

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

2007

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
Arlington, Virginia

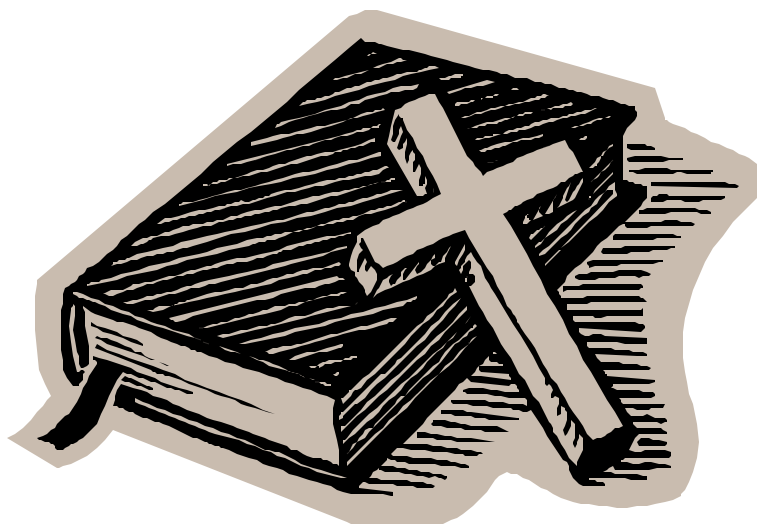


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SAINT MARY'S MISSION STATEMENT

At Saint Mary's, worship forms the heart of our identity as a Christian community. Celebrating the richness of our Anglican tradition, we strive to be inclusive of all persons as we share the Eucharist. Through Baptism, we are joined together in the life of the Spirit, even as we take on the responsibility to be accountable not only to God but also to one another as fellow journeyers.

Through the life of prayer and discernment, we seek to follow Jesus. As servants of God, we encourage the gifts and talents of all parishioners to carry out our ministries in the world.

Through ongoing education of both children and adults, we are equipped to live as faithful Disciples of Christ. Children are a vital part of our ministry, and we feel a special responsibility for their care and education and for ensuring their full involvement in the life of the Church. We endeavor to articulate the faith to others of all ages and to serve and love all as beloved children of God.

As faithful stewards of God's many blessings, we are obligated to share fully our gifts with others both as a parish and as individual members. We are committed to individual/family pledging and to contributing at least one quarter of our annual parish budget to needs outside the walls of Saint Mary's. We encourage the personal participation of every parishioner in our outreach to the community.

Ministry & Committee Reports

Acolytes

In 2007, the St. Mary's Acolyte ministry continued to flourish with the involvement of our young people enhancing our worship services.

This year we continued our training programs to improve the Acolyte ministry by training seven torchbearers, four Crucifers and two Thurifers. Those new acolytes, as well as our veterans, worked diligently to learn and refine their skills. The young people and adults who serve as acolytes truly embody the role of minister, and their prayerful and attentive service enriches our worship.

Acolytes again served at several special liturgies in 2007, including Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services, special evening prayer services, and Christmas Eve services.

Acolytes continue to be a vital part of our church community. We welcome any youth or adults looking for a new avenue to serve God to consider the acolyte ministry.

Faithfully submitted,
Michael Platner & Janice Burch

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild faithfully and conscientiously prepares the worship space for all services. The Altar Guild members provide care for the linens, vestments, sacred vessels, sanctuary, chancel, and sacristy and all other items, maintaining them in the best possible condition.

The Altar Guild is blessed with 27 dedicated members who are divided into four teams. Each team meets one Saturday morning a month to thoroughly prepare for Sunday's services. The members are responsible for setting and clearing after all church services during their week each month. Special teams are formed during Easter and Christmas when there are many more services. At this time, we have several members who are responsible for preparing for funeral and memorial services. We have one person who is responsible for setting the Altar for weddings. We have two members who care for the laundering of small linens.

A credence cloth for the Nave and a fair linen for the Chapel were purchased in addition to six more lavabo towels, a dozen purificators and Baptismal towels to accommodate St. Mary's needs.

Improvements have been made in the Sacristy in 2007 including expansion of the closet opening, removal of the doors and raising the storage rack for easier access to the frontals. In early 2008 a broom rack, ironing board rack and several hooks were installed in the other closet for ease of storage.

In early 2008, the Altar Guild held a training focusing on setting for special services, Sunday services and proper care of the linens. Other things to look for in 2008 include refurbishing several silver pieces including the patens, cruets and bread box. Also, new silver bags are in the process of being made with the names embroidered on the fronts for easy storage.

We head into 2008 full of spirit of service and reverence that guides us in our duties.

Faithfully submitted,
Katherine Kerley

Art Guild **Celebrating the Power of the Visual Arts in the Christian Journey**

The Art Guild is a group of St. Mary's parishioners who believe that the visual arts are important to the life of faith. We plan and present exhibitions, artist's talks, receptions, and other related programs to increase the presence of the visual arts at St. Mary's. We also advise the parish on matters relating to the visual arts.

In the past year we have held the following exhibitions:

Memorial Urns & Prayer Shawls
by Marjorie Bankson
Lent, 2007

Visual Witness:
Images by St. Mary's Photographers
A group exhibition by
our parish photographers
Easter and Pentecost, 2007

All Creatures of Our God and King
An exhibition of work by St. Mary's 4th and 5th grade church school students. The images were inspired by St. Francis' protection of the environment, and awards were presented by parishioner Louise Chesnut.
Fall, 2007

Inside/Outside
Silk Screen prints by Nancy McIntyre
A festive reception was held following the 5pm Epiphany Feast of Lights service
Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, 2007-08

Still to come...
Youth Witness
A group show planned by St. Mary's youth and exhibiting their art work in many media
Easter and Pentecost, 2008

We have held a reception, with artist's talk, for each show. 25% of all sales are contributed to St. Mary's, usually to the Memorial Fund. If you would like more information, contact Peggy Parker (pparker@vts.edu, 703-549-5792) or Mary Beth Emerson (marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org, 703-527-6800)

Faithfully submitted,
Peggy Parker

Childcare Committee

The Childcare Committee started off the year with one committee member, Suzanne Stroup, along with twenty five families who were regular members of the volunteer co-op. At the end of 2007, Amy Kusic, Liz Lydon, Christina Potts, Kristen Martinez and Colleen Mason agreed to join the committee to assist with various ongoing tasks (quarterly scheduling, supplies and donations, clean-up organization, parent volunteer communication, etc.). Christina and Kristen will be a part of the committee through Summer 2008, when their children graduate out of the Nursery. Suzanne, Liz, Amy and Colleen will continue on the committee and rotate responsibilities. Ultimately, additional members will be asked to join at the end of 2008 so that we can continue to have leadership in the Nursery for the years to come. We would like the committee responsibility timeframe to return to an eighteen-month to two year time commitment.

