



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
in the City of New York

Sunday, March 2, 2008

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
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in the City of New York
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- I. Call to Order, Opening Prayer
- II. Minutes of the March 18, 2007
Annual Meeting
- III. Election: Delegates to the Diocesan
Convention, November 14-15, 2008
Sheraton Hotel, Mahwah, NJ
- IV. Submitted Reports to the Congregation
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. The Vice President's Report
- VII. The Rector's Report
- VIII. Adjournment

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, JANUARY 1, 2007

Ms. MaryJane Boland, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Mr. Peter Dannenbaum, *December 2005 – December 2009*
The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *Member since February 1999 (Rector and President)*
Mr. Larry Green, *January 2005 – December 2007*
Mr. Steven Heffner, *Treasurer, December 2006 – December 2009*
Mr. Thomas Jayne, *Vice-President, January 2005 – December 2008*
Mr. David Jette, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Mrs. Jane Daniels Lear, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Ms. Susan Miranda, *Secretary, December 2005 – December 2009*
Mrs. Lana V. Mullen, *December 2006 – December 2007*
Mr. Roman Schreiner, *December 2006 – December 2007*

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007

Ms. MaryJane Boland, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Mr. Peter Dannenbaum, *December 2005 – December 2009*
The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *Member since February 1999 (Rector and President)*
Mr. Larry Green, *January 2005 – December 2008*
Mr. Steven Heffner, *Treasurer, December 2006 – December 2009*
Dr. Michael Innis-Jiménez *December 2007 – December 2011*
Mr. Thomas Jayne, *Vice-President, January 2005 – December 2008*
Mr. David Jette, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Ms. Jane Daniels Lear, *December 2006 – December 2010*
Ms. Susan Miranda, *Secretary, December 2005 – December 2009*
Mr. C. Randolph Morgan, *December 2007 – December 2011*

THE PARISH CLERGY

The Reverend Stephen Gerth, *Rector,*
The Reverend Matthew Mead, the Reverend James Ross Smith, *curates,*
The Reverend John Merz, *assisting priest,*
The Reverend Canon Edgar F. Wells, *Rector emeritus.*

THE PARISH MUSICIANS

Mr. Robert McCormick, *organist and music director,*
Mr. Robert McDermitt, *associate organist,*
Mr. Lawrence Trupiano, *organ curator.*

THE PARISH STAFF

Mr. Vince Amodei, *bookkeeper,*
Ms. Andrea Poropatich, *finance assistant,*
Ms. Sandra Schubert, *administrative assistant,*
Mr. Reuben Awuni, *assistant sexton,*
Mr. Antonio Sanchez, *assistant sexton,*
Mr. Mario Martinez, *assistant sexton,*
Mr. Hector Rojas, *building mechanic.*

Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Society of the Free Church of Saint Mary the Virgin

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the Society of the Free Church of Saint Mary the Virgin was held in Saint Joseph's Hall on Sunday, March 18, 2007. The meeting commenced at 12:50 PM with a prayer. The Reverend Stephen Gerth, rector, was in the chair and a quorum of members in good standing was present.

Ms. Susan Miranda was selected to be recording secretary for the meeting. The minutes of the 2006 meeting were adopted as submitted with Ms. Linda Bridges motioning and Mr. Michael Innis-Jiménez seconding.

The first order of business was the election of two Delegates and two Alternates to represent the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin at the Diocesan Convention to be held at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City on Saturday, November 10, 2007. A special request was made by the Rector that the nominees be members of the Board of Trustees. Ms. Linda Bridges nominated Ms. MaryJane Boland; Mr. Robin Landis seconded the motion. Mrs. Sally Landis nominated Ms. Jane Daniels Lear with Mr. John Bryant seconding. Mr. Thomas Jayne and Mr. Steven Heffner were nominated as Alternate Delegates and accepted by acclamation.

The congregation was introduced to the Members of the Board of Trustees: Ms. MaryJane Boland, Mr. Peter Dannenbaum, Mrs. Michael P. Dougherty, Mr. Larry Green, Mr. Steven Heffner, treasurer, Mr. Thomas Jayne, vice-president, Mr. David Jette, Ms. Jane Daniels-Lear, Ms. Susan Miranda, secretary, and Mr. Roman Schreiner.

The congregation, led by Mr. Thomas Jayne, vice-president, extended thanks and applause to the Rector, the Reverend Stephen Gerth, and the curates, the Reverend John Beddingfield and the Reverend Matthew Mead, for a year of hard work. Thanks and applause were also offered to the Music Department. An introduction was made to Chad Kelly, the music department intern. Thanks and applause were offered to the parish administrative assistant, Ms. Sandra Schubert, the building mechanic Mr. Hector Rojas and Mr. Reuben Awuni, Mr. Victor Berrios and Mr. Jesse Reyes, sextons.

The Rector led the congregation in an overview of the printed Annual Report that was distributed at the meeting.

Special thanks were given to the members of the Brother Lawrence Guild for their vital work in hospitality at Saint Mary's. There was an appeal for the congregation to give their time or help pay for coffee hour and receptions.

The Saint Andrew's Guild, led by Ms. Mary Jane Boland and Mr. Eric Peterson, which greets newcomers, was recognized for its contribution to the welcoming spirit of the parish.

Thanks were extended to the leadership of the Gift Shop as well as the Visual Arts Program for providing interesting exhibitions throughout the year in Saint Joseph's Hall.

A special introduction was made for Mr. Dick Leitsch, who founded the Archives Committee. Currently he is working on going through the minutes of past meetings to find the names of benefactors to be included in the printed Annual Report of the parish beginning in the next year. The congregation was reminded that honoring our past assures our future.

Thanks and applause were given to the members of the Saint Mary's Guild for their care of vestments and vessels; to the Saint Raphael's Guild for dedicated ushering, especially that of Mr. George Handy, Head Usher; and to Mr. Dale Bonenberger for his tireless efforts arranging the flowers for the altar.

The congregation was asked to note in the Financial Reports that while the trends are good, the parish needs to grow fast enough to meet the increasing expenses in the next few years or face difficult decisions.

The Rector thanked the congregation for generous pledged giving and made a special appeal for will bequests.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm and concluded with a final blessing, led by the Reverend Stephen Gerth, rector.

