

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## 2022 Annual Report





# St. Mary's Mission Statement

St. Mary's is a Christian community of all ages grounded in worship, well-being, and service.

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## Staff

The Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, *Rector* ~ Karen Laroche, *Parish Administrator* ~ Michael Templeton, *Pastoral Musician*  
Jon Walker, *Property Manager*

# Rector's Report

The year 2022 was a time of great unity and coming together for St. Mary's. As the vestry and I have looked back, we are grateful to God and to the many members of our church who were faithful, generous, and flexible. It was a year of transition and a turning point as we completed the restoration of the historic church, a project begun in 2017. At the beginning of this year we embarked on the final phase of restoring the church, not knowing how or if we would be able to secure the funding necessary for the final phase. At the close of the year, we celebrate our return to a beautifully restored sanctuary, with the funding goals accomplished. In addition to this major accomplishment, our church community has continued to move forward in faith, incorporating the positive lessons we learned during the pandemic.

The completion of this restoration has energized our community and grounded us again in the beauty of this holy place. In addition to this accomplishment, our other ministries have continued to thrive, and we have seen continued faithfulness to the stewardship of the resources we share as a community. You will see in these pages that we continue to serve church members and friends, sharing the good news we have found in Christ Jesus. St. Mary's did a beautiful job of reaching in with care and compassion as well as reaching out to the wider community.

During the first half of this year, our focus was on continuing to rebuild and grow our ministries in the post pandemic climate. In the first six weeks of Eastertide, I was humbled and grateful for the vestry and community support as I walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. This experience was one of reflection and renewal for me, having missed opportunities for continuing education and retreats throughout the years of pandemic. This pilgrimage

rekindled my sense of vocation and fueled my joy in ministry at St. Mary's. As I said at the end of this journey, "I carried your prayers, and your prayers carried me." This autumn, I began a two-year course in certification as a spiritual director.

At the close of 2022, with the restoration of the church behind us, and with a second consecutive year of financial surplus, the vestry and I looked toward our future with a great deal of hope. We decided that in order to continue our positive development, we will call an assisting priest in the later part of 2023. We also revised our mission statement to reflect an emphasis on being a Christian community "of all ages."

Finally, we have named the priorities we will focus on in the new year. They are:

- 1) a focus on deepening spiritual growth for all ages;
- 2) an intentional emphasis on service and support for children and families;
- 3) continuing attention to stability and support for our mission; and
- 4) development of an organizational, staffing, and volunteer plan that will serve as an important foundation for future growth in ministry.

Soon we will begin discerning what God is calling us to become and to do together in Christ. I continue to share deep gratitude for the staff, lay leaders and members with whom I serve at St. Mary's. It is a great privilege to be your rector and to witness your faith, generosity and spirit.

*Faithfully yours,  
Jennifer+*





# 2023 Annual Meeting of the Corporation

## Sunday, February 5, 2023

- Call to order and Invocation– The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick, Rector
- Determination of a Quorum – Mattie Gustafson, Clerk
- Acceptance of the minutes of the 2022 annual meeting
- Acceptance of the special minutes of the corporation meeting, March 13, 2022
- Acceptance of 2022 annual reports by title as published
- Acknowledgement and gratitude for retiring and other leaders - Jennifer Pedrick
- Nominating Committee Report and Elections – Christine Winslow, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee
- Financial and Investment Report for 2022 – David Brierley, Treasurer
- Budget for 2023 – David Brierley
- Closing Prayer and Adjournment – Jennifer Pedrick

### ***From the Bylaws of St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth***

**Article IV, Section 1. Membership.** The Members of the Parish shall be all persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and 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, and who are not in arrears in the fulfillment of the pledges to support the Parish.

## St. Mary's Vital Statistics 2022

Baptisms	2
Confirmations	1
Receptions	4
New Members	10
Deaths of Members	5
Active Membership	304

# Minutes of the 2022 Meeting of the Corporation of St. Mary's

Sunday, February 6, 2022

St. George's Chapel and streaming on *Facebook Live and Zoom*

The rector, the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, called the 2022 Annual Meeting of St. Mary's Corporation to order at 10:18 a.m. She thanked everyone who made the hybrid nature of this meeting possible, Murry Edwards for putting together a wonderful annual report, and all those who submitted information and reports.

The Rector then offered a prayer.

Mattie Gustafson, parish clerk, confirmed that a quorum was present. (21 members are required for a quorum.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 via Zoom. The motion was passed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2021 Annual Report and its contents, excluding the report from the Nominating Committee, the Financial Report and the Proposed 2022 Annual Budget. The motion passed.

## **Acknowledgment and Gratitude for Retiring Vestry and Other Leaders**

Chris Bartlett served during 2021 as a vestry member to support the transition in the treasurer's role. This completes 6 years of service on the vestry, 4 as treasurer. During this time, he was a faithful and skillful manager of the multitude of details related to our church finances. In addition, his firm provided bookkeeping and bill paying services. His oversight and management have been invaluable to St. Mary's. He will continue his ministry at St. Mary's as the chair of our Investment Committee. We are very grateful for his expertise, commitment, and wise counsel.

David Ferkinhoff is completing 7 years on the vestry. He has been committed to outreach and our property commission, and since 2017 he served on the Historic Church Restoration Team, with a focus on applying for grants. His work on grants has garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars for this project. We look forward to his continued leadership in this area as well as his role as the coordinator of the soup kitchen. Thank you, Dave, for your constant care and investment in the well-being of this church and our local neighbors.

David Spengler is completing a 3-year term as a member of the vestry. During his tenure he was a member of the Moving Forward Task Force, and had a leading role in our Invite Welcome Connect ministry. He made a fine St. Nicholas. We thank you Dave for your positive attitude and presence on our leadership team.

Christine Winslow is completing a 3-year term as a member of the vestry. While on the vestry she also served on the Finance Commission and as the vice chair of the Sarah Gibbs Trustees. She also served as the co-chairperson of the Nominating Committee and the Stewardship Commission. She will continue as co-chair of our Stewardship Commission and our Nominating Committee. Chris, we thank you for your steady presence and faithful leadership.

Bill Hall is retiring as chair of the Finance Commission, after 7 years of dedicated service. During his tenure, he helped us to establish best practices as a vestry with regard to management, forecasting, and budgeting. In the first few years we met monthly to address issues, advise the vestry, and solve problems. Then we moved to quarterly, then to semi-annual meetings. At this point our financial life is going so smoothly we are transitioning to an ad hoc committee that will gather as needed. Bill, we thank you for your generous and wise leadership.

