

Annual Report of 2008

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Arlington, Virginia



TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Mary's Mission Statement	3
Ministry and Committee Reports	
Acolytes.....	4
Altar Guild	4
Art Guild	4
Childcare Committee	5
Children's Chapel	6
Church School	7
Facilities Ministry	7
St. Mary's Foundation	9
Flower Guild	10
Hospitality Ministry	10
Koinonia Dinner Groups	10
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	11
Lay Readers	11
Meals that Heal.....	12
Membership	12
Mission Trips	13
Music Ministry	14
Outreach Committee	16
Prayer Shawl Ministry	17
Saint Joseph's Ministry	18
Shrine Mont	19
Stewardship Committee	19
The 20s & 30s Group	20
United Thank Offering	20
Ushers Ministry	21
Vacation Bible School	21
Women's Handcrafts Group	21
Youth Ministry	22

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 AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Acolytes

In 2008, 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 three new torchbearers and four new Crucifers. 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 2008, including Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services, special evening prayer services, Confirmation Sunday, 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 and 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 32 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, and one person who is responsible for setting the Altar for weddings. We have two members who care for the small linens.

In early 2009, we had five new members join the Altar Guild and we held a special training session for them in May. We also had several new members join during the year in 2008. Katherine Kerley served as President for 2008 and was succeeded by her Vice President, Kristine Sawyer, at year's end.

Art Guild

ST. MARY'S 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:

Youth Witness

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

Full of Years

Prints and Drawings by Lee Newman

Advent through Epiphany, 2008-09

Coming in the Spring, 2009

Stewards of Creation

All-parish Art Show

Easter and Pentecost, 2009

Coming in the Fall, 2009

Two-person photo show featuring work by St. Mary's own Jennifer Strawbridge and Elizabeth-Marie Melchionna

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. In the case of Lee Newman's show, the artist donated 100% of all sales – which totaled \$675 – to St. Mary's.

Contact:

Peggy Parker (pparker@vts.edu, 703-549-5792)

Mary Beth Emerson (marybeth.emerson@stmarysarlington.org, 703-527-6800)

Childcare Committee

The Childcare Committee continues to run efficiently and effectively, thanks to the continued growth and addition of new families to St. Mary's membership. Over thirty families consistently use the Nursery, and the parents of all the Nursery's children faithfully volunteer their time to make the youngest children of our congregation feel welcomed and at home in our Church. Currently, Suzanne Stroup organizes the coordination of the scheduling, paid sitters and supply donations. Liz Lydon will coordinate the Spring and Fall 2009 Nursery clean-ups. Amy Kusic will assume one of these responsibilities in the next six months. We will look to add one new member to the committee this fall. Ideally, we would like to have three to four committee members, with new members rotating in/out each six months. 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 looking into decreasing paid staff during the summer months (two sitters per Sunday vs. the typical three on Sundays during the school year). If the number of children attending continues to grow, we may have to maintain three sitters weekly during the summer. This decision will be made with the help of our Vestry.

A major Nursery clean up will take place Saturday, March 28, 2009. Toys and equipment will be 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 in which the infants can sleep.

Going forward, we'll have two cleanups done per year: one to be conducted by parents of the Nursery in the Spring, and one to be conducted by a cleaning crew (assuming no budgetary constraints) in the Fall. We'll have the carpet cleaned as needed to remove crumbs, play-dough, spills, etc.

The Nursery has been blessed by the continued 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. As in the past, we'll collect voluntary contributions from all families in the Nursery prior to Mother's Day so that we may present the sitters with a monetary "thanks" from St. Mary's. We hope to present them with this gift during the Mother's Day coffee hour, if at all possible.

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 of 20 children attending the Nursery weekly.

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 serve as presider, 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.

Over the past two years, we have paired our seasoned adult leaders with newer volunteers 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.

Over the past few years, Children's Chapel leaders have also considered 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. Since the liturgy in Chapel has traditionally been geared primarily to the 1st through 5th graders (readers), CC leaders considered how best to involve pre-readers.

In 2009, a Children's Chapel Pre-Readers' Guide to the Service of the Word was published, using wonderful photographs taken by St. Mary's youth. (Copies on view in the Chapel)

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: Bain Hall, Ann and Steve Ridenhour, Cyndi Robbins, Lindsey Bevis, Deana Platt, Sharon Lusk, Elizabeth Adkins, John Muth, George Wojcik, Elena Lagon and Chris Streeter.

Faithfully Submitted,

Kate Muth and Mary Beth Emerson

Church School

Our experienced and dedicated teaching staff has continued to provide an excellent learning experience for our children in 2008. Their dedication and can-do spirit make it a pleasure to be superintendent of the church school.

Our program for three year olds through fifth graders has continues to use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum. Classes meet from 10:15 to 11:00 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 a girls' class and a co-ed class. Parent volunteers bring snacks and often assist teachers.