Susan Miranda
Recording Secretary

Reports from Other Parish Clergy and Staff

From the Curate for Parish Life & Outreach

I joined the staff at the end of August 2007, when my predecessor, John Beddingfield, left Saint Mary's to begin his new ministry in Washington, D.C. At that time, Father Gerth invited me to serve as an assistant priest on a temporary, but full-time, basis while he searched for a new curate. Some time later I asked the Rector to consider me for the position. He and I began a period of discussion and discernment and, after consulting with Bishop Sisk and the Board of Trustees, Father Gerth invited me to join the staff as the Curate for Parish Life and Outreach. I gratefully accepted his offer. I began my ministry on January 1. My partner, José Vidal, and I moved into the fourth-floor apartment in the Parish House on January 22, 2008.

The past five months have been a time for "on-the-job training." Although I have worked at Saint Mary's in a variety of capacities since 1998, I have never worked here full-time. Therefore, I needed to learn a number of procedures, especially those related to my responsibilities in the areas of stewardship, new member ministry and publicity. During this time, I received an enormous amount of help and encouragement from Fathers Gerth and Mead; from Sandra Schubert, Barbara Klett, and Vince Amodei; from the sisters; from Messrs. McCormick and McDermitt; and from the sextons and volunteers. I am blessed to be working with such generous and patient colleagues. Moreover, I joined the staff at the very moment that the stewardship campaign was beginning. I was fortunate that Steven Heffner and MaryJane Boland, along with the Rector, took on so many responsibilities that had been Father Beddingfield's. To them, and to all my colleagues, I am extremely grateful. I would also like to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Father John Beddingfield, who taught me many things, whose ministry here was so fruitful, and who made my work here easier in so many ways.

Membership

In 2007 we welcomed 20 new members and only lost 1 person to transfer to another church, giving us a total active membership of 257. In addition to our official members we continue to be blessed by many friends and visitors who choose to support the parish and its mission. We have 470 neighbors (whose official membership is at another church). We have 258 clergy friends, 13 weekday friends, 707 national and 79 international friends.

Along with the Rector and other members of the staff I am working on a project to correct and update our computer database. This is giving us a more accurate picture of our membership and is providing us with an essential tool for fundraising, record-keeping, and evangelism. (It has also resulted in lower, but more accurate, membership statistics, since we recently changed the status of those who have not actively supported the parish for at least two years.) The database is also a necessary part of my work in maintaining the parish registers.

At Christmas, we produced a postcard which listed our services and our location. We then distributed the card to local hotels. We are exploring other media, both print and digital, in order to make our ministry and mission better known and to attract new members.

Mission

Father Beddingfield had the foresight to hand off many of the responsibilities connected to our relationship with the Church of San Juan Evangelista, Villanueva, Honduras, to Rebecca Weiner Tompkins. Rebecca did the planning for the annual mission trip, with some logistical support from the staff. Julie Gillis and Michael McNett were in Villanueva January 14-20 and Rebecca provided oversight from home. She continues to be our liaison with the rector of San Juan Evangelista. Saint Mary's made a gift of \$5000.00 to the Villanueva

community for the construction of a house; an additional \$650.00 (donated by our Gift Shop and a number of parishioners) is being used for water, food, and support for the bilingual Episcopal school. Saint Marians also made significant contributions of time, treasure, and talent to a number of other campaigns, including the AIDS Action International gift collection, the New York Cares Winter Coat Drive, and the AIDS Walk.

Stewardship and Giving

I worked with the Rector and the Stewardship Committee to coordinate stewardship, both the annual pledge drive and our ongoing efforts in the area of development. We have received pledges for 2008 which total \$508,000.00, just 7% short of our goal for the year (this is the largest dollar figure in the history of the parish). Achieving that goal remains a very high priority. Also worthy of note is the fact that we had 62 new pledgers for 2008.

Parish Life

After the kitchen was closed for renovation, I assumed some new responsibilities related to hospitality. Along with Hector Rojas, I purchase supplies for Coffee Hour. Early last autumn, Father Mead suggested that we hold a reception following Evensong on Sundays as a way to welcome visitors and provide another opportunity for fellowship. Father Gerth and I liked the idea and since that time I have been managing the receptions. I have also worked with the Rector, Jim Dennis, José Vidal, and the sextons on several other events including the Christmas Eve Supper for acolytes, volunteers and staff members. The latter, also an idea of Father Mead's, was a new effort and proved to be quite successful. (I would like to thank, and I know Father Beddingfield would want me to thank, all those who contributed time and money, talent and food to provide hospitality Sunday after Sunday in 2007). After the kitchen has been renovated, I hope to work with the Rector and others to design a revised system to provide hospitality. I also hope to work more closely this year with our corps of dedicated ushers in order to recruit some new volunteers. We hope to be able to provide coverage at the 47th Street entrance, ensure that Mr. Handy and others are given some help early on Sunday mornings and at Evensong, and assist with welcoming visitors at Coffee Hour.

Conclusion

Not long ago, at the end of a particularly hectic weekday, as I began my homily at Mass, I looked out at the folks who were celebrating the Holy Eucharist with me and I realized how happy I was to be right there, with those people, at that very moment, and I couldn't help saying so. Everything else that day suddenly made sense because of what we were doing together. The opportunity to pray, praise God and to serve as a priest, preacher, and pastor among all of you makes me very happy and I am very grateful for the chance to work, serve, and live here.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend James Ross Smith
Curate for Parish Life & Outreach

From the Curate for Liturgy & Education

As my title suggests, there are two distinct areas that take up the bulk of my time when I am not at the altar or making pastoral visits: Liturgy and Education.

I work directly with three of the guilds who help to make Saint Mary's the wonderful place that it is. Members of the Saint Vincent's Guild serve at the altar on Sundays, on Feast Days and throughout the week. We continue to bring in new servers and train new MCs and thurifers. Additionally, in the past year it has become the norm rather than the exception that we have servers at Low Mass. Life in the sacristy is bustling and fun and I owe all of the members of the guild my gratitude for their time, their commitment to Saint

Mary's, and the joy that they bring to worship at the parish. As always, we continue to welcome those who wish to serve and help out at the altar to the guild.

Members of the Saint Bede's Guild read at all of our services. The lectionary project went online in 2007, in the hopes that our readers – as well as people visiting the parish website – might be able to see in advance exactly what we are reading at every service. I personally have found it very useful to be able to check in advance the Mass or Office readings from my mobile telephone. In 2007 we saw a great increase in the number of regular readers, and I hope that the coming year will see the continued growth of our readers' guild. I would like to thank all of our readers for their time and efforts throughout the past year.

Oversight of the Saint Mary's Guild has passed to the Sisters from the Community of Saint John Baptist. They hold monthly meetings of the guild, at which they polish vessels, repair vestments and maintain the sacristy and the sanctuary. This year our acolyte candlesticks were restored and two altar vessels were repaired. Three sets of candelabra are scheduled to be repaired this year, including both our small and large "burning bush" candle sticks. I would like to thank all members of the guild for their hard work. Also, much of the regular brass polishing was done by the sextons in 2007.