Julie Zecher - From the first week of the pandemic in March of 2020, Julie Zecher has been a constant contributor in our worship. As a volunteer she has worked tirelessly and faithfully with Michael serving God and our church. There was then testimony by 5 parishioners - Mary Weyhing, Bill Hall, Michael Templeton, Pauline Davis, Mattie Gustafson - as to the deep impact Julie's musical ministry had on their lives. Thank you, Julie, for your faithfulness, your magical voice, and your deep commitment to God and our church.



### ***Fleur de lis Award***

The *fleur de lis* award is one that is given from time to time by the rector to honor a member of St. Mary's for service and ministry that is extraordinary. This year, it is a privilege for me to honor Paul Westrom with this award. Paul has been a leader in this church for over 17 years, and I have had the joy of knowing and serving alongside Paul for 7 of those years. I first met him while he was the head of the rector search team in 2013. Since then, I have witnessed his tireless leadership as a Godly Play teacher, a eucharistic minister, a vestry member, junior warden, soup kitchen volunteer and other ministries as well.

Paul spent the better part of the last 4 years leading the restoration of the historic church. He is responsible for restoring the basement and for the new roof. His work with the team created the foundation for the interior restoration we hope to finish this year. This tremendous service has required more time and effort than we could possibly measure. He has been generous in passing the baton of the restoration leadership on to Ron Machtley.

Paul has one of the biggest hearts of anyone I have ever met. His love for his family, for Leigh, his children and grandchildren is evident. This full and loving life is grounded in his faith, his love for Jesus Christ and for this church. Paul has said numerous times, "I just want to be a regular guy around here." I said it last year and I will say it again, "Paul is no regular guy, he is an extraordinary servant of Jesus Christ." We thank you and we love you as our brother in Christ.

### **Thank you to the Vestry**

Marlo Pratt, George LeBlanc, David Brierley and Mattie Gustafson, officers, and all vestry members.

### **Thank you to the Staff**

Karen Laroche - Parish Administrator; Jon Walker - Property Manager; and Michael Templeton - Pastoral Musician.

### **Thank you to Commission and Committee Chairs -**

Rita Verespy and Chris Winslow - Stewardship

Bill Hall - Finance

Jeff Belden - Sarah Gibbs Trust

Pauline Davis - Pastoral Care Commission

Lynn Carlson LeBlanc - Community Outreach Team

All who lead worship, administrative and outreach ministries.

Communication - Ray Edler, editor of weekly eNews; Mattie Gustafson and Murry Edwards, for keeping our website up to date

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Chris Winslow, co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked her team - Dave Ferkinhoff, Dave Spengler, and Murry Edwards - and presented the slate of nominations for the coming year.

### **For Vestry -**

2-year term, ending in 2024 – Anne Wood

3-year terms, ending in 2025 – Jon Corbishley, Ray Edler, Rita Verespy

### **For Delegates to Diocesan Convention -**

As Vestry reps: Richard Updegrove (alternate - Ray Edler)

As congregation reps: David Ferkinhoff (alternate - Harry Gustafson)

No nominations from the floor were forthcoming. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to cast one vote for the entire slate of nominees. Motion passed.

### **Financial Report and 2022 Proposed Budget**

David Brierley presented a short overview of the Financial Report. The very good news is that every single income category came in over what was budgeted. The expense category was a bit more volatile - some over budget; some under budget. But the upshot is that we have ended the year with a surplus. Our endowment draw for this past year is down to 5.9%.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2021 Financial Report. The motion passed.

Then Dave presented highlights from the proposed Budget for 2022 (see page 16 in the 2021 Annual Report).

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Proposed Budget for 2022. Motion passed.

#### **Historic Church Restoration - a presentation from Jennifer Pedrick and Ron Machtley**

Jennifer gave an overview of how far we have come on this major project. She asked each member of the team that had been responsible for this progress to stand, be recognized and greatly thanked for their efforts. The team, under Paul Westrom, was Jon Juhase, Harry Gustafson, Don Barrett, Alex Allardt, Dave Ferkinhoff, Hugh Hall and Matt Spohn.

She pointed out that we are engaged, not just in a building project, but a project that will restore a place that has meaning and history to so many people. One of our goals in this restoration is to be able to tell the story of people's faith and relationships in this place for many generations to come.

The vestry has made the decision to begin as soon as possible with the renovations, and to begin to raise the money that we will need starting now. Here are some steps we all can take -

- *Pray for this project.* Starting next Sunday there will be a prayer written out in the bulletin that we will be saying every Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to pray for this project during the week as well!
- *March and April* - For one service in each of these months we will worship in the historic church so people can continue to get a sense of the importance and scope of the work that needs to be done there.
- *Donations* - There will be a formal campaign starting soon, but everyone needs to know they can make a contribution at any time.

#### **Presentation by Ron Machtley - via Zoom**

Ron's mission was to discover the scope of the work that needed to be done, and what that work would cost. He acknowledged that it can be challenging to be a newcomer telling folks who had much feeling and deep spiritual history invested in this building, how they should renovate and refurbish their church, and he was cognizant of the responsibility he was accepting.

Because Ron determined that the scope of the work needed a general contractor, he solicited bids for the project - and received two viable ones. He thinks things should start this April or May - the first job (repainting the exterior walls) cannot be done in the winter - and prices on labor and materials will continue to rise.

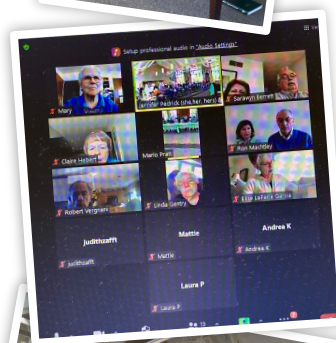
Overall the cost of the total project is estimated to be \$800-\$900,00, with a 10% contingency built into this amount.

The conversation will continue and the vestry has some major decisions to make.

Alex Allardt asked that the vestry consider a provision for a cyclical maintenance endowment, so that once the church is renovated, there are funds available for ongoing maintenance.

Jennifer offered a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie Gustafson  
Clerk*





# Minutes from Special Meeting of the Corporation

Sunday, March 13, 2022

The rector, the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The rector then offered a prayer for the restoration of St. Mary's Church.

