

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 25, 2009



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

43 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105

(tel) 207-781-3366 (fax) 207-781-3369

email: smary@smary.org website: www.smary.org

Rector: Father James P. Dalton-Thompson

Table of Contents

2009 Annual Meeting Agenda	page 3
2008 Annual Meeting Minutes	page 4
Rector's Report	page 6
Deacon's Report	page 7
Senior Warden's Report	page 8
Junior Warden's Report	page 9
Voter Qualifications	page 10
Slate of Nominations	page 10
Biographies	page 11
Financial Reports from the Treasurer	
Operating Budget	page 13
Budget Narrative	page 15
Great 50 day	page 19
Restricted Funds Report	page 20
Committee Reports	
Acolytes	page 21
Altar Flower Guild	page 21
Altar Flower Delivery	page 22
Altar Guild	page 22
Building and Grounds	page 23
Choir	page 24
Christian Formation	page 24
Churchyard Committee	page 27
Finance Committee	page 27
Hospitality	page 28
Kneeler's Guild	page 29
Lay Readers, Chalice Bearer, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers	page 29
Memorial Reception	page 30
Office Angels	page 30
Outreach	page 31
Pastoral Visitors	page 34
Stewardship	page 34
Ushers	page 35
Weekday Worship	page 35
Welcome	page 36
Youth Ministries	page 36
Parish Register 2008	page 37
Report on Comprehensive Planning Work	page 38
188 th Diocesan Convention Highlights	page 38

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
Annual Meeting of the Parish
Sunday, January 25, 2009

Agenda

Opening Prayer	The Rector
Report of the Presence of a Quorum	Hugh Smith
Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of January 27, 1008	The Rector
Review of Finances & Budgets	Debby Hammond
Report of Stewardship Committee	Tom Donaldson
Report of Outreach Committee	Becky Pride
Report of the Nominating Committee	Charlie Hurdman
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wardens and Vestry• Delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention	
Election of slate presented	
Constitution of new Nominating Committee	The Rector
Acknowledgements and Thank You's	The Rector, Jennifer Gregg, Hugh Smith
Report on the Comprehensive Campaign	Hugh Smith
Rector's Address	The Rector
The Benediction and Doxology	The Rector
Call for Adjournment	

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Sunday January 27, 2008

With a quorum of over 75 parishioners in attendance, the annual meeting of The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin was called to order at 10:35AM by The Reverend James P. Dalton-Thompson, Rector. He then led us in an opening prayer and acknowledged our fellow parishioners who have died during 2007.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting of February 4, 2007 were presented and approved as written.

Review of Finances and Budgets

Debby Hammond, Treasurer, gave a detailed report on the finances of the church.

- Allocation of most assets was moved to 60% equities and 40% fixed income.
- Churchyard and Seminary/Sabbatical funds remain 40% equities and 60% fixed income.
- Total revenues have increased about 15% in the last two years with 7% increase in pledge revenue in 2007 missing our budget goal by just over \$5000.
- Expenses for 2007 decreased from the budget by \$148.
- Funds borrowed to meet operating expenses were repaid.
- 2008 Budget: Revenue: needs \$36,000 more than 2007 Expenses: \$21,000 more than spent in 2007.

Report of Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Co-Chairs, Tom Donaldson and Russ Hicks with Charlie Hurdman prepared a slide presentation of the current status of the campaign.

The pledge target is \$280,000. with the current total at \$233,494. and a median pledge of \$1000. Tom is very confident the target will be met as follow up calls and letters are continuing.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election

Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chris Smithwick, provided the following nominations:

Elected to two year terms in 2007

Senior Warden: Jennifer Gregg and Junior Warden: Hugh Smith

Elected to a one year term in 2008 Treasurer: Debby Hammond

Vestry : (4) three year terms Robert Billings (2011) Brannon Claytor (2011)

Virginia Stelk (2011) and James Stoddard (2011)

Convention Delegates: Patrick Diamond, Jennifer Gregg, Debby Hammond, Harold Otte, Becky Pride and Hugh Smith.

Alternates: Marge Devine and Mary Smith

Constitution of the Nominating Committee for 2009

Outgoing Vestry Members 2009: Jean Gulliver, Lucy Ellis, Charlie Hurdman

Additional Members: Lynda Conner, Andrea Myles-Hunkin

The slate of nominees was approved unanimously.

Acknowledgments

Hugh Smith, Junior Warden, spoke of the increased activity at S. Mary's and recognized the many parishioners active in guilds and committees this past year and welcomed many new chairpersons for 2008. Hugh mentioned some of the successful 2007 fund raising events that will be repeated this year with revisions and improvements.

Mutual Study of Ministry

Jennifer Gregg, Senior Warden, summarized the Mutual Study of Ministry results that were accomplished during the past few months and thanked all involved for their time and commitment to this task. The purpose of MSM is to review the total ministry and articulate goals for S. Mary the Virgin. The Vestry Retreat will be a time to prepare a Strategic Plan based on MSM findings and then communicate this to the parish.

Rector's Report by Reverend James P. Dalton-Thompson

Noting that this is the third Annual Meeting for which he has presided, he remarked at his thankfulness for the "church family" he has at S. Mary's.

A sample of Fr. James' remarks:

- Need more attention given to middle school and teens.
- Continue strong outreach; the Church exists for those on the outside.
- Err on the side of inclusion and charity.
- Turn commitment into action.
- The people *are* the church.
- Keep church and state separate.
- Serve one another with gifts and talents.
- "Ministry of church is to restore all people." BCP pg.855
- Challenges us to turn input into specific goals.

A few of Fr. James' Blessings: All parishioners, Choirmaster/ Organist, Bruce Fithian; Deacon, Christine Bennett; Parish Administrator, Beth Shaw; Jennifer Gregg, Hugh Smith and Debby Hammond who make S. Mary's "the way it should be", Meg Hurdman for the success of the Guiding Ray Program; and generous givers to the stewardship campaign.

Fr. James concluded the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Liddell, Clerk Pro Tem



Rector's Report: Annual Meeting, 2009

Dear members and friends of Saint Mary's:

One of my favorite "Golden Oldies" is Frank Sinatra's recording of the song, "It was a very good year." Recorded by Ol' Blue Eyes in 1966, it tells the story of a man who looks back over the relationships that mirror the different stages of his life: the first love at age 17; his first adult relationship as a 21-year-old just starting to make his way; a more mature romance at age thirty-five. At the end of the song, he concludes that each relationship was sweet, like a fine wine, each coming from a peerless vintage.

At Saint Mary's, looking back over the year 2008, we might also sing that "It was a very good year". Our relationships with one another, our Saint Mary's family, continue to span the spectrum from those newly-arrived to those whose roots run long and deep. Whether our relationship with Saint Mary's is like a first love or is more tempered and enduring, the vintages to be found here are sweet indeed.

It was a very good year. Speaking candidly, that is not a mantra that was likely to be repeated in other arenas of American life. We discovered that despite some initial pronouncements to the contrary, the fundamentals of our economy were *not* strong. A seemingly-endless presidential race redefined negative campaigning, with plenty of smear tactics on both sides. Gasoline went to \$4.00 a gallon, and escalating heating oil costs brought a sense of panic to those who did not know how they would keep warm this winter. 2008 saw very little gilding of that lily we call the American Dream.

And yet, it was a very good year, because we had Saint Mary's, where our sacred space and our loving community kept our vision broad, our focus clear, and our sense of hope unabated. Our community was not unaffected by the volatile economy; far from it. Through it all, however, people continued to step forward to give of their time, talent, and treasure, to help us accomplish our ministry and our mission. Thinking back over the year past, I particularly remember:

- * The wonderful turn-out for Helen Parker's funeral, proof that a widow without children or siblings did indeed have a family.
- * The first two concerts by the newly-formed *Saint Mary Schola*. Standing room only in April and again in December, with a "rave review" in the Portland Press Herald.
- * Our *Guiding RAY* program that just keeps going from strength to strength.
- * Bishop Knudsen's final visit to S. Mary's on June 1st, when I proudly presented a group of adolescents and adults to be confirmed and received into the Church.
- * The photo article about Saint Mary's "Mass-on-the-Grass" in the Press Herald.
- * A newly-invigorated Outreach Committee, so committed and proactive that it makes my head spin!
- * Bruce's organizing a monthly Taizé-style contemplative service on Sunday evening that soothes and settles seeking souls (he wrote, alliteratively!)
- * A record number for the *Rector's Awards Breakfast* in October.
- * The advent of a new 7th-9th grades Youth Group, which combines Confirmation preparation, fun, food, fellowship, and service projects.
- * The best *Sparkles* yet, bringing in over \$10,000, and engaging us all in joyous teamwork.
- * Having to add a *third* Christmas Eve liturgy to accommodate the crowds; and having a children's chorus make its début at the four o'clock service. (Thanks, "Mrs. E.", a/k/a Katharine Echavarri!)

It was a very good year, and it was very much God's year. We look to 2009 with a mixture of optimism and caution, as history is made in Washington and the international economic situation continues to occupy our attention. Like the year before it, 2009 will continue to be both good and God's, as we proclaim, now more than ever, that the Light of Christ shines in the darkest places, the furthest recesses, and that the darkness has not, and cannot, overcome it.

For that assurance, I give thanks; for the anchor that is Saint Mary's, and for this community which has become my family, I give thanks.

It *will* be a very good year to come.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



The Reverend James P. Dalton-Thompson
IX Rector
The Church of S. Mary the Virgin

Deacon's Report: Annual Meeting, 2009

In 2008 I participated in the liturgical life of S. Mary's in the typical diaconal ways by proclaiming the Gospel in the midst of the gathered congregation; by preparing the table and helping to distribute the Eucharist; and by dismissing the congregation to go out and find your own diaconal service. I preached four times during 2008. I was able to officiate at a Communion from the Reserved Sacrament for the Thursday group and also on a Sunday morning in August during Father James' vacation, and I also officiated at Morning Prayer on a Sunday during that same period. I participated in one memorial service.

I have met regularly with the Outreach Committee and have enjoyed the diversity and commitment of that group which is ably led by Becky and Doug Pride.

I have met monthly with the Pastoral Partners who are committed to supporting the rector's ministry of pastoral care to S. Mary's members. We make visits to hospitals, nursing facilities and homes and occasionally bring Communion when that is requested. The group includes, Lee Snow, Russ Hicks, Ginny Stelk, Stan Eaton, Becky Pride, Betsy Stoddard and Margaret Jean Taylor.

In 2008 The Caring Circle program was established to meet the needs of S. Marians in crisis. The Circle includes groups who will provide meals or transportation or do housekeeping chores as well as groups such as the Pastoral Partners, Altar Flower Guild, and Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Circle can be activated by contacting me directly or by calling the office.

Also in 2008 the Prayer Chain was created. This group includes, Lee Snow, Ginny Stelk, Becky Pride, Carla Birt, Susan Chapman, Nita Voskian, Linda Eaton, and Pat Studley. Cissy Lindeman and Kim Diamond also participated this year. The group has agreed to pray daily for those on the Sunday Prayers of the People list as well as for other requests received through me or Father James. This group has met twice since it began and we are committed to a ministry of intercession.

In the spring of 2008 I offered "Walking the Mourner's Path" which was attended by four S. Marians. The eight week grief support program was very successful and I will offer it again in the spring of 2009.

I continue to visit occasionally at the Maine Correctional Center and hope that my ministry there as well as at S. Mary's will grow in the year ahead. It has been a joy to get to know you and that process continues. Keep telling me your names as I am not as gifted as our rector at remembering names! I feel truly blessed to be part of the S. Mary's community.

Deacon Christine

Senior Warden's Report: Annual Meeting, 2009

"As Christians and Anglicans, we are, through God's grace, called to act as agents of reconciliation, to be evangelists and to proclaim The Good News to all people. We seek to continually draw strength from our faith and liturgy to serve those in our Parish and our community at large. Ever mindful of the gifts of the past, we seek to protect and enhance our resources for future generations."

(Saint Mary's Creed, February 2006)

Our work this year focused on the conclusions of the Mutual Study of Ministry (MSM) conducted in 2007. Four of the five key findings of that study were programmatic in nature, calling us to further strengthen our Christian Formation program, to further expand our community both within St. Mary's and our Outreach beyond our walls, and to further promote Parish growth without losing our sense of community. Underpinning these was the fifth goal: to sustain our buildings and grounds, in order to ensure support of these programmatic needs.

