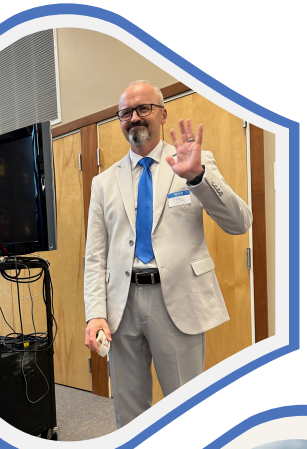


St. Mary's Episcopal Church

2024 Annual Report



St. Mary's Mission Statement

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

Table of Contents

Rector's Report	2
Associate Rector's Report	3
St. Mary's Vital Statistics	3
2025 Annual Meeting of the Corporation Agenda	4
Minutes of the 2024 Meeting of the Corporation of St. Mary's	4
2024 Officers of the Corporation and Members of the Vestry	7
2025 Nominating Committee Report	7
Senior Warden's Report	7
Work of the Vestry in 2024	8
Junior Warden's Report for the Property Commission	9
Financial and Investment Reports for 2024	10
Restricted Funds	11
Budgets for 2024 and 2025	12
Building Community through Worship	13
Building Community through Well-Being	13
Building Community through Service	15
Stewardship	17
Sarah Gibbs Trust	17
Ministry Directory	18

Staff

The Reverend Jennifer Pedrick, *Rector* ~ The Reverend Meaghan Brower, *Associate Rector*
Karen Laroche, *Pastoral Associate for Administration* ~ Jon Walker, *Property Manager*
Michael DiMucci ~ *Pastoral Musician*

Rector's Report

The pages of this annual report bear witness to a very special Christian community. The ministry of our church is made possible by God, along with the faithful commitment of our staff, lay leadership, and many members of our church. Alongside the ongoing ministries, we also experienced growth and changes in 2024. It was a time of challenge as well. It was a difficult and tender year for me, given the tragedies and deaths in my family. I will never forget the ways in which Meaghan, Karen, lay leaders, and members walked with me through it. I am grateful for the ways you supported me, picked up what I dropped, and allowed me to lead as I was able. Thank you for encouraging the sabbatical leave I took in the fall. It made all the difference for me to have this healing time. I have returned, strengthened in faith and gratitude for the ministry we share. It was a singular experience to be the rector of our growing, vibrant, changing church in 2024. Here are some of the noteworthy highlights and new developments.

- It was a time of growth in numbers. **Thirty-three (33!) new members** joined our church, many of whom are already participating in ministry.
- Meaghan and I **began to settle into our ministry partnership**, defining rolls and rhythms.
- Karen Laroche, Parish Administrator **grew in her position as we changed our church yard ministry**. Along with Property Manager, Jon Walker, Karen coordinates much more of the burial process and oversight as well as other increased administration.
- Beginning in 2025, Karen Laroche is **full-time with a new title**, Pastoral Associate for Administration. This recognizes the increase in responsibilities as well as the pastoral dimension of her important ministry. Meaghan, Karen, and I are grateful to share pastoral ministry with one another and to support our members in theirs.
- In June Michael DiMucci began his ministry as Pastoral Musician. The choir and our music program have grown and **added depth and joy to our Sunday morning and special worship services**.
- In September, we began **a major renovation of the rectory**, one that included removing a wall, widening doorways between downstairs rooms, changing some windows and doors, and updating some painting and lighting. This work will make the home much better for entertaining the parish as well as improving the layout and functionality for rectors and their families.
- The Christian formation team formed, and **began a thriving new ministry, Family Dinners**. These monthly meals are an intergenerational opportunity for fellowship, meaningful Christian formation, and worship. Well done, Meaghan and team!
- We had our **first Great Vigil of Easter since 2019** and it was an extravagant celebration. Many participated in the story telling, music, and hospitality that followed.
- The Vestry **reinstated a finance committee** to offer greater oversight and review of our financial resources.

While we are poised for continued growth, our staff, lay leaders and I are committed to tending and deepening the community life God has already planted here. I invite all members of St. Mary's to discern your role, both in giving and receiving as we share ministry. It is my privilege and joy to serve as your Rector and I look forward to what God will grow in our future.

Faithfully, Jennifer



Associate Rector's Report



Nothing is quite as daunting as a blank white page and blinking cursor when it comes time to reflect on a year of ministry in this place. I could write pages and pages of what we experienced together in 2024. Instead of trying to capture in words what this year has been like, I put my efforts into creating a video of the ministry we have shared together over this last year. It will be shown at our annual meeting, or you can watch it on our St. Mary's YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/DrVpOPZwBcQ>

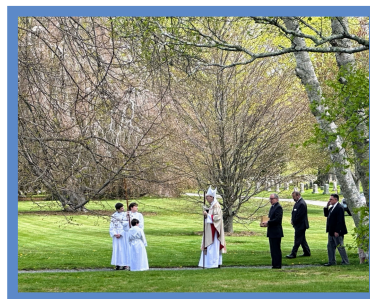
I'd like to note that there is much of our life together from this past year not shown in this video. The tears shed; the grief felt; the loved ones we have commended to God; the challenges we've faced individually; and the way we've cared for one another in the midst of those challenges communally. Those memories don't find their way into a video. But please be assured that the moments you see in this video were possible because of the fullness of the experience we shared together last year: the challenges and the celebrations, the joy and the sorrow. The way we tend to one another in difficult moments allows us to dance with one another on the brighter days. I am grateful for all the moments we shared together as each of them have helped realize God's love in this sacred place.

