

# MISSIVES

*Poetical Reflection  
on Service (p. 4)*



## *From The Senior Warden*

BY JAMES HAYES

I recently attended a Small Church Leadership Retreat during which interesting facts were presented about our Diocese and the national church. There are 77 churches and organizations in the diocese that require a dedicated priest. Of these, 30 have no priests at all. St. Mary's is fortunate to have a unique partnership with St. James that ensures we have a priest each Sunday and for special occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and so on. We are a model for others.

The median size of a congregation in the broader Episcopal Church in 2021 was 21! In that year, the average Sunday attendance for 90% of congregations nationwide was 100 or less, 1% had 300. Average Sunday attendance at St.

Mary's is 25 to 30 people and our reported size is 48 this year. So, we are similar in size to the majority of Episcopal churches across the nation. size is 48 this year.

In our diocese last year, income from plate and pledges was around \$14 million. Bishop Skirving said in his convention remarks a year ago, "We are not a diocese that should ... preach scarcity. There is an abundance in our midst. It's really about how we choose to use that abundance ..." Due to your continuing generosity, St. Mary's is very fortunate to have sufficient resources to cover its annual operating costs, support some important outreach programs, and perform much needed deferred maintenance and repair projects this year. We are by no means too small nor are our resources too limited. Compared to other

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parishes in the diocese and across the nation, St. Mary's is about average. Of course, we always strive to increase our membership, grow our outreach programs, and be good stewards of our property. There is always more to do to keep our parish strong and vibrant! As the Bishop stated, there is an abundance in our midst. At St. Mary's it is our dedicated parishioners who are filled with Christian love and generosity. Our faith teaches us that by serving others humbly and compassionately we are imitating the example of Jesus Christ and fulfilling his commandment to love one another. Serving is not just outreach and faithful worship, we are also called to help our parish joyfully by assisting, caring, praying, and encouraging one another. Acts of service are truly a form of worship.

You can serve St. Mary's in many ways:

- Serve as an usher, a crucifer, or a lay reader. We are currently writing the procedures for each duty so that it will be easy to learn what must be done. Talk to Pam Anthony or me about these vital ministries. We desperately need volunteers.
- Visit and pray for those who are sick and are homebound or in the hospital. In partnership with St. James, we have a wonderful ministry called Community of Hope which is dedicated to this purpose. It requires some formal training to equip those who wish to serve about pastoral care, particularly being present for others in times of need. Participants find it to be informative, uplifting, and rewarding. If you are interested in this ministry, talk to Donna Anderson or me.
- Offer to arrange or help with maintenance tasks. Talk to the Junior Warden if you have the time to donate, particularly if you have expertise to offer.
- Provide meals for families who are going through a difficult time.
- Host coffee hours to help promote Christian fellowship (a hallmark of St. Mary's) after Sunday services. You may have noticed that there is a small contingent of parishioners who routinely do this. We need more volunteers. Recently, we decided that simple, easy to prepare snacks is all that is expected; it is not intended to be an onerous duty. Talk to Pam Anthony.
- Offer to help with parish administrative tasks. Assistance in making telephone calls and coordinating schedules for funerals, baptisms, and weddings, and for services during the Easter and Christmas seasons is critically needed. A cadre of willing, on-call people would be of great assistance. If you are willing to help a couple hours a week when called, talk to Pam Anthony or me.
- Join the choir. You don't need to be professionally trained, just someone who enjoys singing. If you want to make a joyful noise to the Lord, talk to Jennings Trawick.
- Help organizing events and fundraisers, such as our potluck dinners and our music programs. Talk to Armin Jancis, our Fellowship Commissioner.
- Assist someone who is new to the parish.
- Participate in or lead a small group Bible study or prayer group to encourage and support others. If you have any recommendations, let me know.
- Use your skills and talents to teach a class or lead a workshop. Let me know if you have any ideas.
- Volunteer to serve in positions of parish leadership or represent the parish at the deanery or diocesan level. I will be happy to explain opportunities.

**Continued**

*"For we are  
God's servants,  
working  
together; you  
are God's field,  
God's building"*

*1 Corinthians 3:9*

## **Continued from page 2**

I recognize that we each have different skills, interests, and availability. Not all of the listed ministries will appeal to everyone. But each is needed to continue the Lord's work in our parish and community. Whatever you are able to do, no matter how small, helps. As Pastor Bill Milholland said in his July sermon, when Jesus commissioned his disciples and sent them out two by two, he instructed them that whosoever of his believers gave even a cup of cold water to anyone in need, they will receive a reward in heaven.

## *From The Junior Warden*

BY KARL HAMMERS

The role of the Junior Warden is to take care of the building and the grounds of the church. Accordingly, I am overseeing some Vestry approved projects that will make the church safer, more beautiful, and more accessible to those with mobility concerns.