Our February Vestry retreat was devoted to putting flesh on the bones of those five strategic goals, as well as to prioritize next steps. Discussion was rich and it quickly became apparent that while the programmatic goals lent themselves to actions we could undertake, the "bricks and mortar" goal was beyond our abilities: We know that our buildings in their current state do not adequately support our programmatic needs and most certainly will not in the future, but where to start, and how to make the necessary physical changes without losing our sense of community?

This realization led us to the important conclusion that we needed to hire outside expertise. After a full vetting and interview process led by Debby Hammond, the Vestry hired the local architectural firm, Scott Simons and Associates (SSA) who specialize in conceptualizing architectural needs to meet programmatic vision. A parish committee led by Debby Hammond and Hugh Smith worked throughout the rest of the year with SSA to gather further information from the entire Parish and to begin the iterative process of creating the best plan for St. Mary's buildings and grounds to meet the needs of our children and grandchildren.

The collaboration with SSA has been equally exciting and challenging. How can it not be exciting to see S. Mary's campus digitally transformed into a healthy (mold-free!) energy-efficient, and dynamic plant which retains the "feel" of the country parish our forbears envisaged, one which is both inviting and warm? How can it not be challenging when, in the midst of all this planning, the economy suffers its worst decline since the Great Depression? The state of the Parish House, and to a lesser extent the Rectory and Church, has long called for major repair and renovation; our Parish programs render these even more essential. But how can we justify asking our parishioners to support these costly efforts during this economic decline when they—and everyone around us—are struggling to keep households solvent?

The answer is that we cannot become mired in the current downturn; we must, as a Vestry and a Parish, live not just for the present—and most certainly not the past—but to also look as our founders did to the future. Vision is important and timing is critical. The Vestry is confident that we have the right partners in SSA; we will continue our work with them in the coming year, and communicate robustly with the Parish at every step. When we believe the time is propitious, we will begin the process of securing the funding from both within and outside the Parish for what we are confident will be a shared vision.

But wait! Bricks and mortar have not occupied ALL our time! The Vestry kept viably employed working on other projects relative to our four programmatic goals as follows.

Strengthen our Christian Formation Program, with particular attention to the Middle and High School age groups.

The success of our *Guiding Ray* program continued to build, under the leadership of Meg Hurdman and her devoted teaching staff. Truth be told, and with all due respect and praise to Father James, we owe our growth as a parish to this program. The word is out; families are listening and coming. The middle school program has long been challenging: How to "keep" our youth involved at that critically important stage? Under Father James' leadership in consultation with interested parents, we have built upon the foundation created by Greg Unfricht to build a program which incorporates team-building, Christian formation (preparation for confirmation) and outreach. It is a program that has attracted a group of 15 middle-school students.

Promote Outreach, which focuses more proactively on local needs.

Outreach at St. Mary's was reinvented and rejuvenated this year! As with the Christian Formation program, the credit goes to its leadership: Doug and Becky Pride have infused enthusiasm and energy to this program. Local hands-on opportunities abound with something for everyone and without sacrificing the very real needs of those elsewhere in the country and world. The Vestry worked assiduously with the committee to define mission and streamline bureaucracy, and then tried to stay out of the way!

Expand our community within S. Mary's

Building on the "Practical Assistance" program, the Vestry took full advantage of Deacon Christine to create the "Caring Wheel," (*AVE*, August 2008) which incorporates the callings of the Pastoral Partners, "Casserole Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Drivers, Emergency Phone Chain, Flower Delivery and Household Services under the leadership of our Deacon. The primary difficulty remains that of knowing when one of our parishioners is in need—we are such private and stoic New Englanders! But if the need is known, we can joyfully and efficiently respond.

We also created the bones of a networking system by listing vocations and avocations of participating parishioners in the back of the Fall 2008 Members and Friends Directory. Looking for a job? A hair stylist? An insurance agent? A bridge or golf partner? Check it out!

Continue steady growth, while maintaining a strong sense of community

Everyone wants growth. It is our baptismal calling to bring others to Christ. And, on a much lesser plane, growth helps to establish financial stability and programmatic vibrancy. But it is equally important to this parish that we not lose our strong sense of community as we grow. Therein lies the tension. In the short term, we have continued to stress communication and accessibility to manage that tension. The Vestry has tried to operate on the basis of transparency and inclusiveness, using every vehicle and forum available to both listen and communicate. Father James, Deacon Christine and Beth Shaw continue to be the paragons of accessibility. In the medium and long term, however, the growth we seek and, praise the Lord, are experiencing, will create stresses. While our growth is bringing resources and energy, it is also demanding greater expenditures of both time and treasure. How to expanding resources to support the management of our growth will be a major challenge for the Vestry and Parish during the coming year. A challenge, but oh, what a nice challenge to have!

Thank you for again giving me the opportunity to serve,
Jennifer Gregg

Junior Warden's Report: Annual Meeting, 2009

As I reflect on 2008, three themes come to mind. The first is the changing focus of the Vestry's work. When I first joined the Vestry some time ago, the focus of each meeting seemed to be fixing some problem or other, repairing a damaged relationship or mediating a difference in opinion. We seemed to step on each other's toes periodically and had to stop to reconsider and start forward again. But in 2008 it seems to me our focus has largely been the future. Taking the work done during the Mutual Study of Ministry and working through how we can best support our goals and aspirations as a Parish has been an exciting and challenging effort.

Finance is another theme that has grabbed our attention in 2008. We started off quite positively following a successful annual stewardship drive for 2008. But as we all know too well, things changed dramatically in August. S. Mary's too has been impacted with lower income from our invested funds and reduced income from pledges, likely causing us to run a deficit for 2008. 2009 will likely be a challenging year financially.

Finally, I continue to be amazed at the spirit of volunteerism at S. Mary's. Two examples come to mind: Buildings and grounds continues to make repairs and improvements to our campus thanks to the dedicated efforts of that group in spite of a limited budget. And on the day of the Sparkles Christmas Fair, volunteers came out of the woodwork to make the event the most successful to date. Thank you to all of you who contribute in so many ways. Your efforts are appreciated and make S. Mary's the special faith community that it is.

Hugh Smith
Junior Warden

Voter Qualifications

According to the Constitution of S. Mary's, membership in the parish and voting privileges at the annual parish meeting are defined thusly:

"Any person of the age of fifteen years, signifying his or her intentions of attaching himself or herself to said Church, and accepting the terms of this Constitution and signing it, and who has aided in maintaining Public Worship therein for a period of six months immediately preceding any meeting of the Parish, and by pecuniary aid therefore, shall be considered a member of the parish, and entitled to vote in its affairs".

Slate of Nominations for the Year 2009

At the Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin on Sunday, January 25, 2009, elections will be held to fill leadership positions and to elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Our thanks to the following parish members who have agreed to serve if elected.

Senior Warden: Jennifer Gregg

Junior Warden: Hugh Smith

Treasurer: Mary Smith

Vestry:

(4) Three-year terms Carla Birt (2012)
 Betsy Elliman (2012)
 Jack Heinzman (2012)
 Greg Unfricht (2012)

(2) One-year terms Patricia Wheeler (2010)
 Lowell Brown, III (2010)

Convention Delegates: To be announced at the Annual Meeting
[Customarily the Junior and Senior Wardens serve as delegates.]

Respectfully submitted,
The Nominating Committee:

Charlie Hurdman, Lucy Ellis, Jean Gulliver, Lynda Conner, Andrea Myles-Hunkin

Biographies for 2009 Vestry Nominations

Jennifer Gregg, Sr. Warden

A “cradle Episcopalian”, I was born and raised in northern California, graduated from Lawrence University (Wisconsin) with majors in French and Political Science and later earned a Masters Degree in International Security from the National War College. I retired to Falmouth in January 2000 after 30 years service with the Central Intelligence Agency. I came to St. Mary's in 2000 and have been involved in several aspects of parish life during that time, including Thursday Group, the Outreach Committee, Rite-13, Welcoming Committee and Office Angels. I have served as Sr. Warden for three years.

Though my professional background has provided me with a strong understanding of and need for discretion, I am an equally strong believer in reaching out to others, seeking consensus, and promoting open, frequent communication both within and between organizations. I am decidedly “goal-oriented” but have learned that we rarely laugh enough and we never, ever say “Thank You” as often as we should.

Hugh Smith, Jr. Warden

A life long resident of Maine, I grew up Topsham attending local elementary schools and Brunswick High School. I started working for Hannaford Bros. Co while attending and graduating from USM and have worked there ever since, now over 40 years. I have four grown children, Cliff, a former professional minor league baseball player now teaching, Kyla, attending the New England College of Optometry, Sarah, a Nurse Practitioner and finally Steven, a deckhand on an ocean-going tug. Mary and I started attending St. Mary's in 1987 as we prepared to get married deciding that the Episcopal Church seemed to fit our values and our understanding of God. St. Mary's was a natural choice as it was convenient but has grown to be a key part of my life as I became more active in church life.

My other interests include volunteering on various Town of Falmouth committees. I have served on the Board of Zoning Appeals, an ad hoc Cell Tower Committee and currently serve as the Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. For fun, boating, particularly sailing, has been a nearly life long passion. We own a 31 foot sailboat that we sail extensively along the Maine coast and recently chartered a sailboat in the Spanish Virgins Islands. In the cooler months, I enjoy cross-country skiing and reading. I'm also enjoying a new phase of my life as a grandfather.

Mary Smith, Treasurer

I grew up in Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BS in elementary education. After moving to Maine in 1973 I received an accounting degree from USM. My husband, Hugh, and I have four adult children, one granddaughter and another due in March. We have been members of St. Mary's for over 20 years. I served a three-year term on the Vestry several years ago, have been a delegate to the Diocesan convention many times and am a member of the Altar Guild. I have worked as an accountant or IT auditor at Hannaford for 32 years.

Lowell Brown, III, Vestry Member

Lowell Brown is 16 years old and a sophomore at Falmouth High School. He is a lifelong Episcopalian, having been baptized in April of 1993 at All Saints Church in Beverly Hills, California. He moved to Maine with his family in 1999 and after a year at St. Lukes became a parishioner at St. Mary's in 2000. He was confirmed as part of Father James first confirmation class at St. Mary's in 2006. Lowell is an avid musician and is very involved in Portland's music scene.

Betsy Elliman, Vestry Member

I grew up in Connecticut and received my BA degree in European History from Wheaton College. (The one in Norton, MA) My husband Tom and I raised our two daughters here in Falmouth where we all attended S. Mary's starting in 1969. Tom and I left Maine in 1990 for New Hampshire and later Michigan where we were active participants in our local Episcopal Churches. While in New Hampshire I went back to school to get my Masters in Elementary Education and taught Kindergarten in Michigan until my retirement in 2006. We moved back to Maine in the summer of 2007 after a 7 month trip around the country in our camper van. My current volunteer activities include Altar Guild here at S. Mary's, St. Elizabeth's Essential Needs Pantry, and the Center for Grieving Children where I work in an after school program for refugee children. I am also a walking tour docent for Greater Portland Landmarks, a not-very-talented painting student, and a proud grandmother of four.

Jack Heinzman, Vestry Member

Jack Heinzman is a native of Los Angeles, CA, and moved to Maine six years ago. He currently resides in Falmouth with his wife, Elizabeth, and young daughter, Samantha. He graduated from California State University Northridge with a degree in Business Administration/Marketing Specialization. Jack is a Mortgage Professional for Transcontinental Lending Group specializing in all aspects of residential and commercial lending. He enjoys playing tennis, reading, and spending time with his family. Although an avid Patriots fan, he remains loyal to the Lakers and the Dodgers.

