



St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2025

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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SWEEPS VESTRY PORTFOLIOS

Community Ministries

Amy Cebrian, Vestry Member

Margaret Stafford and David Crosson, Lay Coordinators

The Revs. Kira Austin-Young & Tim Smith, Clergy Coordinators

Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT)

Living our Biblical call to “welcome the stranger among us” has never been more critical or more challenging. Every single person of the nearly thirty migrants we have accompanied is suddenly under threat of random detention and removal, even if already granted asylum.

Because of these threats, we must studiously protect the anonymity of those we are accompanying. However, we can share that a federal judge “suspended deportation” for the mother of a family that since has moved to another state to live within a supportive cultural community. Most recently, we are accompanying a family of three who moved here to protect their 11-year-old son from enslavement or death by a local gang. He has now graduated from fifth grade and is playing summer futbol.

This past year, St. Mary’s NEAT received a fourth \$5,000 grant from Episcopal Impact Fund, a \$1,000 grant from the San Francisco Deanery, and an additional \$5,000 in designated support above and beyond the \$1,000 budget from the parish. Parishioners have been generous in providing gift cards for our current family. We share work and expenses equally with our NEAT partner, Congregation Sherith Israel. These St. Mary’s NEAT members continue to provide prophetic witness: Laura Akel, Nancy Clark, David Crosson, Susan Gamboa, Gerson Marcony Bolvito Grijalva, Greer Hopkins, Barbara Marré, and Anne Williams.

Imagining Ministries Within the Justice System

Living in San Francisco, public safety is of concern to us all. The best way to impact that is to ‘prevent’ crime in the first place and to provide needed services and tools to men and women reentering the community after prison.

We are so grateful to the 5 St. Mary’s congregants who have become volunteer pen pals to women in prison through our relationship with Hope Beyond. 3 more have recently expressed an interest in becoming pen pals. Hope Beyond does an excellent job training pen pals to make the process seamless, as well as very meaningful for both the incarcerated women and their pen pal from St. Mary’s. We hope to expand this ministry with more pen pals – 200 are on a wait list – as well as provide needed toiletry items for release. This year, St. Mary’s generously gave a grant to Hope Beyond for toiletries for women upon their release.

We also hope to expand our work to seniors releasing from prison. I am a 50-year professional in the field of criminal justice and re-entry. If you are interested in working with me on reimagining the criminal justice system, please reach out. We can tailor make what you are interested in. Please contact Linda at lconnelly@successfulreentry.com. Thank you.

Rise Against Hunger

On the morning of January 25, a group consisting of about sixty parishioners, friends, and neighbors from the community gathered in Fowler Hall to package meals to be shipped to food-deprived schoolchildren in the Philippines. The event was sponsored by the parish and Rise Against Hunger (RAH), a global non-profit dedicated to eradicating hunger and a long-time partner with the parish for packaging and sending meals to food-deprived areas in the world. Thanks to an abundance of energy, enthusiasm, gratitude, and love, the group packaged 10,152 meals, which were then included in a shipping container filled with 285,000 meals prepared by St. Mary's and other neighboring RAH partners. This container was shipped to the Philippines, c/o International Care Ministries, RAH's partner in the Philippines, which then distributed the meals to schoolchildren there.



Over the last eight years parishioners, friends, and neighbors from St. Mary's have packaged a total of 62,640 meals in partnership with RAH for food-deprived schoolchildren and those who are ill in hospitals, including tuberculosis clinics in Africa and Asia, even in North Korea!

We are grateful for our ministry and partnership with RAH and look forward to our next food packaging event at St. Mary's either later this year or early next year! We invite all parishioners and their friends and neighbors to participate!

Tidings of Comfort & Joy

St. Mary's was again able to hold our traditional Advent and Christmas fundraiser, Tidings of Comfort and Joy. The lead team - Carol Harris, Vicki Baker and Nancy Clothier - provided the leadership to put the event together. We had a spirited group of volunteers baking, cooking, sewing and building items to sell in our pantry. The evident energy on the day of the sale, coinciding with Lessons and Carols, made it fun for all involved. Our efforts raised \$11,000 to help the many projects of Episcopal Community Services, and we were able to present the check to the board president of ECS in-person when ECS visited St. Mary's in February. Thank you to all who participated!