Age appropriate services were held for children on Ash Wednesday (a very large congregation), 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 by adults 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. Sixty-seven children filled mite boxes during Lent, and we were able to send \$660.30 to the Diocese for outreach.

Youth Sunday, June 1, 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, we filled the mitten tree with new mittens, caps, and scarves. A total of 240 pairs of mitten 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 2008	142 Children	20 Teachers
Fall 2008	158 Children	18 Teachers

Facilities Ministry

2008 was a busy year for St. Mary's facilities. Much of the focus was on parking. The week after Christmas, Marymount University began a two-year construction project, which took away a large parking lot on the corner of N. 26th Road and Old Dominion Drive that Marymount had graciously allowed us to use on Sundays. Fortunately, the administrators of John Marshall Medical and Dental Building, at 2501 N. Glebe Road, and the adjacent Osteopath Office Building agreed to allow us access to their parking lots, giving us about 130 spaces on Sundays. In addition, our friends at Marymount have given us access to Marymount Lodge's parking lot. This on-going conversation related to the project has strengthened our relationship with Marymount. Additional parking on the street has proven to be quite popular. The Vestry also stepped in to help alleviate confusion by participating in what Jane calls the Parking Ministry, which has assisted parishioners and visitors in navigating the new parking procedures. Related to the Marymount construction project, VDOT is installing streetscape and storm water improvements on Old Dominion Drive, between N. 22nd and N. 26th Streets, starting May 2009 and extending to Fall 2010.

Over the course of the year, a variety of home improvement projects were accomplished at our residential properties. At 4728 N. 26th Street the HVAC system was replaced and a new floor was installed. At 5814 N. 19th Street, a much-needed chimney cap was added, and the exterior crawl space was insulated, in addition to some other repairs. At 2529 N. Glebe Road Jane Shafran, now resides, a gutter was replaced, the downspout and roof were repaired, and new front stairs were built. At 2531 N. Glebe Road, the driveway was covered with gravel and the washer was replaced. St. Joseph's Ministry continues to provide much needed help and expertise on the upkeep of these properties, as well of the church property, with the "Jane Patrol" volunteers. As in the past, Rebuilding Together, one of St. Joseph's key projects, gathered a large group of volunteers to repair a house in Arlington, in April.

St. Mary's has been fortunate to be the recipient of several generous donations from parishioners, who have donated specific building improvements, repairs, and gifts. In June, the Ridenhour family donated two very thoughtful and useful gifts. The first was a custom millwork cabinet to match our columbarium and to provide storage for the Children's Chapel supplies. The second was an adjustable podium for the Chapel to enable children to read from it without standing on blocks. In August, Mary Huddle donated a beautiful stained glass window to the Nave, opposite the Rixey window. On September 7, the window was dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of her parents, Mildred and George Bentley. In September, Jim and Tracy Millar (Hitt Construction) donated their services to painting the church inside and out, installing a new carpet in the Paca Hall, and refinishing the Paca Hall stage, among other repairs and improvements. Lynn Fueschel (Jack Bays Construction) continues to donate generously by providing consultation, estimates, and repairs to the church proper.

The church van has a new set of tires, is ten years old and it may be time to consider purchasing a new van. It gets extensive use for a wide variety of purposes, not least of which is transporting our youth far and near. In addition, ASPAN, SOME, Outreach, church retreats, the Church yard sale, JMU Canterbury Ministry, Rebuilding Together, and special tasks are dependent on the use of the van. Many thanks to the wonderful and talented volunteers of Saint Joseph's Ministry and any others who have assisted St. Mary's in maintaining the church and its properties. We are fortunate, indeed. Special thanks, though, must go to Jane Shafran, our dedicated, hard working, and more than capable Facilities Manager.

Faithfully submitted,

Kate Renehan Waters, Junior Warden

Computer Network Upgrade

After a series of assessments, St. Mary's office decided to upgrade its computer network system. St. Mary's now has both secure cable and wireless internet connections. St. Mary's hired Cable Networking Inc. to

replace the current wire system and input a new wiring system in which all the computers are now connected to a single network. Included with the installation were ports placed throughout the church which one can plug into the network at various points in the building. Cable Networking Inc. also installed a wall-mounted rack to hold the switchboards and routers. To complete the installation of the new network, we also purchased two switchboards and a firewall Firebox from PC Connections to complete our current network. Last, we upgraded our email system from Web.com to Gmail.com since Gmail provided multifaceted services for free.

Faithfully,
Michael Smith
Director of Youth Ministry

Saint Mary's Foundation

St. Mary's Foundation, Inc. St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Introduction: This Annual Report summarizes the activity and financial status of the St. Mary's Foundation. The fiscal year for the Foundation runs from July 1 to June 30.