## **Update and Background Information** – Jennifer Pedrick

Jennifer reported that things are really moving forward and she thanked Ron M. and all involved in making this progress possible. Here's what is happening:

- The vestry has approved a general contractor and hopes to sign a formal contract soon.
- We anticipate the work beginning at the end of April and to last about 4-6 months. Some electrical work has already begun.
- Jennifer invited everyone to stop by the church to see the current state of things. All Holy Week and Easter Services will be held in the historic church. After Easter we will not worship in the historic church until everything is finished!

## **Progress on financing this major project** – David Brierley

- We anticipate the cost of the project to be between \$800-\$900,000. This figure includes a 10% contingency.
- Between previous fundraising and some surplus from last year's budget, we are starting with approximately \$400,000. We also have received a \$100,000 gift, and the vestry has pledged \$71,000. So, before we even start, we have \$571,000.
- In order to formally sign a contract and go forward we need to have a loan in place. Bank Newport has approved granting us a non-restoring line of credit for up to \$500,000.
- We also need a two-step approval from the Diocese. We have cleared Step 1, and we have one more step to go through.

David B. made a motion that the congregation support the Vestry's decision to go forward with the project as presented, and to apply for said line of credit from Bank Newport. Mattie G. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer asked the congregation to do the following:

1. Come to the services that will be held in the historic church.
2. Make a pledge to this historic work. Pledges can be made over 3 years.
3. Come to the celebrations we will hold at the completion of the restoration.

Rita Verespy then discussed the pledge process. Pledge cards, artfully designed, will go out next week. There is a suggested schedule on the back for sending in your donations.

Richard Updegrave, convener of the Vestry Planning Committee, asked that all pledge cards be returned by Easter. A commitment from parishioners will help us meet the financial requirements required in order to secure the line of credit.

## **Question and Answer Time**

Q: Are we planning to write for any more grants?

A: We have in mind several small grants that might be available to us, but the timing is not good for any more major grants right now.

Q: Are there any plans for establishing an upkeep and maintenance endowment for future building issues?

A: If pledging and fund-raising goes really well, any surplus could be designated as a restricted fund for maintenance. But our priority for fundraising now is to complete the restoration project.

Q: Why is there a spread of \$100,000 in the number quoted?

A: We have not actually signed a contract yet. Once a contract is formally signed, the amount will be more certain. But inflation is very high these days, so a totally fixed cost is simply not possible. The amount quoted does include a 10% contingency.

Q: Has there been anything set up for naming opportunities?

A: Not yet, but this is a very good idea, and the Vestry Planning Committee will take note.

Q: Are there any details available about the interior?

A: We have spent most of the past 3 months on structural issues. Once these details are in place, we will address other issues.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Mattie Gustafson  
Clerk

## Work of the Vestry 2022

*This outlines major votes of the vestry in 2022. It does not include administrative or pro forma votes for 2022.*

### **January 27, 2022**

Approved spending \$25,000 on an audio system for the historic church. (This action needed to be taken now, because of anticipated price increases and lag time in actually receiving the materials.)

St. Mary's received an unsolicited donation and a motion was made to assign that donation, given in thanksgiving, to the historic church fund.

### **February 19, 2022**

Affirmed proceeding with E.W. Burman General Contractors on the historic church restoration.

### **March 6, 2022 - Special meeting**

Approved securing a non-restoring line of credit from BankNewport of up to \$500,000, based on the terms sheet BankNewport provided to us.

Decided to proceed with the work of getting on the National Register of Historic Places, using Kathy Cavanaugh, the consultant recommended by Alex Allardt.

### **March 24, 2022**

Ratified the decision, made by the rector, chief of restoration, and the designer, that we move the rood screen from its present location to the rear wall of the church. This decision was affirmed by the executive committee. The altar rail will move down to the opening where the rood screen was, ensuring that all members who can walk are able to get to the altar rail to stand or kneel for Holy Communion. The motion was seconded and passed. (9 yes votes, 1 no vote and 1 abstention.)

Appointed the following to St. Mary's Investment Committee: Chris Bartlett (chair); David Brierley, *ex officio*; Jeff Belden; Ted Bierman; Michelle Freitas; Edye DeMarco

Appointed John Corbishley as Vestry Trustee to the Sarah Gibbs Trust. His term expires in 2025.

### **April 16, 2022 - Special Meeting**

Approved the A1A Design Build contract, submitted by E.W. Burman including, but not limited to, Exhibits A, B, C and D. The motion passed unanimously.



**April 28, 2022**

Approved the design decision to replace the six pews in the choir area with an ample number of worship chairs.

The following motion was made: Move that we approve the commitment letter from BankNewport detailing the terms of the \$500,000 line of credit for the church renovation project. In addition, move that we authorize David Brierley in his role as St. Mary's treasurer, to sign the commitment letter on behalf of St. Mary's Church and also to sign any and all documents related to obtaining the line of credit from BankNewport. The motion passed unanimously.

**May 24, 2022**

Approved taking the budget surplus from 2021 and creating a vestry-restricted fund for special projects. Authorized spending up to \$60K from this restricted fund for necessary repairs to the rectory.

**June 16, 2022**

Voted to accept the color choices and finishes for the historic church, as presented by Taste Design, Ron Machtley, and the rector.

**August 25, 2022**

Approved a new "Fees for Facility Use" updated 25 August 2022.

**September 22, 2022**

Approved a motion to spend up to \$5,000 from this year's surplus, as designated by the treasurer, for the celebration marking the completion of the historic church restoration.

**October 20, 2022**

Voted to amend our current mission statement to add the phrase "of all ages, grounded in..." The mission statement would read – "St. Mary's is a Christian community of all ages, grounded in worship, well-being and service."

**November 17, 2022**

Established four priorities for the upcoming year, 2023 —

1. A focus on deepening spiritual growth for all ages.
2. An intentional emphasis on service and support for children and families
3. Continuing attention to stability and support for our mission, i.e., worship, well-being and service.
4. Development of an organizational, staffing and volunteer plan that will serve as an important foundation for these priorities.

**December 2022**

Accepted the proposed budget for 2023.

Approved the annual housing allowance for the rector.