*With Gratitude,
Meaghan*



St. Mary's Vital Statistics

Baptisms	4
Blessings of Marriage	2
Confirmations	0
Receptions	0
New Members	33
Deaths of Members	5
Active Membership	332



2025 Annual Meeting of the Corporation Agenda

- * Call to order and invocation - The Rev'd Jennifer Pedrick, Rector
- * Determination of a Quorum - Mattie Gustafson, Clerk
- * Acceptance of the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting
- * Acceptance of the 2024 annual reports by title as published
- * Acknowledgement and gratitude for retiring and other leaders - Jennifer Pedrick
- * Nominating Committee Report and Elections - Marlo Pratt, Chairperson of Nominating Committee
- * Financial and Investment Report for 2024 - David Brierley, Treasurer
- * Budget for 2025 - David Brierly
- * 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.

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Corporation of St. Mary's Sunday, February 4, 2024

The rector, the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, called the 2024 Annual Meeting of St. Mary's Corporation to order at 10:25 a.m. She thanked everyone who made this meeting possible, especially Murry Edwards, for once again 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.)

Jennifer pointed out an error in the published agenda – the corporation does not need to accept the special minutes of March 13, 2022. This item was removed from the agenda.

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting, held on Sunday, February 5, 2023. The motion was passed.

- A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2023 Annual Report and its contents, excluding the report from the Nominating Committee, the Financial Report, and the Proposed 2024 Annual Budget. The motion passed.

Acknowledgment and Gratitude for Retiring Vestry and Other Leaders - Jennifer

Lee Ferreira - has served St. Mary's for three years on the vestry, beginning this role during the pandemic. She has been instrumental in leading the Invite Welcome Connect ministry. She has helped us to lead through the pandemic and rebuild our ministry with children and families. She coordinated the program last spring called Creation Care Kids as well as St. Nicholas Sundays. Lee has been a steady and gracious leader in offering hospitality to our members and friends. It

has been a gift to have Lee as a member of the vestry and to experience her growing faith and deep commitment to this church. We thank you for your ministry, Lee.

Rick Updegrove – Completing a three year term. While on the vestry he has offered leadership and wisdom. With his background in the law, he has been a huge help in creating leases, in guiding me as the rector on all kinds of things. Rick has also served as a lector and a delegate to Diocesan Convention. Rick has been a great and gracious leader at St. Mary's. I am looking forward to working closely with him in his tenure as senior Warden.

David Brierley - Finishing a three-year term as treasurer and has been nominated to a second term. David's ministry has many components and as you can imagine, being the treasurer is a huge responsibility. He is not able to be with us this morning, but for the record we are thankful for his service, past, present, and future.

George LeBlanc - As junior warden, George has been a faithful leader and generous member of the executive team and vestry. He began his leadership on the moving forward task force, the small group of leaders that helped me to guide St. Mary's through the years of pandemic. While junior warden, he has continued to address ongoing maintenance of property as well as improvements and those surprise issues that arise on our campus. This is a huge job to tend to the buildings and grounds at St. Mary's! His humor has added greatly to our vestry and to our executive committee meetings. George has been an incredibly faithful steward of this holy place and a gracious servant to our community. He has been dedicated and loving. George, we thank you for your service and your friendship in Christ.

Fleur de lis Award

From time to time the fleur de lis award is given by the Rector of St. Mary's to a member whose service and ministry has been extraordinary. This year I am recognizing Marlo Pratt, retiring senior warden.

Marlo has been much more than a senior warden. She began her service on the vestry during the pandemic.

- On the moving forward task force, Marlo was a visionary.
- Our years of outdoor worship, the online videography, and the worship shell are all a part of her legacy, her vision and her determination.
- Marlo lives our mission, worshiping, serving and supporting the well-being of individuals and our community as a whole.
- Marlo is a planner who shares her vision and her plan with others and motivates us all to get on board. She manages people and details beautifully. I mean, she actually makes life more beautiful here at St. Mary's.
- Since the first winter of the pandemic, Marlo has been the driving force of our winter light display. She lovingly lights our property, tending to every star and strand. Her spirit has also been a light here.
- She has led while I was away on the Camino and as we restored the historic church. She has led through the grief and the gracious time of pandemic. These have not been ordinary times.
- And Marlo is no ordinary leader. Thank you, Marlo. Your service and dedication to St. Mary's and to me have been extraordinary. We thank God for you.