Winter Shelter Dinner

At the behest of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a large group of volunteers from St. Mary's, plus excited friends and neighbors, cooked and served a delicious meal in the season of Advent at the annual Winter Shelter. The Winter Shelter is hosted during the wettest, coldest months of the year for unhoused San Franciscans. Our 50+ guests also woke up to a gift of a clean shirts and socks. Funding for the dinner was provided from our parish's budget and community ministry endowment.

Special thanks go to longtime participants Ruth Tatum and Tom Clothier for their wisdom and expertise, Susan Barber and Amy Nachman for purchasing and wrapping the clothing, and all of the young professionals and youth who came with their families to serve.

Consider joining us next year! If interested, contact Deacon Tim Smith or Aubrey Hargis at aubreyhargis@gmail.com.



Gubbio Project

We continue to have a thriving relationship with this important non-profit, located at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in the Mission, whose mission is to be in community with houseless people in San Francisco and provide a place for "sacred sleep," provision of supplies, chaplaincy, and community. We delivered much-needed supplies to the Gubbio Project after a successful blanket drive during the Advent season.

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

Worship Ministries

Rick Darwin, Vestry Liaison

Natalie Hala, Parish Liturgist & Verger, Staff Liaison

Liturgy Committee: The Rev. David Erickson, the Rev. Kira Austin-Young, the Rev. Deacon Tim Smith, Eric Choate, Ashley Ryan & Natalie Hala



Worship is at the heart of the Church, when we make the boldest claims about who God is and who we are and our prayers and praise to the one who created us, loves us, walks with us, and is waiting for us at our end. The core liturgical elements of gathering, praise, communion and thanksgiving anticipate what unfolds in the long-vision narrative of redemption and offers each of us a glimpse of how our own personal storylines have and continue to intersect with it. The spiritual nutrients available through communal worship and common life make it possible for us to walk in the footsteps of Christ's example.

One of the beauties of The Episcopal Church is that liturgy and ritual practices are never static, but always dynamic and evolutionary and, at best, result in discoveries that deepen the worship experience. During Lent this year, St. Mary's printed worship bulletin took on a slightly different appearance, and during Eastertide, a modified format for the 9:00 a.m. service aimed primarily at the hearts and minds of children. Both trial-runs will inform us as we shape worship opportunities for the upcoming program year.

The entire Liturgy Committee offer our heartfelt gratitude for all those who serve and participate in our worship ministries. You are the heartbeat of St. Mary's worship and, each and every week, faithfully attend to your duties from welcoming worshippers to St. Mary's campus to preparing our sacred space for worship. St. Mary's worship services are a living example of unity and common life as we share one bread and one cup in praise and thanksgiving to God.

Natalie Hala, Parish Liturgist

The Altar Guild

Altar Guild members work in teams helping to keep the sanctuary, chalices, vestments, candles and sacred linens ready for worship services each week. It is a small commitment time: one or two weekends a month prepping before and after the Sunday service. This ministry allows us to serve God and build fun relationships across generations. If you are looking to become more involved with our church community, this is a perfect opportunity to work behind the scenes while understanding more clearly what Sunday service entails.

To join, please contact Gloria at gloria.gtgg@gmail.com or Nancy Clothier at namcmc@pacbell.net



Chalice Bearers

The Chalice Bearer ministry is an integral part of our worship at St. Mary's.

Chalice Bearers assist the clergy at the altar during the 8:00 am service and administer the chalice during Holy Communion at all the services. At 11:00 a.m., (and the 10:00 am service during the Summer) they carry the cross and torches during the processional, at the reading of the Gospel, and during the recessional.

As well as serving on Sundays, the Chalice Bearers serve during Holy Week and during the Easter and the Christmas services and may be asked to assist at weddings and funerals.

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

Following is a list of the Chalice Bearers. Thank you for your ministry this year!

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

We are always looking for new members to this ministry so if you are interested, please contact the clergy or Pam or Bob Bledsoe. 415-374-7241 pamelabledsoe077@gmail.com

Children's Homilists

During the program year at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service, children's homilists provide fresh interpretation of scripture and of contemporary life that includes interactive and joyful dialogue with young worshippers. Currently 10 gifted children's homilists add dimension to the rhythm and practice of young people's lives as Christians.



Music Program

We have had a full year in the music department at St. Mary's, and I give thanks for the extraordinary music that we make.

