

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2012**

AGENDA

- Call to Order/Prayer
- Election of Secretary for the meeting
- Reading of the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting
- Explanation of requirements for nomination to the Vestry
- Presentation of slate from the Vestry
- Explanation of eligibility for voting
- Tellers for the election
- Balloting and collection by the tellers
- Inquiries about the written reports
- Treasurer's Report and presentation of the 2012 budget: Marty Tretheway
- Adoption of the 2012 budget
- Announcement of election results
- Other business
- Dismissal

2011 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2011

Submitted by Susan Suter

Meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m.

Pastor Chris opened the meeting with prayer. Susan Suter was nominated as Secretary for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Paul Henderson moved to accept, and Chris Beach seconded.

Reading of the Minutes from the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting:

Chris Beach moved the minutes be accepted as printed. Dan Tines seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Nominations to the Vestry:

Pastor Chris explained the qualifications necessary to run for the vestry from the *Vestry Qualifications and Nominating Process*, adopted by the Vestry in October 2009. Four candidates were placed into nomination by Janice Dalgleish, on behalf of the Nominating Committee: Deb Lunney, John McKenna, Brad Spear, and Stacy Tines. There were no nominations from the floor.

Tellers for the election were Vestry members Tony Pelc and Mike Tyler. As the ballots were distributed, Pastor Chris reviewed the requirements for voting. Chris Beach inquired if the parish could take a vote by hand. Paul Henderson responded that he had researched the question and the parish by-laws require St. Mary's-in-the-Hills to vote by ballot.

As the tellers counted, Pastor Chris asked if there were any questions about the written reports. There were none. She then asked if there were any concerns or questions about anything.

Marj Mihalyfi asked if the ushers could pass the plate to the end of the pew. Pastor Chris replied that she has been to churches that do that and that we could try it. The suggestion was then made by Marj that the usher pass the plate down the pew, and the last person in the pew pass the plate to the pew behind them, and then pass the plate back up that pew to the usher.

Pete Trumbore commented that the doors to the Fellowship Hall are very loud when they slam close and asked that, during services, everyone be aware of carefully closing the doors. He said the noise of those doors slamming shut is very jarring, especially in the Choir Loft. Pastor Chris said the doors needed to be closed after services so that the church would be quiet for people who wished to pray.

Marj Mihalyfi asked for applause for the choir. Keenan Thomason, the Choir Director, was asked to stand by Pastor Chris to much applause. Pastor Chris also accepted full credit for the Gloria "because she likes it" and thinks it is more modern.

Showey Howey, as a member of the Fellowship Committee, suggested that there were probably people at the Annual Meeting who have never seen Family Feud. Nancy Gutelius then explained a need for teams to play Family Feud at a Fellowship Committee event on the next Saturday.

The tellers reported Deb, John, Brad, and Stacy were elected to three-year Vestry terms. Pastor Chris commented that she was looking forward to working with this Vestry, and that it was good to get a broad spectrum of candidates who showed a true picture of the parish: some from each service; some with families; some who have been in the parish a long time, and some who haven't.

2010 Treasurer's Report and 2011 Proposed Budget:

Marty began his presentation by thanking Janis Solack, Parish Administrator, to much applause, who he called the most valuable contributor to the church. He said he and Pastor Chris wouldn't know what to do without her. The **Summary of Financial Condition** showed a balance at the end of the year of \$16,000 more than the beginning of the year. He attributed this increase to Pastor Chris' significant amount of time off, an unexpected contribution, and pledges above the plan. He also noted an additional \$7000 contributed by the parish to causes such as Love INC; and another \$7000+ to the Parish Discretionary Fund. This combined \$14,000+ donated by St. Mary's parishioners is not reflected in the budget numbers. In comments regarding **the Budget** Marty explained the budget approved by the Vestry is 103% of the pledged amount for 2011; in other

words, planned expenses exceed income by \$10,000. The Vestry, he said, considers this a challenge and has ideas to make up that amount. We have cash in the bank, and that will go down if we need to use it to make up this amount. In 2010 the church paid Pastor Chris @ \$53,000 as opposed to \$57,000 in 2009; and utilities came in a little under the year before. The **Estimated Expenses** report shows \$166,000 in the Building Fund. The Bishop reimbursed the first \$100,000 of interest on the Fellowship Hall. We now have to pay the full amount of a \$40,000 mortgage payment. The mortgage will need to be refinanced in 2012. He concluded that in an environment where the economy is not good, we ended up with \$16,000 more than in the beginning of the year. He said that St. Mary's is doing a good job of ministry and keeping a stable financial condition. There were no questions for Marty. Chris Beach moved to adopt the 2011 Budget and Bobbi Patton seconded.

Pastor Chris told the congregation that Marty has "made noises about wanting to retire and I tell him, 'Not now!' She said he does a marvelous job and gives the church much stability. Janis, our Parish Administrator, is also the bookkeeper. Four people are signers for checks and that we have an excellent checks and balance system on our finances. She also said that Pete Trumbore, the on-going Warden, and Viki Toll, the retiring Warden did a very good job in 2010 and she thanked them. She informed the parish that the Vestry does the business of the parish between Annual Meetings; that they meet every second Tuesday of the month in the Bell Tower Room, and that all are welcome to attend.

