



St. Mary's Celebration of Ministry 2026

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin

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

www.smvsf.org
(415) 921-3665

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VESTRY PORTFOLIOS

Community & Justice Ministries

Amy Cebrian, Vestry Member

David Crosson, Lay Coordinator

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

Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Team (NEAT)

The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin is united with Congregation Sherith Israel in support of “the stranger among us.” Due to the draconian changes in federal immigration policies and administration, the focus of our work has changed substantively over the past year. Since fewer families are seeking or being allowed admission into the United States, we are no longer accompanying multiple families at the same time. Second, we are spending more time and resources on protecting the people we have accompanied in the past. Thirdly, we are organizing for proactive accompaniment actions, like serving as monitors for ICE activity around schools and being present with those who are entering and leaving ICE check-ins and legal proceedings. Monthly vigils in support of those standing in line for hours for hearings and check-ins at ICE headquarters are now a critical part of our ministry.

We are fortunate to have received a fourth \$5,000 grant from Episcopal Impact Fund in support of our work. Most of our financial resources this past year have been used to provide housing, food, educational, and legal support for a family of four who live together in a single room apartment. In addition to a monthly living stipend, we have helped cover legal expenses, secure needed medical care, and obtain necessities like clothing, school supplies, and phones. We are entering the second summer where the twelve-year-old child will attend a remarkable summer enrichment program that a team member accessed, and for which we individually provide daily transportation. We wish we wish that current threats to the security of all migrants did not prevent us from sharing more of their stories of remarkable courage and determination.

Members of St. Mary’s migration team include Nancy Clark, Barbara Marré, Susan Gamboa, David Crosson, Gerson Marcony Bolvito Grijalva, Greer Hopkins, and Laura Akel. We need more. The work is as rewarding as it is heartbreaking. Won’t you join us?

Imagining Ministries Within the Justice System

Public safety is of concern to us all. The best way to impact that is to ‘prevent’ crime in the first place by providing needed services and tools to men and women while in prison and as they reenter our communities.

We have 5 St. Mary’s congregants who have been volunteer pen pals to women in prison through our relationship with the non-profit Hope Beyond. Hope Beyond does an excellent job training pen pals and making the process seamless, and very consequential for both the incarcerated women and their pen pal from St. Mary’s. Pen Pals can text or write old-fashioned snail mail letters. All contacts provide emotional support, give hope and the ability to be part of something much bigger than their life in prison. We hope to expand this ministry with more pen pals – 200 are on a wait

list – and provide needed toiletry items for release. If you are retired or just looking for something meaningful but easy to do, contact me and we can talk further about it. 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. I can be reached at iconnelly@successfulreentry.com or 415-806-2105. Thank you.

Rise Against Hunger

On February 7, St. Mary's hosted another Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event in Fowler Hall, bringing together approximately sixty parishioners, friends, and neighbors from the wider community. The event was sponsored by the parish in partnership with Rise Against Hunger, a long-standing partner in global efforts to address food insecurity and school-based hunger.

With energy, enthusiasm, and generosity, volunteers packaged 10,152 meals during the morning, enough to provide hot lunches for approximately 47 students for an entire school year. These meals were then included in a larger shipping container holding 285,000 meals assembled by St. Mary's and other local Rise Against Hunger partners. The container was shipped to the Philippines, where it was received by International Care Ministries and distributed to schoolchildren in need.

Over the past eight years, St. Mary's parishioners, friends, and neighbors have now packaged a total of 62,640 meals through this ongoing partnership, supporting children and communities facing food insecurity across multiple regions of the world.

We give thanks for this continued partnership with Rise Against Hunger and for all who have contributed their time, resources, and presence to this ministry of global solidarity and care.

Tidings of Comfort & Joy

This year, Tidings of Comfort and Joy held its annual pantry sale on the same Sunday as the Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols. Thanks to the generosity and creativity of our parishioners, we had an abundance of baked goods, jams, candies, and other homemade treats available for purchase. We were also delighted to offer copies of Eric Choate and the Parish Choir's CD of Advent carols for sale the day after it arrived.