## 2023 Leadership Priorities

- A focus on deepening spiritual growth for all ages.
- An intentional emphasis on service and support for children and families.
- Continuing attention to stability and support for our mission, i.e., worship, well-being and service.
- Development of an organizational, staffing and volunteer plan that will serve as an important foundation for these priorities.

## 2022 Officers of the Corporation and Members of the Vestry

Marlo Pratt, Sr. Warden, 2024  
George LeBlanc, Jr. Warden, 2024  
David Brierley, Treasurer, 2024  
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk, 2023

**Class of 2023:** Peter Collins, Matt Spohn, Julie Zecher

**Class of 2024:** Anne Wood, Lee Ferreira, Richard Updegrove

**Class of 2025:** John Corbishley, Ray Edler, Rita Verespy

## 2023 Nominating Committee Report

**For a 3-year term as vestry clerk ending in 2026:**  
Mattie Gustafson

**For a 3-year term on the vestry ending in 2026:** Cory Thurston Lallo, Lauren Lema, Alex Simmons

**For diocesan convention for 2023,  
as delegates:** John Corbishley, David Ferkinhoff  
**as alternates:** Harry Gustafson, Mattie Gustafson

*Committee: Peter Collins, Matt Spohn, Christine Winslow (chair), and Julie Zecher*

## Senior Warden's Report

As I look back on the past year here at St. Mary's my heart is filled with *joy* and my mind with *gratitude*.

Webster's defines gratitude as thankfulness or gratefulness. It's regarded as a feeling of appreciation by the recipients of others' kindness. This kindness can be represented as gifts, help, favors, or another form of generosity. Here at St. Mary's, such kindnesses manifested themselves in many ways.

Our Stewardship Committee saw this generosity firsthand as they kicked off their capital campaign for the final phase of the Historic Church Restoration. The immense generosity of our St. Mary's parishioners was truly heart-stirring. It seems when the leaders of our church asked for financial support for such an important undertaking, the steadfast nature of our St. Mary's community was there to "*help*". This help was enjoyed not just financially but also in the generous offerings of their many "*gifts*" with which our members have been blessed.

THANK YOU to all who were involved in this project. From the grant writing, fundraising, historic research, and finding and leading the companies who made this happen. We have a beautiful church that will be a significant part of the spiritual journey for countless St. Mary's members for many years to come.

St. Mary's Church has generated many happy memories over the last 175 years. Together, let's begin building the next generation of happy memories.

As we move into 2023, I have a "*favor*" to ask... Let's focus on deepening our spiritual growth for all ages by sharing the good word here at St. Mary's. We can achieve this by deliberately growing our ministries while continuing our outreach to the community and families. Together we can grow our church and share our gifts!

*Faithfully,*  
Marlo Pratt, Senior Warden



## The Work of this Generation:

### The Restoration of the Historic Church



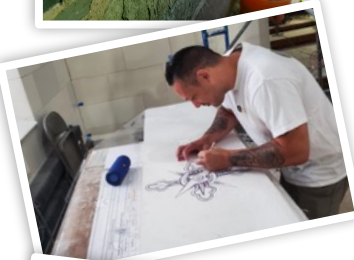
In 2021, the vestry set as one of its four leadership priorities for 2022 to “continue (and complete!) the historic church renewal project.” And that priority can be checked as **done!**

Under the capable leadership of Ron Machtley, Chief of Restoration, the job was completed **on time and under budget, quite a feat in a time of inflation and supply-chain issues.**



The project began in April after Easter (April 17) and was completed by November 1. The first service in the restored church took place on November 13, five years after the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick closed the church and restoration began with mold remediation and basement restoration in November 2017.

This third and final phase of the restoration (the previous two having been the basement restoration and a new roof) **focused on the church's interior.**



While there were no viewing opportunities for the congregation for safety reasons during the restoration, the communication plan with the **bi-weekly narrative and pictures** involved and informed the community throughout the restoration process. This combined with a community reception to view the color pallet and fabric selection in advance, minimized any surprises. Together they provided a transparency, resulting in fewer complaints from those not knowing exactly what was happening at the historic church.



To give the congregation confidence that smart design decisions would be made throughout the restoration, a process was established for decision making. The **design team** comprised of the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick as rector; Ron Machtley, as the Chief of Restoration; and Patti R. Watson, owner and principal of Taste Design, Inc., made an initial recommendation to the executive committee for approval and ultimately to the vestry for ratification. This ensured that at each stage of the decision making process there was a group of skilled and knowledgeable leaders and not an individual making the decision.



The guiding principles for the interior design were simple elegance, historic appreciation and transcendence.



While the original restoration plan was for the interior only of the church, it was agreed that re-pointing much of the exterior stone walls first to avoid water seepage from the outside onto the finished interior walls was **a top priority.** We contracted for 40% of the

outside stone walls to be repointed. All windows and doors were caulked (cost of work done: cleaning and re-pointing 40% \$65,000.00, caulking \$9,000.00).

E.W. Burman, Inc., of Warwick, RI were the general contractors for the project. They worked with **over fifty different craftsmen and professionals** during the course of this restoration. Due to Burman's help the job came **in on time and under our original budget** by \$45,523.22 in an environment where **materials and labor were increasing at 20% or more.**

**Every surface of the interior** of the church, except the windows was sanded/repainted and refinished or painted. Walls were replaced and repaired where needed and then repainted with faux stones. Minimal underlayment was replaced where needed, and 4-inch rifted, quarter-sawn, white oak replaced the carpet. The electrical system was upgraded, and the hanging pendant lights were restored. New lighting was added to the ceiling as well.

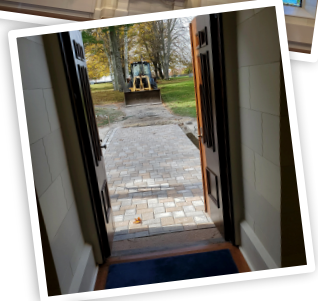
Major changes in the sanctuary included removing the rood screen and moving the altar rail to allow **easier accessibility to communion** to all worshipers and to open up the altar area. Several pews were removed as well as 6 choir pews, which were replaced with upholstered chairs. The pew changes allow for more **flexibility in the worship space.** A new metal railing around the internal steps going into the basement was created and installed as a safety requirement. A new state-of-the-art sound system was installed as well as a fixed-video camera to allow for live-streaming of services. A wire-loop hearing system was installed in the basement which precluded buying a new WIFI hearing system.