Mission: The Foundation is a non-profit corporation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Distributions of income from the Foundation's assets are to be made to the Vestry at least once a year for any of the following purposes: 1) capital expenses of the Church; 2) outreach and other charitable and religious programs of the Church; or 3) to increase the principal of funds in the Foundation. The directors are required to maintain the purchasing power of the assets ("the corpus"), which are increased by 2% per year to account for inflation. If income exceeds the amount required to maintain the corpus, then distributions are made to the Vestry to be used for the purposes described above.

Source of Funds: The initial assets came from proceeds from the sale of Church property in the early 1980's. Since that time the assets have increased through a major gift from a donor, as well as other gifts, and income from investments.

Directors: The Foundation is governed by a five-member Board of Directors under the terms of its by-laws. The Board includes the Rector, the three Trustees of the Church, and one communicant appointed annually by the Vestry. The following Directors served during this period:

The Rev. Andrew Merrow, Rector
David R. Mayhood, President, Chairman and Trustee
Carl Dodson, Treasurer and Trustee
Diane Hellens, Recorder and Trustee
Marcia Dodge, Vestry Representative

Investment Advisory Services and Investment Objectives: The Board has used financial advisory services for several years. The Board decided to re-bid those services and evaluated proposals from five firms in the Summer and early Fall of 2007, as it had been some time since those services had been bid. The Board selected a representative of Wachovia Securities to advise on managing the portfolio. The Board's objectives are to preserve capital and experience moderate growth over the longer term; and, the asset allocation among mutual funds reflects those objectives.

Financial Condition: As of March 16, 2009, the Foundation held assets of \$577,598 and the corpus was \$999,311, leaving a deficit of \$421,713. With the advice of our new investment advisor from Wachovia, the Directors changed the asset allocation in January of 2008, putting 20% of the portfolio into bonds for the first time. This has helped to mitigate losses in the portfolio. The Foundation has no indebtedness. Foundation assets are audited annually in conjunction with the audit of the Church's financial operations.

Contribution to Parish. The Foundation distributed \$80,000 to the Vestry in January, 2007 and \$128,092 in July, 2007. These funds were used in connection with the purchase of the Peacock property and capital improvement projects including repainting of the Church's bricks. These were the first surpluses (beyond what was required to provide for the annual corpus increase) since 1998 due to market conditions. The Directors do not expect there to be a surplus available for distribution for some time.

Board Meetings: The Board of Directors generally meets twice a year to conduct normal business activities, but held several meetings with prospective financial advisors as part of re-bidding the investment services.

Why and How Can I Give? A gift to the Foundation made today will provide an enduring financial benefit to the Parish for the glory of God for many years. Gifts might be made in thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a wedding or special anniversary, or other special blessings; to honor the memory of someone loved; or at the time of estate planning. Gifts may take many forms, including: 1) cash and stock; 2) bequests under one's will or trust; 3) gifts of real estate; 4) gifts of life insurance; 5) charitable remainder or annuity trusts; or other means. Gifts to the foundation are tax-deductible. Securities that are donated to the Foundation may be sold without charge (except for a small fee if they are held by a discount broker).

If you are interested in exploring a donation to the Foundation, please contact Carl Dodson at carl_dodson@hotmail.com, or 703-241-2072.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild's prime responsibility is to adorn the altar at all worship services. All of the flowers and materials we use are completely funded by parishioner contributions on a weekly basis.

We are very grateful to fellow parishioner Gene Vahlkamp for building beautiful new mechanics for us to use for weddings and Easter.

The Flower Guild sponsors the annual parish advent wreath event. We supply all of the materials needed for families to make their own advent wreaths to take home and use during the season. This year about 40 families participated.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Murphy

Hospitality Ministry

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor... fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality..."

Romans 12: 10-13

Our newly re-constituted Ministry of Hospitality provided sustenance and welcome this year in food and drink, kind words and open hearts. Family becomes family through the breaking of bread, in celebration, and in deepened relationship. With an average of two to three events each month, the members of St.

Mary's Ministry of Hospitality welcomed hundreds for Coffee Hours, Evensong and Art Show Receptions, Outreach Events, a Bishop's visit and seasonal, liturgical and special celebrations.

This ministry is wide open to all, and welcomes new welcomers. Great thanks to our core team of Tom Adams, JulieAnna Potts, Ann Crozat, Moira Johnston, Pam Poth Elizabeth Yeonas, Margie Davis, Kristine Sawyer, Cathy and Brad Coyle, Jill Clopton, Mary Lee Rech, Jaime Leonard, Parks Shackelford, Abby Reynolds, Elizabeth Speck, and to all Ministry of Hospitality helpers.

St. Mary's Koinonia Dinner Offerings

St. Mary's Koinonia dinner offerings have been a valuable feature of our community life since 1996. 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, 34 parishioners participated, resulting in four groupings, one with children. Some years, as many as seventy-five parishioners have participated in these dinner groups.

If you missed the series of dinners over the Fall period, please consider signing up next time. (Notices will be included in the *Messenger* and Sunday service bulletins after Labor Day.) 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—fear not, we'll be more than happy to combine you with others who do.