Other Business

Pete Trumbore, in the Vestry Report, explained that in 2010 the Vestry reorganized into small groups that took over different aspects such as Property Management, Evangelism and Stewardship, and Administration. This, he said, made a big difference and allowed more effectiveness and efficiency by the lay leadership. He pointed to accomplishments such as the renovation of the Hamm Room and the Bell Tower Room; reorganizing policies; and increased visibility of St. Mary's in different media. Pete said the lay leadership of St. Mary's needs to accept greater responsibility. He has been in parishes that tried to live off their savings creating a death spiral for their church. He said the challenges are not overwhelming.

Pastor Chris asked if there was any other business. There was none. She thanked everyone for coming and remarked that there were more people at this Annual Meeting than in the pews when she first started at St. Mary's.

Pete Trumbore made a motion to adjourn and Sara Munro seconded.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:55 am.

Vestry Qualifications and Nominating Process *Policy Adopted by the Vestry in October 2009*

Qualifications:

- 1. A candidate must be an adult communicant of St. Mary's, in good standing, and eligible to vote.*
- 2. A candidate must be committed to the financial support of the parish as indicated by being a "pledger of record" for at least six months prior to nomination.*
- 3. A candidate must be regular in worship.*
- 4. A candidate must, by personal example, demonstrate respect for the office of Rector and the lay leadership of the parish.*
- 5. A candidate should be committed to the life and work of the parish as demonstrated by participation in the fellowship, service, and outreach activities and efforts of St. Mary's.*
- 6. A candidate should be one who has demonstrated a willingness to offer their talents and energies to help fulfill the ministries of St. Mary's.*
- 7. A candidate should, by personal example, help to promote a welcoming environment to all at St. Mary's.*
- 8. A candidate must be willing to work cooperatively with the other members of the parish leadership team, both lay and ordained.*
- 9. Members of the same family residing in the same house may not serve on the Vestry at the same time.*

Process:

- *A three-person nominating committee shall be appointed by the Vestry no later than the October Vestry meeting. One of the three committee members shall be serving a term expiring at the next annual meeting.*
- *The nominating committee shall seek suggestions of candidates from the Rector, Vestry, and other members of the congregation.*
- *The nominating committee will consider any specific needs of the Vestry, i.e. skills, specializations, or interests, in developing a slate of candidates.*
- *The nominating committee will determine whether those who have been suggested meet the qualifications described above.*
- *Those who qualify will be contacted by the nominating committee to determine the individual's willingness to stand for election to the Vestry.*
- *The nominating committee will present a slate of potential candidates to the Vestry at the November meeting.*
- *The Vestry will approve a slate of candidates at the November meeting. The parish by-laws state that it is desirable, but not mandatory, that the slate of candidates include two more names than open positions.*
- *Upon approval of the slate of candidates by the Vestry, the nominating committee will contact candidates and request biographies as well as answers to any questions concerning the life of the parish, its direction, mission, and ministries that the Vestry may pose. Those responses will be published in the January parish newsletter, and posted to the parish website, so that the information is available to members of the congregation prior to the annual meeting. The nominating committee will work closely with the newsletter editor and webmaster to ensure that this information is submitted in a timely fashion.*
- *Parish by-laws state that nominations from the floor are to be accepted at the annual meeting. The individual nominated must be present at the meeting and consent to run; alternatively the person making the nomination may show prior written consent to nomination by the candidate.*

In the event of nomination from the floor, the individual so nominated must at that time state how he or she fulfills the qualifications outlined above, and be willing to answer questions from the floor concerning those qualifications. In the event that the nomination is accompanied by a written consent, that consent must also include a written statement outlining how the candidate fulfills the qualifications outlined above. The accuracy of any written statement may be challenged from the floor.

Rector's Report

"Chris' Corner": A Farewell Message

Reprinted from the October 2011 *Glad Tidings* Newsletter

The time has come for my final article to you as your Rector. This seemed so far away when I announced my retirement to you back in February. Now the change in our lives is imminent, and I am not comfortable with last times. I have read articles which describe the ending of a pastoral relationship like a death – but no one is dying I say to myself. Yes, our relationship will be changed, but it is not ended. My love and care for each of you will continue – and I hope you feel the same.

Other articles describe such a parting as similar to a divorce – but there is no rancor or dissatisfaction, on my part at least – so I reject that description.

As I reflect on this time, the description that I have come up with is that this time is more like a graduation. There is joy in our accomplishments but that is mixed with sorrow that things are changing. There is anticipation for a new future even as we wish things could remain as is. There are regrets and remembered disappointments, but they are far fewer than our successes and remembered joy. I find that I feel much like a parent who has guided, directed, encouraged, and supported; but who now must trust and let go of the reins so that you may continue to grow and to flourish. I feel like a parent both proud and excited for your entering a

new phase of living, yet worried whether I have given you the guidance and skills to send you out into the future.