New landscaping was installed as well around the church. The entrances across the driveway were upgraded also. Another exterior improvement included new retaining walls going into the basement on the north side for exit safety. The walls and the change in the metal railing in the interior help ensure two egresses from the basement in case of an emergency.

After all the bills were paid, the final price for the project was \$45,523.22 **under the original budget estimate** of \$897,191.00.

The historic significance of the church was recognized on December 5 when St. Mary's received **final approval for listing on the RI Register of Historic Sites** by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission's State Review Board. Joanna Doherty, RI's Principal Architectural Historian, presented to the Review Board. Ron Machtley and Alex Allardt attended the public meeting with the nomination consultant Kathy Cavanaugh to answer questions and express thanks to the Review Commission and RIHPHC staff.

The 2023 Annual Report should have an update that the church as been added to the National Register of Historic Places since that designation will be reviewed in February 2023.



*From the final report to the vestry by Ron Machtley in December*



# Worship

Once again, St. Mary's members and leaders showed great flexibility in worship in 2022.

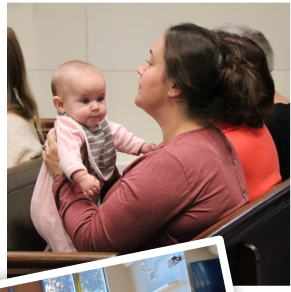
While the Historic Church was being restored from April to November, we were fortunate enough to have not one, but **two other places to worship during the seasons**. Throughout the spring, summer, and early fall, we were able to worship outdoors on the lawn or indoors in St. George's Chapel. The main variables determining where we worshiped were the weather. Rain and heat brought us into the chapel. Our outdoor services were very well attended by members and guests.

The most notable service of the year was the **rededication of the Historic Church** celebrated on November 13. It was attended by over 175 people including all the living rectors, past staff and clergy, the design, restoration and construction teams and our members. It was a great milestone to celebrate the gifts and work of this generation in bringing this sanctuary to renewed life. We rejoice and give thanks for all who supported this effort and all who gather in worship here.

We continued to stream our services online, and the faithful videographers **grew in number** to help this ministry. The Davids - Brierley and Cozzens - spearheaded coordinating the technology and the volunteers. We even offered streaming services for a funeral whose capacity was greater than the Historic Church. The overflow participants from the Historic Church were able to participate in the service in the St. George's Chapel by watching the service on the television screens. Communion ministers brought holy Communion to the Chapel for those who were present. Certainly, this was a **first at St. Mary's and involved much preparation and coordination**.

As always, the various liturgical ministries were agile in moving from one location and situation to another. The altar guild under Jennie Nestlerode's leadership made sure that the table was set regardless of where we were. Joanne Gracia and Debby Timby offered their talents for flower arranging by using locally grown flowers including many from our Community Garden or buying them.

The music ministry grew under Michael Templeton's leadership. **Additional voices joined the choir** and supported worship in a joyful and spirited way. Also, with the new organ, **a new organist** joined the St. Mary's music team. David Warfield began playing for us on November 13.





The greeters received training on welcoming families to worship as they prepared to start meeting the leadership goals for 2023. Also, children's bulletins were distributed to children as they came into worship. New faces joined in greeting on Sunday mornings and offering hospitality to members and visitors.

Those joining the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick at the altar grew. In addition to the crucifer and server at the altar, a **renewed ministry for acolytes**. Three faithful acolytes - Leo Barker, Sam Brower, Isaac Nestlerode - not only increased those at the altar but also brought a youthful presence to worship. And while there were additions at the altar, there was also a retirement. Carol Nicodemus, after **thirty years of faithful service**, retired from her ministry as a lay eucharistic minister and as leader of the eucharistic ministers.

As we returned to the Historic Church, the lectors and intercessor ministers grew as we welcomed returning members and new members to the team.

Christmas Eve services were full at both 4:00 and 6:00 as many who had not been present before came to experience the mystery of Christmas in the restored church. And this year, no reservations were needed to worship on Christmas Eve!

Not only did we continue to stream worship services from all venues, but the Evening Prayer ministry **continued to thrive**. Several people joined this ministry and received training from David Brierley. Knowing that people are willing to give faithfully of their time for this ministry deepens others' connections with St. Mary's.

The worship team is looking forward to a new year of continued growth. We are gathering again to grow each ministry and continue to develop our worship, the center of our community life. Members of this team include: Anne Wood, lectors; Jennie Nestlerode, altar guild; Carol Brierley, Evening Prayer; Carol Nicodemus (retiring) and Steven Downing, lay eucharistic ministers; Joanne Gracia, flowers; Murry Edwards, greeters; Michael Templeton, pastoral musician and The Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, rector.

*Contributors: Murry Edwards and The Rev. Jennifer Pedrick*



# Well-Being



Perhaps one of the highlights of St. Mary's well-being this year was the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick's pilgrimage on the Camino Santiago de Compostela. Her pilgrimage, taken during Eastertide, provided an opportunity for St. Mary's members to undertake their own pilgrimage as well. Using The Conqueror Virtual Challenge for the Camino de Santiago. **Over 20 people** participated in two teams to walk, bike, swim, or run the 480 mile pilgrim's way. As Jennifer completed this pilgrimage on her own in six weeks, those who were traveling it virtually were able to see street views of where they were walking as well as receive postcards about places along the way. Members of the teams were able to share with each other their progress, and the virtual pilgrimage allowed those at home to be with Jennifer as she walked the Way on her own.



During Jennifer's pilgrimage we also offered a pilgrimage around St. Mary's property on Rogation Sunday, the sixth Sunday after Easter. During this time, **prayers and thanksgivings were offered for the well-being of those who worked with water, stone, wind, and electricity as well as for the elements themselves.** The prayers for those who worked with stone and electricity were particularly *apropos* given that this was during the time of restoring the Historic Church. Around thirty people joined in this time after worship and celebration that included pinwheels, water bottles, and sparklers as well as cookies and lemonade.



Because of COVID we had celebrated Pentecost 2021 with a **"bring-your-own-food" picnic.** This community event was such a hit that it was repeated in 2022. The Pentecost celebration followed outdoor worship and included pinwheels, bubbles, cupcakes, and lemonade. Coming together in community to visit and celebrate is integral to well-being.