Highlights from the fall season include Bruckner's bold and dramatic Requiem, which we performed in the context of our All Souls' Eucharist, alongside the Schola Cantorum of St. Dominic's Catholic Church. We had a full complement of Advent and Christmas offerings, including the much-celebrated Festival of Lessons and Carols, as well as

processions for Sankta Lucia, La Virgen de Guadalupe, and the Visitation of the Magi, all of which featured our Children and Youth Choirs.

This spring, our Parish Choir recorded an album of Advent and Christmas music, which will be made available this coming fall.

In the early summer, our Parish Choir performed Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* as part of a festival chorus on our last Candlelight Concert of the season. Subsequently, several members of our choir participated in a residency in NYC where we performed the same work with full orchestra on the Perelman Stage in Carnegie Hall.

We continue to benefit from musical contributions from our organ scholar, Jameson Caps, and our conducting scholar, Andrew McIver. We are also supported by our staff singers: Ellen Leslie, Julia Morris, Todd Bradley, and Jess Perry, as well as four brilliant young choral scholars: Anna-Sophia Guzman, Tyler Winslow, Harry O'Sullivan, and Connor Herman. We bid farewell to Tyler this year who will be attending UC Davis in the fall. Our volunteer singers make up the core of our choir and generously give of their time and talent to make music. We often see new faces in our choir, and that's because it is one of the many ways we attract people to St Mary's.

Our chorister program continues to thrive. We have a total of 24 children and youth who rehearse 1-2 times per week and sing every Sunday. This Spring, we performed our Children's Choir Musical, *Francis: The Poor Little Man of God*. The kids did a terrific job, and we are thankful to Marla for the many gifts that she brings to our church.

In the fall, we received an order of much-needed new choir robes, made by Watts & Co. Our old robes had become tattered, and now we are all sporting new gorgeous, made-to-measure, 100% wool cassocks from one of the finest producers of liturgical garments.

Our music program is one of the hallmarks of St. Mary's. I am deeply thankful for the work of all of our musicians and music staff for the ways in which they enrich our lives, to the clergy and vestry for their support of our cherished program, and to the congregation for singing hymns and service with such fervor. It is a joy to serve with all of you.

-Eric Choate, Director of Music



Eucharistic Visitors

Our Eucharistic Visitor Ministry is going strong with monthly visits to The Heritage and visits to other homebound members of St. Mary's. It is a deeply gratifying experience for all involved. We thank Amy Nachman, Georgia Burke Lu, David Crosson, Alexandra Grover, Trey Hunter, David Gibson, and David Hargis for their eager participation in this important and beloved ministry, as well as our deacons Nancy Bryan and Tim Smith who take the Eucharist to homebound members of St. Mary's. Eucharistic visitors are available for anyone who wishes to receive the Eucharist in their home.

Scripture Readers & Prayer Leaders

Each week at the 9:00, 11:00 a.m. (and, in summer, the 10:00 a.m.) worship services, members of the Scripture Reader & Prayer Leader Ministry bring their own unique voice to the reading of the appointed scripture and represent our communal voice by leading the intercessions of our community's heart expressed in the Prayers of the People. This year, 50 dedicated parishioners (which includes 7 new members this year) participate in this ministry that enriches our worship services through their own unique voice and presence.



Ushers

Our ushers have the delightful responsibility of welcoming worshipers and guests to the St. Mary's campus, passing out programs, collecting the offering, and ensuring the service and eucharist run smoothly. They also offer assistance to anyone who may need help before, during, or after the services. The usher corps is a close and friendly community of parishioners who have found purpose and fulfillment in serving the St. Mary's community on Sunday mornings.

Ushers typically serve one service per month, at either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. service (10:00 a.m. during the summer schedule). We have added two ushers in the last six months and are looking for a couple more. If you are interested in serving as an usher, contact Rick Darwin at rdarwinsf@gmail.com. The commitment level is low, the satisfaction level is high, and the training is easy!

Youth Acolytes

Our 9 a.m. Sunday worship service is blessed by the leadership of our youth acolytes. We began the fall with thirteen returning acolytes and welcomed four new acolytes. Our current group includes: Gloria Cebrian, Luke Cebrian, Nathaniel Cebrian, Imogen Cornes, Ren Cornes, Ben Birdsall, Caroline Birdsall, Phoebe de Castro, Will Gough, Jude Hargis, Stella Hossain, Catherine Karvosky, Allie Magher, Kyle Napolitana, Caroline Stafford, Rebecca Stafford, and Thorne Wyman. The joyful presence, enthusiastic participation, and faithful leadership of these young people at our worship services--along with all the other ways they contribute to the abundant life of St. Mary's as choristers, Sunday School students, Youth Group members, and more—are a gift and an inspiration. They remind us that youth are vital leaders of our current church, not only our future church.