Jennifer thanked the remaining officer on the vestry, Mattie Gustafson, who is serving in her third term as clerk, and the other members of the vestry (listed on page 6 of the annual report).

Thank you to Staff

Thanks to Jon Walker, property manager; Karen Laroche, parish administrator; and the Rev. Meaghan Brower, associate rector.

Thank you to Commission Chairs and other leaders in 2023

- Rita Verespy and Christine Winslow who lead the Stewardship Commission,
- Jeff Belden, Sarah Gibbs Trust
- Pauline Davis, Pastoral Care Commission
- Lynn Carlson LeBlanc, Community Outreach
- All who lead worship, administrative and outreach ministries.

Mattie Gustafson and Murry Edwards for keeping our web page up to date and Murry for her weekly editing and layout of the eNews.

Julie Zecher, Brooke Huminski, Trish Culver, Marilyn Hambly, and Harry Gustafson for their leadership in music ministry while we are in this interim time. You keep us singing and your leadership has held the choir together musically and pastorally.

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Marlo Pratt, chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked her team – David Brierley, Lee Ferreira, George LeBlanc, Richard Updegrove and Julie Zecher - and presented the slate of nominations for the coming year.

For Officers – All for 3-year terms, ending in 2027: Richard Updegrove for senior warden, John Corbishley for junior warden, David Brierley for treasurer

For Vestry – 3-year terms, ending in 2027: Sarah Barker, David Burke, Jason DeFalco

For Vestry – 1 year terms, ending in 2025: Jerry Culver, Anne Wood

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.

For Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Carol and David Brierley

For Alternate Delegates to Convention: Harry and Mattie 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 2024 Proposed Budget

Richard Updegrove, standing in for the treasurer, David Brierley, presented a short overview of the Financial Report. (Please see page 10-11 in the 2023 Annual Report for details.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2023 Financial Report. The motion passed.

Then Richard presented highlights from the proposed Budget for 2024 (see page 12 in the 2023 Annual Report). There was a suggestion that the treasurer remove the Oliphant Lane line item.

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the Proposed Budget for 2024. Motion passed.

Jennifer offered a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



*Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk*

2024 Officers of the Corporation and Members of the Vestry

Richard Updegrove, Sr. Warden, 2027

John Corbishley, Jr. Warden, 2027

David Brierley, Treasurer, 2027

Mattie Gustafson, Clerk, 2026

Class of 2025: Jerry Culver, Rita Verespy, Anne Wood

Class of 2026: Cory Thurston, Lauren Lema, Alex Simmons

Class of 2027: Sarah Barker, David Burke, Jason DeFalco



2025 Nominating Committee Report

For a 3-year term on the vestry ending in 2028:

Jerry Culver, Murry Edwards, and Nancy Kimble

For diocesan convention for 2025

As delegates: Cory Thurston and Rita Verespy

As alternates: Lauren Lema and Chris Winslow

Committee: Jerry Culver, Marlo Pratt (chair), Rita Verespy, Anne Wood

Senior Warden's Report

My first year as senior warden has certainly been memorable. Winter witnessed tragic losses for the St Mary's community. The compassionate response of the entire congregation set the tone for the entire year.

Our 2024 vestry immediately coalesced under the stress of tragedy; the support and solidarity of the entire vestry has been a hallmark of the 2024 year. During this period of loss, the vestry continued to responsibly address other issues facing the church. The vestry began planning to complete its capital maintenance responsibilities by addressing deferred repairs and improvements to the rectory building. Fresh with the experience of renovating the historic church, the vestry determined the scope of the rectory rehabilitation, engaged engineers to perform a due diligence evaluation of the project, accepted and reviewed bids for the project, and engaged a contractor. Work began at the end of September and continues to progress at the present time. Kudos to junior warden, John Corbishley, for his diligent work as clerk of the works for this project. And a big thank-you to those members of the church who attended the parish meeting at the end of September; your support and suggestions have been instrumental to the success of this construction. Also, a huge thank-you to the donors who generously funded this project, making the need for financial contributions from our operating budget virtually non-existent.

In addition, Jason Defalco has successfully led the Christian formation effort. St. Mary's congregation continues to grow as a direct result of Jason's efforts. This program was coupled with an ambitious and effective summer schedule of activities, including concerts, beach picnics, and other activities. Thanks to the Rev. Meaghan Brower for her support of the beach picnics, which were very successful community-building efforts. The church's family dinner program launched this fall has been well attended and has helped offer a means for younger families to experience the St. Mary's spirit.

Finally, the vestry has successfully weathered the sabbatical of our rector. The Rev. Meaghan Brower's leadership has been incredible during this period. We welcome the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick back and look forward to her leadership in the coming year.

Respectfully,

Richard Updegrove, Senior Warden

Work of the Vestry 2024

February 29, 2024

Voted to reopen the search for a church musician.

Accepted the Parochial Report, which was then submitted to the Diocese.

April 25, 2024

Authorized repair work on several stained-glass windows in the historic church, as described in the Burman quote.