But most of all, I feel thankful and grateful that I have been given the honor and trust to be your Rector for the past 17 years. It is you who have contributed more than any others in forming me as a priest. It is you who have supported and guided me in defining for myself what being a priest looks and feels like. My love and gratitude is overwhelming and I am humbled that you have traveled with me in my spiritual journey these many years. I thank-you and hold you in my prayers.

Warden's Report

Submitted by Peter Trumbore, Warden

Serving on the Vestry during the past year were Melissa Breckenridge, Janice Dalgliesh, Maxine Henderson, Deb Lunney, John McKenna, Sara Munro, Tony Pelc, Sue Sanna, Brad Spear, Stacy Tines, Peter Trumbore, and Mike Tyler. Mike Tyler and Peter Trumbore served as Wardens, with Marty Tretheway as Treasurer. Kathy Pelc and Sheri Hart served as clerks of the Vestry, responsible for taking the minutes of Vestry meetings. We thank all for their dedicated service over the last year.

This was a momentous year in the life of St. Mary's, marked by the retirement of the Rev. Christine Humphrey after serving for 17 years as rector. Pastor Chris's last Sunday was Oct. 16, and since then the Wardens and Vestry have been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the parish while ensuring continuity in worship services and that the pastoral needs of the congregation are met.

The Vestry began preparing for Pastor Chris's retirement early in 2011. We devoted the first half of each of our monthly meetings to prayer and discussion of materials we were studying concerning healthy and unhealthy clergy transitions. By spring we had developed a transition plan, and after several special half-day Vestry workshops, the Celebration, Profile, and Search Committees were selected, their goals set, and the committees established. The Celebration Committee's work culminated in a wonderful program in October in which we celebrated Pastor Chris's ministry among us and presented her with gifts from the congregation. The Profile Committee's work began in September and continues. The Search Committee will take up its task when the work of the Profile Committee has been completed.

Since October the Wardens and Vestry have held several meetings with the Rev. Lisa Gray, the Diocesan Deployment Officer, and we will continue to work closely with her and her office as we continue through the process of self-study and discernment and then begin the actual search for a new rector. The Rev. Roger Derby will also be assisting us through this time as a transition and search coach.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the clergy who stepped in to act as long-term supply priests following Pastor Chris's retirement. The Rev. Chris Berg and the Rev. Bob Wollard served St. Mary's during October and November. The Rev. Bill Fleming served as our visiting priest from the end of November through the end of January 2012.

The Vestry worked to continue initiatives that had begun in the previous year, particularly in the areas of evangelism, communication, and outreach. We note the parish's ongoing support for the work of Love INC., which maintains a clothes closet in former classroom space of the undercroft as well as the 5th Monday community meal which St. Mary's prepares at Lake Orion United Methodist Church.

We continued to make our facilities available to the community, and we have hosted Red Cross blood drives in addition to serving as a polling place for local elections. The Fellowship Hall has also gotten increased use through an increase in events and activities planned and organized by the Fellowship Committee as well as the parish Youth Group. Completed renovation of the Hamm Room has allowed that space to be opened to the public for music performances, while renovation of Bell Tower Room has created new and badly needed meeting space for committees of the church and for the use of the Boy Scouts and other groups.

Acolytes

Submitted by Peggy A. Wenk

Twenty-five (25) young people at St. Mary have faithfully served the minister and the congregation in 2011 by being acolytes or crucifers. They did this at both services on every Sunday, and at all special services, such as Christmas Eve, Holy Week and funerals.

- Junior crucifers processed those in the congregation carrying the Eucharist and offerings to the altar area, and led the priest to the back of the church at the end of the service.
- Senior crucifers processed the priest, Eucharistic ministers and choir, as well as distributed the alms basin to the ushers, and handed the wine, water, wafers and financial offerings to the minister.
- Senior acolytes turned pages of the priest's prayer book, helped the priest in preparing the communion table, processed the Gospel book, and lit and extinguished the altar candles.

These young people did this service to help the priest and the congregation in their worship. They did this quietly, respectfully, and without calling attention to themselves.

In the summer and fall of 2011, there was training for:

- one (1) junior crucifer who moved up to senior crucifer
- two (2) new junior acolytes
- two (2) are no longer serving as of Fall 2011.

Thank you to the following young people who faithfully served at any time in 2011:

8:30 AM SERVERS	10 AM SENIOR CRUCIFERS
Nick McKenna Rachel McKenna Andrew Tyler	Timothy Dougherty Ally Girling Hannah Gutelius Danielle Gutelius Dillon McCallum Anthony McGeen Landon Shively Madison Sweat Levi Trumbore
10:00 AM JUNIOR CRUCIFERS	10 AM SENIOR ACOLYTES
Patrick Dougherty Andrea McCallum Brendan McGeen Jessica Rock Abigail Warner	John Beach Corey Flanders Shannon Flanders Frank Girling Alex Kelly Ian Kelly Jordan Sweat Sara Trumbore

Administration Committee

Submitted by L. Maxine Henderson, Vestry

The Administration Committee (Maxine Henderson, Melissa Breckenridge, Tony Pelc, Deb Lunney, and Mike Tyler) have been meeting to go over concerns/issues needing attention to ensure that the administrative area of the church continues to run smoothly.