The Nursery Budget continues to consist solely of funds to pay for the hourly service of the paid sitters. Any supply/equipment needs have been met strictly through donations. We also continue to work to save funds by decreasing paid staff during the summer months (two sitters per Sunday vs. the typical three on Sundays during the school year).

A major Nursery clean up took place during the late summer of 2007. Toys and equipment were sorted and disinfected. Recently, the old rocking horses, some climbing equipment, several diaper genies and various other baby gear were cleaned out of the Nursery. This additional space will allow the crib room to become a quieter, less-cluttered space for the infants to sleep in. Additionally, we now have room for a train table in the main room. The table (along with trains and track) will be donated by Nursery parents.

Going forward, we'll have two cleanups done per year: one, to be conducted by parents of the Nursery in early February 2008, and one to be conducted by a cleaning crew in the late summer of 2008. We'll have the carpet cleaned as needed to remove crumbs, play-dough, spills, etc.

The committee is also considering working with St. Joseph's Ministry to possibly build additional shelving for toys and books in the Nursery. With more shelving, we'll create additional play space for the children in the main room. This process will begin in February/March 2008.

The Nursery has been blessed to continue to have the committed service of its three regular sitters: Geeta, Lila and Allie. All have been with St. Mary's for over five years and our children have all benefited from their love and dedication. In May of 2007, we collected contributions from church members to present the sitters with a monetary "thanks" from St. Mary's. Father Merrow presented the sitters with generous checks on Mother's Day at the Coffee Hour. It was a special day for the sitters and they wanted me to express their gratitude again for the thanks they received that day. We will try to collect funds again this year at some point to show our appreciation. Further details on this project are pending.

Finally, the parents of the co-op continue to gladly volunteer their time once a quarter, picking Sundays that are convenient for them to work in the Nursery. We're so thankful for their continued willingness to happily sign up to work alongside Geeta, Allie and Lila. The Nursery is thriving with an average weekly attendance of 20 children.

Faithfully submitted,
Suzanne Stroup

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel meets during the beginning of both the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services in the fall, winter and spring, for children in 1st through 5th grades. The younger preschool children have a concurrent playtime and shorter chapel geared to their needs. Children's Chapel often serves close to 40 children at the 9:00 am service and about a dozen youngsters at the 11:15 am service.

Children follow the crucifer to the chapel during the opening hymn for their own Service of the Word, which the children lead. Children volunteer each week to act as president, gospeler, prayer leader, acolyte, crucifer and usher.

A clergy member, ministry leader or seminarian gives the homily and a group of dedicated adults (and young adults) act as facilitators and musicians in Children's Chapel. At the end of the Service of the Word, all children join their families back in the "big church" for the Eucharist.

This year, Children's Chapel has been blessed with a number of new volunteers. New volunteers are paired with seasoned veterans to help facilitate the service. Through this hands-on training, Children's Chapel hopes to build its volunteer ranks and provide a transition process for our adult leaders.

Looking ahead, we will consider how best to structure the 11:15 am Children's Chapel as our numbers at this service continue to grow and the 11:15 Chapel hosts both preschoolers and kindergartners (pre-readers) along with our 1st through 5th graders. The liturgy in Chapel is geared primarily to the 1st through 5th graders, so we will consider how best to incorporate our younger members.

Children's Chapel welcomes new volunteers throughout the school year. If you would like more information, contact Kate Muth (muthxu@comcast.net) or Mary Beth Emerson (MaryBeth.Emerson@stmarysarlington.org). Musicians interested in helping out in Children's Chapel should contact Gregory Hooker (Gregory.Hooker@stmarysarlington.org).

We thank our volunteers for their continued support of this wonderful ministry: Marjorie Green, Monica Thomas, Kate Moore Patton, Leslie Ann Gerardo, Bain Hall, Lindsey Bevis, Deana Platt, Sharon Lusk, Tina Hamlin, Bill Porter, Elizabeth Adkins, George Wojcik, Elena Lagon, Francesca Nelson, Ellen Bailey and Chris Streeter.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Muth

Christmas Pageant

This year, approximately 80 children, ages 4 to 11, participated in the Christmas Pageants. There were two pageants, one at 3:00 pm and one at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. The pageants are a live reenactment of the story of Jesus' birth, and watching them provides an enlightening look into how our young people internalize and understand the story.

It takes many parent and adult volunteers to run the pageants—from the parent helpers who make sure each group of kids gets onstage at the appropriate time, to the St. Joseph's Guild members who set up the stage and retrieve the costumes from the attic. The kids work hard also—those with speaking parts memorize their lines and all kids attend multiple rehearsals during the month of December.

Thanks to all the helpers who make the pageants happen, and to the kids who faithfully lead us the The Service of the Word and give us new insights into the story of Jesus' birth every year.

Faithfully submitted,
Angie Warren

Church School

Our Church School program continued to be strong and effective during 2007, due largely to our dedicated teaching staff. All but two teachers returned from the previous year, and many have taught several years. They are all committed and enthusiastic.

Our program for three year olds through fifth graders has continued to use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum. Classes meet from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings while adult education or coffee hour is taking place in the Paca Parish Hall. Many of our classes have in excess of 20 children enrolled. Fifth grade was divided into girls and boys classes. Parent volunteers bring snacks and, when needed, assist teachers in class.

Age appropriate services were held for children on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. During Lent the children signed pledges for what they would take on and give up during those 40 days. On Palm Sunday the youth presented a special reading of The Passion (with a few actors) in the parish hall while it was being read in the Sanctuary. On Easter the younger children had a short program, then rejoined their parents for the remainder of the service. Each of those children received a flowering plant to take home.

Youth Sunday, the first week of June, closed out the regular church school year. Children baked communion bread, served as oblation bearers, ushers and readers. Third graders designed covers for the service leaflet; second graders organized the coffee hour refreshments and pre-schoolers sang a song.

