaningful. The quartet enhanced worship throughout the summer in addition to its regular season. The clergy and others offered daily Morning and Evening Prayer, drawing people closer to God and each other during an extraordinary time. There were also special services for All Saints and Epiphany. Our streamed services have drawn a wide audience, many from out-of-state.

A new memorable, special, in-person service was the live-with-animals, outdoor 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Nativity service, attended by many St. Maryans and neighbors, despite the rain.

We look forward to meeting the new challenges that 2021 will undoubtedly bring.

Submitted by Toni Hoffacker



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION



“The goal of Christian Formation is to empower more of our parishioners to study scripture, learn about our faith, and to dig deeper into the treasures of our faith tradition, all of which enhance our relationship with God and each other.”

We have missed the fellowship of being in a room together, but the Zoom “room” has opened other possibilities, including guest speakers who otherwise would not have been available due to distance. Our Sunday morning Christian formation classes have proven to be a way of engaging and connecting parishioners who have otherwise been confined to their homes during COVID. Perhaps our first noteworthy accomplishment of the past year was the transition to virtual learning experiences; we all learned how to navigate Zoom! Our curriculum offered an inspiring and challenging variety of Biblical and theological readings, including:

A series on “Heroes of Faith” and “Healing Passages in Scripture” (led by Erlis Wickersham)

- An exploration of Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s *Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference* (co-written with his daughter Mpho Tutu). This series included two sessions led by Dr. Rachel Beard, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond VA.
- A timely series on “Guidelines for Healthy Christian Community” led by Bridget Lanouette, Erlis Wickersham, and Peter Busch, with the topics of “Encouragement”; “promoting healthy relationships in church”; and “Aquinas on dialogue as a means of understanding.”
- During Advent, along with a Sunday morning program on St. Mary using Elizabeth Johnson’s book, *Truly our Sister*, Mother Lucy Ann provided opportunities for an Advent Quiet Morning and self-guided retreats with the stained glass windows in the church. This study culminated again in a visit with a special lecture on Mary from Dr. Beard in January.
- On Saturday, February 20, Lucy Ann marked a year at St. Mary’s, leading a well-attended Lenten Quiet Day on the subject of finding a personal spiritual practice of faith, prayer and healing.





*An exciting change in the future:* For the first time ever, Dr. Gordon Turk is leading a weekly Wednesday afternoon class on “Hymning in Lent.” Other goals for 2021 include renewing our efforts with the youth and tapping into ecumenical/church-wide study opportunities. Our Lenten series using a program from St. George’s College in Jerusalem for our Lenten classes on Sunday morning, and is an excellent example of the resources available to us (especially via distance learning).

*Dreams for the future:* To draw in more members of the parish about how we can meet their Christian formation needs; to invite them and excite them about the “transformation by the renewal of their minds” which we are promised by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Submitted by Marylu Hill

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**As We Gather**  
Please Observe Our Guidelines

- Wear Masks**  
Face-coverings are to be worn by the faithful in and around the church.
- Stay 6 Feet Apart**  
Physical distancing is practiced in the church and on the church property.
- Holy Eucharist**  
Communion will be distributed only in the hand, not by the cup.
- Sign of Peace**  
No hand shakes during the sign-of-peace.
- Tithing**  
Large baskets located in the church for your envelopes or donations and prayer requests.
- Single Entry/Exit**  
Please use the front entrance when entering and exiting the church and parish house.
- Single Use Bulletins**  
All Hymnals, and Book of Common Prayer are currently not available in the pews.

zoom Adult Christian Formation - Shared screen with speaker view

## Identity: sola Scriptura

**SOLA SCRIPTURA**

- Protestantism rests on the principle of sola Scriptura, and hence always asks, “Is it biblical?” As such, the key question is not whether Mary “feels” right to Protestants, but whether the almost total silence about whether a responsible reading of the biblical material requires us to pay more attention to Mary?
- To be sure, the Bible does not tell us very much about Mary, but Protestantism is not true to its own biblical insistence when it focuses almost exclusively on Mary as the mother of the baby Jesus, and ignores other instances of her presence in the Bible.
- 1. **The Magnificat:** we first encounter her in the Magnificat, where she sings the first song of the church, the song of God’s reversal. A song so revolutionary that missionaries were forbidden to preach about it in public in India and elsewhere.
- 2. **The First Miracle:** Mary is the one who calls his attention to the situation.
- 3. **The Cross:** the figure of that mourning mother who sees her son crucified on the cross of Roman cruelty, is someone we can associate with our own losses. If we find consolation or inspiration in the dramatic story of Abraham on Mount Moria, of Hannah crying in the temple for a son, of Ruth who follows her mother-in-law into new territory, of Paul who meets the living Christ on the Road to Damascus, or even of later Christian figures – Protestant “saints” like Martin Luther King, or Dietrich Bonhoeffer, then why do we ignore that mother at the foot of the cross?
- 4. **The Birth of the Church:** she is there, with the rest of the very first group of believers, in the upper room, witness to the resurrection. She is, in a certain sense, the primary witness to the incarnation. In that sense she truly is mater ecclesiae, mother of the church.



*Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."*

As has everything, it seems, St. Mary's Outreach has been affected by Covid19. We, the people of St. Mary's, were not able to participate in ministries that we are accustomed to supporting and ministries that we are accustomed to doing. Yet, we are determined to find ways to continue to serve "in spite" of this pandemic.

St. Mary's Women's Ministry (WOSM) continues to be active. And while the Noah's Ark thrift store is closed until further notice due to Covid19 concerns, don't think for a moment that ministry has been quiet. As they do twice a year, WOSM worked hard behind the scenes in the Fall, bagging up most of the contents of Noah's Ark and donating them to other groups of need in our community. In August, WOSM also collected school supplies for St. Mary's Church in Chester and has been providing monthly meals in Norristown through The Interfaith Hospitality Network, which serves homeless families with children, as well as single women.

The Little Free Pantry is thriving. Wayne Elementary started a program called Giving Fridays where they have agreed to add the LFP as a place to be supported. We have already received canned goods from their Friday collections several times. This is great publicity for the LFP and students have been putting the cans directly in the cupboard. This is impactful for the students and they in essence have become an extension of St. Mary's outreach ministry. This has been divine timing since people are in need and the LFP has been heavily accessed during Covid19.

We are continuing to support St. Mary's Food Pantry in Chester, the difference is we are giving monetary donations instead of non-perishable foods like we have in the past. This has allowed them to buy what they need to supplement their existing supplies. Parishioners have continued to be generous and donate money that we, in turn, send to them. Christmas 2020, white gifts collected from last Christmas Eve 2019 were taken to the children of Chester by Beth Connor and they were so thankful.



### *2021 Goals*

The Vincent and Brown Fund will start their 2021 online fundraiser very soon. The goal is to support the boys for one more year to get both boys through graduation. We missed the 2020 fundraiser due to COVID19 but thankfully there was enough in the fund to cover Vincent and Brown through the year. Sharon Smith is working to complete the webpage so hopefully the online fundraiser will be live very soon!

Heeding Gods Call -Anti Gun Violence event and march will take place April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. Event is co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese Faithful Witness Program, their anti-gun violence commission that is supported by the Bishop and Wayne Presbyterian Church. It is a Wayne/Radnor event. The event is preceded by a Lenten biblical series in conjunction with Wayne Presbyterian, please see the Chimes for details on the series.

We plan on holding a Christmas in July 2021 so we can collect white gifts that are typically collected on Christmas Eve and have them ready to go before Christmas 2021. Continuing this tradition is important and greatly appreciated by the Chester community.

*(John 21:16) "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find"....*

Outreache's dream for the future is to cast the net on the other side of the ship and invite the Radnor community into our outreach efforts. For example, Wayne Elementary School has been filling the Little Free Pantry and we plan to soon invite the non-church community to participate in the anti-gun violence march, in April. We will continue to explore and find ways to "stir up one another to love and good works" by encouraging community members to join us in helping others. All of RTSD schools have started Diversity Equity and Inclusion PTO committees. We will make it a point to connect with them, share outreach opportunities with them, and collaborate on projects that benefit us all.

Submitted by AnnaMarie Jones

# FELLOWSHIP



“When we get together, I want to encourage you in the faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.” Romans 1:12

Fellowship is an important part of our faith. Coming together to support one another is an experience that allows us to learn, gain strength, and show the world exactly who God is.

No other recent trials have been more devastating on our ability to meet for fellowship than the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had to make friends with technology and so Zoom, Facebook and the website have become our friends. Out of these circumstances was born a new fellowship group...the Koffee Klatsch. This weekly Thursday morning gathering has allowed us to engage in meaningful fellowship from the safety of our homes, connecting with and encouraging one other.