Together, we raised more than \$12,000, which, for the second consecutive year, was donated to Episcopal Community Services (ECS). ECS provides a wide range of housing programs for adults, vulnerable seniors, and families, along with integrated wraparound services that support long-term stability and well-being. ECS also offers career development programs that help homeless and low-income adults build pathways toward economic independence.

As an added blessing, we were able to donate all of our remaining goods to the Interfaith Council's Winter Shelter Dinner for people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers reported that the homemade treats were especially meaningful to those who attended, offering not only

nourishment but also a tangible reminder that they were cared for by the wider community.

We are grateful for everyone who contributed their time, talents, and baked goods to make this year's event such a success, and we look forward to another wonderful Tidings of Comfort and Joy fundraiser this coming Advent season.



Winter Shelter Dinner

St. Mary's continued its longstanding participation in the annual Winter Shelter, organized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council and hosted during the coldest and wettest months of the year for unhoused San Franciscans. On Thursday, December 18, parishioners, friends, and neighbors gathered to prepare and serve a warm Advent meal, offering hospitality, fellowship, and care to more than 50 guests. In addition to dinner, each guest received clean shirts and socks to help meet immediate needs during the winter season, and we benefited from the leftover items from the Tidings of Comfort and Joy pantry, which we were able to share with guests.

This ministry continues to be a meaningful expression of St. Mary's commitment to serving our neighbors and building relationships across the wider community. Funding for the meal and clothing was provided through the parish operating budget and Community Ministry Endowment.

Special thanks go to Ruth Tatum and Tom Clothier for their many years of leadership and expertise, Susan Barber and Amy Nachman for coordinating the purchase and preparation of the clothing gifts, and the many volunteers—including youth, young professionals, families, and other parishioners—whose generosity made the evening possible.

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the San Francisco Interfaith Council in this important ministry of hospitality and service.



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

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



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.

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.

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.

Current members are Deborah Franklin, Barbara Bernard, Daphne Ball, Steven Dupont-Kalani, Aubrey Hargis, Kari Rinaldi, Lee Walsh, Gloria Galindo, and Nancy Clothier.

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.

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

Clare Bruzek, Sean Carroll, Susannah Cornes, David Crosson, Rod Dugliss, Steven Depont-Kalani, Deborah Franklin, David Hargis, Jude Hargis, John Hayashi, Fran Hegeler, Trey Hunter, Josie McGann, Jane Ross, Adrian Sawyer, Sandy Stadtfeld, Jane Ross, Mike Stafford, Ilia Smith, Debbie Veatch.

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 9 gifted children's homilists add dimension to the rhythm and practice of young people's lives as Christians.



Music Program

Over the past year, the music ministry at St. Mary the Virgin has continued to flourish through a rich liturgical life, meaningful artistic offerings, and the dedicated work of our musicians and choristers.

Among the highlights of the year were performances of Herbert Howells' *Requiem for All Souls*, our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, and a special concert celebrating my ten-year anniversary at St. Mary's, which

brought together all three choirs in a joyful celebration of the church's musical life. The Children's & Youth Choir Musical was another particular success, showcasing the enthusiasm and talent of our youngest singers.

This year also marked an important transition in the life of the parish as we celebrated Marla Perkins' ten years of devoted music ministry and gave thanks for her extraordinary service upon her retirement at the end of May. Her contributions to St. Mary's have enriched the worship life of the parish in countless ways and will continue to shape generations of singers.

St. Mary's continues to be blessed with a phenomenal team of musicians on staff and gifted choir members whose commitment, artistry, and generosity make an invaluable contribution to the beauty and reverence of our liturgy each week. Their dedication remains central to the spiritual and musical life of the parish.

It is a joy and blessing to share music with this warm and loving community on a weekly basis.

-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, David Gibson, and David Hargis for their eager participation in this important and beloved ministry, as well as our deacon Tim Smith who takes 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.



Ushers

In many ways, ushers are the face of St. Mary's. They set the tone for worship by greeting everyone who steps onto our campus with warmth and hospitality. The usher ministry is a close-knit, friendly community of parishioners who find purpose and fulfillment in serving God and our community.

Ushers play an important role in creating a seamless and reverent worship experience. Their duties include:

- Greeting parishioners, newcomers, and guests as they arrive.
- Handing out service programs.
- Collecting the weekly offering and guiding the congregation during Holy Eucharist.
- Assisting anyone who needs physical help or directions before, during, or after the service.