Gregory Unfricht, Vestry Member

I currently live in Freeport with my wife Laura and daughter Natalie and have been members of the Church since 2005. Natalie was baptized at S. Mary's in June 2006, and I was received into the Episcopal Church later that year. I was born and raised in Connecticut (where most of my family still is) and before moving to Maine, I lived in Washington DC, where I attended The American University (the AU Eagles finally got into the NCAA basketball tourney last year). I graduated in 1992 and have worked as an accountant for 15 years, currently with Unum's corporate tax department. I have coached baseball and basketball, and was involved in the St Mary's youth group. Laura and I traveled the US for two months in 1999, looking for a place to live and good food to eat. We found both in Maine. Laura says I am a good cook, so I have added my favorites to the Sparkle Cookie Walk, and helped out with the Agape Supper. I don't know why they insist on putting me on KP at the Preble Street Resource center every month.

Patricia Wheeler, Vestry Member

Tricia has been a life-long member of the Episcopal Church. She was baptized at St. Mark's Episcopal church in Glen Ellyn, IL in 1965 and confirmed at St. Luke's Episcopal church in Darien, CT in 1978. She moved to Maine in 1998 and joined S. Mary's in 2003 with her husband Ryan Stinneford and daughters Julia and Emily. She works with Father James and Meg Hurdman on the Guiding RAY curriculum and volunteers as a Guiding RAY teacher. In her professional career, Tricia works full-time as a banking lawyer with an emphasis on consumer financial services.

Operating Budgets

Account name	07 Actual	08 Budget	08 Actual	09 Budget
REVENUE				
1 Pledges	225,646	280,000	247,024	280,000
2 Non Pledges	10,163	10,000	7,910	8,000
3 Prior Year Pledges	4,994	2,000	2,746	2,000
4 Loose Offering	5,919	6,000	6,206	5,000
5 Special Offerings	7,619	10,000	9,188	5,000
6 Use of Parish House	11,733	13,000	10,038	10,500
7 Unrestricted Gifts	25,566	5,000	48,542	20,000
8 General Fundraisers, Net	17,766	20,000	21,114	18,000
9 General Invest. Income	25,903	25,000	24,673	22,500
10 Interest/dividends: Fidelity	615	500	192	250
11 Total Revenue	335,924	371,500	377,633	371,250
12 Transfer from Fund #1241	30,000	0	45,000	
EXPENSES				
13 Mission Apportionment	47,769	53,234	53,234	55,418
14 Episcopate	469	503	503	633
	48,238	53,737	53,737	56,051
Personnel Expenses				
15 Salaries	114,440	120,630	123,512	125,704
16 SelfEmpTaxReim Rector	6,790	7,246	7,246	7,464
17 Social Security: Employees	4,414	4,718	4,728	4,924
18 Rector Housing Equity Allowance	2,638	2,842	2,842	3,039
19 Pensions	24,439	21,104	20,968	21,775
20 Medical / Dental / Life Ins.	6,599	7,583	7,580	8,123
21 Car Allowance: Rector	2,000	2,000	2,140	2,140
21 Discretionary Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
23 Sabbatical (Fund #1272)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
24 Mileage: Deacon	775	2,300	2,424	2,265
25 Discretionary: Deacon	200	600	600	600
26 Education: Deacon	144	500	500	500
27 Guest Musicians	800	1,600	1,600	1,400
28 Children's Educa. Director				
29 Nursery Help	775	1,080	830	980
29 2001 Federal payroll taxes & interest			1,987	
30 Total Personnel Exp.	166,014	174,203	178,957	180,914
Buildings & Grounds				
31 Gen. Main.: Buildings		6,500	5,277	6,500
32 Gen. Main.: Grounds		700	648	700
33 General Maintenance	8,497			
34 Cleaning	10,050			
35 Snow Removal	5,750	5,000	6,250	6,000
36 Mowing		800	924	1,000
37 Lawn Care	1,261			
38 Major Projects	5,882	10,000	9,920	9,000
39 Waste Removal	873			
40 Organ maintenance	958			
41 Piano tunings	150			
42 Total Build. & Grnds.	33,421	23,000	23,019	23,200

Account name	07 Actual	08 Budget	08 Proj.	09 Budget
General Operating Expenses				
43 Fuel Oil	22,668	19,000	22,059	27,000
44 Electricity	8,418	9,000	8,433	9,000
45 Water/Sewer	2,664	2,700	2,365	2,700
46 Telephone/Internet	1,999	2,000	2,022	2,000
47 Waste removal		750	770	850
48 Cleaning company		11,000	9,637	10,000
49 Cleaning supplies		1,500	1,139	1,500
50 Property & Casualty Ins.	23,024	25,000	23,074	21,581
51 Property Taxes	3,638	3,700	3,841	4,300
52 Office Supplies & Services	6,732	6,000	6,011	6,000
53 Postage	1,239	1,500	1,459	1,600
54 Advertising	1,675	1,800	1,353	1,250
55 Vestry/Dio Conv	122	600	530	600
56 Professional Services	1,225	1,234	734	734
57 Parish Supplies	882	700	729	800
58 Total General Operating	74,286	86,484	84,156	89,915
Program Expenses				
59 Altar Guild	828	800	929	1,000
60 Christian Formation	1,611	1,615	1,057	1,500
61 Youth Groups	324	150	150	800
62 September Carnival	224	250	0	0
63 Hospitality	2,562	2,500	2,383	2,000
64 Memorial Reception gift	(24)	0	0	0
65 Music for Choir	391	600	801	700
66 Organ maintenance/tuning		1,000	1,107	2,000
67 Pianos tuned		600	0	600
68 Outreach	14,160	16,800	16,710	16,800
69 Contribution to seminary		1,000	1,000	0
70 Welcoming Comm.	0	250	0	125
71 Worship Expense	717	700	747	500
72 Acolytes	0	0	261	150
73 Total Program	20,793	26,265	25,145	26,175
74 Amortization of loan	5,500	5,500	5,500	0
75 Scott Simons Archts. fees			21,521	18,479
76 Total Expenses	348,401	369,189	392,035	394,734
77 Surplus/Deficit	(12,329)	2,311	-14,402	(23,484)
78 Expenses without SSArchts. fees			370,514	376,255
79 Operating net without SSArchts. fees			7,119	(5,005)
80 Transfer to Fund #1241	29,410	0	0	0
81 Not transferred to Fund #1241	590	0	0	0

About S. Mary's 2009 Finances

Q. *Do we have an endowment, or do all of our operating funds come from pledge payments, loose offerings on Sundays, and donations?*

A. Yes, and yes. S. Mary's has access to endowed funds, with a total market value as of 10/31/08 of some \$423,859. *(This sum does not include the \$89,000 that is owed to Fund #1241. \$125,000 was borrowed in 2005 for capital projects, of which \$36,000 has been repaid.)*

All of S. Mary's invested funds are held in trust and managed by the Trustees of the Diocesan Funds. The Trustees' spending rule is:

* Pooled Equity Fund (stocks): Using a total return policy, 5.0% of the average value of the equity fund over the last twelve quarters is paid out.

* Fixed Income Fund (bonds): The actual interest earned by the bonds during the year is paid out.

For 2009, the "General Investment Income" is budgeted to be \$22,500. This income is derived from the funds #1 through #7 as listed below. The fee paid for the investment management of the funds is 0.4% of the principal value. Following S. Mary's vestry-approved investment guidelines, asset allocation for funds #1 through #7 is 60% equity/40% fixed; for funds #8 and #9, it is 40% equity/60% fixed.

Funds with Principal Restricted by Will:

1. John Marshall Brown Fund#1240: Owned by the Diocese.
2. Alida G. Brown Fund A#1250: Owned by the Bishop.
3. Alida G. Brown Fund B#1260: Owned by the Bishop.
4. Mellie G. Estes Fund#1270: Owned by the Diocese.
5. John and Cl. Giffard Fund#1275: Owned by the Diocese.
6. Roger F. and Katherine F. Woodman Fund#1276: Owned by the Diocese.

Fund created by S. Mary's with Principal Unrestricted:

7. J. M. Brown Memorial Fund#1241

Funds with Principal/Income Restricted to Purpose:

8. Seminary/Sabbatical Fund#1272:
9. Churchyard Fund#1273:

Q. *How is the budget developed?*

A. The Finance Committee consulted with the committee and guild chairs, Father James and Parish Administrator Beth Shaw to prepare a draft budget, which was presented to the vestry for discussion, amendment and adoption. They considered the needs of the operating committees, management of the parish and goals of the church to develop a budget that accurately reflects the S. Mary's broad mission. The vestry approved the 2009 budget at its November 2008 meeting and amended it in December.

* * * * *

REVENUES

Pledges	\$280,000
Signed pledges of financial support.	
Non-Pledges	\$ 8,000
Parishioners who regularly <i>give on Sundays</i> , but do not <i>pledge</i> .	
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 2,000
Payments for 2008 pledges unpaid during that year.	
Loose Offering	\$ 5,000
The loose offerings from Sundays and Holy Days (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter).	
Special Offerings	\$ 5,000
Gifts given in Easter and Christmas envelopes.	
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 20,000
Gifts that come from weddings, baptisms, unrestricted bequests, memorials and special offerings given throughout the year.	
Fundraisers (net)	\$ 18,000
The fundraising events for 2009 will be developed by the vestry in February.	
Interest & Investment Income	\$ 22,750
Use of Parish House	\$ 10,500
Groups that regularly use the facility include: four AA-association groups (AA and Alanon on Tuesday evenings, Men's AA on Thursday evenings and another Alanon group on Friday evenings); The Boy Singers of Maine, who rehearse Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings; S. Mary's Garden Club, which meets one day each month plus additional days prior to the annual fall sale and the May Plant Sale; Mainely Weavers, who meet one day each month; and the Order of St. Luke, which meets each Tuesday morning. There are other non-profit groups that occasionally use the parish house.	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$371,250

* * * * *

EXPENSES

Assessment Expenses (assessed by the Diocese): \$56,501
--

Mission Apportionment (based on 2007 Parochial Report) \$55,418
Episcopate (\$1.50 per "communicant in good standing") \$ 633
The Diocese's 2009 budget is \$2,105,928, and is used for ministries, aid to congregations, outreach programs, communications, state-wide guilds and committees, and Diocesan operations. Revenue sources include parish apportionments, investment income, and annual gifts and grants.

Personnel: \$180,914

Rector, Parish Administrator, Organist/Choir Director

* **Salaries** \$125,704
Rector: \$61,327; Parish Administrator (includes medical/dental insurance of \$7,835): \$48,777;
Organist/Choir Director: \$15,600.

* **Social Security** \$ 4,924
* **Pension for Parish Administrator** \$ 3,685

Canon 22 directs that lay employees who are paid for 1,000 or more hours annually shall participate in the Church Pension Fund's Lay Employee Pension Plan, or may elect an alternative arrangement.

Items specific to the Rector:

* Self-employment Tax Reimburse.	\$ 7,464
* Housing Equity Allowance	\$ 3,039

For full-time clergy living in church-owned housing, an equity allowance of 3% of the total compensation package, as determined by the Church Pension Fund, is held for them, generally in a Diocesan account, or in an IRA/Annuity of their choice. Upon retirement, the member of the clergy may withdraw this money. It is intended to aid in the purchase of a residence upon retirement.

* Pension	\$ 18,090
-----------	-----------

Determined by a formula provided by the Church Pension Fund; 18% of the "Total Clergy Compensation" (based on cash stipend, cash housing allowance and self-employment tax reimbursement).

* Medical/Dental/Life Insurance	\$ 8,123
* Car Allowance	\$ 2,140
* Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,000
* Seminary/Sabbatical	\$ 1,000

\$1,000 will be deposited to Fund #1272 to help pay for supply clergy at such time as the Rector is on sabbatical, for which the Rector is eligible following each five-year service period.

Items specific to the Deacon:

* Mileage	\$ 2,265
* Discretionary Fund	\$ 600
* Education	\$ 500

Guest Musicians	\$ 1,400
Nursery Help	\$ 980

The Nursery is staffed every Sunday and for the annual parish meeting.