Recently the Vestry participated in a retreat led by diocesan staff member Canon Kirk Berlenbach. Using St. Luke’s Fishing for People discourse, (Lk 5:1-11) as well as John’s post resurrection story about putting your net out on the other side, (Jn 21:4-8) each Vestry member was challenged to reimagine our ministry and our call to serve Jesus.

Like Simon in the Bible passages referenced above, we as a church can become frustrated when it feels we aren’t moving forward. In sailing terms, I sometimes feel St. Mary’s is “in irons.” A sailing craft is said to be “in irons” if it is stopped with its sails unable to generate power in the no-go zone. If the craft tacks too slowly, or otherwise loses forward motion while heading into the wind, the craft will coast to a stop.



Has St. Mary’s truly stalled? A quick glance at our website shows that St. Mary’s offers many weekly activities... Sunday services, faith formation classes, daily office prayers, Bible study, Hymning through Lent with Dr. Turk, Book Club, Koffee Klatsch, and more. But the question begs, can we do more?

After a bit of reflection, I believe Jesus is calling us to go deeper. We need to trust Him and possibly change the way we engage our community to share the Good News. In a world that seems to be distancing itself from religion, it is even more important that we find meaningful ways to

share with others how God is working in our lives, helping them develop their own faith. It is crucial that we keep fishing. We shouldn't simply go through the motions . . . we need to prayerfully seek God's will and prayerfully discern His calling to seek the best path forward. Do we need to simply change tack, or set a new course? To quote Winston Churchill "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

The question that the Fellowship commission needs to wrestle with, using the Bible passages as our guide, is where should we cast our nets now? I believe there are many exciting opportunities, capitalizing on our location and other strengths, and I look forward to prayerfully considering how we can best serve God.

### *A Dream for the Future*

Our goal is to leverage our two key assets: our members and our building and grounds in order to spread the word of our Lord through hospitality and fellowship.

Submitted by Jim Anderson

# FELLOWSHIP



# BUILDING AND GROUNDS



Located on the corner of Lancaster and Louella Avenues, St. Mary's is one of the anchors of downtown Wayne. Conveniently situated near the middle school and Wayne train station, it is a vibrant Christian community including a diversity of cultures and economic backgrounds, and a mixture of families new to the region along with those who have worshiped at St. Mary's for generations. Originally built over 150 years ago, the church sanctuary is a wonderful place of music and worship, with great acoustics. The bells in the bell tower are real, not recordings, tolling and enriching our neighborhood.

The pandemic has kept us apart. Yet volunteers - Louisa Ridgway, Laurie and Tom Buechle, the Scheidt Family, Allyson Radford and so many more - maintained our gardens, bushes and hedges throughout the growing season. We thank them for their skills and hard work. Others, such as Jim Anderson, repaired our Little Free Pantry and our signage. David Gardiner continues to share his time and expertise on so many projects, big and small. Just recently, as an Eagle Scout project, Paige Cutler and a crew of friends and family rebuilt the stairs to the bank parking lot. Paige surely utilized the skills that she learned from her father and from participating in our youth mission trips to St. John's Island in South Carolina. These dedicated stewards continue to take initiative, and as a church we are grateful.

In 2020 St. Mary's had some serious plumbing and sewage problems, which we addressed and corrected. Final pipe repairs were completed in March and April 2020, eliminating several turns, adding clean-outs for future maintenance, and ensuring proper pitch. We also completed necessary repairs to our Parish House roof and interior ceiling tiles. We have been blessed to have the resources and parishioner support to maintain, repair and renovate our historic buildings, which is an on-going process.

In June, our church's air conditioning unit and our air handling unit finally gave out. The equipment had served us ever since the church was rebuilt after the 1969 fire. We are thankful that this failure happened during the pandemic, allowing us time to meticulously compare several bids. Due to expensive parts for an outdated system, and environmental concerns with the existing refrigerant, it was determined to be most prudent and cost





effective to replace the entire system. This new system will be more energy efficient and easier to operate and maintain, allowing for future cost savings. The vendor has been selected and parts ordered, with repair expected to commence very shortly. The cost will be \$103,000 (equipment, labor and contingency), funded through a combination of a low-cost Diocesan loan and parishioner support. To date, \$51,025 has been pledged by 38 families, with \$43,775 already received. This support is tremendous.

