



ST. MARY'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
2015  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# RECTOR'S REPORT

January 31, 2016

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. — Romans 12:2

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If there is one word that captures the spirit of St. Mary's at this moment in our community life, that word is renewal. God is at work in our worship, service, relationships, and faith. The Holy Spirit is present, bringing new life to our current leaders and ministries and raising up new ones. I am grateful every day for the lay leaders and staff of St. Mary's who labor in love, preparing the soil for the new life that is growing here. This year as we gather for our annual meeting, I pray that our members will be inspired to engage in ministry and to imagine and taste the abundant fruit that God brings forth in our church.

This fall the vestry and I met with a consultant for a mutual ministry review. We celebrated what is going well and considered what needs improvement in our shared ministry. One of the clear themes emerging from this review was St. Mary's need for stability. We are not quite finished with the work of transition and development of some key areas of our common life. Even as leaders and staff tackle administration, we give thanks that fresh ministries are sprouting up, new members are arriving, and present members are growing in faith and commitment. We see evidence in this annual report of amazing, life-changing ministry. My own report highlights three areas of ongoing renewal.

**Spiritual Growth for Renewal**—The most important gift that God has given St. Mary's is her members and their faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Last year we established stability in our worship schedule and defined the style and location of each service. Now the work of our leaders is to lavish attention on each particular service, using music, silence, language, and liturgical elements to glorify God and inspire members and guests. The work of the people

is to show up and participate wholeheartedly, allowing God to bless and renew us.

Our senior warden, Linda Drummond, has been an inspired partner to me in ministry. Last fall she planted a seed for a ministry called RenewalWorks, a process we are engaging to determine what our members need in order to grow in faith. This spring a team of leaders will use data gathered from members in a survey to understand where we are as a church in terms of spiritual vitality. We will develop a plan for ministry to lead our members to deeper faith and more developed spiritual practices. This process invites the engagement of every member. Can you imagine the renewal of our church if each member engages in taking next steps in faith and spiritual practice?

**Staffing for Renewal**—By the summer of 2016, our plan is to have a complete and stable staff gathered to support the ministry of St. Mary's Church. This staff will include two full-time priests (the rector and an assistant), a full-time parish administrator, a full-time director of communications and ministry, a quarter-time music director, a per diem staff musician for 10:30 am contemporary worship, and an hourly sexton. Dorothy Skirzenski's careful ministry as our parish administrator over the last year has strengthened our organization in countless ways. Anne Stone's skill and hard work as our director of communications and ministry has been transformative in providing structure, communication, and connection in many areas of ministry. Since we did not hire a full-time priest last summer as planned, we have had the gift of Gabe Giella's ministry as our half-time director of Christian formation. We see evidence of renewal in our programs, including weekly adult education, a youth group, Godly Play, confirmation classes for youth and adults, and upcoming Lenten offerings. Karin Larsen, who began as our music director in August, has provided much-needed stability for the 8 am service, is ably leading the choir, and provides support for the 10:30 service. Anthony Geer joined our staff as the sexton in November and has been a wonderful addition to

our team. One of my priorities this winter is to fill the two remaining positions (assistant to the rector and staff musician for contemporary worship). Having a stable, gifted, and committed staff will ensure that the new life at St. Mary's will have the support and nurture needed to grow and thrive.

**Resources for Renewal**—St. Mary's has been blessed with unique and abundant resources for ministry. In addition to our lay leadership, we have gifts of land, buildings, and an endowment. With these gifts comes the sacred trust of caring for them and ensuring that they are used for the spread of the Good News, for the building up of the Kingdom, and for the renewal of God's people. Last week we accomplished the sale of the old parish house, a milestone that has required time and money for over a decade. Our junior warden, Dave Monroe, has done an astounding job leading the Property Commission over the past year in assessing and addressing the needs of our property. We now have a maintenance plan for each of our five buildings and a list of needed repairs and renovations, some of which are long overdue. In 2016 the vestry and I will present a plan called "Raising the Roof," which will provide for the renewal of our buildings and grounds and propose funding for this work. We are excited about the possibilities and the ways we may use our property more generously for ministry.

The vestry has made a commitment to view our financial life with care and curiosity. I give thanks to our dedicated treasurer, Christine Winslow, who spends hours accounting and reporting our finances each month. The draw from the endowments and our annual giving are the two largest sources of income for the operating budget. At this point in our financial life, we need to grow our income, primarily through giving, which will require an awareness of God's grace, solid Christian formation, and the engagement of all our members. We are also exploring using our buildings and grounds for programs that will generate income.

This spring the vestry commits to our own education and conversation regarding our endowments, clarifying

the restrictions on certain funds, and renewing our understanding of prudent spending guidelines. We also plan to revise our process for financial reporting and assess our needs for leadership in these areas. The spiritual vitality of our members and leaders is deeply important as we manage the resources that have been entrusted to us. Growing in faith and spiritual practices will impact our giving and renew our church.

I thank God for the privilege of serving as your rector, and I thank each of you for the ways in which you make God's love and renewing Spirit known.

In Christ and with gratitude,  
The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, Rector

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# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION OF ST. MARY'S

Sunday, January 31, 2016 • St. George's Chapel

1. Call to order –  
*The Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, Rector*
2. Invocation – *Jennifer Pedrick*
3. Determination of a quorum –  
*Mattie Gustafson, Clerk*
4. Acceptance of minutes of the 2014 annual meeting of St. Mary's Church
5. Acceptance of annual reports by title as published
6. Thanksgiving for vestry and ministry leaders completing terms, and acknowledging staff and commission chairpersons – *Jennifer Pedrick*
7. Nominating Committee Report and Elections  
*Anna Zambrano, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee*
8. Witnesses to Renewal and RenewalWorks –  
*Members of St. Mary's, Bev Hall, and Michelle Freitas*
9. Financial and Investment Reports for 2015  
*Christine Winslow, Treasurer*
10. Budget for 2016 – *Christine Winslow*
11. Report of Election Results
12. New Business
13. Closing Prayer and Adjourning – *Jennifer Pedrick*



## FROM THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH

Article IV Section 1. Membership. The Members of the Parish shall all be persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and who are registered as members of the Parish. The Voting Members of the Parish shall be the rector or minister in charge and all Member communicants of eighteen years and over who are regular worshipers in the Parish church, who for six months preceding the annual meeting have been regular contributors to the support of the Parish, and who are not in arrears in the fulfillment of their pledges to support the Parish.

*The Staff of St. Mary's: The Reverend Jennifer L. Pedrick, Rector • Anthony Geer, Sexton • Karin Larsen, Music Director • Dorothy Skirzenski, Parish Administrator • Anne Stone, Director of Communications and Ministry*

# MINUTES FROM 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Held Sunday, February 1, 2015

The rector, the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, called the meeting to order at 11:40 am in the parish house and offered an opening prayer. The parish clerk confirmed that a quorum was present. Members of the meeting had the annual reports, including financial reports for 2014 and the proposed budget for 2015.

Senior Warden Linda Drummond made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2013 meeting, and Jeff Belden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

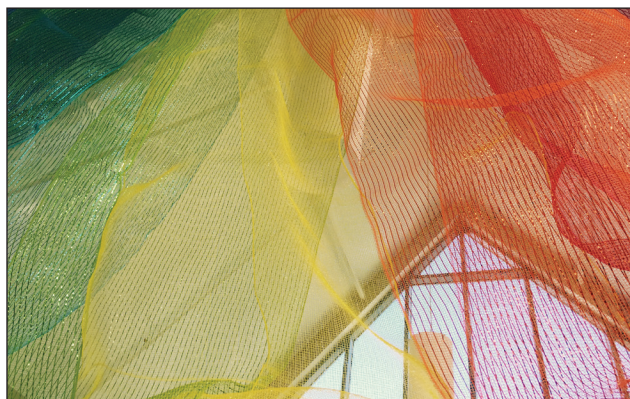
Ted Bierman made a motion to accept the annual reports as published, with the exception of the Nominating Committee report and the proposed budget for 2015. Paul Westrom seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The rector introduced the vestry and thanked members who were finishing their terms, including Dave Monroe, Christian Myers, Paul Westrom, and Linda Drummond. She also thanked retiring officers Murry Edwards (senior warden) and Harry Gustafson (junior warden). These members and officers offered extraordinary leadership through the recent building process and transition in rectors. The rector also acknowledged and gave thanks for the commission chairpersons and staff members.