Buildings & Grounds: \$23,200
--

General Maintenance: Buildings	\$ 6,500
General Maintenance: Grounds	\$ 700
Snow Removal and Sanding	\$ 6,000
Mowing	\$ 1,000
Major Projects	\$ 9,000

General Operating Expenses: \$89,915

Fuel Oil	\$ 27,000
Electricity	\$ 9,000
Water and Sewer	\$ 2,700
Telephone and Internet	\$ 2,000
Waste Removal	\$ 850
Cleaning Company	\$ 10,000

This service cleans the parish house and the floors in the church each week. The woodwork in the church is cleaned every other week. It also covers the cost of cleaning the heavy-duty rugs in the auditorium and kitchen every two weeks. Approximate costs: Parish house: \$7,500; church: \$2,500

Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,500
-------------------	----------

Insurance: Property, Casualty and Workers Compensation \$ 21,581

This is the insurance for the church, rectory and parish house, and church-owned properties/furnishings, plus workers compensation. The five dioceses in Province 1 participate in the Provincial Insurance Program, which is managed by Willis of Massachusetts, Inc.

Property Taxes \$ 4,300

Property tax is paid on the rectory. The tax is determined after taking a \$20,000 exemption. Title 36 of Maine Law outlines tax treatment by assessors of houses of worship, and all churches in Falmouth receive equal consideration. The value of the land upon which the rectory sits is further reduced as that land can not be separated from the other buildings, and, hence, has a reduced market value.

The house of worship (church) is exempt, and that exemption is extended to the parish house (community building).

Office Supplies and Equipment \$ 6,000

All of the expenses involved in managing the parish office.

Postage \$ 1,600

Advertising \$ 1,250

Print ads and advertising signs/posters.

Vestry/Diocesan Convention \$ 600

Professional Services \$ 734

Review of 2008 financial records: \$ 500; payroll service fee: \$234.

Parish Supplies \$ 800

Bibles, Common Prayer books and other items.

Programs: \$26,175

Altar Guild \$ 1,000

To cover the costs of candles, fair linens, wafers, wine, and dry cleaning of vestments, hangings and some linens.

Christian Formation \$ 1,500

These funds are used for the Sunday morning children's program.

Youth Group \$ 800

The Youth Group program includes monthly ministries, outings and sessions to prepare the Pentecost liturgy.

September Carnival \$ 0

Hospitality \$ 2,000

Food and supplies for parish-wide meals and receptions; all paper products.

Music for Choir \$ 700

Organ Maintenance/Tuning \$ 2,000
--

Pianos Tuned \$ 600

Outreach \$ 16,800

This amount is 6% of the total signed pledges expected to be paid in 2008.

Theological Education \$ 0

Welcoming Committee \$ 125

Worship \$ 500

Issues of "Forward," paschal candle, special bulletin covers.

Acolytes \$ 150

Amortization of \$89,000 loan balance from Fund #1241: 0

Capital Campaign: Scott Simons Architects: \$18,479 estimate

S. Mary's engaged Scott Simons Architects to prepare a comprehensive plan for the buildings and grounds that will improve the ability of the parish to carry out its programs and meet its mission.

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$394,734
SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	(\$23,484)
Expenses without SSA fees	\$376,255
Deficit without SSA fees	(\$5,005)

Great 50 Days Campaign Account Final Report

	2007	2008
Revenue		
Beginning balance	12,257	8,954
Pledge payments	336	308
Total Revenue	12,593	9,262
Expenses		
Rectory	36	2,977
Parish House roof	6,285	6,285
Parish House exit lights	0	0
Parish House/Rectory chimneys	1,900	0
Driveways/parking lot	1,695	0
Bank charge	8	0
	9,924	9,262
Balance as of Dec. 31	8,954	0

Rectory expense details:

Attic insulation: \$620.00

Laundry room walls and equipment repairs: \$2,081.32

Oil burner cleaning: \$199.95

Repair basement water valve: \$75.73

Restricted Funds

	Oct. 07	Net Activity	Oct. 08
<i>Investments managed by the Trustees of Diocesan Funds:</i>			
<i>the Trustees of Diocesan Funds:</i>			
<i>Funds with Principal Restricted by Will:</i>			
John Marshall Brown Fund #1240	14,984	-3,260	11,724
Alida C. Brown Fund A #1250	2,922	-635	2,287
Alida C. Brown Fund B #1260	61,006	-13,275	47,731
Mellie G. Estes Fund #1270	14,039	-3,093	10,946
John and Cl. Giffard Fund #1275	17,831	-3,864	13,967
Roger F. & Katherine F. Woodman Fund #1276	86,816	-18,824	67,992
<i>Fund owned by S. Mary's with Principal Unrestricted:</i>			
J.M. Brown Memorial Fund #1241	317,706	-84,747	232,959
<i>Funds with Principal/Income Restricted to Purpose:</i>			
Seminary/Sabbatical Fund #1272	1,906	647	2,553
Churchyard Fund #1273	31,392	2,308	33,700
TOTAL	548,602	-124,743	423,859

Restricted gift funds:

Alida and Roger Snow Flower Fund:

Bal. 12/31/07 was \$411. Sold shares in Nov. for \$264.57. Added \$235.43 from Fund #1240 to restore principal to \$500. Deposited total of \$500 in Fund #1240, a restricted fund.)

	Dec. 07	Gifts	Expenses	Dec. 08
Altar Flowers Fund	2,870	2,784	2,576	3,078
Capital Projects	14	2,949	2,207	756
Churchyard	4,219	2,700	5,466	1,453
Kneelers Fund	6,768	500	138	7,130
Memorial Receptions	500	300	48	752
Deacon's Discretionary Account	200	600	25	775
<i>Suspense accounts:</i>				
Discretionary Fund (fmr. Emergency, Fuel, Rector's Discretionary)	528	2,725	0	3,253
Vestment Fund	987	1,000	0	1,987

2008 Report from Saint Mary's Committee and Guilds

Acolyte Report

S. Mary's acolytes represent a faithful group of young people who assist the priest and deacon in public worship. Originally considered part of the clergy, our acolytes exercise an important ministry, and they do so with determination, good nature, and often—good humor (the latter being a necessary part of the job!) This summer, we had an acolyte outing to SplashTown, USA in Saco, and we went “Snow Tubing” in March. Thanks to Meg Hurdman for helping to coordinate both outings.

On our 2009 “wish list” is a set of new acolyte vestments. Contributions for new acolyte robes are most welcome! We also would *love* to have an “acolyte parent” (or aunt, cousin, big brother...) who would be in charge of vestments: seeing that they are clean, and neatly hung up and organized. If you think this is your calling, please speak with the rector, and God bless your pea-pickin' little heart! *And* if you feel that you would like to take on the role of Acolyte Trainer and Coordinator, a star in your crown!

The Acolyte Guild is open to anyone in grade 3 or above. As with every ministry in the church, there is always some ebb and flow: new acolytes arrive, others rotate off for awhile. Acolytes who have served/are serving for 2008 include: Isabella Diamond, Ayden Henson, Bryce Henson, Ally Hurdman, Jennifer Kane, Samantha Kennedy, and Caroline Kyros; Jacob LaPlante, Sam LaPlante; Blair Lindberg, Elizabeth McIntosh and Michael McIntosh; Christopher McGonigle, Matthew McGonigle, Rachel McGonigle and Timothy McGonigle; Sophia McMonagle, Kayla Rose, and David Squire. Training for a new crop of acolytes will begin in March.

The Reverend James P. Dalton-Thompson
Rector

Altar Flower Guild

The members of the Altar Flower Guild take great joy in the privilege of creating suitable floral arrangements for S. Mary's church services, and draw upon their knowledge of the church seasons and the seasonal flowers, greens, fruits and vegetables for their designs. It is the generosity of parishioners, who make memorial or celebratory contributions prior to the Easter season, which makes it possible to have fresh flowers on the altar.

The Guild is especially busy during Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas, when the various worship services call for a variety of displays on the altar, in the sanctuary and nave, and in the outdoor Easter garden. While varying from year to year, the displays serve to support the worship experience, and parishioners can be assured of finding beauty and solace in the arrangements.

The flowers and other materials are generally purchased at Skillin's Greenhouses; yet, S. Mary's grounds provide a rich variety of blooms and greens for summer arrangements. In recent years, the Guild has acquired and created an array of permanent arrangements and garlands for Advent and Christmas decorations, and which are stored carefully in the church's undercroft soon after Twelfth Night each January.

We thank the Guild's members: Sarah Claytor, Kelly Ianno, Melissa Kane, Patricia Kinkade, Jessica Laplante, Mary Lygo, Grace Payne, Hannah Russell, Helga Ryder, Lynne Shepherd Susan Stephens for their work this past year.

The guild always welcomes new members, who often are paired with experienced members for a few Sundays before making their own altar flower arrangements. Please let us know if you would like to join the Altar Flower Guild.

Hannah Russell and Helga Ryder, Co-chairs

Altar Flower Delivery

Each week (with the exception of during Advent and Lent) committee members deliver arrangement of flowers from the altar on Sunday to parish members and friends who are housebound, ill, suffered a loss or baptism, etc.

Our members work very closely with Pastoral Partners who in turn make recommendations each week and have a list in the sacristy.

Our thanks to the following committee members who faithfully have made Sunday deliveries when called upon during the past year: Ellie Asherman, Steve & Jane Bonville, Ella Brown, Betsy Elliman, Maria Kennedy, Alfinodah Fahray, Ruth Kimball, Mark Stimson Betsy & Jim Stoddard, and Edie Tucker. If you would like to join our group to deliver happiness once every 6-8 weeks, please contact Connie Dayton Charles & Connie Dayton

Altar Guild

2008 was another productive year for the Altar Guild. We invite you to become part of our ranks while growing in spirit and grace serving the Lord. It is a blessing to tend God's table and make new friends. 2008 continued to be a building year for us. We started the year with 18 members, many of who were in training. The duties of the Altar Guild, though very much behind the scenes, are essential to the smooth running of the services. They are also an integral part of the spiritual side of our beautiful church.

The end of 2008 saw some attrition but we also welcomed new members to our ranks. Alice Hendry, Sheila Donaldson and Lynda Conner ended their Altar Guild terms in 2008. Julie Morrison and Jennifer White each took a leave of absence in anticipation of the birth of their children. While not an active member of the Altar Guild, Lynne Shepherd continues to help us clean and prepare the fair linen altar cloths as needed. We hope that when life becomes manageable for women, they will reactivate. We appreciate all the hours of quiet duty these women performed over the years.

As we start 2009, we welcome four new members: Janet Corey, Diane Paton, Lee Parker, and Grace Robinson.

For those parishioners unfamiliar with what we do, our duties are simple. Two or three members are on duty each week. They meet at a mutually agreeable time, usually Saturday mornings for routine duties and to prepare for Sunday services. They clean up after the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service and set up for the 10:00 a.m. and clean up a final time. Periodically, we have to plan to set up and clean up for funerals, weddings or baptisms. We also set up for the Thursday morning Eucharist in the Guild Room. We also care for all the linens used on the Altar and for the Eucharist. Members are trained on the proper care and management of the linens.

Christmas and Easter seasons are busy for the Altar Guild. The whole membership shares these busy weeks. Prior to Christmas and Easter, we all gather for a major cleaning and polishing of all the brass and silver as well as a thorough cleaning of the altar area.

With our current membership, we schedule 2-3 members to be on duty weekly. This means that a member will usually be on duty once every 4-5 weeks. Our current membership level also allows for flexibility when a member needs to take a short break due to work or personal demands.

Our work is neither arduous nor time consuming and serves as a quiet ministry. We derive so much satisfaction from the work, and the camaraderie and friendships are truly special. Ruth Kimball and Janet Bowne will continue as co-chairs of the Altar Guild.

Members: Janet Bowne, Ella Brown, Jana Burke, Kathy Coffin, Janet Corey, Kathy Edwards, Betsy Elliman, Kelly Ianno, Hilary Isacke, Ruth Kimball, Barbara Murray, Mary Smith, Diane Paton, Lee Parker and Grace Robinson.

Buildings and Grounds

This has been another busy year for the Buildings and Grounds Committee with many projects undertaken and completed but, as usual, our project list still seems to get longer. We are looking harder at our facilities and when we do, we invariably find more items that need our attention. We continue to get more feedback from the parish as to what needs to be done to maintain our buildings and grounds, so the list expands.

The following is a list of projects completed in 2008:

Rectory

- Insulation was added to the attic to improve thermal efficiency;
- Gutters thoroughly cleaned;
- Basement window frames were painted; and
- Furnace was cleaned and tuned up.