During Advent, as is our custom, we filled the mitten tree with new mittens, caps and scarves. A total of 123 pairs (down from last years' 250) was taken to Bread for the City for distribution to needy children. Our kids made ornaments for the church Christmas tree and decorated it on the fourth Sunday of Advent, then tented the tree until it was uncovered on Christmas Eve.

Church School Enrollment

Spring 2007	148 children	20 teachers
Fall 2007	164 children	20 teachers

Faithfully submitted,
Claudia Boswell, Church School Superintendent

Facilities Ministry

2007 proved to be an eventful year for Saint Mary's facilities. With regard to the Church proper, repairs and upgrades were made that should permanently solve our water leakage problems. The contractor, Jack Bays Construction, provided project support in overseeing the replacement of the cast stone coping on the north gables, bell tower and chimney, flashing, caulking, tucking and pointing of the mortar, waterproofing and repairing the roof leaks. To improve drainage the old gutters and downspouts were replaced, and the ground was graded on the Old Dominion side of the church. The initial downspouts were copper, but after they and their copper replacements were stolen, we opted to replace them with aluminum. These external improvements then allowed

us to make internal repairs such as replacing drywall and repainting. Also, we installed new flooring at the top of the Old Dominion stairs. Jack Bays Construction and Lynn Fueschel graciously donated the interior repairs, improvements to our exterior lighting and our new aluminum down spouts. In addition, a new snow blower (known as the “Mac Daddy”) was donated, thanks to the Coyle family.

Saint Mary’s is also the owner of four residential properties: the house on 19th Street in the Westover neighborhood; the white house on the corner of 26th Street and Old Dominion; and the two houses facing Glebe Road on a tract of land that is often referred to as the “Peacock Property” after its former owner. The Rev. Jennifer Strawbridge moved into the house on 19th Street in May, and The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna moved into Jenn’s former residence on the corner of Old Dominion and 26th Street in September. Tenants are currently occupying the houses on the Peacock Property. The Saint Joseph’s Ministry has performed many of the repairs and upgrades to these houses. One project at the “Peacock Property” included our youth, who assisted in cleaning up the grounds and painting the garage.

The most exciting development in 2007 was that after seven years of petitioning VDOT, it and the county finally began construction of a stoplight and crosswalks at the intersection of 26th Street and Glebe Road. The light and crosswalks should be in operation within the next few weeks. The county is also moving ahead with plans to place a light and crosswalks at the intersection of 26th Street and Old Dominion, possibly even this year. Unfortunately, Saint Mary’s will lose the handicapped parking space near the Old Dominion entrance because that area is needed for a crosswalk and ramp that is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fortunately, the county will designate the church side of 26th Street a loading zone, and has agreed to incorporate a driveway apron into its plans for sidewalks on the opposite side of 26th Street. This will allow Saint Mary’s to create three parking spaces adjacent to the church with access to 26th Street.

Finally, Dieubon Native, our former sexton, left Saint Mary’s at the end of 2007. We are currently evaluating several options for replacing the sexton position, including expanding our present cleaning service, hiring part time help, using volunteers and our youth for community service hours.

The church van is ten years old but has only 40,000 miles on it. The van is mainly used by our youth and outreach ministries. Along with our several mission trips, we loaned it to the JMU Canterbury Club for a mission trip to South Carolina. The van continues to provide us with the opportunity to minister to those beyond our immediate community.

Many thanks to Jack Bays Construction, Hitt Construction, the Saint Joseph’s Ministry, parishioners, and anyone else who assisted Saint Mary’s in maintaining its properties. Most of all, thanks to Jane Shafran, our facilities coordinator. Her hard work, intelligence, and dedication are a true gift to Saint Mary’s,

Faithfully submitted,
Matt McCracken, Junior Warden

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild is responsible for ordering and arranging flowers for all worship services, including weddings and funerals. All of our materials and flowers are funded by parishioners’ contributions. We were delighted to welcome and train five new members this year, bringing our active membership to sixteen.

Faithfully submitted,
Margaret Boswell & Nancy Murphy

Koinonia Dinner Groups

St. Mary's Koinonia dinner offerings, started in 1996, have grown to become a valuable feature of our community life. These dinner gatherings have proven to offer a wonderful avenue to both welcome newcomers into our community and to build and sustain vital parish relationships. The dinners are potluck by design and consist of small groups (8 to 10 people, fairly randomly selected), who meet in each other's homes for three dinners over a three-month period every fall. This fall over 34 parishioners participated, which resulted in four groupings, one with children. Some years as many as seventy-five parishioners have participated.

If you missed the series of dinners just concluded, please consider signing up next fall. Singles, couples, and newcomers are certainly most welcome. And if you don't feel you have sufficient space to host a dinner – or do not consider yourself a culinary wizard... that's no "excuse" -- we'll be more than happy to group you with others who do.

Faithfully submitted,
Rob & Marta Cahill

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

We promise in baptism, for ourselves and others, to continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers. We also acknowledge the Holy Eucharist as one of our two primary sacraments (Baptism being the other – and sacrament being an outward sign of an inward grace), defining corporate worship as uniting ourselves with others to proclaim the holiness of God, to hear God's word, to offer prayer and to celebrate the sacraments. This unity, this sacrament, this promise sometimes takes place in a living room, or beside a hospital bed and our continuing communion is shared friend to friend, through sickness, health and the changes and chances of life.

Eight St. Mary's Lay Eucharistic Ministers brought communion 26 times to friends and St. Mary's members in 2007, and Eucharistic visits are available to any baptized person desiring one, any week of the year. In these visits, friendships are forged, the Gospel is shared and true unity in the sacraments happens.

LEMs are trained and licensed, and meet regularly throughout the year to discuss our visits. Any member interested in becoming a LEM may contact Fr. Merrow, and anyone desiring a LEM visit may contact Pam Frick or Mary Beth Emerson in the church office.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Beth Emerson for Trish Christian, Marcia and Don Dodge, Stan Houle, Jill Kempenaar, Mary Lee Rech and Sarah Sheafor.

Lay Readers

Lay readers served at 198 Sunday services in 2007, and approximately 172 weekday services, including feast days and saints' days, as well as Stations of the Cross during Lent. Pam Frick continues to head this ministry, doing the scheduling for layreaders and chalcists as well as training when needed.