Nursery care has continued throughout the past year on Sundays. The Nursery moved into the larger and more open Saint Benedict's Study (now Saint Benedict's Nursery). The old Nursery has been transformed into a small but useful study space. We hope to restart Sunday School for children, discontinued in 2006, in the near future. The parish does not seem to lack children – at a glance there are a number of children present each week. However, the children who are regularly at Saint Mary's are not yet old enough to attend Sunday School.

Though it happened at the start of 2008, a Sunday schedule change – moving the Sung Mass to 9:00 AM – has meant that we now have an ideal time for Christian Education for both children and adults every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Throughout 2007 plans for this shift were developed. I look forward to reporting next year on the effects of the new schedule.

Christian Formation and Education for adults at Saint Mary's had another good year. All classes moved into the renovated Mission House. Our classroom is fantastic. We continued to offer a Wednesday night Bible Study nearly every week during the academic year. Regular dinner is now part of the Bible Study. 2007 saw easily the highest regular numbers at Bible Study since I have been at Saint Mary's. We averaged between 10 and 17 people for each class. Our Sunday Christian Education program has finally become what I have been trying to achieve: classes nearly every Sunday of the year. We began offering the Christian Essentials Series in September of 2007, and continued it at the start of 2008. Attendance at all classes has continued to grow. A number of the classes in the series topped thirty people. The plan for 2008 is to continue what we have started and even continue classes at 10:00 AM throughout the summer. I hope next year to report that we have at least two Christian Education offerings most weeks of the year.

Sister Deborah Francis and Sister Laura Katharine offered a variety of spirituality events in 2007, including the start of a weekly centering prayer group, several quiet days, and a number of different workshops.

My work with the sextons continued in 2007. I oversaw the painting of the Mission House. One highlight for me of 2007 was the first Board of Trustees meeting that was held in the second-floor classroom of the Mission House.

In 2007 Father John Beddingfield accepted a call as Rector of All Souls Memorial Church in Washington, D.C. Father James Ross Smith joined the staff full time at the end of 2007 (officially as Curate in 2008). It was a pleasure to work with John, and it is a pleasure to work with Jay under the direction of the Rector. I think we had a great clergy team before and I think we still do! Additionally, it is an honor and joy to work with my religious and lay colleagues at Saint Mary's.

Although this report has been primarily about liturgy, education, I am at Saint Mary's first and foremost as a priest. I have been blessed to be able celebrate and preach at Saint Mary's almost every single day this past year. I have gotten to know many new and old parishioners in the past year and have tried to grow as a priest and as a pastor. Serving the corporate Body of Christ and preaching the good news of Jesus thrills me to no end. I have had a wonderful year, and I look forward to the joys and challenges of the year to come. Thank you all for making this year so wonderful.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Curate for Liturgy & Education

Liturgy Statistics for the Annual Report

This is a selected and not a complete list of services.

Said Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Noonday Office, Evening Prayer)	851
Sung Matins (Non-summer Sundays and Major Feast Days)	49
Solemn Evensong & Benediction	35
Said Mass	512
Said Mass with Anointing for Healing	85
Sung Mass	116
Solemn Mass	63
Solemn Pontifical Mass	7
Stations of the Cross	5

From the Community of Saint John Baptist at Saint Mary the Virgin

It seems impossible in some ways that we only arrived here last March 15. You have welcomed us with open arms, and it has been a privilege to live and work among you. For us it is a returning to the city where the community began, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and to our founding charism. (The early sisters stayed here for a short time in the Mission House.)

Since our arrival we have become a part of the daily round of worship, participating in the offices of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Evening Prayer, as well as most Eucharists, Evensong & Benediction, and other special services and classes that occur during the course of the year. We both frequently read lessons for the offices and weekday Masses, and assist with the chalice when needed. As part of a religious community, we have our own schedule for Intercession/Lauds, Compline, private prayer and spiritual reading.

We have become increasingly active in the Adult Education program. This past year we held a class on the Religious Life and Healing & Unction, and we led Quiet Days, workshops on the Icon, and Enneagram. We are both involved in reviving the Saint Mary's Guild, caring for sacristy linens and making small repairs on vestments. We assist with hospitality during Coffee Hours. Sr. Deborah Francis does parish visiting and offers Spiritual Direction.

It is our hope that our relationship with Saint Mary's will grow even more fruitful in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Deborah Francis, C.S.J.B.
Sister Laura Katharine, C.S.J.B.

From the Organist and Music Director

It remains an enormous pleasure and honor to serve as your musician, and to work in this vital and exciting parish. I am in my seventh year at Saint Mary's, and have been inspired by the remarkable growth and tremendous spirit of commitment and mission that is at work here. It is a tremendous honor to contribute in some small way to the work of the parish, and I remain grateful, beyond measure, to Father Gerth, for entrusting me with my work. In addition, I thank my clerical, religious and lay colleagues; it is a joy to serve with them.

Our professional choir continues strong. Consisting of a core of nine "regular" singers, the choir expands up to eighteen singers on certain feasts, as repertoire dictates and the budget allows. Contrary to common perception, I find it a consistent challenge to find excellent professional choral singers in New York City. Very few have the musical and vocal skills (and a certain type of voice is required for our repertoire!) to be successful in our choir. I often remark to parishioners and colleagues that perhaps 5%, at best, of the singers I audition possess the necessary abilities. Two notable reasons for this are the extremely limited amount of rehearsal time before each Mass, as well as the small number of singers. Many are surprised when they learn that the music our choir sings at a typical Solemn Mass, including most of a Mass ordinary (often a very difficult polyphonic setting), the Gregorian chant propers, and an anthem or motet, is learned in a ninety-minute period on Sunday morning. Extra rehearsals are generally only held prior to great feasts, when the music is often the most challenging. In addition, much of our repertoire is sung by one or two singers only on a part, requiring extraordinary sight-reading and vocal skills. I thank all of our professional singers for their talent and dedication, as well as being a delightful group of people. There are other churches in the city that are able to pay higher fees to singers, so the commitment of our singers, some of whom travel a great distance to be here, is appreciated all the more. The repertoire of the choir has continued to expand, particularly with rarely-heard works of Renaissance polyphony, as well as modern works. While it is often hard to prove decisively, it seems probable that some of the works our choir sings are American premieres. This is all the more remarkable in a liturgical, not concert, setting.