The following topics were reviewed and completed during the Year 2011:

- Policies and Procedures were reviewed and updated: Vestry Tasks by Month; Table of Contents; Spring/Fall Cleanup; Guidelines for Ushers; Guidelines for Vestry Members; Sunday Morning Procedures; Vestry

Qualifications and Nominating Procedures; Youth Program Permission/Emergency Notification; and Memorial Committee Guidelines.

- The phone issue in the Fellowship Hall is ongoing. It has been decided that a hard wire will be connected to the existing phone jack. Chris Beach has offered to help with this project, but will have to be postponed for warmer weather.
 - For security purposes, a webcam was discussed but due to the cost of the project, it has been put on hold until monies can be available.
 - The Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of St. Mary's in-the-Hills were reviewed for updating but have been put on hold for 2012.
 - The Evacuation Procedure is in the process of being updated.
 - The yearly employee evaluations for the Administrative Assistant, Choir Director, Nursery Aide, and Custodian were completed during the summer.
 - Janis was approved for a new computer, and the Rector's Office received a new laptop in April.
 - With the help of Tony Pelc, a new 3-year lease was obtained for a copier in November.
- The committee looks forward to serving St. Mary's again in 2012.

Altar Guild

Submitted by Leanne Balten

Altar Guild members are called to serve in this lay ministry by the priest in charge. This year the Rev. Christine Humphrey invited three parishioners to prayerfully consider a call to serve on the Altar Guild. Sheri Hart, Colleen McKenna, and Rachel McKenna all accepted the call.

On June 22, 2011 an Altar Guild Meeting was held to welcome and train new members, and refresh and update existing teams. This was our last Guild meeting with Pastor Chris prior to her retirement. Our agenda included possible changes in routine while we move forward in search of a Rector for St. Mary's. We were blessed to have Rev. William (Bill) Fleming serve through Advent into Epiphany as a long-term supply priest. Rev. Chris Berg and Rev. Bob Wollard also were extremely helpful in assisting us in our ministry.

As Altar Guild members we work behind the scenes to humbly prepare the altar for Sunday worship. We also serve by preparing for additional services including weddings and funerals, and throughout the liturgical year during the seasons of Lent, Easter, and Christmas. Following each service the altar furnishings are cleared and cared for.

We are thankful for Pastor Chris' years of direction and teaching which helped us grow in our ministry and our relationship with God. We look forward to serving and growing during this period of "search" and look forward to see who God calls to serve in this place.

2011 Altar Guild Members: Ann Kovi, Cathy Flanders, Denise Tretheway, Dolores Kelley, Holly MacMahon, Leanne Balten, Lisa Kielinen, Maxine Henderson, Nancy Schmitz, Patti Lee, Roger Lee, Sue Sanna, Susan Suter, Sheri Hart, Colleen McKenna, Rachel McKenna

Bible Study – Evenings

Submitted by Peter Trumbore

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group that began meeting in the fall of 2010 continued to meet through the first half of 2011. The group gathered the first and third Tuesday of the month, with the location rotating between the homes of members of the parish. Thanks to Bobbi Patton, Brad and Ann Spear, and Peter and Kim Trumbore for opening their homes to host this program.

Pastor Chris led the discussions, which in the fall focused on the Gospel of Matthew. Study materials were provided and participants were asked to bring their own Bibles. Between eight and ten members of the

parish attended each of the sessions which are open to all. This program is resuming in January 2012 with a study of the Epistles of Paul. During 2012, the study sessions are scheduled for the first and third Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited to come to one session or all of the sessions as their time and schedules allow.

Bible Study – Tuesday Morning

Submitted by Sue Sanna

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study has been in existence for longer than I have attended St. Mary's. It meets from 10am - noon each week except for summer. We always provide coffee, tea and usually there are also some wonderful treats provided by members. Pastor Chris always led this group until her retirement in October. At that time we chose to share the task and some of us have taken turns leading.

Current members of this group are: Melissa Breckenridge, Shirley Bricker, Rose Marie Frazer, Maxine Henderson, Dolores Kelley, Fran Masek, Bobbi Patton, Madelyn Peruski, Sue Sanna, Susan Suter, Judy White, and Trudy Zelezic.

In 2011 we found we really liked studying the Lectionary readings for the coming Sunday, and so a large portion of the year was spent doing that. Pastor Chris gave great insight to the readings and we also used various texts to help us understand it more clearly. During Lent we chose a study guide to follow, and again in Advent we looked at "Women on the Way to Christmas" by Eleanore F. Sudbrock.

When I came to St. Mary's over 10 years ago, this is one of the first things I wanted to join. In 2012 we hope others will decide to join us – it's a great way to meet new people and learn more about St. Mary's and the Bible.