The lay reader ministry added Michael Devine, Ned Leonard, and Emma Sheehy as lay readers. We said goodbye to Carolyn Compton, Matt Presson, Trevor Fitzsimmons and Elvon Lloyd who moved out of the area, and will hopefully offer their skills in their new parishes. Jill Kempenaar rejoined our ranks, and Alda Lovell has taken an extended sabbatical because of cancer treatments and hopes to serve again in the Summer of 2008.

Ken Kimmel and Don French are our main readers at the Thursday healing service.

Michael Boyd and Reggie Upshaw trained as chalice bearers in 2007. Several of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) also now serve in Sunday worship services as well as attending to their the LEM duties, including Karen Howland, Sarah Sheafor, Stan Houle, and Jill Kempenaar. Karen Howland moved to Colorado in the Fall.

The Lenten discipline of studying and presenting the Passion on Palm Sunday was under the auspices of the clergy this year. Pam Frick was incapacitated by a fall for the entirety of Lent and returned to reading in the Summer 2007.

Faithfully submitted,
Pam Frick

Meals that Heal

Meals That Heal is a Saint Mary's INREACH Ministry. Our mission is to provide home-cooked meals to parishioners who are ill, bereaved, homebound, or caring for the ill. We also celebrate the birth of a new baby by preparing and delivering a special meal to the new baby's family.

This year we had 51 new and returning members, organized into 4 teams with each team covering one week per month. Meals That Heal prepared and delivered 48 meals from July to December.

The schedule for Meals That Heal, along with team captains for each week are published monthly in The Messenger. Parishioners who have a need or become aware of another member's need are encouraged to call the team captain responsible for that week directly, or to call the church office. The ministry leader checks in with the church office each week then passes to the appropriate team captain any situation requiring attention from our group.

Meals That Heal encourages anyone who is interested to join us and we actively recruit each Fall both at the Festival of Booths and by word of mouth. We gather offsite once a year, usually in late September to early October, to discuss the workings of our ministry and for fellowship.

Faithfully submitted,
Kate Patton & Sharon Siems

Membership (Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer, Marriage, Death)

Pam Frick continues to perform the bulk of membership administrative duties including maintenance of the membership database, canonical records, baptismal/godparent certificates, liturgical funeral coordination, updating the *Virginia Episcopalian* mailing list and responsibility for wedding inquiries as well as the administrative coordination of weddings, and memorials. Lisa and Jane shared funeral reception organization until Lisa's departure in November.

In 2007, we received many pew cards, a number of calls requesting information about the parish, and posted messages on the website. In total, 105 families (whether single adults, couples, or families with children) were added to the directory and mailing list.

The following canonical information was recorded for 2007:

- 10 funerals, interments, inurnments
- 45 baptisms
- 37 confirmations / receptions / reaffirmations
- 25 transfers in with 8 requests pending (i.e., individuals/families requesting their letters be moved to this parish)
- 9 transfers out (i.e., individuals/families requesting their letters be moved to another parish)
 - of these 6 had moved; 3 changed local parishes.
- 8 weddings

Other administrative membership activities included:

- the annual Parish Report to the Diocese.
- the Bishop's Visit which occurred November 11, 2007 – The 24th Sunday after Pentecost (The Right Rev. Shannon Johnston presided).
- helping coordinate Lay Eucharistic Ministry visits.
- updating and publishing of the St. Mary's Ministries Booklet.
- staff liaison for liturgical ministries – answering questions, reviewing schedules, and generating mailings, labels, and rosters as needed for Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, Ushers, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, and Choirs.
- new Name Tags for Paca Parish Hall (we are still looking for a volunteer for this ministry although Margaret White has been helping out).
- an updated version of the mailing list for *The Virginia Episcopalian*.

There are several projects are still on hold, including the rebinding and copying of the canonical records for preservation. This is another project where a volunteer to research costs and methods would be extremely useful.

Faithfully submitted,
Pam Frick

Men's Group

The Men's Group convened two times in 2007, carrying on a tradition of fellowship, study and genuine support of one another in the challenges of daily life and in deepening our faith. The group format continued to be Wednesday meetings following the morning Eucharist with a light breakfast and discussion from 7-8 a.m. Members were asked to volunteer to lead a discussion and provide breakfast. During Lent, the group met for six weeks to discuss the Gospel of Luke and read Luke for Everyone by Tom Wright, a New Testament scholar and the Anglican Bishop of Durham. In the fall, the group met for twelve weeks to discuss The Prophetic Imagination by Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar and author.

Faithfully submitted,
Mark Jacobsen

Mission Trips

St. Mary's mission teams had an incredibly busy year in 2007, sharing gifts, energy, and skills through 7 different mission trips including the beach, the mountains, the central Gulf Coast, Mardi Gras, England, and Honduras! Each of these ministries will continue as we build upon our relationships in each place in 2008. Thank you to the many members of the congregation who gave time and talents to each mission trip opportunity this year. Nothing can be accomplished without your support.

This year we continued building our relationship with our partner parish in Long Beach, Mississippi – St. Patrick's. St. Patrick's was completely washed away by Katrina in 2005 and the rebuilding efforts in the community surrounding the church are monumental. In 2007, parishioners had the opportunity to join us in three trips to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Nine St. Marians, led by our 20s and 30s ministry and partnered with St. James', Leesburg 20s and 30s Ministry, kicked off the year with a 4-day trip to Camp Coast Care in Long Beach, Mississippi. This weekend happened to coincide with Mardi Gras, which definitely provided a nice break one afternoon from the intense and emotional rebuilding efforts. In July, a 15 member adult-youth mission trip returned to the Coast for 6 days of hot, humid rebuilding. They also had the chance to take advantage of the new Camp Coast Care facilities in Long Beach – a real plus. The final mission trip took place in December just after Christmas, with 6 parishioners returning to the Coast to continue the efforts to build relationships and rebuild homes and lives. Our next trip is scheduled for July 2008.

Other mission trips included two Towel Ministry trips for our youth. The first trip kicked off the mission trips this summer with 14 St. Marians loading into 2 vans and heading to Valle Crucis, North Carolina to help build relationships with those they assist with wheelchair ramps, house and roof repairs, painting, and other assorted tasks. This was our 12th year at Towel, a trip that is incredibly popular among our older youth. A second Towel trip, affectionately called "Beach Towel" saw us partnered with St. Patrick's in Falls Church and travel with 9 folk to Swansboro, North Carolina. Work included rebuilding, wheelchair ramps, and helping out at a guide dog training facility. Both trips will be returning in 2008.