We warmly invite all our fourth through twelfth grade parishioners to join us as acolytes when we resume the 9 a.m. service in the fall.

Flower Committee

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

The flower committee is primarily funded through donations for Christmas, Easter, All Saints/All Souls and contributions for specific Sundays. These donations sustain the committee for the year. We encourage parishioners to donate to commemorate a loved one, a special occasion, in honor or thanksgiving of someone, or for baptisms on their respective Sundays.



If you have a special occasion scheduled at St. Mary's such as a wedding, memorial/funeral, reception, baptism, or a special honor, for which you would like flowers, please contact the church office or Steven Depont-Kalani. If you would like to join the flower committee please contact Joan Toney at joantoney@mac.com

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

Education Ministries

Nicole Elliott & Linda Woodworth, Vestry Members

The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector

Nancy Clark, Sunday School

Phil Woodworth, Youth Confirmation

Mike Stafford, Youth Minister

Adult Formation

Some highlights from our year in adult formation include a variety of speakers and presenters on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m., the inauguration of a Sunday morning, lay-led Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew, and a Monday-night Lenten program where we tackled Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's *Entering the Passion of Jesus*. This year, we welcomed many guest presenters and preachers including the Rev'd Deborah Lee from Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, the Rev'd Ed Bacon, and the Rev'd Susanna Singer from Episcopal Community Services. Rev'd David and Rev'd Kira presented on scripture, prayer, and Voting Faithfully, and we're grateful for our Justice Ministries who led a well-attended Know Your Rights training. Our Summer in the City content will be communicated soon, and you are all welcome to join as we grow in the knowledge and love of God!

Sunday School

On the second Sunday of June, we officially wrapped up another successful Sunday School year with spirited games and activities. Of our two classrooms, the older group went in search of images of St. Mary in the two courtyards, the church itself, and in various rooms in Pixley and the Parish Hall. There are many depictions of Mary. The younger classroom played "Bible Bingo" to review the many Old and New Testament stories they've learned throughout this year. Because it was Pentecost, the kids also decorated and launched Holy Spirit Gliders, a long-standing tradition. Those activities are typical of the projects and subjects we cover from September to June. As always, we give special thanks and praise to our team of loyal teachers: Todd and Lisa Reynolds, Tatiana Hodapp, Donna Davidson, and Laura Akel. We would love to build our roster of teachers, so please consider committing to forming and educating our youngest parishioners!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation was successfully conducted this past program year with three regular participants. Four St. Mary's parishioners were confirmed on May 30th at Grace Cathedral with the the Rev. Kira Austin-Young, confirmation teacher Phil Woodworth, and their families presenting them to Bishop Austin Rios.

Youth Confirmation Class:

Imogen Cornes

Ren Cornes

Nathaniel Cebrian

Whitney Welsh



Youth Group

Youth Group had another phenomenal year. The group continued its Sunday evening meeting time with games, dinner, discussion, and fellowship. We had a fairly consistent group show up, with a fairly equal mix of middle schoolers and high schoolers. Activities included weekly conversation, dinner, and games, and also monthly adventures like bowling, a movie night, and a North Beach/Chinatown treasure hunt. Mike Stafford and Riley Haggin headed up the group, although partway through the year we were sad to say goodbye to our beloved Patick Linstrom, who returned to his native Chicago for grad school.



In the Summer of 2024, 6 youth and 2 adults from St. Mary's traveled to Eureka for the Youth Mission Trip. The goal of the trip was to see and serve Jesus in the communities we were serving, in the abundantly beautiful creation around us, and in each other. While we were there, we transformed the garden at an Episcopal Church, we spent a day touring and working at a sustainable farm, and we worked at a local Eureka food bank. In addition to the service, we visited the redwoods and the coast, went swimming, and went white water rafting! The trip was incredibly meaningful, and the group forged lifelong bonds.