Ushers typically serve just once per month.

- Regular Schedule: Ushers serve at either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.
- Summer Schedule: Shift to a single 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months.

Join the SMV Usher Corps!

Serving as an usher requires little time but yields a high spiritual reward. We are thrilled to have welcomed five new ushers to the team last year. As our community grows, we are looking for a few more dedicated volunteers to join us. We have an immediate, specific need for helpers at the 10:00 a.m. service.

Training is quick and simple, the time commitment is low, and the satisfaction of serving your church family is incredibly high. If you feel called to this rewarding ministry, please reach out today. Contact Rick Darwin directly at rdarwinsf@gmail.com to get started or to ask any questions.

Youth Acolytes

Our 9 a.m. Sunday worship service is blessed by the leadership of our youth acolytes. We began the fall with fifteen returning acolytes and welcomed five new acolytes. Our current group includes: Charlie Bell, Ben Birdsall, Caroline Birdsall, Gloria Cebrian, Luke Cebrian, Nathaniel Cebrian, Ren Cornes, William Gough, Jude Hargis, Stella Hossain, Liam Hossain, Catherine Karvosky, William Karvosky, Allie Magher, Kyle Napolitana, Caroline Stafford, Rebecca Stafford, Caroline Vallat, Whitney Welsh, 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. 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, Victoria Sutton, Joanne Squire, Josie McGann, Alice Selmer, and Sydney Chaney-Thomas.



Education Ministries

Misha Cornes, Vestry Member

The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector

Nancy Clark, Sunday School

Rev. Elaina Jo LeGault, Youth Confirmation

Mike Stafford, Youth Minister

Adult Formation

Adult Formation continued to offer opportunities for learning, reflection, and spiritual growth throughout the year. Some of the offerings from the past year, particularly during the 10 a.m. hour, included two sessions exploring ancient Christian heresies and their continuing relevance for faith today, as well as conversations about resurrection and pilgrimage. During Lent, we gathered to study and discuss the five values of our diocese that emerged from the Strategic Visioning Plan and how they shape our life together as a church. Also during Lent, the Rev. Kathy offered sessions on contemplative prayer, both in person and on Zoom, inviting participants into deeper practices of silence, reflection, and attentiveness to God's presence. After Easter, a variety of classes were offered under the umbrella of Episcopal 101, providing newcomers and longtime Episcopalians alike with opportunities to deepen their understanding of Episcopal theology, worship, history, and practice.

As we look ahead, Adult Formation will continue to create opportunities for curiosity, conversation, and spiritual growth, helping us deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and discern where God is calling us in the years to come.

Sunday School

Sunday School continued to be a place where our children learned the stories of Scripture, explored the traditions of our faith, and formed lasting friendships with one another. Most Sundays after the 9 a.m. service, children gathered in two age-based classrooms where lessons were tailored to their stage of development and designed to engage their curiosity, creativity, and growing faith. Through Bible stories, crafts, games, discussions, service projects, and seasonal activities, our youngest parishioners were invited to wonder about God's presence in their lives and discover what it means to follow Jesus as part of a Christian community.

This year marked not only another successful program year but also the beginning of an important season of transition. After forty-five-plus years of faithful leadership, Nancy Clark concluded her final year as Sunday School Director. For generations of St. Mary's families, Nancy has been a steady and joyful presence, helping children grow in faith while creating a ministry rooted in love, welcome, and belonging. We are also celebrating Lisa & Todd Reynolds who, after thirty-plus years of teaching Sunday School, are retiring as Sunday School teachers and engaging in ministry in other ways.

Starting last fall, we partnered with the church consultants Ministry Architects to assess and strengthen our ministries with children and families, helping us imagine a vibrant future built on the strong foundation Nancy has established. We are also delighted to welcome the Rev. Elaina Jo

LeGault as our new Children and Family Minister, who began her ministry with us in June and will help guide this next chapter of ministry with children and families at St. Mary's.