Parish House

- Gutters thoroughly cleaned;
- Heat cables repositioned to reduce icing on the roof;
- Furnaces were cleaned and tuned up;
- Roof over office area and main entrance replaced; and
- A basement window frame was painted.
- Replaced lightbulbs in auditorium with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs
- Place plastic sheeting over windows.

Church

- Refinished 10 chairs;
- Repairs were made to tower roof and the area around the tower roof was recaulked to prevent water from leaking into the church
- Area under sacristy was cleaned and miscellaneous unneeded items were removed;
- Galvanized metal vent from furnace was replaced and eight bags of soot were removed from old vent;
- Furnace was cleaned and tuned up; and
- The ceiling above the tower lights was reinsulated with ridged foam to improve thermal efficiency and additional plywood was added above the insulation to prevent damage;
- Replace light bulbs with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs.

Grounds

- Don Small was hired to mow all the lawns on site after an agreement with Pine Grove Cemetery did not work out;
- A new parking signs were installed to improve the safe access and egress from the site; and
- At two Clean Up Days, we were able to remove large amounts of brush and leaves from the site.

We continued to use the excellent services of Vicky Woodbury for the cleaning of the buildings and to obtain the outstanding snowplowing services of Don Small.

For 2009, our plans are to resume painting the trim on the Rectory and perhaps do some painting on the Parish House. Also plans are to continue the necessary safety improvements as listed in the inspection report prepared by the Falmouth Fire Chief in 2007. The survey of the buildings on-site done by Noelle Lord (old House CPR) in 2007 will continue to be used to determine where we should be setting priorities for the maintenance of these buildings. We will continue to make energy efficient improvements to the campus. Further structural improvement to our campus will be dictated by results of survey conducted by Scott Simons Architects.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee was staffed by Jim Stoddard, Steve Ryder, George Barrett, Chris Richards, Blake Wilkes, Ed Ainsworth, Hannah Russell, Baer Connard, Mike Edwards, John Teets and Chuck Torrens and yours truly. This is a great group of parishioners that have spent numerous hours of their time working to maintain the buildings and grounds as well as planning and directing projects vital to the maintenance and operation of the buildings and grounds at S. Mary's. Their time and efforts have been greatly appreciated. Jim

Stoddard has taken over the leadership of the Committee so if anyone is interested in joining the Committee, please see Jim or anyone of the other members.

There were a variety of other smaller projects completed by the Committee and others, all done with no cost or very little cost to S. Mary's. If you would like to get involved with some of these "do-it-yourself" projects this coming year whether it be providing volunteer labor or financing a project, please see me or any other Buildings and Grounds Committee member. The Committee welcomes your involvement and suggestions. Al Ahlers for the Buildings & Grounds Committee

Choir

This past year has been truly wonderful for the choir. I continue to be amazed at the steadfast support from choir members who are so incredibly generous with their time and energy and bring such joyous music to St. Mary's. Besides the beautiful singing each Sunday, the special Evensong, Taizé and Lessons and Carols services have all been lovely, again because of the loyal commitment from choir members. Because the choir is rather small in numbers, I as well as other choir members have wished that some day we might receive the aid of section leaders who could help out greatly in our efforts, especially in regard to sight reading leadership. St. Mary continues to be a community of caring and supportive people and music is here for us to celebrate this.

Bruce Fithian

Christian Formation Guiding RAY: Religious Adventures for Youth

2008 was a year of continued growth for Children's Christian Formation. Our classrooms are still creatively inspired workshops that teach Bible stories. Workshops currently being used include Arts & Crafts, Cinema & Drama, Storytelling & Games, Computers & Geography and even Cooking.

A key strength of the *Workshop Rotation* model is the development of our own curriculum, which takes into account our history and theological point of view. Father James leads the curriculum subcommittee, with lesson plans being organized by Tricia Wheeler and Meg Hurdman. In the spring, after several meetings and lots of lively discussion, we finished the six year "Scope and Sequence" which is the outline we follow to develop lesson plans. It should be noted instead of purchasing a "pre-packaged" curriculum (at great cost to the parish) we use all the resources at our disposal, both at S. Mary's and available free on the web, to write our own lesson plans. This has been a learning process, but the lessons are improving as we gain experience.

In the winter/spring of 2008 we were the midst of our second year using the *Workshop Rotation Model* and the theme was *God's Chosen People*. We covered *Moses: The Early Years*, *Miracles of Jesus*, *the Easter Story through Peter; Esther* and ended the year with *Saints of Our Time*. The theme for 2008-09 is *Living God's Word* and we opened in September with an introduction to the Bible followed by the stories of *Jacob & Esau*, *Jonah* and *Jesus the Boy*. The entire six year plan is outlined below.

Teachers meetings with Father James are held monthly, prior to the beginning of each rotation. James reviews the story, clarifies the message and answers difficult questions. Again, discussions are lively and many of us are adding to our own understanding of the Bible. One of the benefits of the Guiding RAY program is the opportunity for adult learning. However, the most rewarding aspect is to see first hand how the children are soaking up God's word one lesson at time.

The computer workshop has evolved into a dynamic place, and this fall we added two computers (donated by the Heinzman family) for a total of 4 working stations. Workshop leader, Ann Billings uses a variety of software, and often a projector, for truly interactive lessons. Our once a month "Movie Days" are also an effective teaching tool, and popular with the kids, because we make popcorn the old fashioned way!

One tradition that continues is our regular interactive "Family Chapel" led by Father James on 3 Sundays a month at 9:30 am. This is a time when we recognize children's Birthdays and practice The Lord's Prayer. We often host guests who talk about outreach and we have an ongoing collection of non-perishable food and toiletries. The children also bring small monetary donations.

In addition to our regular lessons, last winter the children corresponded with our sponsor child, through the *Christian Children's Fund*. All the children wrote letters to Hareesh and we took a photograph of our kids to identify the writers. When we receive them, we also read letters from Hareesh to the children.

Father James began Lent with a special children's service held on Ash Wednesday and during Lent the children saved their own money using *Mite* boxes; and because the price of home heating oil was at an all time high, donated the proceeds to *The Fuel Fund*. On Good Friday Father James held a *Children's Stations of the Cross*. We had a great turn-out with 14 teens doing all the readings and many families in attendance at this very special service. We celebrated Easter with an egg hunt and refreshments organized by Carrie McIntosh. The year ended in June with a family picnic. Thanks to all who helped.

In September, in spite of a rainy day that forced the cancellation of our outdoor carnival, we held the "Welcome Home" picnic inside. Special thanks go to the Hospitality Committee and Melissa Kane, who shifted gears without missing a beat and set-up a fantastic indoor carnival where a great time was had by all.

In October, many children participated in a *Blessing of the Animals* with parishioners of all ages, and assorted pets. In November, we focused on the (parish wide) Heifer project, by spending an entire lesson on Heifer. And we will revisit this lesson, at least twice, before the end of the school year in May 2009.

In June, after two years, Katharine Echavarri (Mrs. E) stepped down as the head of the Preschool. We are grateful to Mrs. E for her dedicated leadership and appreciative she will continue to help with the Guiding RAY program, especially with music.

This fall we welcomed Elizabeth Heinzman to the demanding role of Preschool COO. Her energy, enthusiasm and organization have made this a seamless transition for the children. The Preschool uses all the principles of the *Workshop Rotation Model*, which allows them to follow a similar lesson plan to the grade school; however, all elements of this plan are incorporated into one classroom. Thanks to the many parents and teens that have helped keep this classroom running smoothly, as this is consistently our largest group.

December brought a buzz of activity as the children made Advent Wreaths, decorated Gingerbread Houses and collected gifts for needy local families. Despite snow and ice storms we rehearsed for the Pageant and practiced singing & ringing the bells for Christmas Eve. The Bell Choir, Directed by Jessica LaPlante is always a delight. And thanks to Katharine Echavarri, who kept December filled with music, practicing with the many angels and shepherds for the Pageant and leading a small group at the Christmas Eve Family Service. And, thanks to Bruce Fithian for his patience in working with everyone.

Pageant highlights included a "wobbly" dress rehearsal followed by a nearly flawless performance on the 4th Sunday of Advent. An angelic baby Jesus, played by Jett Morrison, was truly filled by the Holy Spirit. Special thanks go to Pageant Wardrobe Mistress, Julie Otte, who organized the costumes and our actors never looked better. We had quite a few children dressed as animals, including a donkey (looking suspiciously like *Eeyore*) and an adorable chicken. All the children performed beautifully, including all the kids who stepped up to fill roles at the last minute. Thanks to Directors Andrea Myles-Hunkin and Garrett Bowne V for so capably leading everyone. After four years of service to our little thespians, we say goodbye to Garrett, who is a HS senior and will soon be off to college. Hopefully, he will be back to watch next year.

Our Nursery continues to operate every Sunday as a welcome spot for our youngest parishioners. Thank you to our very capable team of teens, who are now in their second year, including Peter Kyros, Alexis Lindberg, Grace Richards and Will Smithwick. They have been exceptionally responsible and reliable and for that I am truly grateful. Thank you to all the parents who have helped in the Nursery.

We end the year with approximately 50 families and 100 children (including Nursery) enrolled in Guiding RAY. Most children attend our Christian Formation classes on a semi-regular basis and we average about 26 children and 8 adult volunteers on any given Sunday.

This report would not be complete without a sincere thank you to all the workshop leaders and teachers, too numerous to mention by name, but you know how you are. Our program would not be possible without you. As we tuck God's word into our hearts we pray for spiritual wisdom and growth in 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Hurdman

Director, Children's Christian Formation (Guiding RAY)



Guiding RAY - Six Year Scope & Sequence

Year 1 – God’s Covenants

Creation
 Noah & the Ark
 Abraham & Sarah
 The Christmas Story
 Ten Commandments
 David the Boy
 The Easter Story
 Passover/Last Supper
 Jesus as Shepherd
 Our Baptismal Covenant

Year 2 – God’s Chosen People

Bible Blast
 Elijah
 John the Baptist
 The Christmas Story
 Advent through the Prophets
 Moses (The Early Years)
 Miracles of Jesus
 The Easter Story
 Through the Eyes of Peter
 Esther
 Saints of Our Time

Year 3 – Living God’s Word

Bible Blast
 Jacob & Esau
 Jonah
 The Christmas Story
 Jesus the Boy
 Jesus Calls His Disciples
 The Beatitudes
 The Easter Story
 Holy Week
 Conversion of Saul (Paul)
 The Early Church

Year 4 – Champions of our Faith

Bible Blast
 Joseph and his Brothers
 Moses (The Later Years)
 The Christmas Story
 According to Joseph
 David the King
 The Parables
 The Easter Story
 The Three Mary’s
 Paul’s Missions
 Missionaries of Our Time

Year 5 – Our Faith in the World

Bible Blast
 Genesis: Adam & Eve/Cain & Abel/
 Tower of Babel
 Daniel and the Lion’s Den
 Christmas around the World
 Solomon
 FOJ (Friends of Jesus)
 Mary, Martha & Lazarus
 Easter around the World
 Acts of the Apostles
 Israel: The Promised Land

Year 6 – Our Faith & God’s Kingdom

Bible Blast
 Samuel & Saul
 Holy Heroines
 Ruth, Deborah & Miriam
 The Christmas Story
 12 Days of Christmas
 Signs from John’s Gospel
 Miracles II: The Sequel
 The Easter Story
 The Adversaries
 Resurrection & Ascension
 Revelation

Churchyard Committee

The committee oversees the three areas of the Churchyard that are the internment home of former members of S. Mary's Church. These areas are "the Churchyard" - located directly between the Rectory and the Parish House, "S. Mary's Woods" – designed for the interment of ashes and located at the southern end of the Churchyard, and "the Burial Garden" - located to the right of the Rectory driveway. They all border the Pine Grove Cemetery.

