



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2023



Dear Friends,

Several years ago I realized that an enormous amount of effort went into writing reports for the Annual Parish Meeting that, frankly, probably no more than a handful of people actually read. Year after year, committee chairs, ministry leads, staff, and others took care and time to write and rewrite reports. I decided that that was terrible stewardship of people's time and talents. So, instead, we created a "picture-book" glimpse at our parish with interesting data points and highlights to convey the same information. As we look back at the year that is past, it's hard not to see God's hands all over our lives together. I hope this report will remind you of the gift we have been given in our life in Christ at St. Mary's Church, and that you will give thanks!

Your brother in Christ,

David+

WORSHIP

- ▶ **15,004** people attended Sunday morning services.
- ▶ **560** people attended Wednesday noon Eucharist with Prayers for Healing.
- ▶ **16** souls were buried from St. Mary's.
- ▶ **Six** couples were married.
- ▶ **31** babies, little ones and children were baptized.
- ▶ **36** young people were confirmed and **one** person was received.
- ▶ We held **five** outdoor worship services with potluck suppers following.
- ▶ **2,500** lights adorn our new Christmas tree!



MUSIC

- ▶ **15** singers comprise the St. Mary's Choir.
- ▶ The choir sang about **100** anthems and other special music.
- ▶ St. Mary's hosted **three** performances by outside artists and ensembles.
- ▶ Ryan played more than **125** organ pieces during services (not counting weddings and funerals).



STEWARDSHIP

- ▶ We received **331** pledged offerings for 2024.
- ▶ Together you pledged **\$1,327,188** for the mission and ministry of St. Mary's Church for 2024 - exceeding our goal.
- ▶ There were **55** new pledgers.
- ▶ **One** desire to make our pledged offering in thanksgiving to God for God's goodness and blessings!

OUTREACH

- ▶ We supported **eight** outreach partners with more than **\$73,000**.
- ▶ We collected **1,239** pounds of food for Thanksgiving meals through GoochlandCares.
- ▶ Our team of three spent **15** days visioning with Education = Hope in Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda.
- ▶ We raised more than **\$43,000** at BBQ & Brews.
- ▶ We fed **340** people lunch and dinner at CARITAS.
- ▶ We filled more than **30** backpacks for the Goochland YMCA and Bright Beginnings program.
- ▶ We created **34** Christmas wreaths with love for Gateway Homes.
- ▶ **Six** outreach newsletters informed parishioners about opportunities to serve.
- ▶ **One** commitment to be Christ's Heart and Hands in this world!



ADULT FORMATION

- ▶ **Three** different book clubs, including a new one for parents, attracted about **50** readers.
- ▶ **Four** Lenten soup suppers fed body and spirit.
- ▶ **Three** Lunch & Learn group talks engaged participants.
- ▶ *Let it Begin with Me* group met with **25** participants to discuss racial reconciliation.
- ▶ Our first Sacred Ground group enlightened **17** participants.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

- ▶ **55** kids attended VBS with more than **20** youth volunteers.
- ▶ **10** kids in On-the-Go Camp put in around **80** hours of community service.
- ▶ More than **45** kids participated in the Jesse Tree service.
- ▶ **120** children and youth performed our Christmas Pageant.
- ▶ There were **24** kids in the nursery on Christmas Eve! Average nursery attendance rose by about **35%** over the year.
- ▶ **25** new kids enrolled in Sunday School this year.



YOUTH MINISTRY

- ▶ **40** youth participated in worship as acolytes and lectors.
- ▶ **20** youth-group meetings attracted at least **20** attendees.
- ▶ **20** youth and **five** adults participated in mission trips.
- ▶ The youth raised more than **\$1,000** at the pancake supper to support mission trips and outreach partners.
- ▶ **18** youth are in the 2023-24 confirmation class.
- ▶ **26** students attended the youth Christmas party.