As we look ahead, we give thanks for the generations of children whose faith has been nurtured through this ministry and for the many volunteers who make it possible. We offer special gratitude to our dedicated teachers—Todd and Lisa Reynolds, Tatiana Hodapp, Donna Davidson, Nancy Svendsen, and Laura Akel—whose commitment, creativity, and care have enriched the lives of our children throughout the year. As we enter this new chapter, we invite others to consider joining this important ministry and helping to form the next generation of disciples at St. Mary's.

Confirmation Class

This year we had five amazing students go through our youth Confirmation program. These five seventh and eighth graders met regularly to grow in community and learn about their faith. The topics covered included the Bible (especially the Gospels), the Book of Common Prayer, Church History, Theology, and Sacraments. During each class students would learn about a topic from Rev. Elaina or a guest teacher. This would be followed by lively discussion full of thoughtful questions and insights. These discussions created a beautiful atmosphere of learning where everyone listened to and learned from one another. In every class, they demonstrated their curiosity, excitement, and commitment to learning about their faith. By the last Confirmation class each student was able to reflect on everything they had learned and articulated their desire for Confirmation. Each of these students made a mature public affirmation of faith at the Diocesan Confirmation service on May 2nd.



An exciting addition to the Confirmation program this year was the start of the youth Confirmation mentor program. Each student was paired with an adult from our parish community who committed to praying for their student and mentoring them throughout the Confirmation program. Mentors would often attend Confirmation classes on Sundays to add their own wisdom. I heard from both students and mentors that this opportunity to connect was one of the highlights of the program. This beautiful intergenerational learning experience brought joy to all involved.

Youth Confirmation Class:

Benjamin Birdsall

Isaac Jewett-Hall

Harrison McCrea

Bennet Packouz

Rebecca Stafford

Centering Prayer

We gather together in the side chapel Tuesday mornings at 10 am, for time to breathe, center ourselves, and feel God's presence while silently being one in community. For those unfamiliar with Centering Prayer, it is a Christian contemplative practice based on early desert monasticism and mystics like Teresa of Avila (1515-1591) and John of the Cross (1542-1591). Centering Prayer is a practice in letting go of thoughts, one after the other after the other. Our thoughts are habitual and repetitive, so this may seem like an exercise in futility. Yet each thought is simply an opportunity to return to God, to awareness of Presence.

Our time together includes a breathing meditation and twenty minutes of silent prayer, followed by an opportunity to offer prayer requests and thanksgivings, and closes with the Lord's Prayer. Those who wish may remain for a time of sharing.

Wherever you are in life, if you seek ways of being closer to God, you are invited to join us weekly or as the Spirit moves you. Should you have any questions, please contact Debbie Veatch at veatchdl@gmail.com.

Bible Study

This summer, we are nearing two years of dwelling in the word. Our small but growing group has studied the Gospel of Matthew and the Book of Genesis with a few side journeys along the way. Our approach is to read aloud a small section and reflect on what we're hearing, and we've had no end of excellent discoveries along the way. We often leave with more questions than answers, but that rather feels like the point. It is a book of wisdom, after all, not an instruction manual! Over the years, we've heard many fellow St. Mary's parishioners express a mixture of desire to read the bible and a fear to start. If that feels like you, we offer you a very special welcome! Pop by some Sunday! No pre-reading needed. No experience expected. No weekly commitment required. Just bring yourself, your open heart, and your sense of curiosity.

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.



This year saw the awesome addition of a Youth Group Room on the third floor of Pixley House. Furnished with a couch, a foosball table, a tv, and a min-fridge, the Youth come to the room frequently to hang out, play on the guitar, or work on a puzzle. Many thanks to those of you who donated puzzles and games, and special thanks to Whitney Gough for helping envision and furnish the room!

In the Summer of 2025, 9 youth and 2 adults from St. Mary's traveled to Oahu 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. What a trip! While we were there, we served food and passed out hygiene kits to the needy, and we sank knee-deep in mud helping restore native taro patches. In addition to the service, we went to the beach (daily), we toured the USS Arizona, and visited Iolani Palace! The trip was incredibly meaningful, and the group forged lifelong bonds.

St. Mary Magdalene Scholarship Awards 2026-2027

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. Six 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 2026-2027 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
Noelle Winn	Wellesley College

Pastoral Care

Susan Barber, Chair, Pastoral Care Team
David Crosson, Stephen Ministry
Linda Connelly, 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. We have good communication with Eucharistic Visitors and Stephen Ministers.