There were six meetings and many other work sessions of the Committee over the past year, which provided for some progress and accomplishments. Some of these items were:

- ☐ Selected and ordered signs to identify the three sections of the Churchyard. The signs greet a person walking the Garden Stroll – a counterclockwise walk through the sections. A special thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee who had the signs installed.
- ☐ Commissioned a refresh of the landscape design for the Burial Garden. The areas final landscaping in 1986 was never completed due to cost constraints. The refreshed design was completed by Susan Carter from Gnome Landscape and Design in Falmouth. The design is still being reviewed in sections by the Churchyard Committee and the Rector with the hope that a final design plan will come to fruition soon.
- ☐ Sponsored “Ready, Set and Not Going Yet!” on 5/4/08. The afternoon event featured a fun-filled, walk-through approach for the quick design of one’s final arrangements. It was well attended and received good reviews!
- ☐ The committee continued to focus on improving the maintenance of the Churchyard and partnered with the Vestry for solutions. We invested in multiple items; including the removal of old cedars in the Old Churchyard, saplings and weeds in S. Mary’s Woods and the hemlock hedge next to the Burial Garden. We also had the bases of the pear trees cleared and mulched, removed old fabric under the berms and refreshed the mulch for all the Burial Garden berms.
- ☐ Reviewed the overall costs of plots in S. Mary’s Woods and compared them to those in other local area cemeteries and authorized a slight increase.

Coming in 2009:

- ☐ The committee plans to complete the Churchyard design plans and to create a cemetery kiosk. This later item will contain copies of the plan that will enable guests to independently locate loved ones.

2008 Activity:

Burials/Internments

	Churchyard	St. Mary's Woods	Burial Garden
Burials	0	1	3
Interments			

Sales

During the year 3 units were sold (1 donated) in S. Mary's Woods and 2 units were sold in the Burial Garden.

Churchyard Committee: Lucy Ellis and Steve Ryder, Co-Chairs
Ed Ainsworth, Grace Payne, Hannah Russell. and John Teets

Finance Committee

The Finance Committees regularly studied the operating funds statement, the projection of year-end revenues and expenses, cash flow analysis, and the restricted accounts, including those that are managed by S. Mary's and others that are managed by the Trustees of Diocesan Funds.

The committee updated the authorization policy for the vestry's adoption, so that the rector, parish administrator, and wardens could carry out S. Mary's business activities. It assisted with creating a five-year financial strategy document in order to help the vestry as it considered the church's anticipated congregational growth and financial needs.

The committee and vestry re-affirmed the policy regarding the use of an unrestricted bequest: It may be used for annual operating expenses if there is a deficit operating budget. It must be added to investment portfolio if there is a balance or surplus operating budget. S. Mary's received two unrestricted bequests, totaling \$34,000 in 2008; they were used to meet operating expenses (see the Unrestricted Gifts line).

S. Mary's 2007 financial records were reviewed by Jim McCallum, CPA, following the process guidelines provided by the diocesan office. The report will be made to the vestry in early 2009 and filed with Bishop Lane's office at the diocese, as required.

In October, the committee compiled information gathered from committee and guild chairs, staff and the rector, and prepared a draft budget for the vestry to review. At the same time, it received reports on 2009 pledges from the Stewardship Committee and considered various other sources of revenue. A final draft of the budget was approved by the vestry in November and is printed elsewhere in this annual report.

The Finance Committee members have been attentive and critical managers of S. Mary's financial resources. Each person brings significant experience in financial and business matters in both for-profit and non-profit businesses to the committee's deliberations. We give great thanks for the ministry of Rob Billings, Gabriela DiDomenico, Judy George, Jean Gulliver, Jody Liddell, Christopher Smithwick, Ryan Stinneford and Jean Wilkinson.

Debby Hammond, Treasurer

Hospitality Committee Annual Report

I have been so grateful to each of our fellow St. Mary's Family members who have helped to set-up, prepare and clean up each event sponsored by the Hospitality Committee. I especially want to thank Elizabeth and Jack Heinzman (Guiding Ray Coffee Hour organizers, Memorial Day, event setups), Barbara Richards (our chef!), Michelle Rose (June picnic and Annual Meeting), Lee Snow (always helping with clean up), and Jennifer Gregg (set up, clean up, hosting....you name it!) for their constant support with so many Hospitality Events. Many, many thanks to Guild Members who organized Coffee Hours. I can't mention everyone, but we are blessed to have you in the life of St. Mary's.

January 27: St. Mary's Annual Meeting was held after the 10am Sunday service. A delicious brunch with breakfast breads, fruit salad, sausage and eggs was served buffet style.

May 25: St. Mary's again hosted the Memorial Day Parade refreshments, with the town of Falmouth financing the event. Coffee, juice, donuts and treats were served on the church lawn. Lucy Ellis was a huge help in organizing all the details.

June 1: The last day of Sunday School, confirmation and the Bishop's visit were celebrated with a scrumptious picnic on the church lawn. The hamburgers and hot dogs were grilled to perfection (thanks to Barbara and Chris Richards) and the salads provided by our many families were plentiful. A special thanks goes to Michele Rose, the Heinzmans and the Richards family for making it all a success.

September 14: Autumn was welcomed in by the beginning of a new Sunday school year with the Welcome Home Carnival and Indoor Picnic. Yes, indoor...the weather didn't cooperate, but we still had delicious burgers and hot dogs from the griddle, and a buffet of potluck salads and desserts. Once again, Chef Richards and her helpers, Grace and Michael, made the picnic a delicious success.

October 19: The 2nd Rector's Awards Breakfast proved, once again, to be a fun event. Father James hosted the breakfast and, as always, generated lots of laughs with his creative, unique awards. An event not to be missed! Many thanks to Robert Billings for mastering the dishwasher and washing every pot in the kitchen!

In addition to the above events, Hospitality made sure we had a family, Guild or group to host coffee hour each Sunday. There is always a sign up sheet in the Guild Room for those who want to host and, of course, we're always looking for volunteers. Hospitality is also looking for committee members, so if you enjoy cooking and/or coordinating events, or just enjoy the fellowship of working together, please let us know (alafond@maine.rr.com). St. Mary's celebrated many fun filled events in 2008 and we're looking forward to another year of great fellowship through hospitality.

Anne LaFond

Kneeler Guild

The Kneeler Guild members, who include Helga Ryder, Barbara Murray, Ginny Stelk, Grace Robinson, Janet Corey, Rosemary Cox-Collins and Debby Hammond, have been studying various methods of kneeler upholstery this past year. This study has led to researching sources of materials that when used, it is hoped, will produce a finished project that should preserve the kneeler for more than 30 years.

S. Mary's kneelers have been researched, designed and painted by Hannah Russell. On the left (Gospel) side of the church one can find the Christmas series, the parables, church seasons, Lord's Prayer, Easter series, saints and crosses from the New Testament. On the right (Epistle) side are the series for Creation, Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark and Moses, and kneelers depicting other Old Testament stories. Often, when a Sunday reading incorporates the passage upon which a particular kneeler's design was based, that kneeler is displayed so that it can be viewed when going to the altar for Holy Communion.

There are also special kneelers and some seat cushions for the Lector's, Rector's, Bishop's chairs, for the acolytes, and the Gloria Patri in the front row. For your wedding, the exquisite wedding kneeler, which shows all the herbs and flowers associated with love and stitched with silk threads, may be used.

If you would like to join the Kneeler Guild, please contact me at 781-3626.

Hannah Russell, Chair

Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

The Church of S. Mary has been blessed with devoted Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors who assist the clergy in worship. The General Convention adopted new language to describe the functions of these lay liturgical ministers. The terms "Chalice Bearer", "Lay Eucharistic Minister" and "Lay Reader" were retired, and were replaced as follows:

Lectors (Readers):

A lector is selected by the rector to read lessons (except the Gospel), psalms, and who may lead the Prayers of the People. Lectors are *not* licensed by the bishop, and unless performing another function simultaneously—choir member, acolyte, Eucharistic Minister—generally come up from the congregation to read. For 2008, lectors included:

Alvin Ahlers	Daniel Funk	Margaret Singer
Ella Brown	Deborah Hammond	David P. Snow
H. Lowell Brown, Jr	E. Mary Lygo	Virginia Stelk
G. Baer Connard	Marian McCue	Betsy Stoddard
Patrick Diamond	Andrea Myles-Hunkin	James Stoddard
Louise Downs	Harold Otte	Leonard A. Taylor, Jr.
Thomas Elliman	Becky Pride	Leonard A. Taylor, III
Lucy H. Ellis	Michael Richards	Gregory Unfricht

Eucharistic Minister

Formerly known as chalice bearers, Eucharistic Ministers are confirmed adult communicants in good standing authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at the Holy Eucharist. Eucharistic Ministers are nominated by the rector to serve a term of three years. At Saint Mary's, in addition to assisting with the chalice, Eucharistic Ministers usually also read the epistle, and may lead the Prayers of the People. They generally vest in cassock and surplice or in alb, depending on the season. For 2008, Eucharistic Ministers who served in that capacity included:

Alvin K Ahlers	Deborah F. Hammond
G. Baer Connard	E. Mary Lygo
Rebecca Clifford Pride	Andrea Myles-Hunkin
Thomas Elliman	Virginia Stelk
Lucy H. Ellis	James Stoddard
Daniel Funk	Leonard A. Taylor, Jr.
	Leonard A. Taylor, III

Eucharistic Visitor:

A Eucharistic Visitor (formerly *Lay Eucharistic Minister*) is a confirmed, adult communicant in good standing authorized to take the Sacrament to members of the congregation who are unable to be present at the Eucharist, by reason of illness or infirmity. At Saint Mary's, the Eucharistic Visitors are selected by the rector and form part of the Pastoral Partners team. They serve under the direction of the rector and/or the deacon. Eucharistic Visitors for 2008 included:

Russell Hicks
Rebecca Clifford Pride
Nancy Lee Snow

Anyone who would like to serve in any of these capacities should speak with the rector.

Rebecca Clifford Pride
Coordinator

Memorial Reception Guild

A primary mission of the Memorial Reception Guild is to provide an atmosphere of Christian caring to our parish family during the difficult hours that follow a Christian Burial service at S. Mary's. Guild members work together to provide a welcoming place for the bereaved to gather with family and friends, to share support and refreshments.

Seven receptions took place in 2008: February 23, Adrian L. Asherman; April 1, Helen K. Parker; April 25, George M. Stiles; June 7, Virginia P. Donovan; June 8, Nancy G. Whittier; June 13, Elbert M. Prince; September 18, Patricia K. Scharf.

Take Time, a quarterly newsletter, helps members to keep in touch, offers a variety of recipes, provides Guild related news and other related items.

Current members of the Guild are: Ellie Asherman, Stella Bauman, Carla Birt, Jane Bonville, Janet Bowne, Sara Clayton, Lynda Conner, Susan and Gary Conway, Janet Corey, Connie Dayton, Kim Diamond, Louise Downs, Betsy Elliman, Linda Emerson, Jennifer Gregg, Alice Harding, Elizabeth Heinzman, Joanne Henderson, Alice Hendry, Jo Ann Hetherington, Meg Hurdman, Kelly Ianno, Elise Kiely, Ruth Kimball, Bexie Knowles, Mary Lalumiere, Mary Lygo, Shelly Maher, Marilyn Milliken, Allison McMonagle, Judy Oliver, Hannah Russell, Dody Ryan, Dorothy Ryan, Helga Ryder, Barbara Sawyer, Jan Searway, Beth Shaw, Lynne Shepherd, Mary Smith, Lee Snow, Lincoln and Ginny Stelk, Susan Stephens, Mark Stimson, Betsy Stoddard, Pat Studley, Evelyn Thurston. Steady growth in our membership allows for a rotation of requests for help, making calls for assistance less frequent.

Current co-chairs of the Guild are Marge Devine and Nita Voskian. We welcome new members at any time.

Office Angels

This Committee continued to provide critical support to the Parish Administrator and Rector as the stalwart group worked on Weekly Bulletins, the AVE, special mailings, straightening up the church and special projects as needed. Some of our Angels prefer to work alone, some prefer the social camaraderie of larger groups, but all bring both skill and joy to the office. The Angels again enjoyed a traditional Spring Luncheon at the Falmouth Sea Grill with Father James and Beth Shaw—the ONE time when they can all be together! Thank you to all who served so diligently and cheerfully this year: Barbara Sawyer, Mary Martin, Judy MacDonald, Pat Kinkade, Sheila Donaldson, Judy Oliver, MaLou Hickler, Alice Harding, Gary and Susan Conway, Adrian Asherman, Julie Woodworth, Susan Stephens, Joanne Henderson, Joanne Hetherington, Audrey Smith, Mary Lygo, Alice Hendry, Betsy Stoddard, Susan Chapman, Debby Reed, Evelyn Thurston.