Murry Edwards, the chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominations for the vestry for the coming year.

Nominated for open positions on the vestry (three people to serve 3-year terms ending January or February 2018, and one person to complete a remaining 2-year unexpired term ending January or February 2017) were Steve Downing, Dave Ferkinhoff, Mattie Gustafson, Christian Myers, and Amanda Westrom.

Nominated as officers and elected by acclamation for 3-year terms ending January or February 2018 were Linda Drummond for senior warden and Dave Monroe for junior warden.



Nominated as diocesan convention delegates for 2015 were Harry Gustafson, Grace Ann Sweeney, Karen White, and as an alternate Marshall Lundberg.

The rector thanked members of the Nominating Committee: Murry Edwards, Paul Westrom, and Harry Gustafson.

Murry Edwards presented her report for 2014–2015 and goals for the upcoming year.

The treasurer, Christine Winslow, presented the financial and investment reports for 2014. Jeff Belden made a motion to accept the financial and investment reports as written. Linda Drummond seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The treasurer presented the budget for 2015. Karen White made a motion to accept the budget as written. David Ferkinhoff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The chair of the Nominating Committee reported the election results for the vestry. Steve Downing, Christian Myers, and Amanda Westrom were elected to three-year terms, and Mattie Gustafson was elected to the two-year term.

Having no new business, the rector offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cassels  
Vestry Clerk

# SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

January 31, 2016



I have just completed my first year as your senior warden. It was an eye-opening year, to be sure, as I began to learn what it takes to run St. Mary's Church and what it will take to make it thrive.

I have been privileged to work with the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, whose consistent commitment to improve, to build a stronger faith foundation, and to spread the Good News, has been impressive—and privileged also to work with a vestry whose members are faithful stewards and so deeply committed to the health and growth of this community. Our dedicated commission chairs and skilled staff have added greatly to our success in the past year.

We have celebrated two major accomplishments: the closing of the Aquidneck Land Trust deal and, just two weeks ago, the sale of the old parish house. These undertakings involved so many people who gave hundreds of hours and worked with great patience. I am grateful for the outcome of their work and the far-reaching impact it will have on our community now and into the future.

We experienced a few challenges this year, as well, but we consistently approached them with open communication, an examination of the facts in evidence, and a steadfast commitment to resolve them for the betterment of the church.

There were also many moments of grace for me during the past year:

- The love and caring shown to me as I dealt with some significant life events;
- The Fran McKendree concert in July and the fellowship we enjoyed that evening;
- The enormous amount of non-perishable food and fresh produce we donated to the MLK Center;
- The baptisms of Allison Mae Downing and Ben Vellucci;
- The welcome reception for new members, who shared what this church means to them;
- The consecration of a new presiding bishop who talks about the "Jesus Movement";
- A joy-filled children's Christmas pageant;
- The Advent women's retreat that drew 21 women of all ages; and
- Jennifer's homilies, always relevant, inspiring, and thoughtful.

What a wonderful time to be an Episcopalian and a member of a faith community that has so much to offer, with so much potential to grow. I have learned this past year that Jennifer alone can't make this happen, neither can the vestry or commission chairs. It will take each and every one of us learning to be Disciples of Christ. Please join us as we take that step.

To God in his Glory,  
Linda C. Drummond, Senior Warden

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Corporation Officers, Vestry Members, and Delegates to Diocesan Convention

The nominating committee presents the following slate for corporation officers, vestry members, and delegates to diocesan convention, to be voted on at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016.

For vestry (three people to serve 3-year terms, one person to serve a 2-year term, and two people to serve 1-year terms): Chris Bartlett, Chris Barker, Trish Culver, Dave Ferkinhoff, Jenny Williams, and Anna Zambrano. Terms will be assigned by the votes received, with those having the highest number of votes being assigned to the longest terms.

For Diocesan Convention 2016: Harry Gustafson, Mattie Gustafson, and David Brierley, and as alternate Marshall Lundberg.

Continuing to serve are Linda Drummond, Senior Warden (2018); Dave Monroe, Junior Warden (2018); Mattie Gustafson, Clerk (2017); Christine Winslow, Treasurer (2017); and members Judy Hall (2017), Christian Myers (2018), and Amanda Westrom (2018).

Respectfully, The Nominating Committee  
Marshall Lundberg and Anna Zambrano



# FINANCE COMMISSION

This commission meets on a monthly basis to review the financial operations of the church. The following list includes a summary of the commission's duties and responsibilities.

*Second Thursday of the month, 4 pm*

## LEADERSHIP

William B. Hall, Chair  
401-477-2312 (cell)  
401-341-2343 (work)  
401-683-9331 (home)

Members of the Finance Commission:  
Christine Winslow, Linda Drummond,  
Ted Bierman, and Jennifer Pedrick

## BUDGET PROCESS

- Prepare a budget for each calendar year. The budget process is participatory, with each commission requesting its budget for the upcoming year. The process begins in October preceding the new year.
- Review all revenue accounts, including obtaining the pledge income amount from the stewardship commission.
- Calculate the required draw from the endowment and communicate to the investment committee via the treasurer once the budget is approved.
- Present the budget via the treasurer for the vestry's approval in December preceding the new year.

## ONGOING BUDGET MAINTENANCE

- Review the monthly budget to actual reports for accounts over/under budget and examine the deviation from budget.
- Review revenue opportunities and/or expenditure savings, and present via the treasurer ideas to the vestry for approval (for example, the fundraiser dinner in the fall of 2014).

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Simplified presentation of income accounts (e.g., endowment draw on one line).
- Continued to analyze details of all income and expense accounts to understand amounts recorded.
- Closed the new building fund and simplified the balance sheet of the church (e.g., assets and net assets (equity) with no liabilities).

## 2016 GOALS

- To analyze the lease of land and ensure that the church is receiving market rent.
- To bid longstanding contracts to ensure that the church is receiving competitive pricing.
- To maximize the use of church assets by parishioners and third parties to enhance the revenue stream.
- To revise and improve reporting.

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the investment committee is to oversee the investment management of the parish's endowment funds so as to generate high enough returns within prudent risk parameters to fund the operations of the parish that are not supported by pledge income. In late 2014, after a long tenure as financial advisor to the committee, Jim Purviance stepped back from that role. After discussion, the committee decided to solicit responses and turn the endowment's management over to a professional investment management firm. In Spring 2015, the endowment assets were placed with Van Liew Trust Company of Providence and Newport. The committee now meets quarterly with Van Liew Trust to review investment performance.