An exciting development of 2007 was the formation of a volunteer Evensong choir. It has been some time since Saint Mary's has offered a volunteer choir. This choir further expands our musical offerings, and I have been delighted by the interest as well as the progress of the new ensemble. After a few months of discernment, a first rehearsal was held in December 2007, and weekly rehearsals began in January 2008. The choir sings once or twice monthly for Evensong during the "choral season." Working with our volunteer singers is a particular joy and delight. As is the case with the professional choir, the members are a dedicated, kind and enjoyable group with which to make music! All interested persons are invited to join the choir; all that is required is the ability to sing on pitch and a willingness to learn (although music-reading skills are very useful). Sopranos, altos and tenors are particularly welcomed!

Another offering that requires my attention and oversight is the weekly organ recital series, offered each week before Solemn Evensong & Benediction (except during Lent). Administering this series requires recruiting and scheduling recitalists, helping them choose programs, preparing their programs for the leaflets, and arranging practice time for each recitalist on the organ. In addition and on occasion, the half-hour recitals before Solemn Mass on weekday feasts are played or sung by guest artists. 2007 featured the Choir of Dean Close School (England), organist Kyle Babin, soprano and choir member Ruth Cunningham, and vocal ensemble New York Polyphony. 2008 brings organists Nancianne Parrella, Christopher Creaghan and former music director Kyler Brown.

Visiting choirs for Evensong & Benediction, as well as for occasional Solemn Masses, is another of our musical offerings. In 2007, we were visited by choirs from Christ Church St. Laurence (Sydney, Australia), Christ Church (Tyler, Texas), St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (White Plains, New York), the choristers of St. Luke in the Fields (New York City) and the Hunter College Women's Ensemble. 2008 brings numerous

choirs from our region, as well as two British choirs. The opportunity to sing in Saint Mary's incredible acoustic is a draw for many of these groups!

Saint Mary's famous and inimitable Aeolian-Skinner organ, Opus 891-A, continues to receive meticulous care and regular tuning from curator Lawrence Trupiano. Numerous projects were completed in 2007, including the complete re-leathering of the Swell division (organ leather must be replaced about every twenty to twenty-five years, and our Swell had not been re-leathered since 1980). The organ is seventy-five years old in 2008, and it is a testament to both the tremendous original workmanship and Mr. Trupiano's expert and constant care that the instrument is in such excellent condition today. Considerable funds are required for special projects, and John Rust, a great friend of Saint Mary's from Indiana, has made several large gifts for such work. A forthcoming project in 2008 is the outfitting of the front console in the chancel with "combination action," making it more readily usable by the parish organists for service playing.

Special events involving our organ in 2007 included a concert by the music director and soprano Ruth Cunningham on April 23. In addition, the American Guild of Organists Region II convention was held in New York City in July, and the professional choir made a rare "summertime appearance" for a Solemn Mass in anticipation of the convention. Many organists were in attendance. International recitalist Stephen Tharp presented a recital to a full house on Independence Day, July 4. Paul Jacobs, professor of organ at the Juilliard School, presented Olivier Messiaen's *Livre du Saint Sacrement* in recital on October 9. A number of special events celebrating the organ's anniversary are planned for 2008, including a recital by Robert McCormick on May 19.

Very often I am asked if recordings are available of Saint Mary's professional choir. It is our hope that such a project may become a reality in the not too distant future. A professional recording (particularly the cost of recording professional singers, who must be compensated for rehearsal and recording time) is extraordinarily expensive. We have heard from some who are interested in assisting with the cost of a recording project, and hope that with such assistance, it may indeed come to fruition.

For several months in the spring of 2007, I was assisted by a highly talented young organist from England, Chad Kelly. Chad was completing high school and living in New York during that time with his father, musical director for a Broadway show. Chad, who has returned to England and is now undertaking university studies, will have a tremendously successful career. It was a pleasure to have his assistance here for a few months, and I hope that some of his experiences here will serve him in his future work.

Another continual task is maintenance of the parish music library. New music must be catalogued, marked and filed. Existing music must be accounted for and kept in good condition. I have remarked numerous times, to singers both volunteer and professional, that I am relentless in keeping track of copies of music! Choral music is very expensive to replace, particularly some of the rare Mass settings that have been added in recent years.

I also liaise with outside organizations who wish to make use of the church for concerts. We are often able to make our space available, provided the music of these groups is in keeping with the nature of our parish. In addition, such events bring in needed and valuable income. One group that presented several excellent concerts here in 2007 was Miller Theatre of Columbia University's Vox Vocal Ensemble. I joined them in May 2007 for a performance of Bruckner's *Mass in E minor*. Miller Theatre is delighted to be able to hold periodic concerts here, and has already scheduled events with us through 2009!

Finally, there are two others I must thank. Robert McDermitt, our treasured associate organist since September 2001, continues in his role. In addition to providing me with invaluable assistance, he plays for the 9:00 AM Sunday Sung Mass, cantors for Evensong & Benediction, and assists with the direction of the professional choir (as well as "other duties as required!"). Robert's position, however, is very part-time, and is usually limited to Sundays. He has a successful and busy full-time position as a school music teacher, and also conducts a corporate chorale for Marsh & McLennan Companies. Jim Dennis, who for some time has led

the Saint Cecilia Guild (which exists to support our music program), provides never-failing assistance and advice whenever required. His work is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to all of you for your support. I look forward to a wonderful 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert McCormick
Organist and Music Director

The Parish Office

The parish office remains a busy space, sometimes resembling the activity on the streets of Times Square. The use of space continues to flourish, increasing in 2007 to over \$13,000 from 2006. Hopefully the writer's strike will not affect our bottom line for 2008. The Care Bears were the most fun group, with people dressed in pink, blue, and yellow bear costumes filing in and out of the Mission House to locations around the city. The show *30 Rock* has regularly used our space for their actors, as well as other shows like *America's Next Top Model*, and our neighbors, *Fox News* and *VH1* and we had one music video filmed in Saint Joseph's Hall. The Mission House renovation has allowed us to rent that space to smaller groups who need the rooms for meetings or small conferences. The lack of air-conditioning in Saint Joseph's Hall precludes renting the space in the summer months for anything other than for film productions. The actors are usually here for meals and costume changes and then on their way.

Father Smith and I continue to clean up the databases for both ACS (our database program) and for Group Reach, our e-mail program. Miscellaneous and duplicate names have been deleted from programs, streamlining who gets mailings and saving us money on postage and stationery.