Father David or Rev. Kira attend our meetings.

Our current members are Susan Barber, Shila Clement, Alexandra Grover, Carol Harris, Amy Nachman, Rob Noeller, Pam Sauer, Deacon Tim Smith, Anna Sylvester, Anne Turnbull.

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

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is an international network of local congregations that provide long-term, Christ-centered, lay-based pastoral care to individuals in crisis. Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of intensive training in everything from listening skills, crisis management, and grieving to confidentiality and the use of uniquely Christian resources. 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.

Our eight-member Stephen Ministry care team provides care to anyone, whether or not they are a member of St. Mary's. Last year, we provided hundreds of hours of care to six care receivers, from both within and outside the parish. St. Mary's Stephen Ministers are Christine Wardell, Debbie Veatch, Ruth Tatum, Michael Stafford, Arthur Perkins, Trey Hunter, Jerry George, and David Crosson. If you think you could benefit from Christ-centered pastoral care, feel free to consult a clergy member or one of the Stephen Ministry team. You may be lonely, but you need not be alone.

Parish Life

The Rev. Kira Austin-Young, Associate Rector

A parish is more than a place we attend on Sunday mornings—it is a community where we grow in faith, build relationships, and learn to follow Christ together. Parish Life events help strengthen those bonds by creating opportunities for fellowship, conversation, celebration, and shared experiences beyond worship. Whether gathering around a table, attending a special event, or spending a weekend away together, these moments help transform a congregation into a community.

Over the past year, parishioners of all ages found opportunities to connect and have fun together. We enjoyed festive meals at the Stewardship Celebration, Annual Parish Meeting, Shrove Sunday Pancake Breakfast, Maundy Thursday dinner, and Summer Kick-Off Cookout. We celebrated traditions both old and new, including Spooky Sunday and our annual Parish Retreat at Bishop's Ranch, where parishioners deepened friendships and made new connections amid the beauty of God's creation. Throughout the year, countless informal conversations, shared meals, and moments of laughter helped strengthen the fabric of our parish community.

One of the great gifts of Parish Life ministry is that it offers easy and meaningful ways to become involved at St. Mary's. Many of these events depend on volunteers willing to help with hospitality, cooking, setup, cleanup, decorating, or planning. Whether serving pancakes for an hour, helping set tables, or welcoming guests, these one-time opportunities provide a wonderful way to meet

fellow parishioners, contribute to our common life, and experience the joy of serving alongside others.

As we look to the future, we are also exploring additional opportunities for connection through affinity groups and small gatherings organized around shared experiences or interests. Whether through groups for LGBTQ+ parishioners, men, parents of young children, or other communities within the parish, these smaller circles can foster deeper relationships and provide spaces for mutual support, conversation, and spiritual growth. Together with our larger parish-wide events, they help ensure that everyone can find meaningful ways to connect and belong.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these gatherings possible throughout the year. Your generosity and hospitality help create the welcoming and vibrant community that makes St. Mary's such a special place.



Annual Parish Retreat to Bishop's Ranch 2026

Communications

Communications continues to play an important role in connecting our parish community and sharing the good news of St. Mary's beyond our walls. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen and refine the communication channels developed in recent years, helping parishioners stay informed while inviting newcomers into the life of our church.

Our social media presence on Instagram and Facebook remains active and engaging, sharing glimpses of parish life, prayers, reflections, sermon excerpts, and announcements with a growing audience both locally and beyond. Our weekly e-newsletter continues to provide timely information about worship, formation opportunities, events, and parish news, serving as a vital connection point for many members of our community.

Our website remains an important resource for visitors and parishioners alike, offering up-to-date information about worship, ministries, events, and opportunities for involvement. We have also continued to use targeted digital advertising to promote major events such as Christmas, Holy

Week and Easter, Candlelight Concerts, and other special offerings. In addition, we now routinely submit articles and photographs from significant parish events to the diocesan newsletter, helping share the story of St. Mary's with Episcopalians throughout the Diocese of California. Together, these efforts have increased awareness of St. Mary's throughout San Francisco and beyond while helping to welcome new visitors into our community.

These communication efforts help us tell the story of what God is doing at St. Mary's and extend an invitation to those seeking a spiritual home.