Nine St. Marians returned to Honduras to continue building our relationship with our companion parish, San Lucas just outside San Pedro Sula. This trip had a large number of youth, including a high school junior who incorporated our ministry in Honduras into his Eagle Scout Project! Work was continued around the church while we continued to build our friendships with the folk at San Lucas and the nearby home for girls, Our Little Roses. The next trip is scheduled in June 2008.

Finally, this summer included our second youth confirmation pilgrimage to England. Seventeen St. Marians headed across the pond and spend the week learning about Anglican history and roots, while building upon our relationship with our companion parishes, St. Martin's, Acton and All Saints', Ealing Common. Our youth spent the days exploring London, Canterbury, and Oxford and many evenings with the youth groups at St. Martin's and All Saints and even attended a day of school at the Church of England School many of the youth attend. Our next trip is scheduled for 2009.

2007 was a year packed with mission both in our own backyard and in many places on 3 different continents! Overall approximately 75 parishioners joined us on a mission trip in 2007. We are excited that mission is so strong at St. Mary's as a part of our continued formation as members of Christ's body in this world and hope you will consider joining one of the many opportunities for mission in 2008.

Faithfully submitted,
The Rev. Jennifer R. Strawbridge, Associate to the Rector

Music Ministry

Choirs

St. Mary's Parish Choir (23 adult members)

Sings at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services and events listed below

New Members: Lynda Adamson, Joanna Hall, Michael Keith, Emerson Sieverts, Steven Sloan (Choral Scholars); Moved from St. Mary's Parish this year: Elvon & True Lloyd, Jerry Polizzi, Brett Brown, Anne Folan, Matt Presson, Brian Minnick; Music Librarians: Carolyn Heyer and Kate Waters

Treble Choir (30 K-3rd grade members) sing at 9:00 a.m. services and events listed below

Boys & Girls Choir (13 4th grade through high school members)

Sings at 9:00 a.m. services and events listed below

Children's Choirs team: All parent cooks, Kristine Johnson, Treble Choir accompanist.

St. Mary's Handbell Choir (9 adult members) plays monthly throughout choir season

Special Events

January 5, 7:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., Parish Choir Christmas Party at John & Carolyn Heyer's home

January 6, 6:00 p.m., Feast of Lights with Boys & Girls Choir and Youth Orchestra (Matt Presson, conductor) 99 in attendance

February 4, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong with Parish Choir, 62 in attendance

February 27, 1:00 p.m., George Herbert Forum at Virginia Theological Seminary, Chris Streeter, baritone, Gregory Hooker, piano, performed Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*

March 1, 12:00 p.m., Gregory Hooker performs Lenten Organ Recital at St. Paul's, Alexandria

March 4, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong with Boys & Girls Choir, 93 in attendance

March 12, 8:00 p.m., Gregory Hooker workshop for Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, "English Choral Literature" at Fairlington United Methodist Church, Alexandria

March 25, 11:15 a.m., Choral Eucharist sung by Parish Choir

March 25, 7:30 p.m., Hosted American BoyChoir choristers

April 4, Maundy Thursday and April 8, Easter Services, Parish Choir with Brass Quintet

April 29, 11:00 a.m., St. Mary's Boys & Girls Choir and Christ Church, Alexandria Youth Choir sing at Christ Church, Philadelphia

May 6, 10:00 a.m., Adult Forum led by Gregory, "The Call and the Work of the Ministry of Music"

May 6, 2:30 p.m., Daughters of the American Revolution Service at St. Mary's

May 6, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong with Chris Streeter, baritone (*Five Mystical Songs*), 114 in attendance

May 20, Choir Recognition Sunday, 8 white, 1 light blue and 2 red Royal School of Church Music ribbons awarded to choristers

May 20, 5:00 p.m., Festival Evensong, Christ Church, Alexandria in celebration of 400th Anniversary of the Diocese of Virginia, Parish Choir sings in combined choir from 4 parishes, 250 in attendance

May 24, 6:30 p.m., All Choirs Banquet, attendance awards given, Judy Dodge, St. Columba's, Washington, DC, guest speaker

May 27, 9:00 a.m. Eucharist, Guest Choir: McKinley High School, Canton, Ohio

May 26, 10:30 a.m. Consecration, Bishop Johnston Ordination at Washington National Cathedral, Parish Choir and Boys & Girls Choir sang in Diocesan Choir of over 250 singers

May 27, 5:00 p.m. Eucharist, Youth Orchestra plays for Pentecost, 61 in attendance

June 2, 6:00 p.m., Parish Choir Picnic at True and Elvon Lloyd's home

June 3, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, Youth Orchestra plays for Trinity Sunday, 354 in attendance

June 17, 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, Guest Choir: St. Peter's, Charlotte, NC, Boys Choir and Girls Choir July, Harman Music Fund established

July 10-13, St. Mary's Music Camp, 24 in attendance

July 22-29, Julia Green and Katrina Dubee attended Royal School of Church Music Singing Course in Denver, CO, with Dale Adelman, All Saints', Beverly Hills, Music Director

July 22-29, Valerie Dugie attended and Gregory was Boys' Housemaster for the Washington Advanced Trebles Course of the Royal School of Church Music Summer Course, Darryl Roland, St. John's Cathedral, Wilmington, DE

August 21, 12:10 p.m., Gregory performs Noon Day Recital at Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC

September 9, New Sunday morning choral schedule begins:
 First Sunday of the month: Adults at 9, Section Leaders at 11:15
 Second & Third Sunday: Boys & Girls Choir at 9; Adults at 11:15
 Last Sunday: Treble Choir at 9; Adults at 11:15

September 16, 6:00 p.m., Gregory Hooker, organ recital at St. Mary's, 37 in attendance

October 7, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong by Parish Choir, 65 in attendance

October 21, Boys & Girls Choir sang for morning worship at St. Michael & All Angels Parish, Baltimore, MD

November 2, 7:30 p.m., All Souls' Requiem Eucharist at Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD and

November 4, 5:00 p.m., All Saints' Requiem Eucharist at St. Mary's, Combined Choirs sing Fauré *Requiem* with 13-piece orchestra, 194 in attendance at St. Mary's; 175 at Church of the Redeemer

November 18, 4:00 p.m., Area Youth Choir Evensong, Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD
 Boys & Girls Choir from St. Mary's sang in a choir of 40 from 8 parishes, 175 in attendance

December 2, 5:00 p.m., Advent Lessons & Carols, 210 in attendance
 All St. Mary's Choirs participate in this annual event.