And let us add one more inducement, if necessary. Every year, without exception, numerous recipes are generously exchanged. For example, we still regularly use William Merriam's spectacular—and simple—marinade for flank steak, and have subsequently given it away many times since to appreciative guests.

Rob & Marta Cahill

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)

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 and visible sign of an inward and invisible 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. 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 and St. Mary's clergy brought communion over 100 times to friends and St. Mary's parishioners during 2008. These Eucharistic visits are available to any baptized person, 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 their visits. Any member interested in becoming a LEM may contact Fr. Andrew Merrow, and anyone desiring a LEM visit may contact Pam Frick or The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna at the parish office.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna for Trish Christian, Marcia and Don Dodge, Stan Houle, Jill Kempenaar, Mary Lee Rech, Sarah Sheafor, and Mary Beth Emerson.

Lay Readers/ Chalice Bearers

Lay readers served at 197 Sunday services in 2008, and approximately 165 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 chalicists as well as training when needed.

The lay reader ministry added Greg Perett and Susannah McClanahan as lay readers. We said goodbye to Alda Lovell and Michael Boyd who moved out of the area. William Merriam is taking a sabbatical because of his schedule and will hopefully rejoin us by Fall 2009. Ken Kimmel is still our main reader at the Thursday healing service. Fred Tingley, Claudia Boswell, and Gordon Ochenrider remain our main readers for the Wednesday morning Eucharist.

Ned Leonard, Mike Devine, and Shep Barge will train as chalice bearers at the beginning of 2009. Several of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) continue serve in Sunday worship services as well as attending to their the LEM duties, including Sarah Sheafor, Stan Houle, and Jill Kempenaar.

The Lenten discipline of studying and presenting the Passion on Palm Sunday was organized by Pam Frick and the clergy this year. Layreaders, volunteers, and clergy studied their parts individually and rehearsed on the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday. With the exception of central roles, their was a different cast of readers for each service.

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.

We actually had a busy 2008, cooking 79 meals. We had several new babies and long-term requests.

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.

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

Pam Frick continues to perform the bulk of membership administrative duties including maintenance of the membership databases/canonical records, baptismal/godparent certificates, liturgical, funeral coordination, updating the *Virginia Episcopalian* mailing list and responsibility for wedding inquiries as well as wedding administrative coordination and weddings, and memorials. In Fall 2008 she also assumed the recording and tracking duties of the Every Member Canvass.

We received 63 pew cards, a number of

calls, requesting information about the parish, emails, and posted messages on the website. In total, 102 families (whether single adults, couples, or families with children) were added to the directory and mailing list.

The following canonical information was recorded for 2008.

- 12 funerals, interments, inurnments as well as 2 funerals at Arlington Cemetery
- 28 baptisms
- 43 confirmations / receptions / reaffirmations
- 27 transfers in with 1 request pending (i.e., individuals/families requesting their letters be moved to this parish)
- 15 transfers out (i.e., individuals/families requesting their letters be moved to another parish)
 - of these 6 had moved; 2 changed local parishes; 7 had been declared inactive for 13 years or more.
- 6 weddings

Other administrative membership activities included:

- the annual Parochial Report to the Diocese.
- the Bishop's Visit which occurred November 9, 2008 – The 26th Sunday after Pentecost (The Right Rev. Peter James Lee 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.
- an updated version of the mailing list for *The Virginia Episcopalian* in the winter;
- arranging for the scanning of canonical records!

This year we finally found a place (Frank Parsons) that scans documents. We scanned most of the canonical records through the Winter, 2008. In 2009 we will begin to scan some of our archive material.

Our new Administrative Assistant, Bethany Cramer, took over the editing of *The Virginia Episcopalian* list in the Fall. She is now entering newcomers into our Membership Database and will assume responsibility for wedding inquiries as well as the administrative coordination of weddings after Easter in 2009.

In the summer of 2008, Pam sent a mailing to all visitors on St. Mary's mailing list to see if they still wished to receive *The Messenger* and if they would prefer to access it by email. The list for mailings was reduced by about 65%. In December 2008, Bethany sent the same mailing to our membership. We are hopeful that we can continue to reduce our postage and paper costs in 2009.

Mission Trips

St. Mary's mission teams had a busy year in 2008, sharing gifts, energy, and skills through 6 different mission opportunities including the beach, the mountains, the central Gulf Coast, the hills of Arkansas, and

in our own backyard! We will continue to build upon our relationships in each place in 2009. Thank you to the many members of the congregation who gave time and talents to each mission trip opportunity this year. We cannot do much 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 July, a 17 member adult-youth mission trip returned to the Coast for 6 days of hot, humid rebuilding. Based at Camp Coast Care, an Episcopal-Lutheran facility in Long Beach, they helped to finish two new homes and refurbish at least two others. St. Mary’s also had the chance to join St. Patrick’s in worship and visit the site of their new buildings, scheduled for dedication in August 2009. We will continue to return to the Coast to build relationships and rebuild homes and lives. We have two trips scheduled Summer 2009 during the week of August 9-14.