St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Awards 2025-2026

The St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Fund was created by a generous bequest of an anonymous, long-time parishioner of St. Mary the Virgin. The gift funds undergraduate college scholarships for young women from our parish. This year marks the ninth year scholarships were awarded. Eight undergraduate women were awarded a portion of \$47,300. These young women have been actively involved in the life of St. Mary the Virgin and have demonstrated exceptional service, commitment and participation in our youth programs over the years. Congratulations to these outstanding women!

The recipients and the schools they will attend in the 2025-2026 academic year:

Callie Akel	University of California Santa Barbara
Imogen Cornes	Scripps College
Katherine Anne Hansen	Bates College
Kate Napolitana	University of Kansas
Eva Toney	University of St. Andrews Scotland
Margaret Veatch	Colby College
Noelle Winn	Wellesley College
Charlotte Wyman	New York University

Pastoral Care

Susan Barber, Chair, Pastoral Care Team

David Crosson, Stephen Ministry

Amy Nachman, Vestry Member

The Pastoral Care team works together to stay connected with parishioners who are unable to attend church regularly or who are going through a difficult time. We send cards of support, make regular phone calls and make home visits when appropriate. We offer compassionate and spiritual support as the need arises.

We as a committee meet every other month and maintain good communication with Eucharistic Visitors and Stephen Ministers. Rev'd David or Rev'd Kira attend our meetings to give us updates.

Our current members are Susan Barber, Deacon Nancy Bryan, Shila Clement, Alexander Grover, Carol Harris, Amy Nachman, Rob Noeller, Polly Sanford, Pam Sauer, Deacon Tim Smith, Anna Sylvester, Anne Turnbull and Lisa Wolfe.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact the church office at office@smvsf.org

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an international network of local congregations that provide long-term, Christ-centered, lay-based pastoral care to individuals in crisis. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of intensive training in everything from listening skills, crisis management, and grieving to confidentiality and the use of uniquely Christian resources. It often is difficult for us to admit that we need help, when God seems distant, when others are tired of listening to the same old story, when we are just worn out by illness or work or family or life. You may be lonely, but you need not be alone. Talk with a member of the clergy about a Stephen Minister. St. Mary's Stephen Ministers are Christine Wardell, Debbie Veatch, Ruth Tatum, Michael Stafford, Arthur Perkins, Trey Hunter, Jerry George, and David Crosson.

Parish Life

Barbara Bernard, Vestry Member
The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector

A parish, or church congregation, is a community of believers who grow in faith and share experiences with one another. Parish Life events are how we build that community through fellowship events, fun outings, and dedicated time together. The goal behind every Parish Life Event is to build meaningful Christian community together, as well as having fun and enjoying one another's presence. Over the past year, we've cheered on the San Francisco Giants together at Oracle Park and showed up to church in our Halloween costumes on Spooky Sunday. We've enjoyed eating together at lunch after the Stewardship Celebration and the Annual Parish Meeting, as well as at the Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast, dinner on Maundy Thursday, and the Summer Kick-Off Cook-out. At the Parish Retreat, we made new friends amid the beautiful backdrop of Bishop's Ranch. Thank you to everyone who helped put on these events - from set-up, cooking, cleaning up, and planning. If you are interested in helping out with Parish Life events, please contact the Rev'd Kira Austin-Young.

Communications

This year has marked exciting growth in our church's communications - to our own community and the world! Our Instagram (@smvsf - please follow us!) and Facebook accounts are now active and flourishing, regularly sharing both glimpses into the life of our parish community as well as suggested prayers, reflections, and notable parts of sermons to nearly 1,600 followers worldwide. Our weekly e-newsletter continues to provide timely news, keeping parishioners informed and connected. Additionally, our website has been refreshed under the leadership of Nancy Clothier, offering a more welcoming and accessible experience for visitors and members alike. We have also begun using Meta to promote major events—such as Christmas, Easter, and our Candlelight Concerts—which has led to increased attendance and wider community awareness. These efforts are helping us share the vibrant life and ministries of St. Mary's more broadly and effectively.

Many thanks to the team involved: Nancy Clothier (website), Whitney Gough (social media editorial and advertising), Jane Ross (social media editorial), Ashley Ryan (e-newsletter), and of course, Kira Austin-Young.

If you have marketing experience and would like to assist, we are looking for expertise and help! Any background in writing, copy editing, social media and/or Meta advertising knowledge would be nice, but not essential. Please contact Whitney Gough at whitneymgough@gmail.com.