*Jeff Belden: [beldenj@verizon.net](mailto:beldenj@verizon.net), 401-683-1632*



# FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Christine Winslow, Treasurer • Subject to adjustment per final year-end data



## PLEDGE INCOME & DONATIONS

The combined pledge and plate offerings received in 2015 increased by about \$7,300 above the total received in 2014, and ended the year at about 92% of the projected budget amount. Other donations that helped included the remaining balance of \$28,300 of a very generous unrestricted donation from 2014 and:

- Memorial and Flower Donations ..... \$8,100
- Coffee and Collation Donations ..... \$1,500
- Clements' Marketplace Donations  
for Food Programs ..... \$700
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... \$200
- Various Other ..... \$500

## ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Total distributions from the endowment funds were approximately \$293,000 and supported the following areas:

- General Programs & Operations ..... \$118,900
- Churchyard & Grounds ..... \$143,300
- Tuck Fund Scholarships ..... \$8,000
- Church ..... \$12,100

- Christian Formation ..... \$3,600
- Grand Piano Restoration ..... \$7,070

The long-awaited closing of the sale of the north field land and the conservancy rights for a portion of St. Mary's land to the Aquidneck Land Trust was finalized on January 30, 2015. The BankNewport loan balance (\$787,361) was repaid, and the balance of \$1,975,000 was returned to the endowment. We reserved about \$31,000 for remaining attorney's fees, approximately \$25,000 for operations, and \$31,000 designated for furnishings, equipment, and other improvements related to the parish house. With the funds loaned to the new building fund returned to the account in early 2015, the investment committee, working with the investment manager (Van Liew Capital), has directed that the cash balance be invested quarterly over the following four to six quarters. In light of the stock market volatility in late 2015 and early 2016, this decision has been wise. Dividend and interest income of about \$40,000 and net realized gains of \$311,000 in 2015 helped to offset the draw from the account. Net unrealized gains were about \$191,000 on December 31, 2015.

## OTHER INCOME

Other Income of about \$48,000 included:

	2015	2014
Cemetery Sales .....	\$8,500.....	\$9,250
Farmland Leases .....	\$5,660.....	\$1,900
Parish House Use .....	\$12,665.....	\$10,000
Old Parish Hall Use.....	\$0.....	\$10,200
Thrift Shop.....	\$19,179.....	\$17,700
BBQ Fundraiser .....	\$2,238.....	\$5,050

Cemetery sales have averaged approximately \$10,100 annually over the past 10 years, although each year has varied widely. The thrift shop continues to impress as the income has steadily increased in each of the past three years.

## EXPENDITURES

The budgets for personnel expenses for 2015 and 2014 were challenging as we worked through quite a few staff transitions, including the call of our rector in 2014 and strengthening our parish administrator and communications and ministry positions to two full-time positions later that year. The position of an assistant to the rector was not filled as budgeted in 2015. Buildings and grounds operating expenses were 28% (33% in 2014) of total operating expenses, excluding restricted expenditures. Office and other

administrative expenses accounted for about 8% (9%), and outreach, stewardship, Christian formation, music, and worship were 3% (3%).

## 2016 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The budget challenges are much the same for 2016 as they were in prior years: stretching limited resources to provide funding for the wide range of important ministries and the day-to-day programs and operations of our parish. For 2016, the vestry has approved a budget to include drawing from the endowment funds at about 6%, while using the funds from the sale of the old parish house to provide much-needed funds and to ease back substantially on the draw. We maintain the dual goals of growing our parish and pledges and reducing the draw within 2–3 years to 5.5%.

## ANNUAL REVIEW & PAROCHIAL REPORTS

The accounting firm of O’Reilly and Skuncik, Ltd., reviewed the 2014 church records and prepared financial statements that were submitted to the diocese along with the annual parochial reports. Reports for 2015 are currently in process. Copies of completed reports will be available in the church office.



# FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Christine Winslow, Treasurer • Subject to adjustment per final year-end data

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (Preliminary, 1/24/2016)

### GENERAL AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

#### INCOME STATEMENTS

	Budget 2016		Budget 2015		Actual 2015		Actual 2014	
<b>Income:</b>								
Pledges	230,000	33%	230,000	35%	220,381	31%	202,495	32%
Loose Offerings	15,000	2%	25,250	4%	13,649	2%	24,557	4%
Donations	11,000	2%	39,000	6%	41,658	6%	26,666	4%
Restricted Donations	28,057	4%	-	0%	92,416	13%	25,853	4%
Investment Income & Draw	258,192	37%	313,637	48%	295,947	42%	303,069	47%
Buildings & Land Use	28,064	4%	26,100	4%	26,824	4%	32,017	5%
Fundraising & Thrift Shop	25,000	4%	24,350	4%	21,416	3%	23,695	4%
Sale of Old Parish House	94,900	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>690,213</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>658,337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>712,291</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>638,352</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>								
Personnel	360,682	52%	332,424	50%	288,183	43%	245,954	40%
Apportionment	88,457	13%	87,560	13%	87,560	13%	83,328	14%
Grounds	79,740	12%	73,000	11%	80,615	12%	70,227	11%
Buildings	69,928	10%	84,618	13%	84,892	13%	134,901	22%
Office	41,886	6%	54,000	8%	48,931	7%	56,676	9%
Outreach	5,300	1%	5,000	1%	5,953	0.9%	1,892	0%
Stewardship, Christian Formation, Music, Worship	16,163	2%	21,735	3%	12,628	2%	16,965	3%
Restricted Expenditures	28,057	4%	-	-	65,372	10%	742	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>690,213</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>658,337</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>674,134</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>610,685</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Net Operating Excess (Deficit)</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>38,157</b>		<b>27,667</b>	

#### BALANCE SHEETS

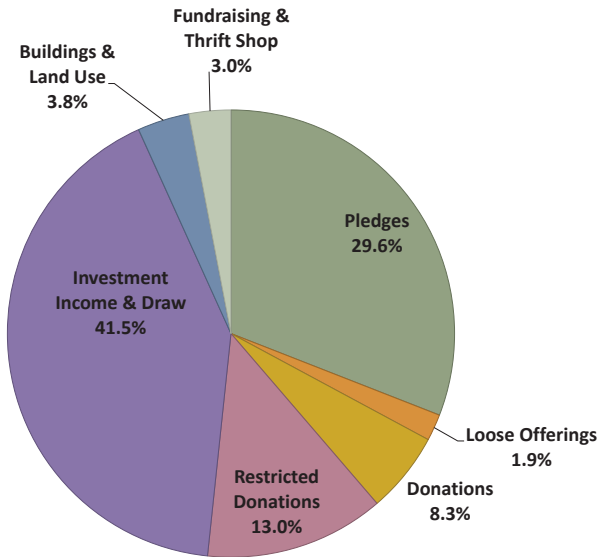
	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash in Bank	36,425	17,908
Investments	3,488,624	1,900,224
Diocesan Investment Trust	228,481	228,481
Tuck Education Loans	-	56,071
Loan to New Building Fund	-	2,165,748
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,753,530</b>	<b>4,368,432</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
<b>Funds Deferred to Next Year</b>	<b>2,298</b>	<b>33,994</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>		
Unrestricted	2,287,628	2,894,228
Temporarily Restricted	1,166,000	1,174,302
Permanently Restricted	299,902	299,902
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>3,753,530</b>	<b>4,368,432</b>

#### PLEDGE HISTORY

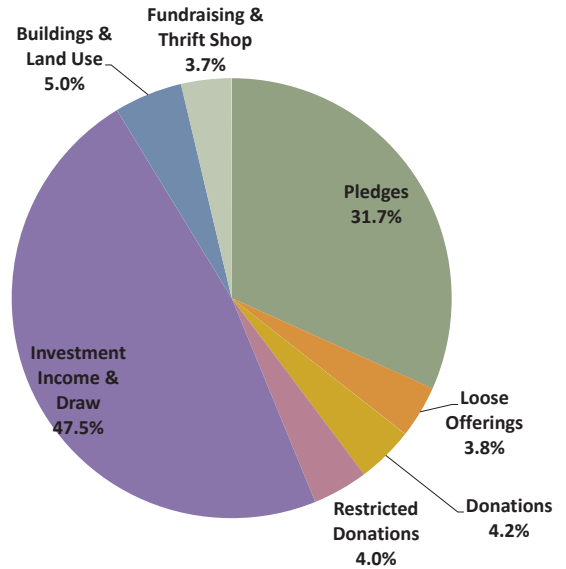
	Pledged		Received	
	\$	#	\$	%
<b>2016</b>	230,000	130		
<b>2015</b>	229,916	133	220,381	96%
<b>2014</b>	197,921	134	202,510	102%
<b>2013</b>	240,221	153	226,479	94%
<b>2012</b>	249,374	160	238,555	96%
<b>2011</b>	237,700	158	239,196	101%
<b>2010</b>	258,250	174	248,400	96%