Underpinning St. Mary's well-being was Bible study. Karen Laroche led two studies: one on *Matthew* at the beginning of the year and the other on the first half of *Exodus* in the fall. The study of *Matthew* had us at the feet of Jesus, listening and learning about the heart of his teachings as given to us in the "Sermon on the Mount". The first half of the book of *Exodus* had us discovering that the journey the people of Israel walked is an image of the journey that every person makes when he or she sets out to follow God's movement in their life. **Through it all we challenged each other to wrestle with the BIG questions of the spiritual life.** What does it mean to live a God-centered life? Where is God leading us? What is preventing us from moving forward? Is God trustworthy? In our questioning, we discovered that there is so much to learn about the ever-present and abiding presence of God...in the biblical story and in our own.



During Advent, Michael Templeton offered "Journeying 'The Way of Love' through Advent." This discussion of the *Gospel of Luke* **provided a pattern for understanding** of how we as individuals, families and friends, and a community **can live the Way of Love in the world.**



As the vestry added "for all ages" to the mission statement, the Invite Welcome Connect committee sought ways to meet the **well-being of families with children.** One of the initiatives included a coffee and conversation with parents that discussed how St. Mary's could support them in the coming year. IWC also coordinated two Godly Play stories for children, one on December 6 about St. Nicholas and the other on the Fourth Sunday of Advent about Advent. This is a beginning to meeting the spiritual needs of children as well as their parents.

Many people contributed to expressing St. Mary's concern for the well-being of its friends and members.

The prayer card ministry continued to reach out to many members and friends who have helped us or others in many ways. We **continued to remember all those who were afflicted with the**

**COVID virus.** This year more than 100 cards were sent out. The cards consisted of an appropriate Bible verse for the occasion, a personal note, and a signature from “the Pastoral Care Team”. The team continued to send cards at various times during the year to our homebound and nursing home members. Other mailings that went out were to the vestry in thanksgiving for their service; the Tuck Fund Scholarship students with a Starbucks gift card; and Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Valentines to our homebound and nursing home members. Cards were also mailed to those working in the healthcare field. At the request of the rector or Pauline Davis, the head of the Pastoral Care team, several sympathy cards were sent as well.

The collation team hosted four collations in 2022 that fed the grieving friends and families of departed members. Each collation was tailor-made to meet the needs and circumstances of the families. Needless to say, many people contributed their talents and time to make each one of the collations a memorable **offer of hospitality that gave healing** to those grieving, whether friends and family or those hosting the collation.

The community garden supported both the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center as well as the parish. Many gardeners returned from previous years along with new faces from the parish and greater community. Approximately 25 plots were grown with many fresh vegetables donations made to The Dr. Martin Luther King Center. In addition the pastoral care flower beds continued to provide **beautiful bouquets to the parish and greater community**. Much needed gate improvements took place at the end of the season. Several gardeners have already expressed an interest in the 2023 garden season.

**The knitters wrapped friends and members of St. Mary’s in their prayers** as they knitted or crocheted 49 adult shawls, 2 children’s shawls, 2 baptism blankets, 2 lap robes, and 57 prayer patches. They also contributed to the well-being of those served by the Seaman’s Church Institute by providing 25 hat/scarf sets, 9 hats, 1 scarf to the Institute.

The Adeline Tuck Fund Scholarship awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships to St. Mary’s members and helped with their financial wellbeing. In order to help put names to faces, as well as to find out how St. Mary’s could support the college students while they’re in school, the Tuck Fund Committee met individually with students in June to find out their needs. The overall consensus was that the students wanted to know that St. Mary’s is thinking of them and to have a way to connect with each other. To emphasize the **reciprocal nature of being in Christian community together**, the committee also wanted to find out what gifts the students had that they could share in ministry to St. Mary’s. Recipients of Tuck Fund scholarships included Mia Bartlett, Connor Pratt, Jane Kaull, Claire Williams, Bella DeAngelo, Rayna Lombardo, Emma Adkins, Sarah Freitas, Melanie Williams, and Hailey Pratt.

*Contributors: Pauline Davis, Connie Dealy, Murry Edwards, Susan Kelchner, Elise La Parle Garcia, Karen Laroche*





# Service

Service at St. Mary's continued to not only thrive but to grow and offer new opportunities for members to connect with each other and the wider community in 2023

The Community Outreach Team was integral in bringing these opportunities to the parish.

Once again, the Community Outreach Team (COT) sponsored **a book discussion in February** with a social justice theme. Five participants read and discussed *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* by David Treuer. We all agreed that there was much to learn about the history of the Native Peoples in the Americas.

Early in the year the COT invited guest speakers to our Sunday services to inform and inspire us regarding some of the service needs and social justice issues facing our community. In February, Heather Strout, Executive Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center in Newport, returned to St. Mary's and shared with our parish information regarding the varied needs of the families they serve. St. Mary's collected food for the MLKCC food pantry throughout the year. Letting the parish know about the **specific needs of the pantry** such as toiletries or cleaning supplies, the food drive collected 2653 pounds of shelf items valued at \$4457 for the pantry. The Community Garden also donated many pounds of fresh vegetables to the MLKCC.

During Christmas we provided food and gifts for the MLKCC's Santa's Workshop for children and families. This year our **focus was on the teens served by MLKCC** and, with the generosity of our church members, we were able to collect almost \$2000 in gift cards. The Prayer Shawl ministry also contributed to this effort with 70 pairs of mittens, 1 hair scrunchie, 15 baby blankets, 65 hats, 1 baby sweater, 3 cell phone cases, and 15 scarfs. The MLKCC was very grateful for our continued support.

In April, as a kick-off to our spring event, Kathy Stark, Executive Director of the STAR Kids program visited St. Mary's. STAR Kids strives to meet the educational needs of children on Aquidneck whose parents have been incarcerated and/or are struggling with substance abuse disorders. Students who participate in the STAR Kids program receive school tuition and mentorship resulting in impressive graduation rates. Subsequent to that visit, St. Mary's parishioners generously donated to create summer backpacks with items such as: a book, sunscreen, water bottle, pen, journal and gift certificates for ice cream. **Generous donations and numerous members** helped fill the backpacks for all 26 Star Kids on Aquidneck Island!

Creation Care and exploring ways to care for our beautiful planet continue to be a goal of our diocese, the COT and the Community Garden. In July, representatives from Clean Ocean Access and Black Earth Recycling attended a coffee hour and taught us about **the benefits and ease of composting kitchen scraps**. Forty parishioners attended the special coffee hour where we were introduced to a sampling of compostable goods such as paper plates, cups and napkins. After the event, several families signed up for home composting services with Black Earth.