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 assisted with wheelchair ramps, house and roof repairs, painting, and assorted tasks. This was our 13th year at Towel, a trip that is incredibly popular among our older youth. A second towel trip, affectionately called “Beach Towel” saw us partner with St. Patrick’s in Falls Church and Cristo Rey in Arlington and travel with 15 St. Marians to Swansboro, North Carolina. Work included rebuilding, wheelchair ramps, and helping out at a guide dog training facility. Both trips will be returning in 2009.

In July, our middle school youth headed on a long road trip to Heifer Project International’s Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas. Twenty-three folks piled into 3 vans for the two-day journey. St. Mary’s youth partnered with youth from St. Christopher’s in Springfield and St. Peter’s in Arlington for this trip where they learned about poverty, sustainable development, livestock and animals, and how, as youth, they can use this knowledge and their power to really make a difference in the world. A highlight of the trip was a night in Heifer’s Global Village, where our youth experienced first hand for 24 hours what it is like to live in Zambian slums and in rural Appalachia. Our next trip to Heifer is tentatively scheduled for 2010 with a middle school trip to the Gulf Coast in 2009.

Finally, this summer concluded with our third annual Outreach Camp. Over 50 middle school campers from St. Mary’s, St. James’ in Leesburg, and St. Peter’s in Arlington joined together to focus on the Millennium Development Goals the last week in August. While many speakers came to St. Mary’s, our youth also traveled to a working farm, the National Cathedral, the National Medical Museum, and an exhibit at the National Botanical Gardens. Outreach Camp for 2009 is once again scheduled for the last week of August.

2008 was a year packed with mission both in our own backyard and in many places throughout our country! In 2009, we will once again spread our mission teams over 3 continents! Overall approximately 85 parishioners joined us for mission offerings in 2008. We are excited that mission is such a vibrant ministry at St. Mary’s and a part of our continued formation as members of Christ’s body in this world. We hope you will consider joining one of the many opportunities for mission in 2009.

Faithfully submitted,
Jenn+

Music Ministry

Choirs: 6; Total Music Participants: 86

St. Mary's Parish Choir (23 adult members)
 Sings at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services and offerings listed below
 New Members: Manish Bhatt, Meredith Kytte, Mary Ann Henley, Diane Perett, Kara Lucas; Moved from St. Mary's Parish this year: Harriet Foster, Brendan Sliger, Scott Nonken; Music Librarians: Carolyn Heyer and Kate Waters

Treble Choir (28 K-3rd grade members) sing at 9:00 a.m. services and events listed below
 Kristine Johnson, Treble Choir accompanist.

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: Elena Lagon, Boys & Girls Choir Assistant

Compline Singers: Women's Schola: (6 members) New member: Kara Lucas;
 Men's Schola: (7 members)
 Sings weekly and at events listed below

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

Special Offerings

January 4, 7:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., Parish Choir Christmas Party at Robin & Elspeth DeLaBarre's

January 6, 5:00 p.m., Feast of Lights with Boys & Girls Choir 155 in attendance
 Inauguration of weekly Sung Compline, alternating Men's Schola and Women's Schola

February 4, 5:00 p.m., Evening Prayer with Parish Choir, 65 in attendance

February 2, Royal School of Church Music 80th Anniversary Celebration at Washington National Cathedral With a choir of over 400 from parishes across the United States

March 2, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong with Boys & Girls Choir, Stephen Smith, guest organist, 75 in attendance

March 20, Maundy Thursday and March 23, Easter Services, Parish Choir with Brass Quintet

April 6, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong with Parish Choir, Dr. Giles Brightwell, guest organist, 79 in attendance

April 13, 2:30 p.m., Daughters of the American Revolution Service at St. Mary's

April 20, 6:00 p.m. Choral Evensong & Benediction, St. Paul's, K St. Men & Boys Choir,
 Gregory Hooker: Substitute Choirmaster & Organist

April 27, 11:00 a.m., St. Mary's Boys & Girls Choir and Christ Church, Alexandria Youth Choir sing at St. James', New York City

May 1, 7:30 p.m. Choral Evensong for Ascension at St. Mary's with Parish Choir and Christ Church, Alexandria, Choir, 61 in attendance

May 4, 5:00 p.m., Choral Vespers with Bach Cantata No. 37, funded by newly inaugurated Harman Memorial Music Fund, 122 in attendance

May 18, Choir Recognition Sunday, 2 light blue Royal School of Church Music ribbons awarded to choristers

May 22, 6:30 p.m., All Choirs Banquet, attendance awards given,
 Dr. Bill Roberts, VTS, guest speaker

May 30, 5:30 p.m. Joanna Braswell Wedding with Parish Choir

June 1, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong at Christ Church, Alexandria,
 Gregory Hooker, guest organist