July 25, 2024

Gave preliminary approval to spending \$275,000 for the rectory renovation, and approved spending some of the money already on hand to cover the cost of deposits that are required to enable the project to move forward. This motion passed unanimously.

Approved allocating \$75,000 from existing surplus and gifts already received to cover the costs of initial deposits for this project. This motion passed unanimously.

Approved a 3-month sabbatical for the rector, Jennifer Pedrick.

August 22, 2024

Changed Karen LaRoche's job title from Parish Administrator to Pastoral Associate for Administration, and increased her hours to full time.

Approved the withdrawal of money from the vestry restricted fund named "Perry – altar window" for the purpose of paying for the repairs to the stained-glass windows in the church.

Accepted the proposal by GW Renovations for the renovation to the rectory. Designated John Corbishley as the contact person for the contract and authorized him to sign a contract consistent with GW's bid. This motion passed unanimously.

September 26, 2024

Authorized electronic regular payments to the following companies:

- Cox Communications
- Rhode Island Energy
- BankNewport credit card
- Pitney Bowes (postage meter)
- PEAC Connect (Marlin Leasing) (printer/copier)
- Vanco
- Monk Development (web site)

December 19, 2024

Accepted the proposed Budget for 2025.

Accepted a donation for \$5,000 and restricted it to be used for the music program.

Approved the Annual Housing Allowance for the rector and the associate rector.

Junior Warden's Report on the Property

St. Mary's property and the buildings that serve its community require constant attention whether maintaining, repairing, keeping them up-to-date, or modifying them to better meet the needs of the parish. 2024 was a busy year in attending to these goals.

Jon Walker, our property manager, takes the lead for maintaining our 80 acres of property and buildings. General improvements beyond routine maintenance included

- completing **new fencing** around the community garden,
- **removing diseased trees**, as well as two large trees that blew down along the Bridal Path,
- and **pruning trees** around the rectory for safety reasons.

This year the Karen LaRoche and Jon Walker assisted in changing how we manage the cemetery. Prior to 2024, an outside contractor conducted all aspects of burial. Because our relationship with the contractor changed, we looked at best practices for caring for the deceased and their families.

- We reviewed state regulations to insure that we are in **compliance regarding escrow of funds for perpetual care**.
- We **evaluated the processes for interments** since services need to happen quickly in the event of a death.
- As a result, we **moved the coordination of burial in-house**. Karen Laroche, Pastoral Associate for Administration, coordinated church responsibilities with the bereaved, and Jon Walker handled the outdoor elements of interment.

Even though the historic church renovation ended in 2022, like any historic building it is in constant need of attention. In the spring, a leak was discovered at the base of the Ascension window. After examining the framing around the Ascension window and the other windows in the church, we did several things to preserve the windows.

- Areas of stone that had **eroded over the past 100** years were built out to better support and seal the framing of the windows.
- We also **replaced the plexiglass protective sheet covering the windows with vented lexicon**, a stronger material that will prevent the heat buildup that can weaken the lead panes holding the glass.
- Fortunately, our insurance company covered some of the costs as did the generosity of a past parishioner who had set up the Perry - altar window fund. As a result, we were able to complete the \$51,000 project **without going into our operating funds**.

Also in 2024, a parishioner's generosity allowed us to begin the first major rectory renovation project in 30 years. As the project's estimated cost of \$275,000 became apparent, other parishioners stepped forward with donations to make sure it could be expanded and to include the updating of other areas of the first floor in addition to the kitchen. The scope of the project was to

- renovate the kitchen, open the dining room area and expand the opening from the dining room into the living room;
- enlarge the passage from the dining area to the back porch;
- put in new cabinetry, appliances, and lighting.

Because of this renovation, the first floor of the rectory will have a more **open, updated floorplan**. This should do us well for at least the next 30 years .

Many of you have seen the activity in the Gibbs House this past year. In January, 2024 we rented the space to Looking Upwards, a local nonprofit, that is operating an arts and crafts program for developmentally challenged individuals.

All this work is a direct result of the generosity of the members of our church community and I thank you for providing the resources to maintain this property that has been entrusted to us.

Respectfully submitted,

John Corbishley, Jr. Warden

2024 Financial and Investment Reports

In 2024 we experienced some significant changes in our ministry and staffing. With the vestry's careful planning, the community's generosity, and God's provision we had a solid year. As we are growing, we see an impact on our financial life. Some of this growth increases our income, yet growth also increases our expenses. Over the course of 2024 we now have four full-time staff members and a quarter time pastoral musician. We have also added new programs. This was a planned and necessary part of our continued growth and mission. As the treasurer, it can be challenging to guide us in the midst of change!

Income

In several categories, year end income was significantly ahead of budget. Pledges finished \$32,205 over budget. Loose offerings were \$10,000 over. Donations were \$30,000 over. Our building and land use, which includes income from the churchyard, was \$23,702 over budget. We expected a shortfall in this first year with a second full time priest, so we allocated \$72,600 of previously received unexpended funds to the 2024 budget. Thanks to the strong income items above, we did not need to use the entire amount allocated. Most of this money is still available to use for future projects.