December 24, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve services
 The St. Mary's Parish Choir sang anthems and great carols of the season.

Weddings: 7; Funerals: 7

Continuing Education Opportunities

January 12-15, Region One/Association of Anglican Musicians Conference, New Haven, CT

July 2-9, Gregory Hooker attends Association of Anglican Musicians Conference, Durham, England

Attended local American Guild of Organists concerts, events and services throughout the year

Goals for 2008

Summer leave of absence to write final document for Doctor of Music degree at Indiana University;

Establish group(s) of singers for Sunday 9:00 p.m. weekly Compline;

Continue to develop Music Fund for chorister scholarships, concerts, instrumentalists, completing organ, and other non-budgeted needs of the Music Department;

Increase participation in choirs.

Faithfully submitted,
 Gregory Hooker, Minister of Music

Newcomer's Ministry

The Newcomer's Ministry has been merged, for want of a better term, with the membership support activities which are managed out of St Mary's administrative office and by the clergy. The goal of this new structure is to create synergies between these two complimentary activities to better serve our community of members. The committee continues to prepare welcome packets and presents new members with a welcome gift consisting of a St. Mary's mug filled with candies. Where necessary or appropriate, the Newcomer's Committee

assists new members with finding their way within St. Mary's and linking them to any ministry they wish to learn more about or join. Finally, on a semi annual basis or as needed, we hold a reception to formally welcome all newcomers to St. Mary's.

Faithfully submitted,
Brooke Allen

Outreach Committee

"I am grateful for your continuing partnership in ministry...

We are overwhelmed by your generosity...

I wish you could see how your gift is changing the lives of the families we work with... Because of caring friends like you,

Heifer families have the chance for a brighter future...

You took such good care of us...

you and your young people help keep our hope alive."

No doubt about it, it is very gratifying to be acknowledged. It is not the reason we serve, but it is a nice response. We serve, because Christ served. We serve because we are able. We serve because the Holy Spirit places before us sisters and brothers who need us. We serve because God the Father has given us so many gifts: the gift of his Son, the gift of each other. Our response to God's love and grace and generosity must be love and generosity and gratitude. But it is nice to be acknowledged.

Through generations, St. Mary's has answered the call to serve. "It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake," is the quotation from Second Corinthians that has graced St. Mary's bulletins and letters for years. Not just words, but a Rule of Life, lived out daily through church, through family, through community. So, it is not accidental that this church community finds itself described – internally and by others – as an outreach parish. The continuing commitment to pledge 25% of income to needs outside the parish is part of this "outreach" definition, as is a continuing and developing devotion to service.

Some snapshots:

The cooks and servers who rise at dawn to feed so many through So Other Might Eat in Washington,

The Board Members, staffers and fundraisers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center,

The Arlington Free Clinic, The Marjorie Hughes Fund For Children,

The Sharon McGowan Breast Health Fund and The Arlington Pediatric Center,

The St. Joe's Crew who heal with hammers,

The Cornelius Corps tutors who work with D.C. kids,

The youth who travel to North Carolina, Honduras, England and Arkansas to lead and be led,

Those who walk for the homeless,

Those who pray for Haiti, Africa, the Gulf Coast and Honduras,

The sandwich and delivery crews who feed Arlington's Street People,

The families who help other families keep Christmas,

Gleaners of greens and broccoli,

The kids who rake & run and cheer the elderly at Christmas,

The givers who gift with compassion,

Thanksgiving Dinner donors,

The Mississippi missionaries,

The daughter or son who cares for an elderly parent,

The befriender of strangers,

The parent who's there,

The child who leads.

All are called to proclaim Jesus, Servant King, as Lord – in prayer and in practice. In prayer, from St. Paul: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. In practice: by following where the Holy Spirit leads. Much has been given, and we must continue to respond in kind. We give thanks for the incredible blessings God bestows, for the opportunity to serve in so many ways and for this St. Mary's community in its call to outreach.

Outreach Grants 2007

Arlington Food Assistance Center (First installment of a 3-year grant, minimum \$10,000 in '08 & '09 w/review)	\$15,000.
Arlington Free Clinic	\$15,000.
Arlington Pediatric Center	\$5,000.
Arlington Special Olympics	\$150.
Arlington Street People's Assistance Network	\$2,400.
The Cornelius Corps	\$5,000.
Crosslink International in honor of Linda Cook	\$1,000.
Dinka Bible Translation	\$5,000.
Doorways (Year two of a three year commitment)	\$15,000.
Episcopal Relief & Development for the MDG's	\$7,000.
Help The Homeless Mini Walk (for MAGNET in '07)	\$2,500.
Iglesia Santa Maria (Year four of a ten year commitment)	\$25,000.
Katrina Mission Ministry	\$6,000.
Katrina Assistance for the Hatcher Home	\$500.
MAGNET (Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network)	\$10,000.
Marjorie Hughes Fund for Children	\$2,000.
Outreach Internal	\$10,000.
Rebuilding Together	\$2,500.
Sharon McGowan Breast Health Fund	\$5,000.
Samaritan Ministry	\$8,000.

San Lucas Scholarships	\$2,300.
Scholarship for Norman Aguilar	\$1,700.
Scholarship for Santino Dut	\$4,000.
SOME	\$5,000.
Support for the Rev. Lauren Stanley	\$500.
Friends of Tabora Diocese (Year three of a three year commitment)	\$3,000.
Towel Ministry	\$2,500.
Youth Mission Ministry	\$16,700.
TOTAL	\$177,750.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Beth Emerson on behalf of the greater 2007 Outreach Committee
Beverly Hess, Chairperson
Patty Balestrieri, Co-Chair
Carolyn Boswell, Lisa Crye, Mindel DeLaTorre, Margie Finn, Leslie Ann Gerardo, Christine Hahn,
Matt McCracken, The Rev. Andrew Merrow, Paula Potts, Dennis Sawyer, Jane Shafran, The Rev. Jenn
Strawbridge, Diane Wright, Terri Zavada

Prayer Shawl Ministry

They are tweeded and cabled, red and sunshine yellow, deep blue or autumn-hued and they are steeped in prayer and made with great love. Draped over stooped shoulders, held for dear life, they are an outward and visible sign of a deep inward and spiritual grace and connection. They are the prayer shawls made by our Prayer Shawl Ministers and given to the sick, the hospitalized, the grieving and others in need of prayer and community. Each shawl, prayed over during its making, prayed over before delivery and often prayed over at bed or chair-side, has this written prayer attached:

May this gift, made with love, be a mantle and a sign of God's healing presence,
and may it strengthen you when you are weary.
May it surround you and ease your suffering.
May it encircle you with caring when you are in pain.
May it comfort you when you feel alone.
May it remind you of God's abiding love.
Amen.
Your St. Mary's Family

Dozens of prayer shawls were made and given this past year to members, friends and strangers, each one a tangible connection to God's grace and love. For more information or to become a knitter yourself, contact Janet Tasker, (703) 356-0605.