June 9-July 20, Gregory Hooker's leave of absence for doctoral work

July 11-12, Gregory attended Indiana University Organists Conference, Bloomington, Indiana

July 14-20, Grace Miller attended Royal School of Church Music Singing Course in Raleigh, North Carolina with Katherine Dienes-Williams, Guildford Cathedral,

UK, Music Director

July 27-August 3, Choral Scholar Emerson Sieverts attended the Royal School of Church Music Summer Course in Montreal, with John Scott, St. Thomas, Fifth Avenue, New York City, Music Director

September 11, 6:30 p.m. Choir Kick-off and Potluck Dinner

September 18, 11:00 a.m. Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, Yvonne Carruthers, guest artist, 15 in attendance for newly inaugurated Music for Young People Series

October 5, 5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong by Boys & Girls Choir, Aaron Goen, guest organist, 98 in attendance

October 12, 9:00 p.m. Compline at St. Paul's, K Street, Washington, DC sung by St. Mary's Men's & Women's Scholi for Regional Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians

October 14, 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's hosts Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' Monthly Meeting, Barbara Owen, speaker

November 1, 6:00 p.m., All Souls' Requiem Eucharist at Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD and

November 2, 5:00 p.m., All Saints' Requiem Eucharist at St. Mary's, Combined Choirs sing Fauré *Requiem* with 13-piece orchestra, 192 in attendance at St. Mary's;

November 16, 9:00 a.m. Chorister Moving Up Ceremony, 2 light blue and 1 dark blue Royal School of Church Music ribbons awarded to choristers

November 27, 10:00 a.m., Thanksgiving Day Ecumenical Eucharist at St. Mary's with combined choir

December 7, 5:00 p.m., Advent Lessons & Carols, Christopher Candela, guest organist, 218 in attendance. All St. Mary's Choirs participate in this annual event.

December 14, 6:00 p.m., Gregory Hooker, organist for Choral Evensong and Benediction at St. Paul's, K St.

December 24, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve services, St. Mary's Parish Choir

Weddings: 4; Funerals: 7; provides support for Children's Chapel worship

Continuing Education Opportunities

Summer leave of absence to write final document for Doctor of Music degree at Indiana University; Regional Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians, Washington, DC October 12 and 13

Goals for 2009

Increased participation in choirs; more Music Fund participation; develop a plan for expanding music staff and for finishing organ; finish Doctor of Music at Indiana University; begin planning English cathedral choir tour.

Outreach Committee

"The early church did not seek to formulate a theory of illness; instead it healed the sick. It did not attempt to explain how the demonic could exist in a good world made by a good God; instead they cast out demons. They had no hypotheses about how prayer works. They prayed. Their attitude was not anti-rational or anti-theological, but merely

concrete. They looked, not for adequate ways to conceptualize the Kingdom, but for ways to actualize it.”

Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers*

Countless person hours were spent through St. Mary’s in 2008 actualizing God’s Kingdom. As food security diminished in Arlington County for thousands of individuals and families, you donated more food, more time and more operating money to The Arlington Food Assistance Center. After crushing personal tragedy derailed a local family, you came forward in scores to rebuild their lives and their faith. Seventy-nine young people and adults went on short-term mission trips to Appalachia, Arkansas, Coastal North Carolina and Mississippi. You tutored school kids in D.C., made and delivered thousands of bagged meals to street people, cooked and served meals at So Others Might Eat, gave English language lessons at Iglesia Santa Maria, stocked the pantry at Doorways for Women and Families, walked for the homeless, celebrated Thanksgiving, supported microenterprise, gleaned for the hungry and prayed for humanity. You saw need, you said your prayers, you gathered resources and sisters and brothers and you acted.

Your Outreach Committee wrestled in 2008 with best use of financial resources as more service ministries and organizations found themselves in greater need. The year ended with an inability to fully fund all the requests for financial assistance we received. Nonetheless, a record \$160,000. was granted to healing, housing, teaching, and feeding ministries.

Outreach is witness. The New Commandment and the Great Commission are actualized in the work that we do and the money we give: we give to God in love and gratitude, we answer a call to love out of that love and gratitude and worlds are changed as others see and join. The whole new family of God, The Beloved Community and our lives together as brothers and sisters in Christ are our destiny as baptized ministers, regardless of economics. In fact, good people seek to do good when times are bad. St. Mary’s certainly answered the call to service in 2008.

Like the early church, we face enormous challenges. May God grant us the courage, wisdom, strength, love and faith of previous generations in our concern for one another, in the upbuilding of the church, and in actualizing God’s Kingdom.