Can you help Saint Mary's save some money by receiving the Angelus online instead of by mail? Please consider going online with the Angelus. Each week we send out two hundred and forty seven of the Angelus newsletter. That is 247 @ .041 cents for a cost of \$101.27 a week. The paper Angelus costs us \$5,266.04 each year to mail, versus the e-mail Angelus, which is less than five cents to send per e-mail. Of course reading it online cost nothing at all! The cost to Saint Mary's is \$4,612.72 a year, not including paper and staff expenses. In 2007 fewer than 20 people contributed to the mailing cost of the Angelus, for a total of \$653.32. If you are currently receiving Angelus by mail, please let me know if you would like to receive it by e-mail. Contact me directly if you would like to be removed from the mail Angelus and changed to receiving it by e-mail.

Each Thursday Dick Leitsch has faithfully made sure that copies of the Angelus have been folded and sealed and mailed. Sister Laura Katharine has joined us and the three of us make sure it is sent out in a timely fashion.

We have upgraded our postage meter and it is exceedingly faster and much larger. Since we do major mailings several times a year this is an improvement for the office. Each year George Handy assembles a team of mailers who happily set up in Saint Joseph's Hall and put together the major mailings. I am grateful for the help of all the volunteers who make the office run much more smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Schubert
Administrative Assistant

Reports of Parish Guilds and Activities

Saint Andrew's Guild

The Saint Andrew's Guild's goal is growth in membership, fellowship, and friendship for Saint Mary's. All it takes to be a member of our guild is a willingness to welcome people to Saint Mary's – at the back of the church, in Saint Joseph's Hall, or in the pews before or after Mass. We pledge ourselves to contribute to our welcoming environment. Now that Christian Education has moved to 10:00 AM, we have restarted our Lunch Bunch. The Lunch Bunch invites Saint Marians, visitors and people thinking about membership to join us for lunch at a neighborhood restaurant. Do join us any Sunday. Lunch Bunch leaders wear name tags with blue ribbons during coffee hour – we're easy to find.

In 2007, Eric Peterson left his role as co-chair of Saint Andrews and Marie Rosseels took his place. We are working closely with Fathers Mead and Smith on ideas to introduce Saint Mary's to new people, and we welcome everyone's ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
MaryJane Boland and Marie Rosseels
Co-Chairs

Saint Mary's Gift Shop and Visual Arts Program

The Gift Shop is a project of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin's Visual Arts Program (VAP) and marked its second anniversary of business since the renovation on the Feast of Christ the King, November 2007. VAP sees the Gift Shop as a logical outgrowth of their work and ministry. From the beginning, the members of VAP have seen the Gift Shop, in part, as a fundraising tool, as a way to provide financial support for the parish's work and ministry. Fifteen percent (15%) of the shop's profits were earmarked for outreach which resulted in \$250 being given to support the Church of San Juan Evangelista, in Villanueva, Honduras, a barrio in the greater Tegucigalpa area. (Tegucigalpa is the capital of Honduras.) Several Saint Mary's parishioners took a mission trip there in January 2008.

Additionally, because of the Shop's location, right off the narthex, VAP has wanted to provide the parish with an attractive, warm, and welcoming space, both for parishioners and for guests and newcomers.

VAP conceives of the Gift Shop as an informal welcome center where visitors will be able to ask questions about the Episcopal Church and about the parish, its people, its life, its ministry, and its clergy.

In addition to our regular stock of Saint Mary's logo clothing and incense, we sold a number of beautiful handmade rosaries in 2007.

Sister Deborah Francis has given a number of her glorious greeting cards and needlepoint works to the Shop to be sold on consignment. We are also continuing to sell chant CDs, which were created by two of the parish's very talented choristers, Ruth Cunningham and Ana Hernández; and we also are carrying a CD that features four former members of the choir.

We have been pleased and heartened by the enthusiasm and support that the parish has extended to the Shop. We also receive a number of requests through email from our national network of friends of the parish and therefore in the near future we intend to begin exploring the development of web sales for a few of the most popular products.

Looking forward to 2008, Mr. José Vidal will be returning to the role of Gift Shop manager with Sister Deborah Francis generously donating her time for bookkeeping.

Many people have provided VAP and its members with crucial support. We would like to thank Father Gerth for his excellent advice and unfailing enthusiasm for the project. We are grateful to Mrs. Barbara Klett and Mr. Vince Amodei who graciously accept the work of keeping our account in order. Sandra Schubert, the parish's administrative assistant, has helped us in numerous ways during this year and provided crucial help with deliveries and phone inquiries when we could not be at Saint Mary's. Thanks to everyone who have helped make the Shop something more than just a store.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Miranda and José Vidal
Committee Members

Saint Raphael's Guild

Members of Saint Raphael's Guild are parishioners who volunteer to usher at parish services on Sundays and all Sung and Solemn Masses on Feast Days as well as at Evensong. At present there are seventeen members who are serving on a regular basis. Although the schedule calls for serving only once a month, the actual number of times served is higher when Feast Days are scheduled.

I have done so many of these reports that I find myself repeating previous ones, but most of the facts remain the same.

The impression left with anyone visiting the church, whether to attend a service or just out of curiosity, can be set by the manner in which they are greeted and the cordiality with which they are treated during the time they spend with us. First-time visitors will return if they feel welcome and might even become members of the parish. But anyone who feels merely tolerated or ignored will have every reason to go elsewhere even though they may have been impressed or moved by our liturgy and our music.

All of us have served for a long time here or at former parishes and are able to provide an atmosphere where everyone can worship in peace and comfort away from the noise and hustle of the Church's surroundings.

I want to take this occasion to thank everyone once again – ushers, Father Smith, acolytes and others who helped out in so many ways during our all-day Ash Wednesday operations. Because the “ashes only” people were given ashes and greeted without having to wait in long lines, many of them found they had time to light a candle, kneel or sit in a pew or even stay if Mass was being said or sung. We all know that Saint Mary's can have that effect on you.

The Guild has been the best place to start if an individual wants to become an active participant in the parish. Many members, who initially served as ushers, later became Trustees. In the sixteen years I have served as Head Usher, twelve of us later served as Trustees and four ushers are presently serving as Trustees. Although the present schedule is full, we would like to set up a list of members who would be willing to help as greeters or usher on Feast Days or when one of us cannot serve for some reason or other. This year attendance has increased and we have greeted and “toured” more visitors than previously.

This is an opportunity for you to meet and greet other members and visitors from all over the world. Hardly a Sunday or Feast Day goes by that an interesting person or persons has a comment to make. Some can be quite challenging. If you are interested in joining us or have any questions, I am available after most Masses and am always interested in talking about our activities.