Vital + Thriving

In 2022, St. Mary's started the Vital + Thriving effort, a new diocesan initiative of congregational development meant to help Episcopal congregations in the Bay Area discover God's preferred and promised future and build Beloved Community. Our specific focus is equipping and forming the next generation of Christians in San Francisco, with a particular focus on families with school-age children and young professionals.

At its root, the process encourages experimentation: trying things that may help set the stage to modernize and evolve our church and partnering with those currently outside of the church. Based on our many conversations and surveys of the congregation, the V+T team has given input and acted as a catalyst to start experimentations in the following areas:

- Experimenting with changes to our 9 a.m. service, including shortening the length, using more approachable prayer translations meant for children and youth, song choice, children coming to the altar during the Eucharist, and other things
- Embarking on a process to evolve our children's formation programs, including Sunday School and Confirmation class evolutions
- Physical space modernization to make our campus more attractive to families (including in the nursery, the library, the Bible Study room, and discerning future use for the former Sunday School rooms in Pixley House)
- Honing our digital evangelism through work with a new AI tool to make better use of sermons, reflections, and prayers
- Engagement efforts such as pet blessings on Union Street and the children's choir musical after-party

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

Affinity Groups

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

Young Professionals



The mission of St. Mary's Young Professionals group to create a welcoming environment for young professionals in their 20s and 30s to explore their faith, build lasting relationships, and contribute to the church and broader community, and we invite everyone in that category to join us.

This year, we've enjoyed a December "Dirty Santa" gift exchange, game nights, and post-church lunch out at the Presidio Tunnel Tops park. We also welcomed Thoma Lipartiani, a Virginia Theological Seminary student, who has planted an Episcopal church of predominantly young people in his hometown of Tbilisi, Georgia.

We particularly value our dedicated WhatsApp group, which enhances our communication, making it easier to share event details, encourage participation, and support each other daily. The WhatsApp group has fostered a sense of immediacy and closeness, helping us stay connected and engaged.

As we reflect on the past year's successes, we are excited about the future of the Young Professionals Ministry. We aim to build on our achievements, introduce new initiatives, and continue fostering a supportive, engaging, and spiritually enriching community for all young professionals, and we hope that you'll join us! If you're interested in being a part of this group, please contact Rev'd Kira.

Parish Men's Group

The parish men's group met twice in the past nine months - once in September of last year and again in January of this year. In addition, parish men joined together as a team capably led by Jordan Baucum in hosting and cooking at the recent annual parish barbecue.

The first event was a social gathering of 25 parish men at a local restaurant and was a forum for sharing stories and becoming acquainted/reacquainted with each other. It was an excellent opportunity to build community and to reflect on the mission and role of the men's group in the parish. From that meeting emerged a consensus to discern how the parish men's group could best minister with others inside and outside the parish in Jesus' name and how it could continue to build community among men in the parish through social and service events.

At the end of January of this year a group of about 20 parish men met again over pizza and beverages to socialize and to hear Rev. David's story about his recent sabbatical.

Our beloved friend and fellow parishioner Jim Griffith's sudden and unexpected death earlier this year was a setback to the group. He was an active participant and leader in past men's events supporting the parish, and we were counting on his presence in the group going forward. He is deeply missed by all those who knew him!

.We are excited about the community of parish men that has formed and continues to grow! Please let David Hargis, Rob Flowers, or a member of the clergy know if you'd like to help lead or plan for future parish men's group events.

St. Mary's Columbarium Committee

Located in our inner courtyard, the columbarium at St. Mary's is a place where parishioners and their loved ones are memorialized in tranquility, dignity and grace.

Designed uniquely for St. Mary's, the columbarium was completed and dedicated in 2007, through the faithful effort of a dedicated ad hoc committee. The natural limestone structure contains 145 niches, each sized to accommodate up to two standard crematory urns.



Today, columbarium operations are managed by a group of Parish staff and lay ministers, including Deborah Franklin, Steven Depont-Kalani, Ashley Ryan and Sandy Stadtfeld. If you are interested in the columbarium as a resting place for yourself and your family, please contact the Parish Administrator. If you'd like to learn more about helping in this ministry, please contact Sandy Stadtfeld or Deborah Franklin. All are encouraged to visit the columbarium, and to reflect on the lives of parishioners who've gone before us.