Faithfully submitted,
Janet Tasker

Shrine Mont

One of the most eagerly anticipated events on the St. Mary's calendar each year is our Annual Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont. Each June, we gather at the foothills of the Shenandoah to retreat, to relax, to connect and reconnect, to play, to worship and to laugh. All are invited – all are welcome.

Singles, couples, families, youth, children and kids at heart enjoy traditions and surprises, and one huge bonus is getting to know St. Mary's folk you may not regularly see. Plenty of activity, plenty of downtime, plenty of fellowship, plenty of solitude and plenty of food. Approximately 200 people attend each year, and for many, it is a weekend not to be missed.

This year's weekend is Friday, June 6th through Sunday, June 8th. If you are interested in attending – or even better – in helping to craft our Shrine Mont retreat, contact Chris Streeter or Mary Beth Emerson in the parish office.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Beth Emerson

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that the results of the Every Member Canvass set another record. So far our generous St. Mary's members have pledged over \$1,150,000 for 2008. As of January 8, we have received over 325 pledges representing just over 60% of the membership. We anticipate that this number will grow in the next several weeks as the final efforts of the Every Member Canvass unfold.

In 2007 the Stewardship Committee continued its mission celebrating the many blessings we share as a parish family and raising the number and size of contributions. This was accomplished by highlighting the many outreach stories we have and how the lives of people in our community, in the nation, and internationally have been positively affected by our efforts. Further, we had the wonderful opportunity to work with a young member of the parish family, Matthew Doyle, who produced a memorable and moving DVD about the meaning of St. Mary's in each of our lives. It was shown at the Adult Forum in October and will be available to all members of the parish. Please take time to look at this exceptional work done by Matthew. We know you will be as moved as we were especially because Matthew is one of our teenage members.

The Stewardship Committee continues to work to increase our total pledge participants as well as our average pledge. We are still below the average pledge within the Diocese by almost \$1,000 per pledge unit. While we have increased the per unit pledge amount this year, we still have work to do. In that same vein, we are working to get a better handle on the demographics of giving at St. Mary's. This will be a critical cornerstone for making continued progress in the years ahead.

Becky and I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Arthur Speck and Chad McGinnis, the other members of the Stewardship Committee, for all of their dedication, insight, and innovation this year. We would also like to thank the St. Mary's staff for their hard work and advice. We are always in need of new ideas and volunteers, so please let the St. Mary's office know if you are interested in becoming a member of the Committee.

Faithfully submitted,
Pete & Becky Lauer

The 20's & 30's Group

Continually striving to meet the 20's and 30's in the congregation where they are, the ministry held, participated-in, and sponsored a number of fellowship, service, and study events in 2007.

The year began with our involvement in and sponsorship of a Katrina Mission trip over the President's Day weekend. Joining with other 20's & 30's from the Northern Virginia area as well as with other members of St.

Mary's , 17 people came face-to-face with the devastation still fresh in the Gulf Coast and in the lives of its residents.

Other high-points this year included the start of a monthly Bible study, "Drinks on the Rector" at the Four Provinces, Falls Church, a Lenten Study, numerous brunches (every 1st Sunday), Apple Picking and a wonderful Fall Kick-off held at the Emerson's home. 2007 also found the 20's & 30's Ministry at St. Mary's connecting with other Region 3 groups to jointly participate in the "Bare Bible Study" and Eucharist. To wrap-up the year, we coordinated through St. Mary's Outreach a partnership with the Doorways ministry to provide toys donated by the entire St. Mary's community to the families served by the new Doorways Home.

Finally, 2007 was a year of transitions for the group, including an almost complete turn-over in leadership. Kevin Ahearn, Barb Lambert, and Lesley Pate moved off of the committee while staying active with the group and Adam Spencer moved to North Carolina. Stepping-up, Gil Wilson joined the leadership team and The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna assumed the role of clergy lead. Several folks who regularly attended events have moved out of the area, and we are in the process of rebuilding our community.

Next year promises to be another year of growth, challenge, and blessing with further involvement across Region 3 both for Lent and throughout the year, through continued 1st Sunday Brunch fellowship, and perhaps even with rafting, kickball, or wine-tasting.

Faithfully submitted,
Cayce Ramey & The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna, Assistant to the Rector

United Thank Offering (UTO)

The job of this ministry's leadership is to acquaint parishioners with UTO as an outreach program -- write articles for *The Messenger*, represent UTO at the Festival of Booths, giving out the little blue boxes -- and to arrange for two ingatherings each year. This year Nancy Powell, who has served as UTO Coordinator for St. Mary's since mid-2003, retired at year's end. We are grateful for her faithful service in this ministry and hope that another parishioner will feel called to assume this role. Until that time, Parish Administrator Pam Frick is overseeing the ingatherings.

UTO is usually administered by the Episcopal Church Women's Group (ECW). Since St. Mary's does not participate in ECW, the offerings from our ingatherings are sent to the Diocesan UTO Coordinator, who has presented them at the Fall and Spring ECW meetings. This year, the Diocesan leadership passed to Sandra Kirkpatrick.

Our ingathering dates changed mid-year. Our first ingathering was on The Baptism of Our Lord, January 7, 2007. It was then decided in the Spring that we would shift our ingathering dates to coincide with those of the ECW. Our second ingathering, therefore, was on All Saints Sunday, November 4, 2007. This decision was made when clergy decided to move the celebration of St. Mary's Day to the actual feast day which normally occurs on a weekday.
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Total offerings for 2007:

The Baptism of our Lord, 2007:	\$1,828.55
All Saints Sunday, 2007:	<u>\$1,905.41</u>
Total:	\$3,733.96

A number of folks have stepped up to be UTO ushers, and we thank everyone who has pitched in on ingathering Sundays! This money will go out and do good in the world, for which we are most grateful. Remember, each time we stop to give thanks to the Lord and place a coin in the little blue box, we become mindful of the abundant gifts God gives us daily.