In September the soup kitchen ministry **returned to indoor, hot meals** after 2 ½ years of either not serving meals or serving bagged meatloaf sandwich meals outdoors because of COVID. Upon return to indoor meals, **the number of guests increased** from the low 30's to almost 40 monthly. Not only did the number of guests increase but the number of people serving as **new members joined in offering hospitality**.

**For the first time, four members of St. Mary's joined a Habitat for Humanity build day** in Westport, MA, in October with lunch provided to the entire crew by two more members of St. Mary's. In keeping with the guest speaker format, we plan to invite the Executive Director from the Buzzards Bay Habitat for Humanity to speak to St. Mary's before another build day.

Contributors: Lynn Carlson-LeBlanc, Jon Edwards, Dave Ferkinhoff, Judy Hall, Susan Kelchner, Elise LaParle-Garcia

# 2022 Financial and Investment Reports

## **INCOME:**

Income for 2022 did very well, especially considering the financial markets in 2022. Just about every income category finished the year ahead of budget, with a net result of income exceeding budget by approximately \$36,000.

## **EXPENSES:**

Things were a lot more volatile on the expense side of the budget. Several categories ended up exceeding the budget and at first glance it looks like we exceeded the budget by approximately \$60,000. However, early in the year the vestry voted to use some of the money from the surplus from 2021 to pay for repairs to the rectory. These repairs ended up costing \$65,109 so if you subtract that number from the other expenses the net result is that we came in at \$4,000 under budget! Combined with the results from the income side of things this means that we ended the year with a significant surplus for the second year in a row.

## **ENDOWMENT:**

The financial markets were very challenging during 2022, with bonds in particular turning in a historically poor showing. This was reflected in our endowment performance, which ended the year down approximately 16%. Endowment draws were exactly on budget at \$211,176, representing an approximately 5.7% draw for the year.

The Investment Committee met quarterly with the investment manager (Van Liew Capital) to review strategy, holdings and performance. There were no changes to the portfolio allocation, which continues to have an equity target between 60-70%. We continue to hold approximately 1-1.5 years of future draws in a conservative bond fund, which ensures that we would not need to liquidate investments during bearish conditions should the current poor market conditions persist.

## **LOOKING FORWARD - 2022 AND BEYOND:**

These financial results in the face of another extraordinarily challenging COVID year is an incredible testament to the strength of our community.

During the budget setting process the vestry discussed the possibility of adding an assistant priest and how we would go about funding that position. We took a very careful look at our existing income and expense categories and what we could realistically expect for income and expenses. We then decided to make an investment in our future by designating approximately \$50,000 to help fund the new assistant priest as well as other items.

*Respectfully yours,  
David Brierley, Treasurer*

# Budgets for 2022 and 2023

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (Preliminary, 1/31/2023)

### GENERAL AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

<u>INCOME STATEMENTS</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>		<u>Budget 2022</u>		<u>Actual 2022</u>		<u>Actual 2021</u>	
<b>Income:</b>								
Pledges	\$270,000	43%	\$270,000	48%	\$260,450	46%	\$270,954	39%
Loose Offerings	\$10,000	2%	\$10,000	2%	\$19,874	2%	\$11,593	2%
Donations	\$10,000	2%	\$5,000	1%	\$5,464	5%	\$30,099	4%
Investment Income & Draw	\$221,212	35%	\$219,212	39%	\$221,468	35%	\$209,273	30%
Buildings & Land Use	\$48,700	8%	\$44,800	8%	\$66,014	14%	\$82,415	12%
Fundraising/Other	\$12,000	2%	\$9,000	2%	\$21,003	3%	\$16,284	2%
PPP Loan Forgiven	0		0		0		\$66,125	
Surplus from prev years	\$51,504	8%		0%	\$0	0%	\$0	0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$623,416</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$558,012</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$594,273</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$686,744</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>								
Personnel(ex. Sexton)	\$352,130	56%	\$314,200	56%	\$307,564	50%	\$291,506	55%
Apportionment	\$77,836	12%	\$68,662	12%	\$68,662	11%	\$68,662	13%
Grounds(incl. Sexton)	\$19,700	3%	\$17,000	3%	\$11,634	2%	\$12,535	2%
Buildings & Utilities	\$93,500	15%	\$91,500	16%	\$83,280	13%	\$89,755	17%
B&G Major Projects	13300				\$65,109	11%		10%
Office	\$52,800	8%	\$50,100	9%	\$61,232	10%	\$51,033	1%
Outreach	\$3,500	1%	\$4,500	1%	\$1,423	0%	\$6,857	
Stewardship, Christian								2%
Formation, Music, Worship	\$10,650	2%	\$12,050	2%	\$19,950	3%	\$9,780	100%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$623,416</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$558,012</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$618,854</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$530,128</b>	
<b>Net Operating Excess,(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>-\$24,581</b>		<b>\$156,616</b>	

### Remaining Balance - Historic Church Restoration Fund:

\$ 108      \$ 280,737

<u>BALANCE SHEETS</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash in Bank	\$64,343	\$245,202
Investments - Endowment	\$3,658,444	\$4,735,098
Cash - Oliphant Proceeds	\$0	\$0
Diocesan Investment Trust	\$255,651	\$286,334
HC Restoration Fund	\$108	\$280,737
Other Assets	\$9,794	\$10,535
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,988,339</b>	<b>\$5,557,906</b>

### Liabilities:

#### Restricted Funds Deferred

to Next Year	\$40,770	\$40,770
Other Liabilities	\$25,787	\$6,813
PPP Loan	\$0	\$0

### Fund Balances:

<u>PLEDGE HISTORY</u>				
	<u>Pledged</u>		<u>Received</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>\$</u>	
<b>2022</b>	\$261,444	112	\$260,450	100%
<b>2021</b>	\$251,334	110	\$270,954	108%
<b>2020</b>	\$259,834	120	\$256,347	99%
<b>2019</b>	\$265,050	123	\$280,277	106%
<b>2018</b>	\$218,112	113	\$231,980	106%
<b>2017</b>	\$232,138	126	\$242,329	104%
<b>2016</b>	\$220,372	125	\$218,124	99%
<b>2015</b>	\$227,156	133	\$220,381	97%
<b>2014</b>	\$197,921	134	\$202,510	102%
<b>2013</b>	\$240,221	153	\$226,479	94%