## 2015 AND 2014 INCOME AND EXPENSE COMPARISON

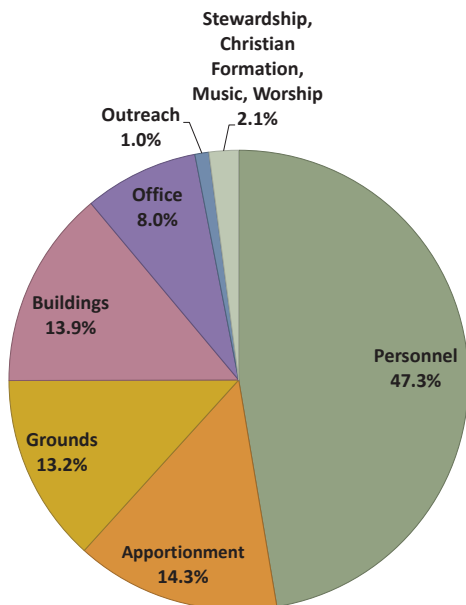
### 2015 Actual Income



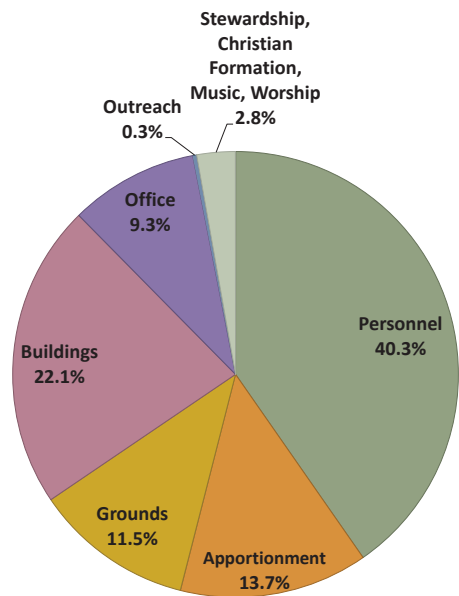
### 2014 Actual Income



### 2015 Actual Expenses



### 2014 Actual Expenses



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (Preliminary 1/24/2016)**

**NEW BUILDING FUNDS**

<u><b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</b></u>	<u><b>2015</b></u>	<u><b>1/1/2006- 12/31/2015</b></u>
<b>Income:</b>		
Capital Campaign Donations	1,150	306,965
Donations for Furnishings & Equipment	-	55,065
Memorial Gifts and Other Donations	-	248,994
Craft Fairs & Quilt Donations	-	11,973
Interest	-	82,883
St. George's Assets Transferred	-	521,489
Sale of St. George's Building	-	1,084,004
Agreement of Sale with Aquidneck Land Trust	2,850,000	3,000,000
	<u>2,851,150</u>	<u>5,311,373</u>
 <b>Expenditures:</b>		
Construction	-	4,371,612
Engineering and Architect	-	425,951
Legal and Other Professional	31,632	248,768
Merger with St. George's	-	112,732
Feasibility Study & Campaign Expenses	-	62,485
Furnishings and Equipment	-	48,185
Interest on Bank Loan	5,852	64,966
Utilities and Other	44	56,331
	<u>37,528</u>	<u>5,391,030</u>
 <b>Net Income less Expenditures</b>	 <u><u>2,813,622</u></u>	 <u><u>(79,657)</u></u>

**BALANCE SHEETS**


**12/31/2015**

**Assets:**

Cash in Bank \$31,400 remaining cash transferred to general bank account

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT**

Endowment Funds	12/31/2015 (Pending Final Adjustments)
<b>Permanently Restricted</b>	
<i>Parker Organ Fund</i>	48,078
<i>Gibbs &amp; Weaver - Church &amp; Grounds</i>	23,800
<i>Manchester - General</i>	9,389
<i>Hamilton Fish - Webster Buildings &amp; Churchyard</i>	218,635
<b>Total Permanently Restricted</b>	<b>299,902</b>
<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	
<i>Churchyard</i>	459,506
<i>Church Burial Grounds</i>	144,711
<i>Adelene Tuck Education Fund</i>	321,087
<i>Christian Education Account</i>	69,399
<i>Church Organ</i>	33,984
<i>Perry Altar Window</i>	76,215
<i>Altar Guild</i>	3,666
<i>Chase Tree Memorial</i>	40,828
<i>Flowers</i>	22,360
<i>Stained Glass Window Repair</i>	20,870
<b>Total Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>1,192,627</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>2,214,730</b>
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>3,707,259</b>
Diocesan Investment Trust	218,635
Van Liew - Fidelity Account	3,488,624
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>3,707,259</b>

INVESTMENT REPORT December 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015				Account # [REDACTED] CORPORATION
<b>Account Summary</b>				
Account Value:	<b>\$3,488,623.55</b>	<b>Income Summary</b>		
Change in Account Value	<b>▼ \$101,145.86</b>		<u>This Period</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
			<b>\$8,743.72</b>	<b>\$40,831.82</b>
<b>Beginning Account Value</b>	<b>\$3,589,769.41</b>	<b>Taxable</b>	<b>7,032.50</b>	<b>35,960.67</b>
<b>Additions</b>	<b>2,994.62</b>	Dividends	5.78	5.78
Deposits	-	Short-term Capital Gains	8.19	3,168.12
Securities Transferred In	2,994.62	Interest	1,697.25	1,697.25
Exchanges In	-	Long-term Capital Gains	1,697.25	1,697.25
Other Activity In	-	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,743.72</b>	<b>\$40,831.82</b>
	120.16	<b>Top Holdings</b>		
<b>Subtractions</b>	<b>-40,534.28</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Percent of Account</b>
Withdrawals	-40,500.00	Cash	\$953,068.41	27%
Transaction Costs, Fees & Charges	-17.80	Mastercard INC Cl A	96,386.40	3
Taxes Withheld	-16.48	E M C Corp Mass	82,176.00	2
Transfers Between Fidelity Accounts	-	Moodys Corp	75,255.00	2
<b>Change in Investment Value *</b>	<b>-63,606.20</b>	Price T Rowe Group INC Com Isin #Us74144T1088	71,490.00	2
<b>Ending Account Value</b>	<b>\$3,488,623.55</b>	Schlumberger Limited Com USD0.01	68,494.50	2
Accrued Interest (AI)	1,337.90	First Rep BK San Francisco Cal Com Isin #Us33616C1	66,060.00	2
Ending Account Value Incl. AI	\$3,489,961.45	American Wtr Wks CO INC New Com	59,750.00	2
Free Credit Balance	\$953,068.41	Ihs INC Cl A Isin #Us4517341073 Sedol #B08LTX6	59,215.00	2
<i>Free credit balances (FCB) include cash credits from the sale of long positions, deposits, cash dividends, and interest payments which have not been transferred to a money market fund or FDIC core position. FCB also includes multi-currency positions, FCASH and credit balances that exceed the amount required to satisfy your margin obligations. Refer to the back of your statement for more information.</i>		American Tower Corporation Isin #Us03027X1000	53,322.50	2
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,585,217.81</b>	<b>46%</b>
<i>* Appreciation or depreciation of your holdings due to price changes plus any distribution and income earned during the statement period.</i>				



# SARAH GIBBS TRUST

## Annual Report of Trustees of the Sarah Gibbs Trust 2015

In January 2015, the trustees gave the final approvals needed to complete the long-awaited sale of the north field land and the conservancy easements of land behind St. Mary's Church to St. Mary's pond. The sale was completed on January 30, 2015. The trustees and members of St. Mary's were invited to celebrate with the Aquidneck Land Trust at its annual meeting in February.