*God gave you the gift of 86,000 seconds today,
have you used one to say "thank you?"*

William A. Ward

Faithfully submitted,
Pam Frick

Ushers Ministry

Last year, the Ushers of St. Mary's continued their faithful service during regular Sunday services, Holy Days, and special services, including several funerals. When we do our job right, we are mostly unnoticed, and we like it that way! We try to welcome regulars and newcomers alike, and make sure that they enter the sanctuary ready for worship.

We have many returning stalwarts and several new recruits this year. We have a full roster for the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. services, but could use one or two more at the 11:15 a.m. service to replace some volunteers who have moved on to other ministries.

I am especially pleased to report that we now have a regular rotation of ushers at the 5:00 p.m. service. Each of our services has their own distinctive style and it is great that we have a group of ushers who can greet regulars and welcome newcomers in the low-key 5:00 o'clock manner.

If anyone wants to participate in this very rewarding ministry (especially 11:15 or 5:00 attendees), he/she can contact the Ushers Committee Chairman, Neel Teague, at 703-821-5020. We usually have a very good time, in addition to enjoying the richly rewarding feeling of having served the Church and Jesus Christ.

Faithfully submitted,
Neel Teague

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School took place July 9 - 13, 2007 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. each day. We had approximately 35 children participate ranging from ages 3 years old to 4th grade. We had a solid core of 8 adult volunteers who came daily to read or tell the daily lesson, lead the musical segment, teach and assist with crafts. Other volunteers helped on an as needed basis, and snack volunteers provided snack each day.

We will be choosing this year's theme in early March. We hope to have more parent volunteers this year and also more young adults to assist. We are considering changing the date and/or times for Vacation Bible School. Some have suggested an afternoon/evening program and/or having the program in August.

Faithfully submitted,
Amy Kowalski

Youth Ministry

St. Mary's youth kicked off the year with style including a trip to the Ice Skating rink, National Zoo, bowling alley, and White Tail ski resort. Youth Groups continued through the winter and spring with service projects every so often and the ever so popular annual PEEPS Party that involved a PEEPS diorama competition and the microwave PEEPS blow-up battles. On the diocesan level, we had a packed van of Senior High youth who attended the annual Senior High weekend at Shrine Mont in April. Furthermore, two of our youth continued to serve on Parish Youth Ministries, the Diocese of Virginia's Youth Council – Megan Chase and Kevin Covucci represent us well! Our youth also played an active role in the consecration of our Bishop Co-Adjutor, Shannon Johnston, serving as ushers and even one acolyte! They hosted a lock-in/camp-out for youth visiting from different parts of the diocese who also helped with the service.

While Sunday nights continued with their momentum, Sunday mornings were also an active time for our Youth at St. Mary's. Dedicated teachers Louisa McClanahan, Lynette McCracken, and Mark Sanders led our Senior High Youth Forums while Ralph Miller, Brinton Warren, and Lee Ann Boyer competently led our 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade forums. Pizza-with-a-purpose also continued to meet every 3rd Wednesday, giving our youth the chance to talk more in depth about what's going on in their lives in the context of faith and God, all over pizza, of course. Behind the scenes as well, 12 of our confirmands were preparing for their pilgrimage to England through monthly Saturday classes and gatherings and 4 successful fundraisers: Valentine's Day Babysitting, Resurrection Eggs, the Mother's Day Plant Sale, and an All-Parish Yard Sale. Many thanks to all who helped our young people in these efforts.

This summer saw our youth involved in mission of all sorts. In 2007, our youth traveled to Valle Crucis, North Carolina, Swansboro, North Carolina, Honduras, England, and Long Beach, Mississippi. Furthermore, almost 20 of our Junior High Youth participated in our second-annual week-long Outreach Camp at St. Mary's, this year partnered with folk from St. James' in Leesburg and St. Patrick's in Falls Church. Two of our senior high youth served as counselors for the week. Please see the report on Mission and Outreach for more details on these wonderful ministries of our young people.

The end of the summer saw us wish our Youth Minister since September 2006, Matt Presson, farewell as he returned to Richmond to continue school. Nevertheless, the fall kicked off strongly with a fired-up and dedicated youth council, our biggest lock-in ever, super-fun awesomeness with pillows, and kickball of Kevs vs the Revs. Small groups also began for our youth this fall with much success, led by Fr. Merrow, Mary Beth Emerson, Joseph Allen, Chris Streeter, Rev. Jenn, Brynna Cox, and Lynette McCracken these groups span from Middle School Boys to Parents of Teenagers and are offered for each age group and gender (except parents, they meet

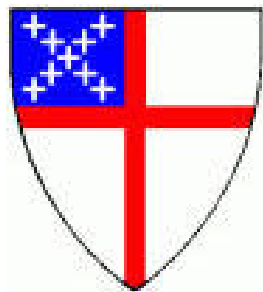
altogether). Furthermore, a new confirmation class began made up of over 30 of our youth who were confirmed by Bishop Shannon Johnston in November! Three youth were asked by Fr. Merrow to serve on a search committee for a new youth minister (along with 4 adults) and Mike Smith accepted the call to St. Mary's and began his incredible ministry with our youth in October. Take it away, Mike!

Since my arrival at St. Mary's, it is evident that there is a strong emphasis on continuing the strong foundation of youth ministry here at the church. The core of the program begins with the small groups for parents and students, a strong youth council, Sunday morning youth forums and the Sunday night youth group gatherings being the central part of the program at St. Mary's.

Some of the activities that I have led the youth group since my arrival includes the Halloween party, Turkey bowl flag football game, the monthly pizza with a purpose, Christmas in Washington DC and the gift wrapping fundraiser for the youth group which the proceeds' going to the upcoming 2008 summer mission trips. With the little time I have been at St. Mary's I have made my presence felt both among the adults and the students. One example is a weekly e-communication letter to remind parents of the upcoming activities and retreats for the youth group. In addition, at the office, I have been the computer expert helping everyone on staff with troubleshooting with their computer issues.

I look forward to continue the youth program at St. Mary's and the many activities that are planned for the upcoming 2008 year.

Faithfully,
Mike Smith, Youth Minister
Jenn Strawbridge, Associate to the Rector



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