*A dream for the future...* As the virus begins to retreat, we continue to mask, socially distance, and practice excellent hygiene. Our church has begun to gather again for in-person worship, following government and Diocesan guidelines. We will continue to make our services and groups available via streaming, so all can interact with others in fellowship and learning. We look forward to the day when we can gather freely without the pandemic, but regardless we will continue to grow through the fellowship of believers, all of whom are God's children. We will continue to prudently care for our physical structures, taking care of all with which God has entrusted us. With His blessing we will continue to be a stalwart for generations to come.

*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5: 14-16*

Submitted by Dave Seavey



# BUILDING AND GROUNDS



It has now been a year that we have experienced restricted conditions in every aspect of our daily lives. Church denominations and communities have responded to this social crisis in various ways. I am grateful to Fr. Joseph and the Vestry of St. Mary's for recognizing the vital importance of keeping St. Mary's 'open' and as normal as possible during these months. Worship provides a lifeline for our St. Mary's family, and many others outside our community, to experience comfort, stability and hope in our daily lives; through this St. Mary's is a witness to God's love and presence in our lives and our extended community.

Sunday worship without YOU, the congregation, is an unsettling experience...there is too much bare wood – even the pews are bare of hymnbooks and prayerbooks. We are fortunate, even blessed, to be able to live-stream the services, and Fr. Joseph's leadership in this has been an inspiration, both technically and spiritually, and supported by Mo. Lucy Ann, our tech-captain Allyson Radford, and of course, Janice Radford and the Altar Guild, we have really been able to 'have church'.

When we were initially faced with this dilemma, an item of concern from Fr. Joseph was that we continue to have music for the liturgy and be as 'normal' as possible. The absence of the full choir is another feeling of loss for me, and I know that it is for those who have been singing in the choir...our last rehearsal was Wed. March 11, 2020 – we haven't been together since then.



We are blessed in the dedication of our quartet of professional singers who have been our 'full choir' for a year now. They have been dedicated and enthusiastic, and I thank God for them. We rehearse in the Fr. Greene Room on Sundays at 9 am, with proper distancing, masks and window ventilation, then we go to the church at 9:45 to be in place for the 10 o'clock service.



I want to mention them by name: Monica Ziglar- soprano, Madison Zahorsky -mezzo, Justin Gonzalez -tenor, and Daniel Gallegos-baritone... even in bad weather they have been there. During these past twelve months we have been able to offer music for all the special liturgies of Holy Week, and organ and choral music (for the first time) throughout the entire summer. Then, we continued in the fall season, Advent, and three Christmas Eve services (including the outdoor Live Nativity), Evensong for Candlemas, and the Ash Wednesday service, to date, and on it will go throughout Lent (including a Wednesday, 4:15pm ‘Musical Formation’) and Easter.

Another aspect of our Sunday worship has been to expand the organ preludes both in time and in musical scope, to give our live-stream congregation time to tune in and settle in for worship, coffee cups not-with-standing. (BTW, the term we have been using in the bulletin for the prelude and postlude is Voluntary, which comes from a long-standing tradition in England meaning ‘a piece played before or after the Anglican service’ – and it is frequently referred to as the In-Voluntary, and the Out-Voluntary).

Knowing that the means to continue the level and presence of music in our worship is not just ‘involuntary’ I want to express my gratitude to you, the congregation, for making it all possible, as we humbly offer it in worship as ‘a fragrant offering’ to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Submitted by Dr. Gordon Turk

MUSIC



*Personal Statement:*

“Aslan,” said Lucy “you’re bigger.”

“That is because you are older, little one” answered he.

“Not because you are?”

“I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.”

-C.S. Lewis, Prince Caspian

*Achievements from 2020:*

We have been surviving. Reach out to the youth, teens, and young adults in your life. They’re struggling too.

*Goal for 2021*

My goals for 2021 are to revamp our youth program, encouraging youth leadership and input and seeking assistance in execution from adults/parents, and the ongoing goal of expanding the support of this ministry to college-age kids and young adults.

*Dream for the future*

To develop an entire Christian Formation program (church school, family church night, acolytes, youth choir, informal gatherings, outreach efforts, retreats, mission trips, resources for parents and families, Sunday worship, youth group) with all parts working together to help form well-grounded persons of faith. My dream is that because of the totality of our Youth Ministry program, our youth will be better prepared to recognize and live out the calls to love, to serve, and to grow in their faith throughout their lives.

Submitted by Allyson Radford