The trustees were encouraged to attend two vestry meetings to learn about and discuss a plan proposed by the Island Commons group to purchase, develop, and use the old parish house property. The vestry subsequently decided to not go forward with the proposed plan.

On November 12, 2015, the trustees met to discuss the proposed sale of the old parish house land and building. A resolution was approved in favor of selling the property with no easements or other contingencies. A subsequent meeting was held on January 15, 2016, at which the trustees voted

unanimously to approve the sale, which was completed on January 20, 2016.

Amanda Westrom was appointed by the vestry to fulfill Karen White's term as a trustee upon her resignation from the vestry, and Christian Myers was appointed by the vestry to fulfill previously appointed Steven Downing's term upon his resignation from the vestry.

Elected as officers in 2015 were Jeff Belden, Chair; Christian Myers, Vice Chair; and Amanda Westrom, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Belden, Chair (ind. 2018)  
V. James Vanicek (ind. 2017)  
Jenny Matteson Swider (ind. 2016)  
Christian Myers, Vice Chair (vestry 2018)  
Amanda Westrom, Secretary (vestry 2015)  
Christine Winslow, Treasurer (vestry 2017)  
The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop



# CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

The program of Christian formation at St. Mary's seeks to nourish the spirit, inform the heart and mind, and encourage the expression of our faith in and through our daily lives.

Sunday mornings find the lower level classrooms of the parish house abuzz with activity. Nursery care, Godly Play, Rite 13, a new high-school group, and a newly energized program of adult Christian formation are all maintaining a consistent attendance. Monthly confirmation classes for high school youth, coupled with all-youth service and fellowship projects that allow for enrichment outside a classroom context, are supporting our young disciples in exploring their faith. And a variety of multi-generational activities, prayer and scripture groups, retreats, seasonal series, new prayer experiences, and growing relationships with the wider island community are giving us new ways of expressing the Christian practices that we experience in worship.

In 2016, we hope to deepen the connection between weekend worship and our educational opportunities, inviting members and the wider community to participate more fully in sharing ideas, expressing curiosity, asking questions, and taking part in rich faith-building experiences.

*Gabe Giella, Director of Christian Formation: gabe@smcportsmouth.org, 401-846-9700, ext. 106*

## NURSERY

*Sundays during the program year, 8:45–11:45 am*

Our nursery is open most Sundays from September through mid-May, with average attendance ranging from one to three children. The nursery is generally staffed by three students from Salve University, who are supported as needed by volunteers from the parish (Libby Westrom, Jasmine Westrom, Paul Westrom, Leigh Knapman, Callie Hall, and Lydia DeAngelo). All caregivers are safe-church certified.

*Paul Westrom: pwestrom@neit.edu, 401-849-2776*

## CHILDREN

*Sundays during the program year, 9:15–10:15 am, and other times as scheduled*

The Pre-K through 4th grade class uses Godly Play, a Montessori-based curriculum, and has 14 students enrolled, with an average Sunday attendance of 6.

The annual Christmas pageant for children and youth continues to attract great interest both at

St. Mary's and in the wider community, with many students wishing to participate. Many thanks are due to this year's coordinators (Windy Key, Robette McLellan, and Kim Stamoulis) and many volunteers.

*Paul Westrom: pwestrom@neit.edu, 401-849-2776*

## YOUTH

*Weekly Formation Class: Sundays during the program year, 9:15–10:15 am. Monthly Confirmation Class: Sundays during the program year, 5–7 pm. Monthly Youth Group: Sundays during the program year, 5–6:30 pm*

This year saw many changes to youth ministry, with new leaders stepping forward to offer three options for deeper involvement.

A Sunday morning formation class for grades 5–12 is led by Mike DeAngelo, Anna Kane, and Lisa Lyons, using the Rite 13 curriculum. The class has 15 students enrolled and an average attendance of 8. Beginning in January 2016, the class will separate into two sections: grades 5–7 and grades 8–12.





A monthly confirmation class began in November for 8 high school students seeking confirmation in May 2016. The class is taught by Bill Geasey and Anna Kane using *Confirm Not Conform* and *My Faith, My Life*. The candidates also participate in various church events, such as gathering greens for Advent wreaths and assisting with an Epiphany party.

A monthly youth group led by Bill Geasey and Anna Kane gathers youth in grades 5–12 for simple, faith-filled fun. Activities to date have included a picnic at the rectory in August, dog-biscuit baking for the Blessing of the Animals, painting pumpkins for a fall display in the gathering space, and decorating the chapel in remembrance of our loved ones for All Saints' Day, among others. An average of 6 young people have attended these events.

*Anna Kane: maeanna@gmail.com; 401-447-4640*

## ADULTS

*Sundays during the program year, 9:15–10:15 am, and other times as scheduled*

After a hiatus last spring, our program of adult formation was reinvigorated by the addition of staff

member Gabe Giella, hired for the 2015–2016 program year, and by a number of members who have stepped forward to offer their talents, including coordinator Claire Hebert.

Throughout the fall, conversation focused on God as the Giver and on our stewardship of our faith, time, and finances. In Advent, we turned to the church calendar and an exploration of the prophetic voices in scripture. The season of Epiphany has drawn us into the Gospel of Luke, beginning each week with an imaginative, Ignatian-style meditation.

This Lent, we will offer three distinct opportunities: a Sunday morning class called Episcopal 101 on the foundations of our faith, a five-week Wednesday evening series on the many difficult but important end-of-life conversations that make it easier to make decisions when the time comes, and an evening meditation experience on the sacred stories of our faith, enhanced by music and sound. Eastertide and the feast of Pentecost hold the potential for lively formation as we prepare for the summer months.

*Gabe Giella, Director of Christian Formation: gabe@smcportsmouth.org, 401-846-9700, ext. 106*

## CENTERING PRAYER

*Saturdays, 11–11:30 am*

This small but stalwart ministry offers a regular time of quiet prayer and contemplation in which to practice a Christ-centered form of meditation.

*Pauline Davis: ppdavis44@gmail.com, 401-363-1475*

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Alternating Saturdays, 8:30–10 am*

The men of the parish continue a Bible study that meets every other Saturday morning in the parish house. We enjoy coffee and fellowship at 8:30 and Bible study from 9 to 10. We have finished the Book of Acts, attempted to navigate our way through the Book of Revelation, and have recently begun using a website called the Wired Word to help guide our discussions.

*Paul Westrom: pwestrom@neit.edu, 401-849-2776*

## WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY MINISTRY

*Occasional day-long or evening retreats;  
periodic planning meeting*

Christine Cassels, Linda Drummond, and Claire Hebert are the planning group for this ministry and meet regularly to plan retreats, pray together, and look for opportunities for this ministry to grow. We held two retreats in 2015, both in St. George's Chapel.

The first, "Shared Compassion," was a Lenten retreat on March 14. It was inspired by a program that Christine had attended at Bethany House of Prayer (Arlington, Mass.) featuring the writing of Sister Joan Chittister and the art of Janet McKenzie in a collaborative book entitled *The Way of the Cross*. Christ contacted the artist and was given permission to use her images as a basis for our Lenten retreat.

Claire, Linda, and Chris each presented a personal reflection on one of the images from *The Way of the Cross*. Time was spent in silence and shared reflections as small groups prayed with one of the three images presented. As the 22 participants shared their "graces of the day," each was given a Janet McKenzie image as a reminder of the retreat experience.

Our second offering was a candlelight retreat, "The

Coming of an Angel," held December 8. In keeping with St. Mary's focus this Advent, Linda, Claire, and Chris presented reflections on themes of waiting, watching, and preparing. The stained glass image of the Angel Gabriel in the chapel formed the backdrop for our time of silence, prayer, reflection, and sharing. The words of Mary's canticle, "The Magnificat," inspired our time of silent reflection, as did the sacred music of John Michael Talbot's "Holy Is His Name," which echoed words of Mary's prayer.