Book Group

Submitted by Susan Suter

St. Mary's Book Group has been meeting for eight years. Currently, our members are Sharon Cheney, Maxine Henderson, Chris Humphrey, Fran Masek, Marj Mihalyfi, Bobbi Patton, Holly Stephens, Sue Sanna, Doreen Spirin, Marj Sullivan, and Susan Suter. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month, from 12:30 – 3:00pm, except in the summer months. Earlier in the year we brought our own lunches and met in the Bell Tower room at St. Mary's, but in November and December we met at the homes of group members. We plan to continue meeting at our homes in 2012. In June, we met for a potluck "good-bye" luncheon for former member Irene Howe, who moved to California. You can find our reading selections in the *Glad Tidings* newsletter, the weekly announcements, or on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. New members are always welcomed, whether you've read the book or not!

These are the books we read in 2011:

- Jan. 18 ***Sarah's Key*** by Tatiana de Rosnay
- Feb. 15 ***Lottery*** by Patricia Wood
- Mar. 15 ***The Glass Castle: A Memoir*** by Jeannette Walls
- Apr. 21 ***Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*** by Sara Miles
- May 18 ***Not My Daughter*** by Barbara Delinsky
- Sept. 20 ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak
- Oct. 11 ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** by Rebecca Skloot
- Nov. 15 ***Little Bee: A Novel*** by Chris Cleve
- Dec 13 ***The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Story of Surprising Second Chances***
by Amy Dickinson

Evangelism and Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Stacy Tines, Vestry

Vestry Evangelism/ Stewardship Commission members: Brad Spear, Stacy Tines, and Pete Trumbore
Stewardship Committee Members: Bobbi Patton, Ann Spear, Brad Spear, Dan Tines, Stacy Tines, Kim Trumbore, and Pete Trumbore

This fall was a very busy time for our parish. Not only did we say goodbye to Pastor Chris and begin preparing for our interim period without a pastor, but we also conducted our annual Stewardship Pledge Drive. While it seemed there was little time to think about “pledging”, the Stewardship Committee knew the drive was more important this year than ever. The committee challenged the parish to increase their pledges this year by 15% so that we could increase St. Mary’s budget by 15%, achieving a budget of \$200,000. The goal of \$200,000 was chosen for two reasons. First, during our search for a new rector it is important to represent St. Mary’s as a healthy, vibrant church. Secondly, there will be increased expenses for our church family over the next year, from supply priests to the interview process, to hiring a rector.

This year the Stewardship Committee held cottage dinners at parishioner’s homes, and at the church, as a way to disseminate information regarding the Stewardship Pledge Drive, as well as an opportunity for fellowship. A big thanks to the Flanders, Tines, Trumbore, Beems, Comers, Hendersons, Bobbi Patton, and Viki Toll for providing hospitality and a lovely meal for our church family.

As you can see by the numbers below we did not reach our goal of \$200,000, but our parish was very generous, and many people rose to the challenge and increased their pledges. It is not too late to pledge. If you would like to support the work done at St. Mary’s, please contact the church office.

2011 Pledge Campaign Information (for 2012) with 2011 numbers in parenthesis.

Total pledges: 67 (73)

Total pledged: \$164,477 (\$163,026)

Number increased: 41 (27)

Amount increased: \$15,595(\$10,454)

Number decreased: 6 (11)

Amount decreased: \$ 5,010 (\$6,686)

New pledges: 4 (9)

Amount for new pledges: \$2,932 (\$10,624)

Evangelism Committee Members: Nancy Gutelius, Showey Howey, Debbie Nowakowski, Brad Spear, Stacy Tines, and Pete Trumbore

Last April, eight St. Mary’s parishioners attended the Diocesan Conference, *Becoming the Household of God: Fireweed Evangelism*. This conference inspired our Evangelism/ Stewardship Commission to adopt some new evangelism strategies at St. Mary’s and to invite non-vestry members to assist them in their pursuits. The Evangelism Committee worked hard to spread the message that evangelism was not about gaining more parishioners or more money but to bring others to know and love Christ. To portray this message the committee introduced a few changes this year including:

- the use of a welcoming prayer to be read at the beginning of each service;

- the creation of an updated St. Mary's in the Hills brochure;
- instituting the delivery of a loaf of bread to visitors that sign our guest book within 24 hours of their visit;
- revisiting the idea of Invite a Friend Sunday, with more energy and effort than during past events.

Invite A Friend Sunday was held on Sunday, September 18th. The committee prepared for the event by calling each member of the parish and encouraging them to prayerfully consider a "friend" they might be able to invite. Invitations were handed out for parishioners to give to their "friends" as well. There were also sermons, bulletin inserts, and letters to the parish that helped our St. Mary's family explore who they might know that would benefit from a deeper relationship with Christ. On Invite a Friend Sunday there were many new faces at both the 8:30 and 10:00 service. A special Coffee Hour was held for our guests following the 8:30 service and a "Battle of the Grills" event followed the 10:00 service.

We have had many new families come to St. Mary's since the committee was formed last summer and we look forward to exploring more ways to reach out to those in our community in the year ahead.