I am certain that all of our members agree with me when I say it has been an honor and pleasure to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
George Handy
Chair

Archives Committee

It is surprising that some people who so much disliked history classes at school should have so much fun exploring the history of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, but that's how things have turned out.

About twelve months ago, Kyle Babin began researching his doctoral thesis on the 140-year history of music at Saint Mary's. The Archives Committee joined Kyle in what amounted to both a scavenger hunt and the putting together of a jigsaw puzzle. Every file, all the boxes of papers waiting to be sorted and filed, every drawer and closet, were ransacked in a search for music-related material. When new information turned up, there were jubilant phone calls and e-mails: "Look what I just found!"

When questions arose, outside archives, libraries and collections were consulted, often resulting in more phone calls: "I've found that fact you were looking for!"

Kyle has just finished writing the first draft of his 300-page thesis, and we are all eagerly looking forward to reading it.

Last summer, Barbara Klett, a member of the Parish since 1978, former member of the Board of Trustees, sometime treasurer of the Church, took time away from the Finance Office to guide us in sorting through fifty or more cartons of the church's financial records. Her encyclopedic knowledge of the church and its finances was of great help in weeding through all that paper, and her assistance is very much appreciated.

By now, we had hoped to have all of the archive material moved into its new home on the fourth floor of the Mission House. There two of the former nun's "cells" (small bedrooms) have been set aside to store the church's archives.

Those rooms were in bad shape. Alas for us, but good for the parish, priority was given to restoring the classrooms on the lower floors of the Mission House. That work is nearly finished, but the unexpected need to re-do the parish kitchen further delayed work on our rooms. However, we have got one in shape and expect to get the other one ready for a move within the next month.

Mary Robison, candidate for a degree in Library Science, has joined us. She will bring her much-needed library skills and always cheerful good-nature. Welcome, Mary.

As part of our project to research and remember the former rectors of Saint Mary's, Dick Leitsch will give an illustrated talk about our third rector, the Reverend J. G. H. Barry, on April 27. A prolific author, Dr. Barry was the only one of our rectors to have written an autobiography. He is primarily responsible for the beauty of our church, as it was he who raised the money and supervised the creation of much of the décor. The Mercy Chapel and the Saint Joseph Chapel are entirely his work. Though for twenty years the rector of Saint Mary's, the "cathedral of High Church Episcopalianism," Father Barry never presided at a High Mass, and confessed in his autobiography that he would be at a total loss if ever called upon to serve as deacon or subdeacon at a Solemn Mass. Come and meet this complex and surprising priest.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Leitsch

Flower Guild

The cost of donating altar flowers is \$200, and donors may give flowers in memory or in honor of someone. Requests should be made through Sandra Schubert in the church office no later than the Monday preceding or at least one week prior to a mid-week Solemn Mass. Checks should be made payable to the "Church of

Saint Mary the Virgin” and marked as “Altar Flowers.” And just as a reminder to the parish, for those Sundays when there is no donor, there will be no flowers. We depend on your generosity!

Through the generosity of several people this past year, the flower guild has been able to acquire many items that greatly expand our current collection. I am pleased to report the following additions: a matching set of eight various sized column-styled plant stands, two pairs of cylindrical glass vases, and one contemporary blown-glass vase for use as the centerpiece in Saint Joseph’s Hall.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with Christmas and Easter and with the various cleaning and organization projects this past year. If there is anyone new who is interested in helping in either a large or small way with the flower guild, I urge you to consider being part of this exciting ministry. I would also like to thank Rick Austill for his dedication to the flower guild. I am proud to say that because of his help, we have not had to order arrangements through the florist at all during this past year. We would not have been able to keep up the high quality and variety of the altar arrangements without his help.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Bonenberger
Chair

Financial Reports

2007 was a pivotal year in the financial history of our parish. In addition to positive movement in both overall revenue and in our budgeted deficit, 2007 saw the adoption by the Board of Trustees of a five-year plan to move the parish onto permanent financial stability. The principle of the plan is that the parish must reduce its annual operating budget deficit by 10% each year for the next five years through a combination of increased revenue and cuts in expenses. A number of first steps along this five-year path were taken in 2007, some of which I will highlight here.

The Board formed a Stewardship Committee in 2007, which ran a vigorous pledge drive. The effort resulted in the largest pledge commitment the parish has seen in recent memory, with well over \$500,000 in 2008 pledges, an increase of 18% over last year's pledge receipts. Particularly exciting for the future of the parish is that more than \$50,000 in commitments came from a little over 60 brand-new pledgers. Thank you to all those who pledged, of course, and thank you too to those who contributed to the campaign by hosting events, stuffing envelopes, writing letters, and making phone calls. The committee will be active again this year in preparation for year two!

On the expense side, the 2008 Budget Committee has undertaken a review of various large vendor service contracts that the parish maintains, everything from property and casualty insurance to office equipment contracts, to identify any areas in which the budget can yield some incremental expense reductions to offset growth in other areas (such as energy costs).

Through these efforts, the generosity of a few large donors, and a good investment year, the parish was able to keep its absolute reduction in endowment principal to a minimum in 2007, and I'm pleased to announce that the budget adopted for 2008 is entirely in line with the goals of the five-year plan. That is, 2008's deficit will be nearly 11% less than 2007's (\$442,000 v. \$494,000) without making any significant programmatic cuts. In fact, work to improve the Mission House, the expansion of educational programs, ongoing support or foreign mission, etc., all continues apace. The 2008 budget also includes a cost-of-living increase for clergy and staff, a 12.5% increase in our diocesan assessment.

Despite the progress that these first steps represent, we have a long way to go. Indeed, the first year of the five-year plan is, in many ways, the easiest. We will need to maintain this momentum through some challenging times ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Heffner
Treasurer

	Actual 2007	Budget 2008
INCOME		
Pledges	\$464,360	\$548,000
Other Plate (Easter/Christmas, Donations, Special Offerings)	166,569	158,000
Repayments (Use of Facilities)	92,584	94,000
Ordinary Income Subtotal	723,513	800,000
Draw Down from Endowment	*494,595	442,293
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,207,275	1,242,293
EXPENSES		
Personnel: Salaries	\$376,500	\$379,023
Personnel-Related Benefits	189,205	204,646
Administration (Advertising, Printing, Postage, Office, Prof. Fees)	104,742	95,119
Physical Plant (Insurance, Utilities, Maintenance, Tax, Security)	304,747	311,225
Miscellaneous & Special Purpose	8,200	7,400
Diocesan Assessment	77,734	87,451
Music	156,980	157,429
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,218,108	\$1,242,293

*Note: 2007 Actual Draw Down ended up being 3%-4% less than anticipated in the 2007 budget thanks to a 1% surplus in budgeted revenue and a <1% reduction in budgeted expenses.

Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
Investment Committee Report – February 28, 2008
Results for the Fourth Quarter—2007

Results for Full Year 2007

1. Balances & Allocations as of 12/31/07

- Total endowment of \$3.44 million, of which \$2.51 million is unrestricted (73%).
- Equities comprise approximately 74% of the total endowment, within the asset allocation guidelines of between 70% and 80%.
- At period end, the Diocesan Investment Trust held 83% of endowment assets, and US Trust held 17%.

Account Balances					
December 31, 2007					
(\$000s)					
	Domestic Equity	Int'l Equity	Fixed Income	Cash	Total
<u>Diocesan Investment Trust:</u>					
Parish Account	\$2,340	\$0	\$107	\$0	\$2,448
Air Rights	0	0	0	0	0
Harmon *	57	0	134	0	191
Gregory *	30	0	73	0	103
Organ Fund *	81	0	18	0	99
Aideyan *	0	0	4	0	4
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Diocesan Investment Trust	\$2,508	\$0	\$336	\$0	\$2,845
<u>U.S. Trust:</u>					
Stout *	\$0	\$0	\$512	\$24	\$536
Air Rights	35	7	11	5	58
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total U.S. Trust	\$35	\$7	\$523	\$29	\$594
Total All Accounts	\$2,544	\$7	\$859	\$29	\$3,438
% by Asset Category	74%	0%	25%	1%	100%
Restricted (*)	\$168	\$0	\$741	\$24	\$932
Unrestricted	2,376	7	118	5	2,506

2. Analysis of Changes in Account Balances:

- Latest 12 Months:** The total endowment increased \$268,000 in the twelve months ending December 31, 2007, or 8.4% of total beginning of year assets. Market performance was positive with equities, as measured by the S&P 500, increasing 5.5% during this period. Positive fund returns and donations offset drawdowns to fund the operating deficit.

Change in Account Balances vs Prior Year					
December 31, 2007					
(\$000s)					
	Domestic Equity	Int'l Equity	Fixed Income	Cash	Total
<u>Diocesan Investment Trust:</u>					
Parish Account	\$165	\$0	\$81	\$0	\$245
Air Rights	0	0	0	0	0
Harmon *	4	0	1	0	5
Gregory *	2	0	0	0	3
Organ Fund *	14	0	3	0	17
Aideyan *	0	0	0	0	0
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Diocesan Investment Trust	\$186	\$0	\$85	\$0	\$270
<u>U.S. Trust:</u>					
Stout *	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$4	\$14
Air Rights	(11)	(2)	(5)	1	(17)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total U.S. Trust	(\$11)	(\$2)	\$5	\$5	(\$3)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total All Accounts	\$175	(\$2)	\$90	\$5	\$268
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Restricted (*)	\$21	\$0	\$14	\$4	\$39
Unrestricted	154	(2)	76	1	229

3. Relative Fund Performance:

- **Diocesan Investment Trust**

- **Latest Twelve Months:** The DIT Equity Fund increased 9.37% versus a gain of 5.5% for the S&P 500. The DIT Income Fund increased 5.43% versus a 6.96% gain in the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.
- The DIT Equity Fund's positive performance versus the benchmark was notable in light of underperformance in prior years. The Fund benefited from improved performance of its large-cap core manager, as large-cap companies outperformed in 2007 after underperforming for several years prior, and due to strong stock-picking. The Fund also diversified about 30% of its assets into small-cap, mid-cap and international equities in 2007. While this move was neutral to performance in 2007 (strong international and mid-cap performance offset weak small-cap performance), the diversification should lead to improved Fund performance and reduced volatility in future periods.
- The DIT Income Fund underperformed its benchmark in 2007 due largely to underperformance in mortgage-related investments.

- **US Trust**

- **Latest Twelve Months:** The US Trust Equity Fund increased 17.11% versus the aforementioned gain of 5.5% for the S&P 500. The US Trust International Fund increased 12.69% versus a gain of 11.18% for the MSCI EAFE index. The US Trust Fixed Income Fund increased 6.27%.
- The US Trust funds performed well in 2007.

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin Memorial Trust Funds & Bequests

Permanent Funds

Katherine Lanier Standish Fund

This fund was established as a memorial to Katherine Standish. The proceeds of this fund are used by the rector of the parish to support the education of persons for the priesthood of the Episcopal Church.

Alice L. Stout and Mabel T. Stout Memorial Fund

The Stout Fund is a trust fund established under the will of William L. Stout and was given to the parish to be used for the care of the poor, the sick and the needy.

William Edward Jones Fund

This is the Memorial Library Fund.

Helen G. Cushman Fund

In October 1997 we received a \$5,000.00 donation from Phyllis Smith in memory of her sister Helen G. Cushman Fiske, granddaughter of Haley Fiske. The fund is to be used for outreach projects in the community.

Charles B. Harmon Fund

This fund was established on the death of Mr. Harmon, a former parishioner. The purpose of the fund is to augment the music program of the church.

Hallie Wilson Charitable Trust Fund

This fund was established in 1999 by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used only for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of John D. Bush

This fund was established on the death of John D. Bush, a former parishioner. The purpose of the fund is to establish a permanent Organ Fund or, if said fund has no need of additional funds, for any musical purpose deemed appropriate.

Bequests Received in 2007

Estate of David Osgood

This legacy was established by the bequest of a friend of the parish and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Wiley Merryman Trust

This legacy was established by the bequest of a friend of the parish and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society. Father Merryman was a priest of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of New York.

Estate of Marion Freise

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 2006

Estate of Joan Touye

This legacy was established by the bequest of a friend of the parish and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 2005

Estate of Roy Parks

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of John Allen Gable

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Wendell Wray

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 2004

Estate of Marion Frantz

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Florence Klaus

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Newton Carlyle Spitz

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for its ministry of music.

Bequests Received in 2003

Estate of Elizabeth Sherwood

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 2002

Estate of John G. Cadney

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 2001

Estate of Dorothy D. Wynne

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Kenneth Marshall Allen

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Jean S. Humes

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Richard Rodney Kirk, PRIEST

This bequest by the Reverend R. Rodney Kirk was for the Restoration Fund.

Bequests Received in 2000

Estate of Margaret Rigler

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Thomas Haines

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1999

John Headley Memorial Bequest

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used only for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Julien Kent Powers Bequest

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used only for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1998

Estate of Gertrude Butler

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of John Gilligan

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1997

Estate of Walter John Blaile

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used only for the corporate purposes of the Society.'