Expenses

We had several unforeseen developments that impacted our expenses. We finished the year approximately \$12,000 over budget in expenses. This was the result of unplanned first quarter changes in how we managed the churchyard. There were personnel expense increases as a result. We had not anticipated a sabbatical for the Rector as we created the budget. This added modest personnel expenses as we paid other pastoral personnel to offer ministry in the rector's absence. While some expense items were under budget, the net result in expenses was \$12,000 over budget for the year. When combined with a slight shortfall in income, this results in the net deficit of \$14,655.

Endowment

The financial markets put in another very strong showing during 2024. This was reflected in our endowment performance, which ended the year up approximately 14.04%. Endowment draws were exactly on budget at \$211,176, representing an approximately 6.3% 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 year of future draws in a conservative bond fund, which ensures that we would not need to liquidate investments during bearish conditions.

Looking Forward — 2025 and Beyond

During the budgeting process the newly reinstituted Finance Commission, in concert with the vestry, discussed the funding challenges facing us in 2025. These include funding the personnel expense of our growing church, as well as the programs that will support our membership. We established a somewhat aggressive goal of \$325,000 for parish pledges. We reluctantly agreed to increase our draw from the endowment to the maximum allowed by the Diocese of 7%. We still have a small amount of previously received unexpended funds available. Increasing the draw is a short term solution as it is our practice to keep our draw lower. In order to support the continued growth of our parish we need to increase the amount that we receive from pledges, offerings and donations. It is my hope that the continued generosity of our parishioners will result in achieving these increases without the higher draw on the endowment. Thank you to all who have been generous with financial support.

*Respectfully yours,
David Brierley, Treasurer*

Restricted Funds

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (1/31/2024)

RESTRICTED FUNDS

<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Donations / Income:		
Altar Guild	\$ 0	\$ 0
Churchyard & Grounds	\$ 0	\$ 690
Community Garden	\$ 0	\$ 0
Grounds & Parking Lots	\$ 0	\$ 0
Historic Church	\$ 13,552	\$ 91,666
Music Program	\$ 5,097	
Rectory Renovations	\$ 80,500	\$ 0
Other	\$ 12,750	\$ 45,147
Tuck Fund	\$ 33,000	\$ 20,000
Reserve for next year	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
Prior Year Restricted Gifts Released		
Historic Church	\$ 0	\$ 0
Church Windows	\$ 47,910	\$ 0
	<u>\$ 192,809</u>	<u>\$ 187,503</u>
Expenditures:		
Churchyard & Grounds	\$ 0	\$ 21,240
Community Garden	\$ 1,298	\$ 5,757
Grounds & Parking Lots	\$ 0	\$ 0
Historic Church	\$ 0	\$ 4,380
Rectory Renovations	\$ 112,199	
Other	\$ 8,200	\$ 16,425
Gibbs House	\$ 0	\$ 7,132
Tuck Scholarship Awards	\$ 33,000	\$ 34,000
Prior Year Restricted Gifts Expended		
Historic Church	\$ 0	\$ 0
Church Windows	\$ 47,910	\$ 0
	<u>\$ 154,697</u>	<u>\$ 88,934</u>
NET RESTRICTED INCOME LESS EXPENDITURES	<u><u>\$ 38,112</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 98,569</u></u>

Budgets for 2024 and 2025

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT (1/31/2024) GENERAL AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

<u>INCOME STATEMENTS</u>	<u>Budget 2025</u>		<u>Budget 2024</u>		<u>Actual 2024</u>		<u>Actual 2023</u>	
Income:								
Pledges	\$325,000	41%	\$300,000	41%	\$332,205	46%	\$276,443	42%
Loose Offerings	\$17,000	2%	\$12,000	2%	\$22,018	3%	\$26,029	4%
Donations	\$20,000	3%	\$11,000	2%	\$41,277	6%	\$48,259	7%
Investment Income & Draw	\$289,996	37%	\$221,216	30%	\$221,468	30%	\$221,468	34%
Buildings & Land Use	\$92,500	12%	\$68,100	9%	\$91,802	13%	\$70,362	11%
Fundraising/Other	\$10,040	1%	\$17,000	2%	\$2,988	0%	\$8,093	1%
Other Income	\$39,755	5%	\$101,087	14%	\$16,075	2%	\$1,072	0%
Total Income	<u>\$794,291</u>	100%	<u>\$730,403</u>	100%	<u>\$727,832</u>	100%	<u>\$651,727</u>	100%
Expenditures:								
Personnel	\$495,000	62%	\$450,000	62%	\$468,322	63%	\$373,008	59%
Apportionment	\$85,041	11%	\$78,553	11%	\$78,553	11%	\$77,836	12%
Grounds	\$19,000	2%	\$19,000	3%	\$21,459	3%	\$11,523	2%
Buildings & Utilities	\$97,500	12%	\$103,100	14%	\$96,305	13%	\$91,034	14%
B&G Major Projects	0		0		\$0	0%	\$0	10%
Office	\$72,600	9%	\$61,100	8%	\$53,360	7%	\$66,401	1%
Outreach	\$9,500	1%	\$4,500	1%	\$6,694	1%	\$6,347	
Stewardship, Christian								2%
Formation, Music, Worship	\$15,650	2%	\$14,150	2%	\$17,795	2%	\$10,805	100%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$794,291</u>	100%	<u>\$730,403</u>	100%	<u>\$742,487</u>	100%	<u>\$636,953</u>	
Net Operating Excess,(Deficit)	<u>\$0</u>		<u>\$0</u>		<u>-\$14,655</u>		<u>\$14,773</u>	