Outreach Committee

According to the Gospel imperatives, The Outreach Committee of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin responds to local, state, national and global needs. Working through and with the congregation, the committee will focus on those lacking food, housing, and those who are in physical and emotional need, giving special attention to programs which enable people to overcome these conditions in order to improve their lives.

Outreach Committee Members: Judith Brooks, Dorothy Ryan, Harold Otte, Maureen Merrick, Betsy Elliman, Jennifer Gregg, Alfne Fahray, Patrick Diamond, Marian McCue, Anne Ter Weele, Christine Bennett, James Dalton-Thompson, Doug and Becky Pride

As the year ends, we wish to acknowledge the work of Adrian Asherman and Nancy Whittier on behalf of social justice issues. We are grateful to Pat Scharf who served as an interested, integral, and contributing member of the committee until her death this year.

Our broad goals for S. Mary's have been to raise consciousness for Outreach causes by speaking in church about opportunities to serve, by using *The Ave* to communicate what we are doing and how all of us can be involved, by building bulletin boards and circulating articles regarding global issues so that our parish family members can become actively involved doing hands-on work. We want our parish family to be able to walk the walk through action and time, not simply through much-needed and much-appreciated financial support. We also have been continuously aware of our mission to serve local, state, national and international needs of our fellow human beings; to this end we have tried to balance our giving equitably among all geographies.

In the course of 2008, we have:

- Helped organize and participated in the Habitat Walk
- Been instrumental in supporting the Falmouth Food Pantry
- Become integral support staff members of St. Elizabeth's Non-Essential Food Pantry by contributing to diaper drives, sock drives and working at the project site
- Offered a five-week Lenten series on service-oriented activities: St. Elizabeth's, Falmouth-by-the-Sea, Guatemala and Safe Passage, Prison ministries, Myanmar [Father James arranged these programs]
- Updated our Outreach Disbursement Policy, thanks to the Executive Committee and the Vestry
- Established ties with the Haiti-Maine Companion Committee by attending the meeting in Gardiner which proved invaluable to understanding Haitian issues better, particularly around mission work there
- Held a remarkably successful Haitian Art Sale in September to benefit our partner parish
- Managed our Soup Kitchen commitment at the Preble Street Resource Center
- Under the leadership of Patrick Diamond, explored KIVA projects [an organization that provides for small loans and large for persons in the world hoping to start small businesses; researched most responsible non-profits to support in devastated areas caused by Katrina]
- Continued Prison Ministry work through Deacon Christine
- Redesigned the Emergency and Fuel Funds Envelopes to reflect their true purpose more accurately
- Visited Biddeford's In-A-Pinch program at Christ Church to witness the needs of their community and understand their program
- Hosted *Les Petits Chanteurs* and the Haiti Stringed Sextet for the weekend [9/27-29], provided a lasagna dinner, a cookout at Heinzmans' home, and 9 nests in which to reside. [Thanks to the Hatch/Morgans, Heinzmans, Kennedys, Lafonds, Searways, Shaws, Stelks, Patons, and Prides for giving up so much time, energy, and kindness by hosting our guests.]
- Taught one another, raised our consciousnesses about outreach programs by instructing one another [See disbursements to some of these causes]
- Chose Heifer Project International as a parish-wide project for 2009: We are committed to raising the \$5000 to build an ark; created a Heifer Steering Committee; hosted a Noah's ark coffee hour for Heifer.
- Recruited folks to make apple crisps for the October community supper and pies for Thanksgiving to benefit the Falmouth Food Pantry
- Sold Kenyan crafts for the African Team Ministries to support Episcopal churches in Africa
- Sold Guatemalan jewelry to support Safe Passage
- Sold Barnyard Banks to support Heifer International Project
- Promoted the Thanksgiving Baskets and Advent Giving Tree to benefit Woodford's Family Services
- Sold art, banks and ornaments to benefit Outreach projects at SPARKLES.

Outreach Funding

In 2008, The Outreach Committee received 6% of the Parish's total pledged income, which totaled \$16,010. The committee is authorized to spend up to 80 percent of the annual Outreach budget in increments not to exceed \$2,000 without prior Vestry approval. Disbursements are to be made only to 501 (c)3 organizations that have been researched by the Outreach Committee whose activities support the established, approved mission of the Outreach Committee.

Totals of Disbursed Funds by Category:

Local and State: \$8570.00 National: \$2500.00 International: \$4940.00

Local and State

St. Luke's Soup Kitchen \$ 1000.00

Using teams from 11 churches around Portland, Saint Luke's Weekend Soup Kitchen provides up to 200 meals *every* Saturday and Sunday. The Weekend Soup Kitchen is located in the Wayside Soup Kitchen below Preble Street Resource Center. S.Mary's works the soup kitchen every fourth Sunday each month.

Camp Bishopswood Scholarships \$ 1560.00

Mid-Coast Maine Episcopal camp whose primary goal is to live in community and affirm the uniqueness of each person as being created by God in God's image. Funds provided for three scholarships for S. Mary's children in need.

Woodford's Family Services \$ 1725.00

Woodford's Family Services seeks to build partnerships to support the inclusion of all children, adolescents and young adults with special needs and their families in Maine communities.

Falmouth Food Pantry \$ 1085.00

With the help of the Falmouth Ecumenical Network, the Falmouth Food Pantry was relocated to the Falmouth Town Hall, is open two mornings and one afternoon a month, and serves approximately 65 residents of Falmouth, Cumberland and Yarmouth.

Good Shepherd Food Bank \$ 1000.00

Good Shepherd partners with church, civic groups, small and large businesses to obtain millions of pounds of food each year. It also secures truckloads of food from national food donors through its affiliation with America's Second Harvest—the Nation's Food Bank Network. During the past year, Good Shepherd distributed over 9.4 million pounds to more than 500 local and regional food pantries, soup kitchen and community programs servicing 70,000 of Maine's neediest.

Christ Episcopal Church Biddeford Seeds of Hope Center \$ 500.00

The Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center in Biddeford strives to offer hope for those who are struggling, care for those in need, advocacy for those who have been silenced, companionship for those who are alone, and compassionate love for all. The center is staffed by trained volunteers to facilitate the needs of those using the center. Its volunteers serve as a resource to clients who need a listening ear or need help in understanding how to navigate the complex health and human services arenas.

Christ Episcopal Church, Biddeford "In a Pinch" Program \$ 500.00

The "In-A-Pinch Non-food Essentials Pantry" is another project under the umbrella of "Seeds of Hope" at Christ Episcopal Church in Biddeford. The pantry offers non-food essentials two afternoons a month for those in need.

St. Elizabeth's Essential Needs \$ 1000.00

The Essentials Pantry operates out of the Cathedral of St. Luke. It seeks to offer a welcoming, no-barrier program of distribution of non-food essentials to the most needy among us, regardless of religion. Specifically, it distributes those things that are not covered by the federal food stamp program. These include such staples as diapers, soap, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine pads, shampoo, laundry detergent, deodorant, and cleaning supplies.

The Root Cellar \$ 200.00

The Root Cellar is an interdenominational mission meeting the physical and spiritual needs of inner city Portland youth and their families by engaging the Christian community in volunteer ministries to build relationships that demonstrate the love and hope of the living Jesus Christ. No one denomination guides this organization.

National

Habitat for Humanity – New Orleans \$ 1500.00

Habitat for Humanity of New Orleans builds houses in partnership with sponsors, volunteers, communities, and homeowner families, whereby families are empowered to transform their own lives. It seeks to eliminate poverty housing in the New Orleans area while serving as a catalyst to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. As of January 1, 2008, 95 homes had been completed and 140 more were under construction in different areas of New Orleans.

The American Red Cross - Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter \$ 1000.00

The American Red Cross of the Mississippi Gulf Coast serves Harrison, Hancock and Pearl River Counties. This chapter of the American Red Cross continues to serve those affected by Hurricane Katrina through its Hurricane Recovery Program (HRP). The HRP is focused on long term recovery planning through case management

International

Haiti – St. Matthias \$ 2500.00

S. Mary's has an established partnership with St. Mathias' Parish and School in Grande Riviere du Nord. Funds are used to support a program to build a new school with 4 classrooms and a bathroom for 450 students and teachers, to pay for student uniforms, books, lunch and tuition, as well as teacher salaries. Bishop Duracin of Haiti keeps 10% of all funds received for distribution to parishes that don't have partners either in Maine or other Parishes in the U.S. Money is wired from the Diocese of Maine to the Diocese of Haiti and then transported to the Parish by messenger.

Safe Passage \$ 500.00

Safe Passage works with the poorest at-risk children of families working in the Guatemala City garbage dump. Within a safe and caring environment, Safe Passage provides a comprehensive and integrated program that fosters hope, good health, educational achievement, self-sufficiency, self esteem and confidence.

Friends of Kakamega \$ 500.00

The Orphan Project of Kakamega, Kenya is a grassroots effort to help children whose parents have died primarily of AIDS. It is an orphanage, a feeding program and provides educational sponsorships for orphans so they can go to school. It is run by Kenyan Quaker women of the USFW (United Society of Friends Women, Kakamega). Since 2001 they have devoted their lives to helping orphans in serious need.

Training for Mothers of Masimba, Zimbabwe \$ 500.00

The purpose of the grant is to train the mothers of disabled children of the community of Highfield in Harare, Zimbabwe, to run a business (specifically, making paper for sale to Zimbabwe firm Eco Africa). The mothers will be taught skills needed to be self-sufficient. Funds are transmitted through an employee of the US Embassy in Harare.

Christian Children's Fund \$ 440.00

The Christian Children's fund seeks to create an environment of hope and respect for children in need in which they have opportunities to achieve their full potential, and provides children, families and communities with practical tools for positive change. S. Mary's sponsors one child (Hareesh) for \$30 per month and will do so until Hareesh reaches 18 years of age (in 2016). This disbursement reflects the annual sponsorship, a \$30.00 birthday gift and a \$50.00 Christmas present.

Episcopal Relief and Development - Myanmar \$ 500.00

ERD continues to support people in the impoverished country of Myanmar who are still struggling to rebuild their lives following cyclone Nargis. At least 77,000 people were killed by the cyclone and many are still missing. ERD partners with the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) to provide relief.

- - In addition to that money budgeted by the Vestry, the Outreach Committee raised \$7044.00 in 2008:

- \$2200 for our partner parish of our partner parish St. Matthias in Haiti from the art sale.
- \$1391 for *Les Petits Chanteurs* of Holy Trinity Music School for their scholarship program.
- \$1953 for the African Team Ministries.
- \$500 for Safe Passage through the sale of jewelry.
- \$1000 (gross) for Heifer International to date.

Pastoral Partners

“Pastoral Partners” is the name that S. Mary’s uses for our lay pastoral visiting team. Four years ago this program was started to help assure that hospitalized and shut in parishioners were visited and reassured that they are a part of a loving and caring community of Christians. With hospital visits being shortened and with so many parishioners being unable to attend regular Sunday services, having a group of lay people to supplement the Rector’s work in this area has become a necessity.

There are some of us who regularly visit Maine Medical Center once each week, but the best way to assure that we visit is if the parishioner informs the office and/or clergy that they are there.

Once we have found a S. Mary’s parishioner in the hospital, we go to visit. We usually check with the nurses’ station on the floor to see if it’s okay to visit the person, and if we then find the patient awake and available, we introduce ourselves and ask if it’s okay to visit. We have a small prayer book entitled “Ministering to the Sick”, which has some prayers that we can say with people, and also has a short form for sharing the Eucharist. If the parishioner wants to pray, we pray with them. If (s)he wants to just talk, that’s what we do. We usually ask if the person wants someone to bring the Eucharist to them, if they would like a visit from clergy and if they wish to be on the Sunday prayer list. At all times, the focus of the visit is on the needs of the person visited. Many of the people we have visited have just been happy to have someone to talk to. Some have wanted to pray. Praying with someone who is hospitalized and bringing Communion to someone are the most moving and powerful things I have ever done. It is a very rewarding ministry.