Fellowship Committee

Submitted by Stacy Tines

Members: Showey Howey, Kim Kelly, Lisa McGeen, Barb Schultz, Ann Spear, Stacy Tines, Viki Toll, and Kim Trumbore

The Fellowship Committee was formed in the fall of 2009 as an offshoot of the Pastoral Care Committee. Its focus is to provide fun, free, fellowship events for all members of St. Mary's parish. The committee meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's. In addition to monthly meetings, the committee members also met for a beginning-of-the-year dinner/ brainstorming session and held a Christmas party and an end of the year BBQ with committee members and their families.

The committee held seven events for the church community this year, each having at least 20 people in attendance and some with over 50 people. Events from the past calendar year include:

February 6th – Super Bowl Coffee Hour

March 11th – Open Mic Night

April 16th – Euchre Night/Family Feud

May 14th – Scavenger Hunt

September 18th – Battle of the Grills

November 12th – Euchre Night

December 2nd – 3rd Annual Holiday Movie Night

While there are eight active fellowship committee members, the committee is always looking for new members to help plan new and unique events for all members of our St. Mary's family.

Garden Group

Submitted by Susan Suter

The Garden Group was busy for its third season in 2011. We met on Thursday mornings, twice a month, from the first of April through the end of October. We scheduled two-hour work sessions, but more often worked twice as long. Our faithful gardeners were Rose Marie Frazer, Maxine Henderson, Vicki Joy, Bobbi Patton, Sue Sanna, Susan Suter, and Trudy Zelezic. We are developing specialties: Sue is our master edger, and Bobbi is our master pruner and coffee maker. We appreciated and benefited from the knowledge and talent of our newest member, Vicki Joy. One of our projects this summer was to place a lovely sitting bench, donated by Roger and Patti Lee, in the garden. It is located in front of the original door to St. Mary's, and is a perfect place to view the gardens. St. Mary's is so fortunate to have such beautiful gardens, designed by Kim Kelly and implemented by Melissa Breckenridge. It is our pleasure to keep them weeded, pruned, mulched, and maintained. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Lectors

Submitted by Susan Suter

Lectors are the lay people who read the scripture passages during the church service. St. Mary's currently has a roster of 23 lectors, with 5 lectors reading at the 8:30 service, and 18 lectors reading at the 10:00 service. Those who served as lectors at the 8:30 service are John McKenna, Tony Pelc, Mike Tyler, Susan Suter, and Judy White. Those who served as lectors at the 10:00 service are Noela Beach, Melissa Breckenridge, Showey Howey, Kristin Kahrs, Brian Kelly, Bobbi Patton, Bree Schultz, Joe Shively, Victoria Shively, Marj Sullivan, Viki Toll, Pete Trumbore, Andrea Wayne, and Peggy Wenk. Four new lectors received training and will begin serving at the 10:00 service in 2012. They are Barb Schultz, Brad Spear, Katherine Beem, and Michael Beem. A goal for 2012 is that more parishioners from the 8:30 service will be encouraged to participate in the Lector Ministry. The lector schedule is prepared by Janis Solack, Parish Administrator.

Music

Submitted by Keenan Thomason, Music Director

Choir members in 2011: Melissa Breckenridge, Janice Dalgliesh, Mike Dalgliesh, Rose Marie Frazer, Ian Kelly, Holly MacMahon, Sara Munro, Bree Schultz, Ann Spear, Brad Spear, Viki Toll, Peter Trumbore, Sarah Trumbore, Andrew Tyler, and Peggy Wenk

The choir is directed by Keenan Thomason.

The St. Mary's music program has continued to grow and thrive in 2011. The St. Mary's Choir performs at every 10:00 am Sunday service throughout the year, not including the summer months. In addition, the choir sang at all the Holy Week services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), and both Easter morning services) and all the Christmas Eve services (4 pm children's guitar service, as well as 7 pm and 11 pm). The choir rehearses every Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. The choir continues to be a valuable asset in support of the church music program.

We were excited to have a brass quintet perform at our holiday services. The brass really enhances the services. On October 9, the choir performed in their 6th annual "Make a Joyful Noise" concert to help raise money to benefit the music program. In celebration of Pastor Chris' support of the choir over the years, the choir sang many of Pastor Chris' favorite anthems that the choir had sung over the past several years, as well as some new songs. One included the use of African drums, played by Andrew Tyler. It was a great success for enhancing the musical development of the choir and music program as a whole.

Many thanks to all who all work to make the music program a delight and great success at St. Mary's.

Outreach

Submitted by Bobbi Patton

Angel FISH: St Mary's generous members provided Christmas gifts for 20 children in 2011. "Bonus Gifts" were also provided. Bonus gifts are selected by parents in order to provide the children with something that was not on their wish list. Thank you to Maxine, Kim, Levi and Sarah for transporting all the gifts to St Joe's. Thank you Paul for once again assisting with the distribution of the gifts.