As we reflected on the presence of angels in our lives, we realized that messages from God come in many forms: Words of encouragement and caring in times of need, sacred music and images, written passages, the beauty of nature, all may speak to the heart. Among several "graces of the evening" shared, the most named was the gift of silence in this always-busy time of year.

Part of our mission in offering retreats for women is to provide a quiet space for prayer and reflection in community as we ponder the guidance of the Spirit in our lives. We shared these sacred times with women from several different churches and age groups. Each of them was gift to our ministry.

*Linda Drummond: lcdrummond1@verizon.net,  
401-529-4730*



# HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

The Hospitality Commission works with members of the parish community to coordinate regular Sunday morning coffee hour, collations, and other special events where members and guests may gather to share a meal, enjoy old friends, and make some new ones.



## LEADERSHIP

Judy Hall, Chair (through January 2016)  
woofer64@yahoo.com  
401-924-4252

Sara Barker, Chair (beginning February 2016)  
sara@floortimestudios.com  
401-849-5678

Sunday morning breakfast/fellowship  
Judy Hall (above) and Murry Edwards  
(muedwards@cox.net, 401-855-2366)

Funeral Collations • Susan Kelchner  
jkelchner@cox.net, 401-683-9745

New Member Ministry • Carol Brierley  
grammie@galaxia.com, 401-847-6891

Special Events and Fun(d) Raisers • Judy Hall

Name Tags • Anne Stone (anne@  
smcportsmouth.org, 401-846-9700, ext. 102)

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Established a team approach to Sunday morning coffee hour: Mapped out a year-long schedule, with members assigned to host 3–4 Sundays per year in rotation.
- Planned the mid-summer Fran McKendree barbecue concert and fundraiser.
- Coordinated dinner for clergy and those serving at the various services during Holy Week.
- Coordinated the annual meeting luncheon for 100 people: Served soups and bread, while parishioners provided salads and desserts.
- Coordinated the Harvest Weekend luncheon for approximately 100 people: Served soup, bread, salads, and desserts.

## 2016 GOALS & NEXT STEPS

- Establish a regular monthly meeting time.
- Establish a larger team from the community to take part in this ministry. Communicate these changes to Anne Stone and Jennifer Pedrick.
- Continue to develop our process of welcoming visitors and incorporating new members into the parish.

## COLLATIONS

A collation is a reception and light meal organized, prepared, and served by members of the parish following a funeral or memorial service held at St. Mary's. Seven collations were held in 2015.

*Susan Kelchner: jkelchner@cox.net, 401-683-9745*

**PHOTO CREDITS** • Front Cover: Downing Family (Top L), Murry Edwards (Middle L), Jerry Culver (Middle R), David Brierley (Bottom) • Page 4: Elise LaParle Garcia • Page 5: Anne Stone • Page 6: Linda Drummond • Page 7: Jerry Culver • Page 9: Anne Stone • Page 10: Elise LaParle Garcia • Page 15: Archives • Page 17: Anna Kane • Pages 18 & 19: David Brierley • Page 20: Dave Goodrich • Page 22: Anne Stone • Page 24: Murry Edwards • Back Cover: David Brierley (Top), Elise LaParle Garcia (L), David Brierley (Middle), Jerry Culver (R).

# OUTREACH COMMISSION



The Outreach Commission's purpose is three-fold: to champion existing outreach initiatives, to encourage leadership to take on new outreach initiatives, and to arrange for distribution of funds St. Mary's pledges for outreach. Our overarching goal is to enable St. Mary's to live out the Second Commandment, "to love thy neighbor as thyself," to the fullest.

This year we focused on developing leaders within the commission and increasing parish involvement in outreach. We established monthly meetings to discuss how best to channel our budget and time, particularly through programs that foster greater parish participation. The community garden, under the leadership of Bob Gessler and Elise LaParle Garcia, gained new momentum. The soup kitchen continued to be a monthly focus. In September, a new initiative for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center brought in donations to help area families supply their students with back-to-school supplies. The MLK Community Center was the largest overall recipient of St. Mary's help, with the weekly food collection, the school supply drive, Santa's Workshop gifts, and a sizable monetary contribution at the end of the year.

In 2016, we will continue to foster parish involvement and education. We are partnering with the confirmation class to prepare cutlery for the soup kitchen. We are planning a presentation from Katie Hook, the coordinator of a supply drive for Nicaragua, about the needs and mission there. Also on our agenda for 2016 is a Cereal Night to highlight hunger and need in our area.

We offer thanks to Fay Gosling and Gary Gabriel, who resigned from the commission after serving faithfully for several years, and to Dave Monroe, who stepped down as coordinator of Episcopal Charities after 11 years providing leadership. Our deep thanks also go to Bob and Judy Gessler, who have been significant contributors to the commission over the years. Judy has worked behind the scenes to collect and manage the Clements' receipts, which have garnered more than \$800 for food programs this year, and Bob has been tireless in tending to the community garden. They will be deeply missed as they move to Texas this spring.

*Murry Edwards, Chair Pro Tem (muedwards@cox.net, 401-855-2366). Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 pm.*

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

For the past four years St. Mary's has sponsored an annual blood drive for the Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC). We will continue to champion making a vital contribution to the RIBC at its donor clinics.

*Currently seeking leadership. Please contact Murry Edwards, Outreach Chair Pro Tem, to learn more.*

## **CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

Parishioners purchased more than 100 toys and gift-wrapping materials for 80 children at the Lighthouse School and Aftercare Program at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Newport for their annual parent holiday workshop.

*Judy Hall: woof64@yahoo.com, 401-924-4252*

## **CLEMENTS' RECEIPTS**

In 2015, St. Mary's parishioners submitted \$80,000 worth of Clements' Marketplace receipts, earning an \$800 cash-back donation to St. Mary's that will be applied directly to outreach programs such as the MLK Community Center, the soup kitchen, and the community garden. The donation of a new wooden box in 2015 is helping the visibility of this quiet fundraising effort. Our goal for 2016 is to continue to encourage members and guests to submit Clements' receipts.

*Currently seeking leadership. Please contact Murry Edwards, Outreach Chair Pro Tem, to learn more.*

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The community garden provides fresh produce to local food pantries and serves as a learning resource and example for others. Our goal in 2015 was to donate 1,000 pounds of fresh vegetables.

Successes this year included the donation of 883 pounds of produce harvested from the church garden and 347 pounds from home gardens, for a total of 1,230 pounds of fresh food. Donations went primarily to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, but also to Lucy's Hearth and the Salvation Army. The flower garden produced bouquets for pastoral care and parishioner needs.

The community garden also garnered more attention this year than in years past. Its opening was marked by an outdoor blessing at the end of the morning service on our first summer Sunday, and by a parish-wide emphasis on signing up to help in the garden that led to approximately 40 volunteers participating in the initial planting. Two local newspapers (*Portsmouth Times* and *Newport This Week*) featured the garden, and posters were placed around the community to increase awareness.

Special thanks are due to the freshman and other volunteers from Roger Williams University for their help again this year; to all who donated from home gardens or toiled in the fields; and to those who helped put the garden to bed on Harvest Weekend.

The community garden continues to face some significant challenges, the most pressing of these being the perennial need for more volunteer help. After the initial planting weekend, we experienced a significant decline in numbers. The drop-off continued through the summer and fall and resulted in most of the work in the vegetable garden falling to Bob Gessler. Debby Timby attended to the flower planting and maintenance, with picking help from pastoral care volunteers.

Based on initial thoughts, the 2016 flower area will be planted and maintained as in the past. Plans for the vegetable garden are uncertain, however, with the announcement of Bob Gessler's impending move to Texas. We are exploring various options, including planting a smaller garden managed by St. Mary's volunteers, renting plots to interested parties, partnering with Island Commons, or finding other community groups that might be interested in helping to plant and tend the garden. All ideas, contacts, and volunteers are most welcome.