2008 Outreach Grants

Rev. Andrew Akuak Travel Assistance	\$ 1,500.
Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)	\$ 15,000.
Arlington Free Clinic	\$ 5,000.
Arlington Pediatric Center	\$ 5,000.
Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network (ASPAN)	\$ 2,400.
Bishop Daniel Deng Bul Tech Network support (Sudan)	\$ 4,000.
Dinka Bible Translation (Sudan)	\$ 2,500.
Doorways for Women & Families	\$ 15,000.
Diocese of Virginia, 5 th Century Fund for Iglesia Santa Maria	\$ 25,000.
Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)	\$ 7,000.
Marjorie Hughes Fund for Children	\$ 2,000.
Mid-Atlantic Gleaning Network (MAGNET)	\$ 10,000.
Outreach Internal (local assistance)	\$ 15,000.
Rebuilding Together	\$ 8,235.

Samaritan Ministry	\$ 4,000.
Santino Dut Tuition	\$ 1,000.
St. Patrick's, Long Beach, MS	\$ 8,000.
Sharon McGowan Breast Health Fund	\$ 3,000.
So Others Might Eat (SOME)(one for one matching grant)	\$ 2,500.
Towel Ministry (Beach Towel)	\$ 1,000.
Towel Ministry (Valle Crucis)	\$ 1,000.
Youth Mission Minsitry	\$ 16,700.
Volunteer Ranch of Zepp	\$ 5,000.
World Mission Commission/World Mission Day	\$ 2,000.

Faithfully Submitted:

Christine Hahn, Chairman

Patty Balestrieri, Co-Chair

Carolyn Boswell, Lisa Crye, Mindel DeLa Torre, Margot Ellis, Mary Beth Emerson, Margie Finn, Beverly Hess, Robyn Lighthammer, Paula Potts, Harriet Runkle, Dennis Sawyer, Jane Shafran, Diane Wright, Rev. Andrew Merrow, Rev. Jenn Strawbridge, Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna

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

Saint Joseph's Ministry January – December 2008

2008 was once again a very fulfilling year for St Joseph's Guild. For FY 08, St. Joseph's support grew slightly. We also bade farewell to several dedicated Guild members – Scott Kowalski & Peter Hughes.

Both re-located out of the local area; our prayers go with them.

The "Jane Patrol" teams proved a success with support readily available to assist Jane in maintaining the facilities. In September, St Joseph's received a new snow thrower which will come in handy to help with snow removal around the church and sidewalks – let it snow now! Routine repairs and efforts included changing light bulbs, replacing toilet tank cartridges, etc. Special project days included:

- + 2 focused Church work days with many repairs completed
- + Bell Tower Inspection & lube bell wheel
- + Assisted Altar and Flower Guilds with services: Christmas, Lent, Holy week, Easter, etc.
- + Seasonal Service Support: Stage set up/down, cross veiling, moving furniture, hanging wreaths/flowers, etc.
- + Glebe Road properties: minor repairs and pre-inspection of newly vacated property

Once again, our most fulfilling project of the year was Rebuilding Together on April 26 where we sponsored a very special project – the Grant Family. The Grant Family was very pleased with the results. Our 75 volunteers' combined efforts helped to re-make their home and assist in their recent family challenges and loss of their son to cancer. Thanks to all who came out to lend a hand in this very worthwhile community event. This project took much more effort and support with several days ahead of the scheduled date for prep and a couple outstanding items on the following weekend to install mini-blinds. Additionally, we teamed up with another team, 20 -30 people from Temple Rodef Shalom (TRS) in Falls Church and Congregation Etz Hayim (CEH) coming by the Grants House on May 4th, the following weekend. They were a great bunch of folks with good Rebuilding Together experience. A very special thanks to Dave Landeck for his outstanding support as the Guild's Project Manager/Lead – it was a huge success.

Between the two teams we accomplished the following projects:

- 1) De-cluttered - including cleanout of the loft above the garage to establish some storage space. (Lead: Betsy Whitaker)
- 2) Interior design / paint / decorate: we painted the interior, installed mini-blinds, and provided as much new furniture as we could get donated or funded. (Design Carol Sanders, paint lead: Margo Ellis)
- 3) New vinyl windows: we replaced 13 windows (all except the kitchen and back porch). (Lead: Jeff Knight)
- 4) General interior fix-it - got the doors swinging and latching, installed mini-blinds all around, etc. (Lead: Tom Hardin)
- 5) Exterior fix-it: Replaced rotted fascia and gutter board, a couple of loose downspouts, a hole above one of the Master bedroom windows, and a bit of rotted wood on the bottom of the exterior of the back porch.. (Lead: John Franklin).
- 6) Exterior paint prep: caulking, wire brush, and power wash (Lead: Kevin Wade)
- 7) Landscaping: the backyard had a drainage problem - funneled water to the house. We put in a trench and drainpipe, landscape timbers around the swing set and as much mulch as we could get back there. (lead: Val Dugie, Michelle Lowry, Kristine Sawyer, & Margaret Boswell)

TRS and CEH Team projects:

- 1) Exterior paint: walls and trim.
- 2) Back porch cleanup and fix-it (whatever makes sense).
- 3) Garage workshop and cleanup (maybe some lighting, a new workbench area, some bike storage)
- 4) Backyard beds, plantings and pathway.