Many thanks to the team that makes this ministry possible: Nancy Clothier (website), Whitney Gough (social media editorial and advertising), Jane Ross (social media editorial), Ashley Ryan (e-newsletter), and Kira Austin-Young.

As we look ahead, we welcome additional volunteers with interests or experience in writing, editing, photography, social media, marketing, or digital communications. If you would like to help share the story of St. Mary's, please contact Whitney Gough.

Vital + Thriving

In 2022, St. Mary's joined the Vital + Thriving initiative, a diocesan congregational development program designed to help Episcopal congregations in the Bay Area discern God's preferred and promised future and build Beloved Community. St. Mary's specific focus, discerned by the vestry and Vital & Thriving steering committee, was equipping and forming the next generation of Christians in San Francisco, with particular attention to families with school-age children and young professionals.

The formal Vital + Thriving process concluded in September 2025, but its influence continues to shape our ministry. Through this work, St. Mary's embraced a culture of experimentation, curiosity, and missional engagement—encouraging us to try new approaches, learn from both successes and setbacks, and seek partnerships beyond our church walls. That ethos remains an important part of how we discern and respond to God's call.

Over the course of the initiative, the Vital + Thriving team helped catalyze and support innovation in several areas, including:

- Experimenting with our 9 a.m. service, including adjustments to length, use of more accessible prayer translations for children and youth, music selection, greater inclusion of children in worship, and other efforts to create a more welcoming environment for families.
- Reimagining children's and youth formation programs, including significant work around Sunday School, Confirmation preparation, and faith formation for the next generation.

- Modernizing and refreshing our physical spaces to better serve families and children, including improvements to the nursery, library, and other gathering spaces, and turning part of Pixley House into a designated youth room.
- Strengthening our digital evangelism and communications through new tools and technologies that help us share sermons, prayers, reflections, and the story of St. Mary's more effectively.
- Developing creative community engagement efforts, including neighborhood-based events and opportunities to connect with people beyond our existing congregation.

While the Vital + Thriving initiative has officially ended, its legacy lives on in our commitment to innovation, hospitality, and faithful experimentation as we continue seeking new ways to share the love of Christ in San Francisco.

Affinity Groups

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

Young Professionals



For many people in their 20s and 30s, building meaningful friendships and finding a sense of belonging can be challenging—especially in a city like San Francisco, where demanding work schedules, frequent moves, and the high cost of living can make it difficult to put down roots. St. Mary's Young Professionals Ministry seeks to create a welcoming community where young adults can explore their faith, build lasting relationships, and support one another through the joys and challenges of life.

Throughout the year, members gathered for a variety of social and fellowship events, including a Friendsgiving dinner, happy hours, coffee after the 8 a.m. service, brunch after the 11 a.m. service and other opportunities to connect beyond Sunday worship. These gatherings provided space for conversation, friendship, and community-building, helping participants strengthen relationships both within the parish and beyond it.

One of the ministry's greatest strengths continues to be the genuine connections that form among its members. Through regular gatherings, shared experiences, and ongoing communication, participants have created a supportive network that offers encouragement, companionship, and a place to belong. Our WhatsApp group helps sustain those relationships throughout the week, making it easy to share invitations, celebrate milestones, ask for prayers, and stay connected in daily life.

As we look ahead, we hope to continue creating opportunities for young adults to deepen their faith, build friendships, and find community at St. Mary's. In a city where loneliness and transience can often feel like the norm, this ministry offers a reminder that the church can be a place where authentic relationships are formed and where people are known, valued, and supported. We warmly invite anyone in their 20s or 30s to join us as we continue to grow this ministry together.

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, Jessica Metoyer, 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*

We are happy to report that St. Mary's' buildings & grounds, and those of the rectory, continue to operate safely and soundly. The Vestry draws upon a capital reserve fund to defray the cost of major repairs, replacements, and acquisitions, not otherwise covered by the annual budget.

In the absence of a full-time sexton, we count on parishioners, paid staff and others who use our complex to identify things that need attention. Occasionally, something fails or is damaged that requires the vestry's immediate decision and allocation of funds. Otherwise, keeping the place clean, safe and functional is principally a volunteer effort. We appreciate your seeing the church as both a corporeal and spiritual home, and doing what you can do to help. As an example, on Saturday June 20, a group of 5 parishioners spent two hours clearing, trimming and cleaning in the garden facing Union Street. This was a lot of fun, and definitely helped improve the outward appearance of the property.