Frederick Evans Hughes Bequest

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used only for the corporate purposes of the Society.'

Estate of Margaret Solbach

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1996

Estate of John Lloyd Rice

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Nancy Batchelder Trust

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Mary Florence Langworthy

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of James W. Cherry

This bequest was designated for the Restoration Fund.

Bequests Received in 1995

Estate of Richard P. Whitmore

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of William Lata

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Octavia Wall

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of William Ray Kirby

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Timothy Campbell Smith, PRIEST

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former curate of Saint Mary's and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Tom Clarey

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Robert Chase Trust

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Courtney Nichol

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of Thomas Tucker Plant

This bequest was given to the Society to be used for the Music ministry of the parish.

Bequests Received in 1994

Estate of Eugene O'Brian

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Lily Lasham Fund

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1993

Josephine Brown Trust

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1992

Estate of Ruth M. Hinckley

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Mary Amory Turner Trust

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Estate of John A. McNaughton

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.

Bequests Received in 1991

Estate of H. Lee Hennig

This legacy was established by the bequest of our former parishioner and is to be used for the corporate purposes of the Society.



The Rector's Report

A year ago work was underway on the apartment in the Mission House for the sisters from the Community of St. John Baptist. We were looking forward to them moving in on March 15, 2007. Cleaning and painting of the first three floors of the Mission House had not begun. The Reverend John Beddingfield was one of our curates. And in the Angelus for March 4, 2007, I was writing about the importance of legacy gifts to Saint Mary's. Yet as one reads through past issues of the Angelus, most of the writing through the year is related directly to worship, liturgy and mission. We are a parish church. This is our work. We exist to glorify God, to build up the community of the faithful and to serve others in Jesus' Name.

I want to begin by recognizing the leadership that our Board of Trustees has provided to the management of our parish's temporal affairs. Many in this room know personally of the leadership that our board has taken to maintain the mission of the parish and to raise the funds that we need to support it. In particular, our parish treasurer, Steven Heffner, and other members of the board's Stewardship Committee, MaryJane Boland, Thomas Jayne, David Jette and Jane Daniels Lear, gave an enormous amount of time and energy to the task of making the 2008 Stewardship Campaign the most successful in the parish's history. And they aren't finished! The goal is \$550,000.00, and we are 92% of the way.

At a meeting in December, I heard Bishop Sisk remark that a great number of our parishes were housed in century-old buildings that were designed to last about a hundred years. Saint Mary's is in that group. The buildings must be open and safe for the purposes for which they are used. We make repairs as needed and we make them in the best way we can so that we don't have to redo the work in the near future. Many repairs can be done and have been done by our sextons under the leadership of Father Matthew Mead. The renewal of the first three floors of the Mission House is very much the result of his leadership, and I want to acknowledge that and thank him for that. A bathroom and the kitchen in the rectory are under repair at the moment. A gift of \$5,000.00 for work on stained-glass windows was made. I can hardly wait for us to turn our attention to the parish kitchen. But nothing is easy in New York City. The best news is that the work is a great sign of the increasing scope of our common life. I'm glad we want to do the work and are not content to settle for these buildings to be anything less than full for the sake of the gospel.

It's hard for me to imagine Saint Mary's now without Sr. Laura Katharine and Sr. Deborah Francis. Whenever they are away they are missed. Their religious witness, their work in the sacristy, in Christian spirituality, and their wonderfully gentle presence is part of the continuing renewal and growth of our common life.

I am sure I was overly proud of myself when Father James Ross Smith accepted the position of curate for parish life and outreach. Saint Mary's is a special place. Our staff is not large in comparison to our mission. The demands of ministry here mean we need the very best people for every position in every area of our common life. I am absolutely delighted that Jay is with us and that he and his partner José Vidal are in residence in the Parish House.

One of the notable events in our common life this past year was the baptism of Father Matthew Mead and Nicole Mead's son, Liam, on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. Liam is the first child of a curate or rector to be baptized in this church building. (The first rector's sons were baptized in the first Saint Mary's on West 45th Street.) We don't have many children at Saint Mary's yet, but in another sign of our growth, Saint Benedict's Study is now Saint Benedict's Nursery. This is a very good thing.

Father Mead and Father Smith both bring great energy to their work and I want to recognize them and their work. There is no parish that comes close to doing what we do and it is in a very large part because of the leadership our curates bring to so many areas of our common life.

We have a new all-volunteer choir at Saint Mary's that started meeting in Advent 2007, the Evensong choir. This is another sign of our music program's vitality. The music from Christmas Eve 2007 is still very much on my mind. This was one of those occasions when one can't imagine it being any better. Organist and Music Director Robert McCormick, Associate Organist Robert McDermitt, Organ Curator Lawrence Trupiano, our singers and all who support music here deserve our recognition and thanks. Music is not a problem at Saint Mary's. It is part of our mission and ministry.

Unless you are here during the week, you are not likely to meet all of the members of the church staff. But I want to thank them for their work and their love for the parish and its ministry. Sandra Schubert is our fine administrative assistant who handles an amazing range of tasks. The finance office is still held down by our volunteer financial administrator, Barbara Klett, our bookkeeper, Vince Amodei, and finance office assistant Andrea Poropatch. Our diligent sextons have to cope with everyone from bishops to homeless persons and they do so with integrity.

Across the year we had a number of special celebrations. The Right Reverend Mark S. Sisk, bishop of New York, was with us for our patronal feast on the Eve of the Immaculate Conception, December 7, 2007. The Right Reverend Richard F. Grein, XIV Bishop of New York, was celebrant and preacher on All Saints' Day. The Reverend Keith Pecklers, SJ, professor of liturgy at the Pontifical Gregorian University, and professor of liturgical history at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute, was preacher at Solemn Evensong during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Right Reverend C. Christopher Epting, ecumenical officer of the Episcopal Church, was a frequent guest too.

On a personal note, when I look back over 2007 I can't help but be reminded that a year ago February my stepfather was killed in an automobile accident, and my mother has been in a special care facility for Alzheimer's patients ever since. I want to thank you for all of the support and love extended to me and your continuing prayers for my mother.

Finally, as we gather on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, I want to tell you my prayer for us for Holy Week and for our future is that you and I will be drawn together by Christ in fresh ways. Thank you for all that you do for your parish. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of this wonderful place. Thank you for calling me to be your brother in Christ.

The Reverend Stephen Gerth
Rector