# Restricted Funds

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (Preliminary, 1/31/2023) RESTRICTED FUNDS

<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Donations / Income:</b>		
Altar Guild	\$ 0	\$ 0
Churchyard & Grounds	\$ 250	\$ 0
Community Garden	\$ 0	\$ 0
Grounds & Parking Lots	\$ 0	\$ 0
Historic Church	\$ 332,518	\$ 245,477
New Parish House	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other	\$ 48,719	\$ 21,528
Tuck Fund	\$ 41,000	\$ 18,000
Capital Repairs	\$ 0	\$ 0
Prior Year Restricted Gifts Released		
Historic Church	\$ 0	\$ 0
Organ	\$ 0	\$ 67,341
	<u>\$ 422,487</u>	<u>\$ 352,347</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Churchyard & Grounds	\$ 7,660	\$ 15,080
Community Garden	\$ 0	\$ 0
Grounds & Parking Lots	\$ 0	\$ 0
Historic Church	\$ 880,779	\$ 39,525
Other	\$ 6,239	\$ 0
Stained Glass Windows	\$ 0	\$ 0
Tuck Scholarship Awards	\$ 41,000	\$ 45,000
Prior Year Restricted Gifts Expended		
Historic Church	\$ 0	\$ 0
Organ	\$ 0	\$ 67,341
	<u>\$ 935,678</u>	<u>\$ 166,946</u>
<b>NET RESTRICTED INCOME LESS EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><u>-\$ 513,192</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 185,401</u></u>



# Stewardship

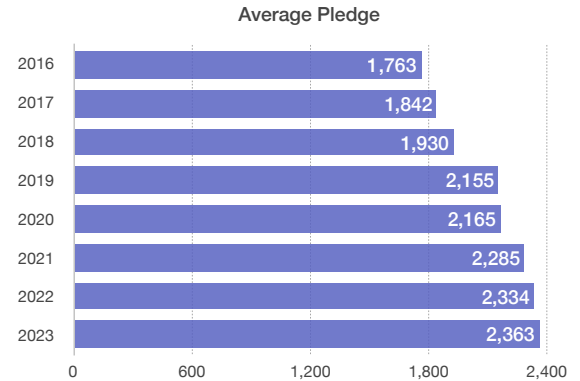
Our annual campaign theme for 2022 was “Every Perfect Gift” inspired from James 1:17. The campaign focused on what God has given us - our time, talents and treasures.

The total amount pledged for 2023 was \$269,444 from 115 members and families. Of those that pledged 23 members increased their pledge from last years, 10 new pledges were received, and 14 pledges were not renewed. The average pledge was \$2,363 and the total pledged increased by 2.65%. The total received towards pledges was \$254,393.

In addition to the campaign, this year we initiated our three-year capital campaign to complete the restoration of our Historic Church. As of December 31, 2022 pledges received for this campaign totaled \$341,082, and \$171, 675 has been received.

Many members have made outright gifts to this project, and. We are thankful and graced by their amazing generosity. Including outright donations from members, friends, and foundations, the total received in 2022 was \$329, 600.

*Rita A . Verespy and Christine M. Winslow, Chairs*



## Sarah Gibbs Trust

*The Sarah Gibbs Trustees are responsible for the oversight of St. Mary's grounds. Established by the Sarah Gibbs Trust in 1843, this group ensures that the property that Sarah Gibbs gave to "establish an Episcopal Church" is used to meet her wishes. The Trustees can either be independent or Vestry Trustees. The independent Trustees are self-nominating for up to seven 3-year terms. The Vestry Trustees are elected by the Vestry for the duration of their Vestry term to serve on the Trust. The Bishop of Rhode Island is an ex-officio member of the Trust*

In January Cousens Farm renewed its lease to farm the. hayfield in 2022.

Jeffrey Belden accepted reappointment by the independent trustees for a three-year term as an independent trustee when his current term expires March 1, 2023. Jim Vanicek resigned as an independent trustee. Ted Bierman was elected as an independent trustee to complete Jim Vanicek's term that ends on March 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Belden, Chair (ind. 2026), Fay Gosling, Secretary (ind. 2024), David Brierley, Treasurer (vestry 2024), Richard Updegrove (vestry 2023), Ted Bierman (ind.2025), John Corbishley (vestry 2025), The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop, ex-officio

All expiration dates are as of March 1 of the year indicated.



# Property Commission

The Property Commission oversaw the **strategic maintenance of St. Mary's property** and responded to unplanned needs. The Property Commission did not manage the restoration of the Historic Church. Due to the size of this project it was managed by Ron Machtley.

Outside of the restoration of the Historic Church, the **largest project of the year was the repair and repainting of the rectory**. Repairs included new shingles on the front of the rectory, new trim and sills for all the windows, new fascia trim on soffits, new basement door and trim, a rebuilt screen porch, new shutters, 2 new storm doors, new exterior lighting, and repaired and repainted railings. The entire exterior of the rectory was repainted with colors matching the other buildings on the property.

Six new **outside benches were acquired** to replace existing wooden benches which were at the end of their useful lives. The new benches are made of Polywood, a type of plastic made from recycled bottles. The benches were donated by generous parishioners and are located in front of the Gibbs House, near the community garden, and in the labyrinth area.

2022 was a particularly windy year around St. Mary's. Numerous trees were knocked down and shingles were blown off the Parish House. The trees were removed, including 5 dead trees in the cemetery area, opening up new grave plots for sale. The roof shingles were all replaced.

To add more lighting to the east parking lot we **acquired a solar light and a new pole** scheduled to be installed in January 2023. We are investigating additional solar lighting for this parking lot.

To support our parishioners who tend plots in the Community Garden, we added a new fence on the south end of the garden allowing a backhoe to periodically enter the garden area to remove waste products that have accumulated. We also repaired the main entrance to the garden.

To protect the renovated Historic Church, we investigated the replacement of old lightning rods on the church steeple. We have decided to **install 2 new lightning rods on the steeple in early 2023** with the majority of the funding coming from a generous donation from a parishioner.

We did not conduct a fall clean-up day due to schedule conflicts with the opening of the Historic Church, but plan to reschedule this to the Spring of 2023.

*Respectfully,  
George LeBlanc, Junior Warden*







Photo Credits for the Annual Report:  
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