Building & Grounds Report

Arthur Perkins, Building and Grounds Chair

Sandy Stadtfeld, Vestry Member

Alex Lei, Sunday Sexton

St. Mary's has stood at the corner of Union and Steiner streets in Cow Hollow since 1891. Clearly lived in and loved, our church is naturally subject to continual wear and tear. In the absence of a dedicated sexton, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is charged with stemming the inexorable tide of decay and disrepair. We are happy to report that our buildings & grounds, and those of the rectory, continue to operate safely and soundly. The Vestry has set aside a capital reserve fund out of long-term investments to defray the cost of major repairs, replacements, and acquisitions. The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund as of April 30, 2025 was approximately \$512,000.



*Mike Walsh cleaning the mosaic on
Thursday, April 10, 2025*

Since the unfortunate loss of Jim Griffith earlier this year, St. Mary's is without a coordinator of gardening. This is a very fulfilling ministry of stewardship, and it requires more than one person and the contracted gardener. If you are interested in helping with planning and accomplishing our ongoing garden maintenance, please let Arthur Perkins or Sandy Stadtfeld know.

On Saturday, May 12, 25 parishioners (and clergy) joined to give the church a thorough cleaning and decluttering (and lunch). We accomplished so much that we're planning a similar event for a Saturday in September, after we return to our regular service schedule. This is a great way to learn about the facility and how it works, to feel and see the result of our work together, and to get to know one another better. Watch the bulletin and weekly Highlights for the date, and plan to be there! If you know of anything that needs cleaning, fixing, disposal, or any other attention, please contact Sandy Stadtfeld: sandy.stadtfeld@gmail.com.

Projects completed in the last year include:

- Sign structure on the corner of Union and Steiner Streets: Replaced structure with concrete-based wood piles
- Seep-fed basin in main courtyard: Replaced basin outlet pipe
- Sanctuary pews: Repaired and refinished
- Exterior of Pixley House and parish offices: Painted rear courtyard faces, repaired rotted wood on exterior stairway, and trimmed trees on Steiner Street facade
- Fowler Hall restrooms: Replaced two toilets in women's restroom; repaired urinal in men's restroom
- Fowler Hall conference room: Installed hardware to limit opening range of windows (safety)

- Historic crypt: Opened and inspected; replaced the crypt padlock
- Rectory: Replaced vanity and sink in one bathroom
- Drinking water faucets outside Fowler Hall - Repaired and cleaned
- Blower assemblies of furnaces and outside air fans: Deep cleaned and repaired
- Repaired pew kneelers

We are currently planning or considering these improvements:

- Restore and refinish cork floors in the sanctuary (June 30 - July 14)
- Repair paneling in rear corner of chapel, next to Madonna statue niche
- Design, build, and install movable corner table for rear corner of chapel
- Fowler Hall roof replacement
- Window replacement on north side of Fowler Hall
- Sheet metal rain guards above two south-facing sanctuary windows and over door to rear stairs to Fowler Hall
- Reconstruction of stair landing for exit to Union Street side of altar
- Reconfigure, beautify and improve the rear courtyard work closet and trash container area
- Prep, prime and paint coffered ceiling above chapel side of the sanctuary
- Replace rain gutters over mural side of main courtyard
- Investigate repair/replacement of Fowler Hall conference room chairs

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or note anything that needs attention!

Submitted by the Buildings & Grounds Committee: Arthur Perkins (Chair), Russell Fudge, Barbara Bernard, Rick Darwin, Tony Imhof, Phil Albert, Pat Lusse and Sandy Stadtfeld.



Parish Clean Up Day April 12, 2025.



St. Mary's Crypt.

Finance

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

Title:	Accountant	Chair of Finance Committee	Treasurer
2025 title holder:	Ryan-Boer Solutions (RBS) a consulting firm providing Financial Services	Liz Paxton	Betty Hood-Gibson, Treasurer, Ellen McLean, Asst. Treasurer
Type of Position:	Paid Consultants	Vestry member who serves up to three years; voted to the vestry by the parish; appointed to the position of Finance Chair by the Rector.	Volunteers who serve an unrestricted term voted or affirmed by the vestry each year
Responsible for:	• Manages day to day finances of the church • Prepares bills for payment through Bill.com • Administers payroll processing and HR compliance with diocesan guidelines • Records online pledges and payments • Prepares monthly and annual financial statements for Finance Committee, Rector and vestry • Prepares required filings for all government agencies • Works with Treasurers on annual diocesan audit • Serves as Controller -- ensuring accuracy of all financial transactions	• Chair of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses, and advises vestry on financial decisions • Chair of the Legacy and Endowment Board which oversees the church's investment accounts • Reports on monthly actual vs. budget for vestry • Communicates and gives direction to Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Global Advisors, our investment managers	• Officer of the Corporation responsible for insuring best practices for all our financial decisions • Primary bank officer for bank accounts (signatory on main operating account and investment accounts) • Reviews and signs off on the Parochial Report to the diocese, IRS filings, Tax Records—all official documents • Members of the Finance Committee which prepares budget, manages expenses and advises vestry on financial decisions • Organizes and supervises team of accountants who count plate money and record donations