*Elise LaParle Garcia: elise123@cox.net, 401-487-2979*

## **EPISCOPAL CHARITIES**

For more than 60 years, this group has enabled Rhode Island Episcopalians to live out their Second Commandment covenant to "love thy neighbor as thyself" by donating money to aid the neediest and most vulnerable among us. In 2015, St. Mary's invited

the Reverend Meaghan Kelly Brower, Director of the Episcopal Conference Center (ECC), to preach on her ministry, which is so generously supported by Episcopal Charities. In all, members of St. Mary's made 38 donations totalling \$8,358 to the fund.

*Currently seeking leadership. Please contact Murry Edwards, Outreach Chair Pro Tem, to learn more.*

## **MLK FOOD DRIVE**

Thanks to the frequent generosity of so many members, St. Mary's contributed 6,782 pounds of non-perishable food and fresh produce to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in 2015. Each week, donations left in baskets at the church and parish house are delivered to the center's food pantry by one of five individual or family volunteer drivers from St. Mary's. As you shop for groceries, please consider including food for the many in need throughout Newport County who are served by the center. Our goal in 2016 is to remain the largest contributor to the food pantry.

*Jon Edwards: navyjonedwards@gmail.com, 401-633-2052*

## **SOUP KITCHEN**

*Second Thursdays of the month*

In 2015, our soup kitchen volunteers served 60–75 hot, homemade meals each month at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport. The soup kitchen is St. Mary's longest continuously running outreach ministry. Scores of parishioners help each month by purchasing, preparing, serving, and cleaning up after meals. Over the years, we have met the needs and touched the hearts of thousands of Newport's neediest residents. All are welcome to join in this powerful, meaningful ministry.

*Dave Monroe: david.r.monroe@hotmail.com 401-225-5494*

## **THRIFT SHOP**

*Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am to 1 pm*

St. Mary's thrift shop, which operates in Gibbs House, offers a wide variety of affordable clothing

and small household items generously donated by parishioners and other community members. Our thrift shop opens its arms to all in need, while also making a tangible contribution to St. Mary's.

In 2015, a dedicated group of volunteers gave more than 1,142 hours of service at the shop. We improved our physical space with the help of Roger Williams University students, who relocated files and other artifacts from our crawl space, and the Boy Scouts, who cleared a back storage area and installed a new rug in the children's room. We donated adult and children's clothing to the Portsmouth Police Holiday Gift Drive and extended an offer to all beneficiaries of the gift drive to visit the thrift shop if they needed additional help. In addition, we donated 14 bags of clothing and toys to the Nicaragua supply drive.

2016 goals include:

- Continuing to offer affordable goods.
- Increasing revenue for St. Mary's operational budget.
- Installing new, energy-efficient windows.
- Accepting, sorting, and donating additional clothing and other goods for Nicaragua.
- Exploring the feasibility of a program to assist those in need of business attire for career counselling, job interviews, and employment.

*Priscilla Cousins: 401-680-3256*



# PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

Under the executive guidance of the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, the Pastoral Care Commission nurtures and advocates parish activities that focus on providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support, especially during times of uncertainty, difficulty, and pain.

*Pauline Davis, Chair: ppdavis44@gmail.com, 401-363-1475. Meetings: Fourth Thursdays, 6:30 pm.*

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We established and maintained regular monthly meetings throughout 2015, a first for our commission.

Three parishioners completed the diocesan training to become licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs). Two Sunday mornings a month, they work in teams to take communion directly from the altar into members' homes, providing a sense of connection to shut-ins who might otherwise feel isolated.

We also provided opportunities for commission members to participate in educational programs on Alzheimer's disease, grief and bereavement, and funeral planning.

## 2015 STATISTICS\*

Pastoral caregiver visits: 150  
Lay Eucharistic Visitor visits: 80  
Phone calls: 132  
Flower deliveries: 37  
Funerals and wakes: 17  
Doctor's visits: 10  
Food basket deliveries: 5

\* Does not include clergy visits

## 2015 VITAL RECORDS

Baptisms .....	8
Burials .....	12
Confirmations .....	0
Deaths of Members.....	8
Weddings.....	1
New Members .....	20

## 2016 GOALS

This year, we intend to focus on:

- Hosting a five-week series on important end-of-life conversations, with presentations by St. Mary's members and others involved in hospice, nursing home care, and funeral planning.
- Growing parish participation in pastoral care ministries, including the diocesan LEV training.

## FOOD BASKETS

Easter and Thanksgiving food baskets are given to members of St. Mary's who ask for assistance during these seasons. This year for the first time we provided \$50 gift cards, thereby alleviating the need to know food allergies and allowing families to purchase what they liked. The gift cards were sent in time for families to shop for their holiday meals.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

*Wednesdays at 10 am*

We knit, crochet, quilt, needlepoint, or simply visit and enjoy each other's company and support. Members work on projects for our parish and local communities and friends near and far. Several members also work on projects at home. 2015 projects included:

- 61 adult and 3 children's prayer shawls
- 9 baptismal blankets
- 1 lap robe and 3 baby blankets
- 164 prayer patches
- For the ECC auction: 2 baby blankets
- For Seaman's Church Institute: 3 hat/scarf sets
- For the MLK Center: 4 baby blankets, 50 pairs of mittens, 62 hats, 3 scarves, 1 hat/scarf set.

*Jeanne Derrah: jeannederrah@gmail.com, 401-847-5747*

# PROPERTY COMMISSION

The Property Commission manages the maintenance, repair, and renovation of St. Mary's buildings and grounds.

*Dave Monroe, Chair: david.r.monroe@hotmail.com, 401-225-5494.*

*Meetings: Monthly, as needed and as members are available.*

## LEADERSHIP

Current point people for specific buildings and/or areas of the St. Mary's campus are:

Church • Dave Ferkinhoff (dave-fe@cox.net, 401-848-9699)

Parish House • Ted Bierman (tbierman@cox.net, 401-847-9162) and Marshall Lundberg (libertyhound@cox.net, 401-683-1192)

Rectory • Chris Myers (cwmyers@cox.net, 401-683-0399)

Gibbs House • Anna Zambrano (zam5@cox.net, 401-847-0429)

Garage/Barn • TBD

Churchyard & Grounds • Bob Vergnani (rjvergnani@gmail.com, 401-683-0736) and Debby Timby (debtimby@cox.net, 401-847-7741)

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Planned the restoration of the south-facing church stained glass windows funded by an anonymous donor.
- In collaboration with the Sarah Gibbs trustees, consolidated our property by selling the old parish house, culminating a four-year initiative to find a buyer and avoiding the cost of demolition.
- Applied the second and final coat of paving on the rear parking lot.
- Replaced decaying windows and worn carpet in Gibbs House.
- Installed drains from rectory downspouts.
- Restored the failed septic system for the rectory.

## 2016 GOALS

- Restore the south-facing church stained glass windows through anonymous donations.
- Work with the vestry and Finance Commission to establish a plan and funding strategies to begin addressing major renovation projects.



## CHURCHYARD & GROUNDS

2015 projects included:

- Continued maintenance of grounds and trees.
- Annual tree maintenance during the winter, including pruning, removing dead branches, and removal of any dead or dying trees.
- Reseeding and fertilizing some lawn areas.
- Planting 175 donated daffodil bulbs.
- Installing fences at the ends of the upper parking lot retention pond.

2016 goals include:

- Repairing and restoring old tombstones in the area on either side of the path to the church.
- Continued maintenance of the grounds and trees.
- Restoring the bridal path in cooperation with BSA Troop 82 as an Eagle Scout project.
- Adding to hydrangeas at the transformer north-west of the parish house.
- Clearing the area by the stone walls at the northeastern end of cemetery and near the barn.
- Removing or spreading the dirt pile near the community garden.



# STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

The Stewardship Commission is dedicated to a year-round program of communication, formation, and education about the stewardship ministry of St. Mary’s Episcopal Church. Stewardship is about recognizing the abundance we have received from God and joyfully giving of our talent, time, and money. At the heart of stewardship is a call to deepen our relationship with God through giving and to pray thoughtfully about the questions: What has God given me, and what can I give back to God to make a difference in my church?

*David Brierley, Chair: dave@galaxia.com, 401-862-9634. Meeting Time: First Wednesdays, 6:15 pm*

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special thanks go to Christine Cassels, who had to step down as chairperson midyear due to the requirements of her deacons’ formation program. Much of what we accomplished was due to what Christine had started. Thanks are also due to Anna Kane, who is resigning from the commission due to other commitments; to Jason Kane, Claire Hebert, and Lauren Lema, who continue to serve faithfully; and to the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick for her wise counsel and oversight. In 2015, the commission:

- Developed annual giving campaign based on the theme “God the Giver.”

- Established a four-week speaker series, with members of St. Mary’s sharing their faith journeys and what stewardship means to them.
- Offered an adult education forum on the theme “God the Giver” and related Bible readings for each week.
- Led annual giving campaign by sending out several mailings, tracking and acknowledging pledges from members, and developing a follow-up plan.

## 2016 GOAL

Make gratitude and giving a more consistent part of our parish conversation and communication.

## OUR GIVING STORY: WHAT DO THE NUMBERS SAY?

As of January 17, 2016, there were 119 pledges, totaling \$218,363.

	Number	Amount	Portion of Total	Impact on Budget
New pledges .....	11	\$7,494	3%	\$7,494
Increased pledges .....	45	\$106,248	49%	\$21,918
Pledges staying the same .....	46	\$84,452	39%	\$0
Decreased pledges .....	17	\$20,169	9%	[-\$12,138]
Non-renewing pledges .....	7	\$0	0%	[-\$4,955]
Outstanding potential pledges .....	11	\$10,691	0%	\$0
Average 2015 pledge .....		\$1,729		
Average 2016 pledge .....		\$1,835		
Average vestry pledge .....		\$3,502		

# WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission was formed in June 2014 and includes a coordinator from the altar guild, acolytes, choir, greeters, lectors, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, as well as the rector and key parish leaders. The commission oversees, sets goals, and plans for all worship services at St. Mary's, with the stated purpose of strengthening the worship experience at each of the services, inviting people to serve in worship, and increasing involvement in the parish.

*Michelle Freitas, Chair: msfreitas02@cox.net, 401-683-1976. Meetings: First Wednesdays, 1:30 pm.*

## 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked to further develop three distinct services of worship.
- Moved to an online platform for scheduling.
- Developed unique worship experiences for special Sundays throughout the year.
- Continued to recruit and train new volunteers in each worship ministry area.
- Added youth torch bearers to the 8 am service whenever possible.
- Purchased new vestments where needed.
- Provided support for all worship services, including weddings, funerals, and baptisms.

## 2016 GOALS

- Continue to explore different ways to make the worship experience more meaningful for members and guests.
- Continue to mentor volunteers in a way that is clear and supportive.
- Develop a checklist for each area of worship.
- Continue to recruit worship volunteers, and in particular, greeters.

## ACOLYTES

*Serve in rotation at Sunday and other services. Meet as needed for training (usually twice per year).*

Acolytes assist the priests and deacons performing their duties during the service. Duties vary by service and depend on the number of acolytes present. Accomplishments of note in 2015 include that several new acolytes (both adults and teens) were trained and have entered the rota. In 2016, we hope for enough additional recruits that we can

schedule a full complement of three acolytes at the 8 am service each week. It is a joy watching new acolytes as they gain experience. Acolytes fill an important role, and we are grateful for having them.

*Dave Ferkinhoff: dave-fe@cox.net, 401-848-9699*

## ALTAR GUILD

Members of the altar guild assist the clergy and prepare the sanctuary for all services held in the church and in St. George's Chapel. Typical altar guild work includes polishing silver and brass, marking readings, laundering linens, arranging flowers for the altar, and delivering flowers after Sunday services to the sick and shut-ins.

### 2015 Accomplishments

- Welcomed Candy Gilmartin and Marcia Monroe as new members of the altar guild.
- Kept the sacristies stocked with communion wafers, wine, candles, clean linens, and other worship supplies.
- Decorated the church and chapel for Easter and Christmas.
- Delivered flowers to the sick and shut-ins and to those celebrating special occasions.

Special thanks go to Ed Gosling, Dave Ferkinhoff, and Dave Monroe for their help fixing several mechanical problems, and to Fay and Ed Gosling for their donation of sacristy cabinets in the chapel.

Our primary goal in 2016 is to attract and train new members to this rewarding work.

*Millie Cozzens: sandyandmillie@aol.com, 401-847-4117*

## **GREETERS**

*Serve in rotation at Sunday and other services, weddings, funerals, and other special gatherings. Meet as needed for training.*

Greeters glorify God by extending a warm welcome to every person who comes to worship at St. Mary's. This includes making sure that each person has what they need for a fulfilling worship experience, such as regular or large-print bulletins and hymnals or other books. Greeters also invite guests to coffee hour or to complete a welcome card. During the service, greeters accept the offering and help ensure that all who desire communion may receive it either at the altar or, if needed, in their seats.

In 2016, we will focus on the ongoing recruitment of new greeters, inclusive of families, to complement the approximately 25 people who currently greet at the three weekend services. We will also create a written checklist to help greeters know their responsibilities at each of the three distinct services.

*Lauren Lema: gwb2004l@aol.com.com, 401-662-3278*

## **LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (LEMS)**

*Serve in rotation at Sunday and other services, including weddings and funerals as requested. Meet as needed for training.*

LEMs assist the clergy and administer the chalice at the Eucharist.

### **2015 Accomplishments**

- Provided training for all current LEMs and newcomers to the ministry.
- Assisted at all regularly scheduled services, as well as any special services such as weddings or funerals when requested.
- Participated in the planning of regular and special services and events.

Our goals in 2016 include recruiting new LEMs to the ministry and sustaining the high level of positive responses for special services.

*Marshall Lundberg: libertyhound@cox.net, 401-683-1192*

## **LECTORS**

*Serve in rotation at Sunday and other services as requested, including weddings and funerals, arriving at least 15 minutes prior. Meet as needed for training.*

Lectors read the scriptures and prayers aloud during worship, clearly proclaiming God's Word to the congregation and leading the prayers of the people.

### **2015 Accomplishments**

- Purchased a new gospel book for the chapel.
- Provided multiple lectors for All Saint's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Lessons and Carols services.

In 2016, we have four goals:

- To recruit at least one new lector for each service.
- To provide training as requested or as needed.
- To continue to engage the congregation by reading the Word of God aloud clearly.
- To provide lectors as needed for special services.

*Stacy Mello: sam102069@aol.com, 401-524-8730*

## **MUSIC**

*Thursdays at 7 pm, Sundays at 8 am, and as needed*

The music program seeks to enrich worship and glorify God through our members' varied musical gifts.

Karin Larsen began in August as our music director, providing music at the 8 am service and planning for the 8 and 10:30 am services. Under her direction, a small choir has begun to present anthems and lead music for the 8 am service. Guest musicians enhanced Christmas Eve worship. We thank all who provided leadership at the 10:30 am service this year: Daystar Music Ministry, Jake Silvia, and Marilyn Hambly.

In 2016, we have three goals:

- Have the choir sing anthems at least once a month.
- Include more parishioners in music leadership at both Sunday services.
- Present 1–4 concerts, utilizing our space and increasing our community presence.

*Karin Larsen, Music Director:*

*karin@smcportsmouth.org, 401-846-9700, ext. 104*

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, P. 290