As we begin 2009, St Joseph's Ministry looks forward to our continued efforts in maintaining our church

and facilities in support of the clergy and staff. We look forward to welcoming any additional volunteers interested in joining our efforts – no special skills or tools necessary.....

ShrineMont

The ShrineMont weekend every year is a journey into the Virginia countryside in search of fellowship and recreation. ShrineMont 2008 was all of that plus the bonding experience of record heat for our retreat crowd of 180 parishoners and guests. We were joined by members of Iglesia Santa Maria and our speaker The Rev. Jesus Reyes.

We had a wonderful children's program and additional activities such as Yoga in the Virginia House, the Friday night bonfire, Sung Compline and the Saturday Night Variety Show. Summer fun activities were enjoyed by members of the full Saint Mary's family and we left looking forward to next year. (Which is now this year. Our St. Mary's Shrine Mont Retreat will be June 5th through June 7th -- Join us!)

Lisa Leibel and Kristin Martinez, Co-Chairs

Stewardship Committee

GOOD NEWS DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that the results of the Every Member Canvas for 2009 in Fall 2008 set another record for St. Mary's. This is a wonderful testament to each of you that St Mary's remains a priority in your life given the economic challenges we all face. It continues to be a wonderful example of the strength of our St. Mary's family and the commitment we all share with the mission of our parish family.

As of February 9, 2009, 329 members have made pledges vs 336 in 2008. 34 new pledges were received this year. Of the 326 pledges, 216 have increased their pledges from last year for an increase of \$205,600 or 32.2%. The total income pledged for 2009 including prepaids is \$1,266,913 or 105.47% of last year's total pledge income and 99.36% of the \$1,275,000 goal for 2009.

These results continue to demonstrate that St. Mary's doors are wide open and that we continue to support critical outreach programs during this challenging time. Your support, now more than ever, should make all of us proud of our tradition of celebrating the good news of Christ's birth and resurrection, as well as our support for each other. This could not be accomplished without your faith in our parish leadership, staff, and mission.

Finally, I want to thank Becky Lauer, Chad McGinnis, and Arthur Speck for their tireless efforts on the Stewardship Committee. As I mentioned in a recent Messenger article, we are looking to move on to other volunteer activities at St. Mary's and hope you will consider volunteering for the Stewardship Committee. It is the best kept secret at St. Mary's. New ideas are always needed and your perspectives will continue to build upon the past successes all our parish family has shared.

God's peace,
Pete and Becky Lauer, Chad McGinnis, Arthur Speck

20s and 30s Group Ministry

With over 120 people on our mailing list, the 20s and 30s ministry continues to meet parishioners where

they are and to adapt as we grow and as people move away. We have had a number of new members be received into the Episcopal Church, confirmed, or baptized in the past year.

We have been working hard to build community not only within St. Mary's but also with other 20s and 30s groups from the Arlington Region. We have numerous monthly, regional events that include a Women's Book Group, "Bare Bible Study," Happy Hour, and 1st Sunday of the month Brunches.

We led the parish in a summer bible study that coincided with the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference in England. We also actively participated in the regional Lenten series. Members of the 20s and 30s group can frequently be found at Outreach events— such as Rebuilding Together and ESL tutoring at Santa Maria. And on Sundays you can find us serving as acolytes, lay readers, and chaliceists.

We had several events that were great fun including participating in the Arlington WAKA kickball league, a whitewater rafting trip in July, apple-picking in October, a trip to local wineries in October, a community game night in November, and a Christmas party complete with ugly Christmas sweater competition.

The next year promises to be one of continued growth and deepened relationships.

Faithfully submitted,

Cayce Ramey and The Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna, Assistant to the Rector

United Thank Offering

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. Parish Administrator Pam Frick has fulfilled this role, overseeing the ingatherings until another lay leader feels called to assume this role.

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 Fall, the Diocesan leadership passed to Jeanelle Moritz.

Last year we shifted our ingathering dates to coincide with those of the ECW. Our ingatherings were on Sunday, May 4th (The 7th Sunday of Easter), and All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2008.

Total offerings for 2008:

The 7 th Sunday of Easter, 2008:	\$1,610.29
All Saints Sunday, 2008:	<u>\$1,780.19</u>
Total:	<u>\$3,390.48</u>

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

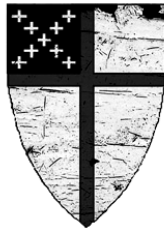
abundant gifts God gives us daily.

Ushers Ministry

Last year, the Ushers continued their faithful service at St. Mary's 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 would welcome new volunteers at the 9:00, 11:15 and 5:00 o'clock services to replace some volunteers who have moved on to other ministries.

I am especially pleased that our ushers are now a regular fixture 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. We have coverage at 3 out of 4 weeks and another volunteer to cover one Sunday a month



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