		<u>PLEDGE HISTORY</u>					
<u>BALANCE SHEETS</u>	<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>		<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>%</u>	
Assets:				<u>\$</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>\$</u>	
Cash in Bank	\$113,939	\$176,599	2024	\$310,000	116	\$332,205	107%
Investments - Endowment	\$4,153,069	\$3,932,407	2023	\$264,961	103	\$276,443	104%
Cash - Oliphant Proceeds	\$0	\$0	2022	\$261,444	112	\$260,450	100%
Diocesan Investment Trust	\$257,266	\$255,651	2021	\$251,334	110	\$270,954	108%
HC Restoration Fund	\$119	\$113	2020	\$259,834	120	\$256,347	99%
Other Assets	\$10,244	\$10,094	2019	\$265,050	123	\$280,277	106%
Total Assets	<u>\$4,534,637</u>	<u>\$4,374,864</u>	2018	\$218,112	113	\$231,980	106%
			2017	\$232,138	126	\$242,329	104%
			2016	\$220,372	125	\$218,124	99%
			2015	\$227,156	133	\$220,381	97%

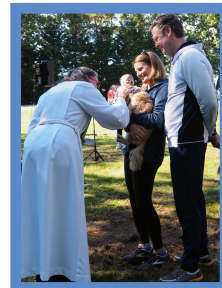
Building Community through Worship

Worship is where our community life is most evident at St. Mary's. As we come together to worship and share in holy communion, we are made one with the body of Christ and with each other.

In 2024 our worship life reflected our sense of community in various ways.

- We regularized **beach compline** along with a bring-your-own picnic during the summer with monthly Sunday evening gatherings from June to August at Third Beach in Middletown.
- We worshiped with each other and the larger community through **numerous funerals**, one of which was for former St. Mary's rector, the Rev. Gordon Stenning.
- We **celebrated jazz eucharists** with the Lois Vaughn Quintet in July and December and welcomed many guests to worship.
- We welcomed **Michael DiMucci as our new pastoral musician**. Under his leadership, the choir gained new members and continued to support each other in their ministry.
- The altar guild, lectors, and greeters supported the clergy in over 100 weekend worship services, 3 Holy Week services including a return of the Great Vigil of Easter, 3 Christmas services, and 5 funerals. The dedication of these lay ministers to our St. Mary's community was outstanding.
- The audio-visual team broadcasted 10:00 worship services and special services on Facebook and YouTube which allowed an average of 14 viewers per service to watch on line, **bringing those who couldn't be physically present into the worshipping community**.

Contributors: The Rev. Jennifer Pedrick, Murry Edwards, Anne Wood



Creating Community through Well-Being

Throughout 2024, St. Mary's created community within and without the parish by looking after the well-being of our members and offering events to foster well-being for others.

The newly formed Hospitality Team coordinated events including coffee hour, Bites and Beverages, collations, monthly Family Dinners, and special events. 2024 highlights of this team include

- providing fellowship following worship by **scheduling monthly coffee hours** after the Sunday service;
- changing the name of the monthly Wine and Cheese event to **Bites and Beverages to show the inclusive nature of the get-together**;
- providing **collations** which offered hospitality for 3 large funerals including that of the Rev. Gordon Stenning, former St. Mary's rector;
- offering dinner before a funeral for a family and providing lunch following a funeral for another; and
- creating a **group called Heavenly Hosts** who help support social events.

Another **new addition** to help with our well-being was the Christian Formation Team. The team had various new initiatives in 2024 including

- a **monthly Christian formation email** which highlighted the month's theme, a read-aloud video of a children's book on that theme, and a video of "Ask a Priest";
- **Family Dinners** on the 3rd Wednesday of each month allowed everyone an opportunity to join in fellowship first by eating together and then by giving time for children and adults to separately reflect on the monthly theme;

- **small group opportunities on Wednesdays** that included a weekly Lenten group to reflect on the theme of forgiveness and the Faith Friends Book Group that met to discuss Richard Rohr's *he Universal Christ*;
- a series of **Sunday morning workshops** led by Brian Litzenberger, lay associate, on Walk in Love, our stewardship theme for 2024;
- a **Rest and Return Retreat** on an August Sunday afternoon led by the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick and Jenny Williams;
- a **weekly podcast of the sermon** for those who were unable to attend church. A weekly average of 13 people experienced St. Mary's through this.