FISH: Non-perishable grocery items are collected on the third Sunday of the month. The items are taken to the FISH Food Pantry on Thomas Road by volunteers from St Mary's. These goods are then shelved grocery-store-style so clients of FISH can shop for things they need to provide meals for their families. "10 for \$10" sales are a great way to make donations-maybe half for you and half for FISH? FISH has an "Adopt a Shelf" program for individuals, families, groups, or companies to keep stocked. If your group is looking for an Outreach project, this might be something to consider.

Love INC: St Mary's still provides a home for the clothes closet operated by Love In the Name of Christ. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday and Thursday in the morning. The afternoons on those days are when clients can make their selections. We are in need of a few volunteers for this ministry. We are looking for two people for the second Thursday of the month, one other person for the fifth Tuesday of the month and one more person to work on the third Thursday. Please contact me (248 628-4428) if this is of interest to you. Bed, Blessings and Beyond, a household goods ministry, and Little Luxuries, a personal products ministry, are at Christ the King Church on Drahnner Road. They are in need of two volunteers to work on the fifth Thursday of the month. We now offer free community meals to anyone who shows up (no questions asked) on four nights a week. Mondays are at Lake Orion UMC on Flint St in Lake Orion. St Mary's will again be providing the meals on the fifth Monday of the month. Tuesdays are at Immanuel UCC on Hovey in Oxford, Wednesday at Oxford UMC on Burdick in Oxford and Thursday is at Christ the King Church on Drahnner in Oxford. We still have our Gas Can Ministry to collect change (or folding money) to provide gas cards for our clients. St Mary's Gas Can is located in the Gathering Space. Our Laundry Ministry pays for our clients to wash their clothes at the Wonder Cleaners & Laundromat on M-24 just south of Drahnner. We can always use detergent and fabric dryer sheets for this ministry since we provide those for the clients. Just bring them to church, leave them by the gas can and I will see that they are taken to the Laundromat. Love INC is beginning the process of looking for a new home. The clothes closet and the office are currently in spaces that are not handicapped accessible. One place we are interested in is the former Senior Center in Lake Orion. More news on this subject as it becomes available.

CROP Walk: 26walkers (two of them furry) participated in the Crop Walk for 2011. The non furry walkers were equally divided between adults and younger people. The total of \$2,868.77 raised far exceeded our goal of \$2200. A big thank you to Maxine, Kathy Pelc and Erika West for heading up this fundraiser. Once again a portion of the proceeds will go to Love INC. The walk for 2012 will be held on Sunday May, the 6th.

Crossroads: On June 12th of 2011, many hands, including some folks from Church of the Resurrection, made light work of 1600 sandwiches and 120 gallons of soup to feed well over 800 people. Our Sunday to serve this year is June 10th. We are being asked to be prepared to serve 850 clients this year. Crossroads is looking for groups to make up the condiment packets that are given to each client. All the materials needed are supplied by Crossroads. This is a great opportunity to really serve as Jesus has asked us to do. This is also an excellent opportunity for teens to get community service credits.

Pastoral Care Committee

Submitted by Deb Lunney

Members: Pastor Chris Humphrey, Maxine Henderson, Madelyn Peruski, Carolyn Birch, Deb Lunney, Bobbi Patton, and Barb Schultz

For part of 2011, the Pastoral Care Committee met on the third Monday of the month, in the afternoon. The group now meets on the third Sunday of the month, at 9:30am, to discuss and act on the pastoral needs of our church family. The committee would like to thank the many members of the parish who send cards and words of encouragement to varied recipients. The people who receive the cards are often surprised and very pleased that someone is thinking of them when they need it the most.

The Pastoral Care Committee is involved in three types of ministries:

1. We provide pastoral care needs such as funeral service luncheons, and/or coffee and dessert following the service. In 2011, the committee organized and provided dinner for the participants of Vacation Bible School for one evening. We also organized the reception to celebrate Pastor Chris's 20th Anniversary of her ordination. The members of the parish provided the food and decorations and the event was a success.
2. We also actively send Get Well, Sympathy, and Thinking of You cards to fellow parishioners.
3. We provide meals to members and their families during difficult times. Again, we would like to thank Bobbi Patton, Maxine and Paul Henderson, Sue Sanna, and to all those that have volunteered their time to make meals for those in need.

Property Committee

Submitted by Sue Sanna, Vestry

Committee Members: Janice Dalgliesh, Mike Dalgliesh, Paul Henderson, John McKenna, Sara Munro, Sue Sanna

This year we tried to stay on top of urgent needs in maintaining our church building. Some of those were: caring for the outside lighting, the sprinkling system, cleaning the gutters and vent hood chimney, the opening and closing of vents around the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall, salt for the winter, purchasing a new vacuum, occasional water in our Undercroft just to name a few. Although it is still working, our old boiler needed some pipe work this fall (\$398). The older terra cotta roof had a leak that was repaired (\$800). A capacitor in our AC/heating unit in the Fellowship Hall needed replacement (\$200). A badly leaking outside faucet was replaced (donation – thank you!). The Gathering Space wooden doors were not keeping rain out, so a seal was installed.