2025 Finance Committee Members: Liz Paxton (Chair), Rev. David Erickson (Rector), Linda Woodworth (Senior Warden), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Ellen McLean (Assistant Treasurer), Arthur Perkins, Elizabeth Falcon Flowers, Matt Bartlett

2025 Legacy and Endowment Board Members: Liz Paxton (Finance Chair), (David Erickson, ex-officio non-voting member), Betty Hood-Gibson (Treasurer), Arthur Perkins, Matt Bartlett, Mark Karvosky (+ 2 vacancies at this time)

2025 Accounting Team: Ellen McLean (Coordinator), Betty Hood-Gibson, Nel Ellwein, Kim Regan, Debbie Veatch, Carol Harris, Claire Alt, Linda Connelly

The Vestry has primary responsibility for all decisions involving spending money.

- Each year the vestry votes to approve the annual budget.
- Expenditures over budget or not included in the budget are approved by vestry.
- Expenditures from endowed/invested funds not included in the budget are also approved by vestry.
- Every member of vestry has a voice and a vote in making financial decisions – votes are by majority.

2025 Budget Summary and Mid-Year Financial Estimate

2025 Budget Summary as approved by the Vestry on January 29, 2025

- Total Funds Available: \$1,162,526
- Total Operating Expenses: \$1,364,421
- Projected Deficit: <\$201,895>

Mid-Year Financial Estimate based on 4/30/2025 financial reports approved by the Vestry

- Total Funds Available: \$1,198,526 (includes \$36,000 increase from currently pledging members)
- Total Operating Expenses: \$1,364,421
- Projected Deficit: <\$165,895>

2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

As Approved by the Vestry on January 29, 2025

OPERATING REVENUE

PLEDGE ACTUAL RECORDED AS OF 1/29/2025	\$ 766,559
NON-PLEDGE DONATIONS	<u>85,000</u>
TOTAL PLEDGE ACTUAL RECORDED AS OF 1/29/2025 & NON-PLEDGE DONATIONS	851,559
OTHER INCOME:	<u>310,967</u>
Plate offerings, prior year pledge payments, Easter and Christmas offerings, investment transfers, building use, Associate Rector housing transfer, Vestry authorized transfers, Music transfers, and other income, less credit card fees.	

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>\$ 1,162,526</u>
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EXPENDITURES

EDUCATION MINISTRY:	\$ 90,225
Includes church school director's salary and materials, nursery care, youth program, adult education and Christian community.	
WORSHIP MINISTRY:	\$ 465,280
Includes salary and benefits for rector and associate rector, including associate rector housing stipend, verger/liturgist, miscellaneous worship and clergy expenses.	
MUSIC MINISTRY:	224,420
Includes salary and benefits for music director, children's choir director, and section leaders, organ and piano maintenance, music scores, and other musicians.	
DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT:	194,875
PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES:	15,450
Includes community outreach, clergy pastoral needs and support for the diocesan deanery.	
FINANCIAL:	69,173
Includes salary and benefits for parish accountant, payroll service fees, and audit/compliance expenses.	
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION:	137,676
Includes salary and benefits for parish administrator, office supplies, photocopy equipment lease, computer support, postage, printing/paper, and phone/internet costs.	
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:	149,672
Includes sexton salary and benefits, building repairs and maintenance, rectory costs, utilities, janitorial service, garden care, and insurance.	
STEWARDSHIP, HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:	17,650
Includes stewardship mailings, communications, coffee hour, vestry expenses, newcomers' hospitality.	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$1,374,981</u>
2025 PROJECTED NET DEFICIT	<u><\$201,895></u>

Photos of Our Common Life This Past Year