Among our most productive and rewarding activities are the parish-wide work parties that we hold once or twice per year to clean, repair, and dispose of excess material. We are planning the next event for a Saturday morning this Fall, 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:

- Restored and refinished cork floors in the sanctuary;
- Repaired; paneling in rear corner of chapel, next to madonna statue niche;
- Designed, built, and installed a movable table for rear corner of chapel;
- Replaced Fowler Hall roof;
- Installed sheet metal rain guards above sanctuary windows and rear door to Fowler Hall;
- Reconstructed the stair landing for exit to Union Street side of altar;
- Replaced rain gutters over mural side of main courtyard;
- Replaced the office telephone system and gate entry control.
- Refreshed the paint on the columns, bench and walls around the front courtyard.

Projects planned for the ensuing year include:

- Conservation of the 1966 fresco in the courtyard (60th anniversary!);
- Replacement of the furnace and boiler installation under the altar end of the sanctuary;
- Renovation of small bathroom in the rectory;
- Renovation of Fowler Hall first floor restrooms;
- Renovation of the sound system in the sanctuary;
- Replacement of Fowler Hall conference room chairs;
- Reconfiguring the area used for trash and recycling outside the music room; and
- Rationalizing and redistributing materials, tools, and other items stored in closets throughout the church.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or note anything that needs attention, and thanks very much for your help.

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

St. Mary the Virgin Finance Functions Summary

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

The finances of St. Mary's are managed by a team of volunteers and Ryan Boer Solutions (contractor)

Title:	Accountant	Finance Chair of the Vestry	Treasurer	Assistant Treasurer
2026 title holder:	Ryan Boer Solutions (Contractor) Cindy Resendes & Lucinda Carter	Liz Paxton (since 2/25)	Liz Paxton (since 2/25)	Ellen McLean since 2015
Type of Position:	Contractor. Coordinates with the Treasurer	Vestry member; voted to the vestry by the parish; appointed to the position by the Rector.	Volunteer who serves an unrestricted term voted or affirmed by the vestry each year.	Volunteer who serves an unrestricted term affirmed by the vestry each year.
Responsible for:	• Pays bills through BILL software portal. Records all expenses in QuickBooks to designated account • Records all receipts including online, ACH and securities donations in Breeze and QuickBooks • Prepares monthly financial statements for Finance Committee; Rector; vestry • Prepares some of the required filings for all government agencies • Administers payroll processing – coordinating with Diocese • Works with Treasurers on annual diocesan audit	• 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 • Coordinates, checks work of and provides direction to Ryan Boer employees • Reports on monthly actual vs. budget for vestry • Communicates and gives direction to State Street Investment Management, our investment manager	• Officer of the Corporation responsible for insuring best practices for all our financial decisions • Primary officer for all bank and investment 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 • Member of the Finance Committee	• Assists Treasurer in all aspects of finance. Member of the Finance Committee • Signer on Bank Accounts—authorized to move funds • Organizes and supervises team of volunteers who count plate money and record cash and check donations and make bank deposits. • Primary contact for Breeze Database and primary contact for parishioners for all donations. Prepares and sends quarterly donor statements. • Prepares some required filings for government agencies

2026 Finance Committee: Liz Paxton (Chair), Rev. David Erickson (Rector), Rick Darwin (Senior Warden), Betty Hood-Gibson, Ellen McLean (Assistant Treasurer), Arthur Perkins, Elizabeth Falcon, Matt Bartlett, Allan Jergesen.

2026 Legacy and Endowment Board Members: Liz Paxton (Finance Chair), (David Erickson, ex-officio non-voting member), Matt Bartlett, Arthur Perkins, Mark Karvosky, plus three vacant positions to be filled by Vestry.

2026 Accounting Team: Ellen McLean (Coordinator), Betty Hood-Gibson, Nel Ellwein, Kim Regan, Debbie Veatch, Carol Harris, Claire Alt, Linda Connelly

Notes:

Photos of Our Common Life This Past Year