We also have some members who focus on visiting shut-ins. We have all visited people in nursing homes and at rehabilitation hospitals as well. If you are unable to get to church, or know of someone associated with S. Mary’s who is unable to attend, please call the office. We can visit and bring the Eucharist to you.

The whole group meets regularly with Deacon Christine, to talk about how the visits are going, and to discuss problems and coverage when people are away. This is also a time when we can inform each other of parishioners that may be shut in and require visits.

If you are going into the hospital, nursing home or rehab facility, PLEASE call the office and tell Beth when and where you are going, whether or not you want to be visited and if you would like someone to bring you the Eucharist. Also, when you check in, tell them that you are and Episcopalian, and that your church is S. Mary’s! Whether we visit you or not, we’ll be praying for your quick recovery!

Gary Conway, Stan Eaton, Becky Pride, David Snow, Betsy Stoddard, Margaret Jean Taylor
Lee Snow & Russ Hicks, co-chairs

Stewardship

I wish we could call Washington soon and do what the rest of America is doing in asking for help in our annual stewardship campaign, but we would be pretty low on the list for bailouts. But we do need your help this year to achieve our ambitious targets. It goes without saying that we have all been impacted by the economic slowdown and the lights must go on here at S. Mary's (except on Mondays). I truly believe we can reach our goals, so as Chairman of the Stewardship Committee I must ask that you think about what S. Mary's has now become with Father James's inspiration and leadership.

As of this writing on Friday January 9th, we have received pledges totaling \$178,000 towards our goal of \$280 thousand for the year 2009. By this time last year, we had received pledges of over \$214 thousand. Although the campaign started a little later this year, you can see that we are behind. Of some 200 families and individuals whom we wouldwho pledged this year for the 2009 campaign there are about 65 families and individuals who have not yet pledged. I believe the success of this campaign actually will hinge on all the new families that have joined in the last two or three years and are benefiting from all the new children's programs and increased attendance at Sunday school.

I am confident that the S. Mary's family will make this campaign a family priority and make the 100% pledge goal happen by the time the Annual meeting rolls around on January 25th. Thanks goes to the Vestry for their superb effort on rounding up calls to all.

Ushers

Ushers play a key role in helping ensure that our clergy and congregation both have the support they need to fully participate in and enjoy our worship services. We are pleased to report we currently have an active roster of 24 parishioners in rotation as ushers at our 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday services (please see list below).

Serving as an usher is a great way to serve the parish. It doesn't require a significant time commitment and it is a wonderful opportunity to experience our services from a slightly different perspective. It is always great to have a balance of "veteran" ushers and new recruits, and we welcome new recruits at any point. Even if your schedule makes it difficult for you to commit to a regular rotation, we would welcome the opportunity to include you on a standby list of potential fill-ins we might call upon in those instances when the regularly scheduled usher has a last-minute conflict.

We would like to express our thanks to all of the individuals who served as ushers throughout 2008, and look forward to having most of them continue their service in 2009. We also extend our thanks to Beth Shaw who creates the monthly schedule of usher assignments for our services.

We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you might have about how the S. Mary's ushers might better support your individual needs, or those of the congregation at large, during our Sunday worship services.

Respectfully submitted by:

Charlie Hurdman: 318-1418; crhurdman@maine.rr.com

Weekday Worship / Bible Study

(formerly known as the Thursday Group)

This group gathers every Thursday morning from 10:00 until about noon. We are women and men, and there are about ten to twelve of us, in addition to the Rector and occasionally the Deacon. Some come regularly and some come occasionally. From 10:00 to 10:30 is catch up time when we talk about what is happening in our lives, learn how absent members are faring and what parishioners are in need of our prayers. All of this conversation is confidential unless we have permission to share it. Following the Eucharist at 10:30, we adjourn for refreshments and Bible study. Thursday mornings are a warm, peaceful and renewing interlude for all of us and we invite everyone to share it.

Lee Snow



Welcome Committee

The purpose of the Welcoming Committee is to help identify new and/or returning members to The Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Once identified, a personal handwritten note of welcome is sent to each individual or family and we inquire as to any questions the new prospect might have about St. Mary's or its many and varied programs.

All new member individuals or families are then personally invited to attend a "Welcoming Reception". Committee members are able to engage the new members and answer any questions they may have at the receptions. These gatherings are attended by members of the Welcoming Committee, The Rector, Vestry members who wish to be in attendance as well as any present church member who may wish to be included to welcome a friend, neighbor or other family member.

Members of the Welcoming Committee:

Chris & Missy Smithwick, Chairpersons, Jennifer Gregg, Dorothy Ryan, Connie & Charlie Dayton, Melinda & Chuck Torrens, Rev. Lincoln & Ginny Stelk, Andres Myles-Hunkin, and Judy George

Activity for Calendar Year 2008

Two Welcoming Receptions were hosted:

- July, 2008 hosted by Father James at the Rectory. The Summer party was well attended with many familiar faces welcoming new families and individuals.
- October, 2008 hosted by the Smithwick family. This second gathering had nearly twenty attendees including many children who enjoyed their time with crafts and games.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Smithwick

Youth Group

This past summer, Fr. James established a group of parishioners to develop a multi-faceted program for grades 7-9 at St. Mary's. One of the first year's goal was to develop a process that will lead to confirmation on November 1, 2009, with Bishop Stephen Lane.

The task force has planned a program that includes fellowship and fun activities (often off-site), service and outreach, and faith formation: learning about the important parts of our faith, covenants between God and each individual made at Baptism, moral tools used in decision-making, and the "Episcopal ethos".

Activities have been planned through late June, with highlights being special liturgy at 4:00 PM on May 31, the Day of Pentecost. Working with Fr. James, students design all aspects of this Eucharist: writing prayers, selecting readings, constructing a special Eucharistic Prayer especially for the occasion.

The youth program is derived from our very successful Guiding RAY program. Longer term, the task force wants to help our youth make their faith part of their everyday lives, not just something that happens on the Sundays when they come to church. The program is one that will take several years to fully develop, and as such, it is an exciting work-in-progress.

David Wilson
Andrew McIntosh
James Dalton-Thompson

2008 Parish Registry

Baptisms:

Anna Rea Vigue
Caroline Potter Grace
Nathaniel Scott Buchanan
Christopher Regan Hamman
Charles Soule Murray
David Boutelle Burray
Nolan Kingsley Browne
Oliver Finn Perry
Saylor Marcelino Perry
Jaron Patrick Gallagher
Jett Campbell Morrison

Deaths:

Adrian Lord Asherman
Helen Kristine Parker
George M. Stiles
Virginia M. Porter Donovan
Nancy G. Whittier
Elbert Marshall Prince
Patricia Kelsey Scharf

Marriages:

Joseph Henry Leasure and Deanne Loretta Sanny
Lucas Jay Hallett and Jessica Shaw Skillin
John Robert Hale and Maureen Margaret MacLeod Merrick
Christopher Martin Twombly and Elizabeth Anne Richter
Andrew Kingman Cheung and Karen Lynn Corrie

Report on Comprehensive Planning Work

In early 2008, the vestry concluded a Mutual Study of Ministry. Several themes came from that study including how much we value our service, music and our Rector; the importance of a strong Christian education program; an active outreach effort with focus on our region and naturally the beautiful and historic campus. These findings were not surprising but we needed to ensure that we had a clear understanding of our aspirations as a parish to help us set priorities and direct our future initiatives.

A “Feasibility Planning Task Force” was formed in February and charged with determining a comprehensive plan for S. Mary’s buildings and grounds that would support S. Mary’s ministries and goals formed by the Mutual Study of Ministry. The vestry selected Scott Simons Architects to prepare the comprehensive plan. Since the fall, the task force has worked with SSA as it held interviews with committees, guilds, staff, the rector and community groups that use S. Mary’s. The total cost for the plan will be some \$32,000-\$40,000. The final report will provide information on how to make our buildings and grounds sustainable; how to improve the property to better meet today’s program goals; recommend ways to assure safe and convenient access; and present cost-effective methods for sequencing projects to achieve the greatest gains in energy efficiencies and the most improvements to support successful programs.

When the final report is received, parishioners will have the opportunity to study and comment upon it, and to determine what the priorities should be. As funds are raised for those priorities, the plan will be implemented. Because funds have not yet been solicited or provided for this phase of assuring the long-term sustainability of S. Mary’s, the expenses for Scott Simons Architects are being paid through the operating budget. When money is given for the emerging comprehensive campaign, these expenses will be reimbursed with contributions.

Anticipated total cost of the comprehensive plan: \$32,000-\$40,000.

Expenses incurred in 2008: \$14,073.

Expenses budgeted for 2009: \$23,746.

Currently, the final report is in draft form and being reviewed and revised in preparation for a presentation of the recommendations to the Vestry in February. Further revision may be required based on direction from the Vestry. The next steps would normally be to start a feasibility study to determine if there is agreement and financial support for the comprehensive plan. Given the economic climate the Vestry may choose from several options including moving forward or postponing further action until the economy improves. In any case, the work that has been done to date will serve as a road map for the future as the resources become available to implement the comprehensive plan.

Hugh Smith, Jr. Warden

The 189th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maine Reflections and Epiphanies

It was amazing to hear and be exposed to how much is going on in the Diocese and the Episcopal Church as a whole. It is so easy to become focused on our parish and immediate community and to lose sight of the broader picture. The Convention, in some respects, felt like a gathering of distant family and friends, coming together to renew contact with those who had not been seen for a while. The presentations inspired both commitment and passion. Upon reflection, there was certainly a lot to absorb and consider. There is so much to be done. I think the Convention served as a time to come together, refocus on what is important and offer a challenge to us to carefully consider where we want to go in the days, weeks, months ahead of us until we meet again.

Not surprisingly, Bishop Lane's address was the high point. Bishop Lane challenged us to have a conversation about what God is calling us to do. He also suggested that we need to be engaged in strategic planning to identify our work and determine the best way to accomplish this mission. He also cautioned us not to rush to judgment about solutions: We need a considered, strategic approach. He reminded us that Maine is one of 20 states in recession—this needs to be weighed as we consider all actions going forward. The economy is worsening, and he called upon us to develop mechanisms to respond to those tough times.

Bishop Lane's presentation on the Lambeth Conference was very interesting, especially the notion that cultural differences brought to the discussion table often influence the perspective of those at the table and can sometimes make it very difficult for certain individuals to accept or move to a particular position. To do so requires great courage and a real leap of trust and faith. His experience at Lambeth reminds us that we need to continue to strive to get to know one another by having intentional and patient conversations. We need to model reconciliation for the whole world while connecting people with one another and in turn to God. He noted that this is our job and our calling.

Many questions and challenges are before us:

Does S. Mary's fully appreciate its role in the greater church? Would it be helpful for us to have a discussion/presentation about the organization of the church from parish to diocese, synod, executive council. Although we are a small fish in a big ocean, what we do is important, needed, necessary and valuable.

As we focus on S. Mary's role as a small but significant part of the greater whole, we were reminded of the Millennium Development Goals:

- Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
- Achieve Universal primary Education
- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality
- Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

Is S. Mary's congregation fully aware of these goals? Do we fully appreciate our role? How can S. Mary's play a greater role within the Diocese to contribute to the achievement of these goals?

The trend in giving to United Thank Offering was rather disconcerting with the amount given in 2008 the lowest level in a decade. S. Mary's currently has no program in place to support the United Thank Offering. Should we develop such a program?

The annual "LULU" award for outstanding Newsletters and Websites went to deserving parishes—but S. Mary's surely is competitive! What can we do to promote the good work Beth Shaw and contributors undertake each month?

It was eye-opening to learn of the lack of support for College and Hispanic ministries while the need is great and growing. Is there an opportunity for S. Mary's?

Bishop Lane reported that he is undertaking a review of all diocesan offices, clarifying their missions and evaluating their effectiveness. How does this impact St. Mary's?

It was truly amazing to learn that in the 66 congregations in the diocese, there are only 29 Full Time clergy!!! How fortunate we are to not only have a full time priest with us but to have one the caliber of Father James. We need to be mindful of this all the time.

As we move forward together, I'm sure that we can look back at this meeting for focus on what we need to do and the challenge of how much needs to be done as we consider what our next steps need to be.

Harold Otte