Fruits of the Spirit, Fruits of the Summer was the highlight of St. Mary's efforts to celebrate our community while extending a welcome to members and neighbors. Special events included

- **Sundays that featured seasonal fruits** which many parishioners contributed their time whether picking fruit, preparing food, and serving or cleaning up;
- **indoor and outdoor concerts** where we offered hospitality to those who came to hear Caroline Cotter, the Good Living Band, and Bar Fly;
- **monthly Sunday beach dinners** where members and friends gathered for dinner, a bonfire, and Compline; and
- **publishing a cookbook** of favorite seasonal recipes.

Other seasonal highlights that added to our community's well-being included a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and Advent wreath making on the first Sunday of Advent.



The Pastoral Care Team continued to be a pillar of the St. Mary's community and integral in helping create community for those who are able to actively participate in church life as well as those who are home-bound. The team connected St. Mary's members by

- **offering Eucharist to those at home on a monthly basis** with a team of 4 Lay Eucharistic Visitors making over 50 home visits this year to 9 members;
- making **2 dozen pastoral care visits to our homebound members**; and
- by sending over 150 cards to **members of the church community**.

The Community Garden literally grew this year! A **grant from the People's Garden** project allowed for

- soil improvement, a pollinator garden, and tools for maintenance; and
- **new plots** which brought new faces to the garden including Looking Upwards and their creative arts affiliate Sunlight Studios.

The Community Garden also contributed to the well-being of our members with flowers for pastoral care visits. The gardeners **hosted a summer gathering after a Saturday service in August to celebrate the garden** with food, refreshments, a garden tour, and live music.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry met on Wednesdays and offered an **opportunity to knit and visit for members of the parish**. While doing this, they completed 32 adult prayer shawls, 3 children's prayer shawls, 5 lap robes, 70 prayer patches, and 2 baptism blankets. Their handiwork went out to members of the parish as well as outside organizations.

Again, the Tuck Fund Committee helped St. Mary's college students by awarding \$33,000 in scholarships to 11 students in 2024. Students who benefited from this scholarship include Bella DeAngelo, Ellen Stack, Emma Adkins, Hailey Pratt, Jae DeFalco, Jane Kaull, Mary Stack, Melanie Williams, Mia Bartlett, Rayna Lombardo, and William Burke.

Contributors: Karen Stevenson, Elise LaParle Garcia, Susan Kelchner, Murry Edwards



Creating Community through Service

Throughout 2024 St. Mary's offered opportunities for service to those in Newport County, Providence, and beyond. While these events created connections with others, St. Mary's members also benefited from the community that it helped us form among ourselves.

The Community Outreach Team offered new initiatives and opportunities for service in 2024, which included

- Focusing on the needs of the food and housing insecure in our greater community.
- Offering a coffee hour and book group discussion on ***Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder***. Over 50 people gathered for this discussion, and everyone was moved by the true story of a special program designed to meet the medical, social and other needs of a group of unhoused that largely live outdoors in Boston.
- **Collecting items for "Blessing Bags"** that included toiletries, socks, and snacks to be distributed to the unhoused at a later date. In addition, two dentists in the community donated toothpaste and toothbrushes to be included in the bags.
- Using the Annual Day of Service to **help at the Church Beyond Walls** in Providence on June 29. Three teams contributed to making this day a success and creating community while working together.
 - One team worked in St. Mary's kitchen preparing sandwiches and salads and packaging the fruit and desserts lovingly donated by our parishioners.
 - Another team of high school and college students put final touches on the Blessing Bags that were to be distributed at the Church Beyond Walls worship service and meal.

- Finally, a third team participated in the Church Beyond the Walls worship service at Burnside Park and served the prepared meal to approximately 100 food insecure adults that afternoon, who exclaimed that everything was delicious.
- **Providing a coffee hour and book group discussion** about Javier Zamoro's memoir *Solito*, which relates his experience as a young boy from El Salvador who migrated to the United States to reunite with his parents.
- Inviting a **guest speaker from Conexión Latina** in Newport to provide information regarding the work they are doing with immigrants on Aquidneck Island.

And along with the new initiatives, St. Mary's continued to support the community and create community by

- **Hosting the monthly Soup Kitchen ministry** at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Newport. On average, about 70 people attended the Soup Kitchen each month and enjoyed a hot meatloaf dinner.
- Providing a Soup Kitchen **dinner at Family Dinner to bring awareness of this ministry** to the parish using the monthly theme, "Love thy neighbor."
- Contributing **over 1200 pounds of food** to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center which included **4 dozen birthday cake kits for children**.
- **Growing fresh vegetables** in the Community Garden for the MLKCC Food Pantry.
- Generously giving over \$2500 in gift cards and over 2 dozen toys to the MLKCC Santa's Workshop as well as 19 pairs of mittens, 2 dozen scarves, 1 pair of boots, 58 hats, 10 hat/scarf sets, 2 head bands, and 4 baby blankets.
- **Knitting 12 hat/scarf sets, over 100 hats, and 6 red, white, and blue lap robes** that went to the **Seaman's Church Institute, Conexión Latina, and Pell School Family Center**.