FALL CLEAN-UP was one of the best we've ever had! So many of you turned out and we got so much done...and some serious equipment helped make it happen too! Thank you to all of you who have volunteered to help with all of these needs and more.

Our hope is that we can always maintain and preserve the integrity of our older building, as well as our church, as a whole.

Spiritual Stitchers

Submitted by L. Maxine Henderson

The Spiritual Stitchers continue to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The members are Fran Masek, Dolores Kelley, Shirley Bricker, Holly MacMahon, and Maxine Henderson. This year, we are delighted to have Showey Howey and Trudy Zelezic join our wonderful ministry.

This past summer we lost one of our members, Irene Howe. She moved away to live with her family in California and will be greatly missed.

In February the Spiritual Stitchers, along with the help of other ladies from St. Mary's, were able to deliver approximately 30 hand-knit and crocheted teal and red scarves for the Special Olympians in Traverse City.

Our ministry continues to work on Prayer Shawls which have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and sustenance to many; and knitting baby blankets and tiny crocheted/knitted hats for preemie babies for the Beaumont hospital Fetal Loss Program.

We welcome any newcomers to join us to be a part of a ministry that has brought joy and comfort to those in need. We are planning another great year. Bring your knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross-stitching, beading, or whatever you are working on, and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie. We would love to have you join us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Maxine Henderson (248-393-1906).

Sunday School

Submitted by Cathy Flanders, Sunday School Director

Curriculum: Throughout the year we gathered as a group initially and then separated into Pre K through 2nd grade, and 3rd through 5th grade.

We started the year with a program called, "Journey with Jesus". We traveled through 13 towns where Jesus had traveled through during his life. We utilized the Fellowship Hall partition walls to "travel". Each week we reviewed where we had been as we walked through the Journey with Jesus. The excitement grew from Bethlehem to the Mount of Olives. During this time the older children learned the books of the Bible.

On Easter Sunday, an Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by all after the 10am service.

May was Movie Month – we took advantage of the new Fellowship Hall TV, DVD, and speakers. We finished the school year with Bible lessons through fun science experiments by author Tina Houser.

In September we began the “Weaving God’s Promises” series. Every week, each child weaves another message into their loom. Temptation, Patience, Sacrifice, D.O.G. or Depend on God, Trust in God, With God’s Help, to name a few. The material offers an opening activity where we can share a snack, share what has gone on in the past week and begin to understand the lesson of the week before we split into groups.

On December 17th the Sunday School, with help from Youth Group members and some adults from the congregation, performed a traditional Christmas Pageant. It was enjoyed by all. The pageant committee members were Catherine Beem, Stacy Tines, Sheila Thomason, and Cathy Flanders. Special thanks to Keenan Thomason, Music Director, for his participation and especially for accompanying the children as they performed “Away in a Manger”.

Community Service: This year our community service projects included making Easter baskets for shut ins, we made and sent Get Well/Thinking of You cards, and decorated bags for Bring A Friend Sunday. To serve our church, the Sunday school students presented the elements on the second Sunday of each month.

Teachers: Many adults assisted with teaching our youngest members. The energy they bring to the program is amazing. Without these volunteers we could have not had a successful year. Working with the children throughout the year were; Leanne Balten, Marilyn Hester, Showey Howey, Kristin Kahrs, Kim Kelly, Holly MacMahon, Lisa McGeen, Dan Tines, Stacy Tines, Sheila Thomason, and Nancy Schmitz. Many thanks to all of you!!!

Nursery: Due to a continued increase in population in this age group, the nursery has had a very exciting year. The infants and toddlers are cared for every week by Janet Spears and Trudy Zelezic along with one volunteer from the parish. Christian music, stories and coloring pages are provided for those who aren’t too distracted by the many toys. Many thanks to Janet, Trudy and the parishioners who care for these precious members!!!!

Youth Group

Submitted by Bree Schultz

Serving as Youth Group leaders were Bree Schultz, Leanne Balten, Nancy Gutelius, Sue Sanna, Ann Spear, and Brad Spear. Occasional adult help was required, and we received backup from Ken Gutelius, and David and Lisa McGeen. Youth Group attendance maintained a healthy average throughout the year, with regular attendance from our core group of kids, as well as some spikes in attendance in early Fall, in the time leading up to Pastor Chris' retirement. We brought onboard two new 6th graders in September.

Throughout the year we did both onsite and offsite events; we went roller-skating in the spring, and we had our annual Maundy Thursday overnight. Several teens participated in CROP walk this year.

In the fall, we began using a new curriculum, which focuses exclusively on the Old Testament. We continue to make connections and conversation during our class time together. We've seen our teens band together to bolster one another under tough circumstances, and that compassion continues to be a source of inspiration. The fall Parent Meeting and Ministry Fair resulted in more new volunteers, and good opportunities for both service and education.

Our teens hosted another free baby-sitting event in early December, at which there were 8 younger children and 5 youth group members, one of which was a guest. The New Years' Eve overnight was well attended again this year, culminating once more with the ringing of the church bell at midnight.