Contributors: Lynn Carlson, Dave Ferkinhoff, Jon Edwards, Judy Hall, Susan Kelchner



Stewardship

The Stewardship Commission is responsible for recording the generous gifts from all who support St. Mary's. All donations, and especially member pledges, provide for the day-to-day operations, which include care for our buildings and property, support for our outreach programs and ministries, and the salaries of our staff. The Commission is also responsible for running the annual pledge campaign and the Historic Church Renovation Campaign which began in 2021 and ended on December 31, 2024

At the heart of stewardship is a call to strengthen our relationship with God through giving and thoughtful prayer about the question: What has God given me, and what can I give in gratitude? This year three members provided testimonials about their relationship with St. Mary's and their intentional process as they make their pledge. This year our theme was **Walk in Love**, a phrase we hear at every service from Ephesians 5:1-2.

Annual Pledge Campaign

In December of 2023 we budgeted \$300,000 in pledges for 2024. The amount of pledge income received in 2024 was \$332,205.

In December of 2024, we have received \$310,000 in pledges for 2025. 116 households participated, a 3% increase from last year. The average pledge for our 2025 budget is \$2,672.

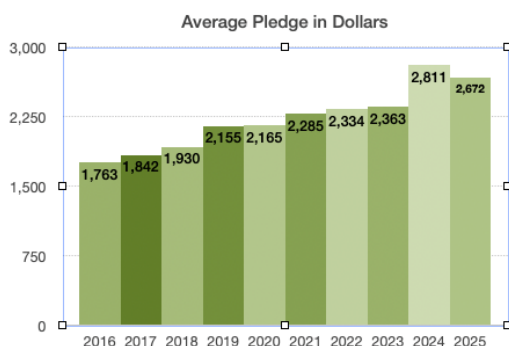
Historic Church Pledge Campaign 2021-2024

Our Historic Church Campaign began on January 31, 2021, and the goal was to raise \$350,000 over three years. We recorded pledges in the amount of \$331,282 made by 116 households. As of December 31, 2024, we have received \$265,647. If you made a pledge and have not yet completed it, we hope you will!

Whether you support St. Mary's through your time, talent, and treasure, we thank you. Let us continue to walk in love as God loves us.

With Gratitude,

Rita A Verespy and Christine M. Winslow, Chairs



Sarah Gibbs Trust

Established by the Sarah Gibbs Trust in 1843, the trustees ensure that the property that Sarah Gibbs gave "to establish an Episcopal Church" is used to meet her wishes. The trustees can be either 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 2024 Cousens Farm renewed its lease to farm the hayfield during the year.

Ted Bierman accepted reappointment by the independent trustees for a three-year term as an independent trustee when his current term expires March 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Belden, Chair (ind., 2026), V. Ted Bierman (ind., 2028), David Brierley, Treasurer (vestry, 2027),

Jon Corbishley (vestry, 2025), Fay Gosling, Secretary (ind., 2027), Cory Thurston (vestry, 2026),

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop, ex officio

Ministry Directory

If you're interested in serving . . . **contact** **at**

Service

Community Outreach	Lynn Carlson-LeBlanc	lynncarlson96@gmail.com
MLKCC Food Drive	Jon Edwards	navyjonedwards@gmail.com
Soup Kitchen	Dave Ferkinhoff	sk@smcportsmouth.org
Community Garden	Elise LaParle-Garcia	garden@smcportsmouth.org
MLKCC Santa's Workshop Drive	Judy Hall	woofer64@yahoo.com
Knitting Group	Susan Kelchner	jkelchner@cox.net

Well-Being

Pastoral Care	Pauline Davis	ppdavis44@gmail.com
Card Ministry	Mary Kay Lundberg	marykaylundberg@gmail.com
Tuck Fund Scholarships	Murry Edwards	tuckfund@smcportsmouth.org
Christian Formation Team	Jason DeFalco	jaydefalco32@gmail.com
Hospitality (Coffee Hour, Bites and Beverages, Collations)	Karen Stevenson	fsteven925@aol.com
Family Dinner	Mary Ellen Fischer	dolittlexo@aol.com

Worship

Acolytes	Deb Legassi	dberrett@hotmail.com
Music	Michael DiMucci	michaeldimuccimusic@gmail.com
Greeters	Cory Thurston	corythurston@yahoo.com
Lectors	Anne Wood	annewood@yahoo.com
Altar Guild	Jennie Nestlerode	jenniescooking@gmail.com



Photo Credits: Meaghan Brower, Murry Edwards, Elise LaParle Garcia, Lynn Carlson LeBlanc, Nancy Kimble