We contracted to install new exterior doors along with exterior handles and locks. Some of the existing doors were interior doors which did not provide the security and durability we would like. There was also rotting wood around some of the doors which will be replaced with PVC trim for durability. An automatic door opener will be installed on one door at the main entrance to allow for easier access to those who need it. Automatic door closers are being installed on all the doors to prevent them from being accidentally left open. We expect completion in August.

We have a contract to resurface the parking lot. The damaged areas will be repaired, and a layer of asphalt will then be applied. The asphalt will be level with the sidewalk by the church and taper down to the island gutters. The asphalt will be sloped so the water runs around the island that holds the bell. New striping will be applied with handicap parking places. Bumpers

will be installed at the end of the of the parking spaces nearest the church to prevent cars from accidentally parking on the sidewalk. We expect completion in the August-September timeframe.

New manufactured, interlocking floor tiles will be installed in the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and office. It will be more durable and look much nicer than the existing linoleum. There are some supply chain issues with the tiles we selected, so we are exploring other options. Moreover, this project will require moving furniture in coordination with the floor installation, which may require assistance. We are not sure when the work will be completed, hopefully before the fall. More to follow on this.

The stove and vent hood have been replaced in the kitchen. A garbage disposal will be installed under the sink. The circuit breakers for the kitchen will be replaced to bring them up to code. This will hopefully be done in July.

A few of the pews were starting to come apart and appeared to be unsafe. We hired a professional carpenter to professionally repair them so they will be safe and look nice. This will also hopefully be done in July.

We have two memorial bricks to be installed in the garden. There are a few more memorial bricks to make based on requests. Once we have all the bricks they will be installed. This will hopefully be done in August.

These projects are urgently needed. The church building was completed in May 1978. We are not sure if the parking lot has ever been upgraded since then. The Parish Hall was added in 1985 and the present flooring is original as were the stove and vent hood. All the exterior doors are original. As we all know, buildings around 40 years old will suffer wear and tear.

*"Therefore, my beloved, stand firm, steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

*1 Corinthians 15:58*



## *A Note from Rev. Ron Abrams*

Dear People of St. Mary's,

Kathleen and I want to thank you so very much for all your kind notes, emails, texts, phone calls and cards with the passing of y father, Jack Abrams, on July 14th at the age of 98! As a veteran of both World War II and the Korean conflict, he understood the importance of service. As a policeman and fireman in his professional life, he understood the value of community. As a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather he understood the love for family. Service, community, love and family are also powerful aspects of St. Mary's and we are grateful for your prayers and support during this time. Dad loved coming to worship at St. Mary's and always felt welcomed and cared for!

## *Service*

BY JOANNA FUCHS

We serve the Lord with all our might,  
And in His name we spread His light.  
We give our time, our hearts, our all,  
To answer when we hear His call.

We serve the poor, the sick, the lost,  
And count it gain, no matter the cost.  
For in this service we find our joy,  
And in His love we are made whole.

Let us then serve with humble hearts,  
And in His grace we'll do our part.  
For in this service we find our rest,  
And in His peace we are truly blessed.

## *Birthdays*

Angel Hammers 8/1  
The Rev. Ron Abrams 8/6  
Jeff Marshburn 8/9  
Beverly Pickett 8/14  
Darlene O'Connell 8/25  
Jim Hayes 8/30  
Candi Alexander 8/30  
JoAnn Buck 8/31

## *Anniversaries*

Al and Cathy Weisser 8/12  
Bill and Brenda Starling 8/13  
James and Dawn Connor 8/23

## *Prayer List*

Bishop Michael Curry  
Elaine Bullin  
JoAnn Buck  
Marion Clark  
Vicki Delor  
Wayne Whitson Floyd  
Linda Hadden  
Karen Howard  
Harry & Maruta Jancis  
PA Kirk  
Don O'Connell  
David Stock  
Jack & Susan Stocks  
Chip Swinson  
Joe Tillman  
Dede Yepko

## *Key Events*

Lutheran Sunday  
August 6

Vestry Meeting  
August 9  
6:00 PM

LCF Deanery Meeting  
August 15  
6:00 PM

St. James Church

Vestry Retreat  
August 26  
3:00 PM

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*St. Mary's Parish*  
EST. 1908

### **Priest-in-Charge**

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig Jr.

### **Vestry**

Senior Warden | Jim Hayes  
Junior Warden | Karl Hammers  
Treasurer | George Francis  
Clerk | Pam Anthony  
Outreach | Daniel LeClair  
Finance | Roxanne Marshburn  
Pastoral Care | Armin Jancis

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## *Visit or Contact Us*

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## Those Who Serve

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b> <b>August 6</b> <b>The Transformation of</b> <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> <b>11:00 AM</b></p>	Celebrant	Pastor Bill Milholland
	Lay Assistant	Pat Casaw
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Emily Smith
	Oblations & Usher	Valde & Helle Jorgensen
	Organist	Jennings trawick
	Altar Guild	Donna Anderson
	Coffee Hour Angels	Donna Anderson
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b> <b>August 13</b> <b>The Eleventh Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b> <b>11:00 AM</b></p>	Celebrant	The Rev. Cheryl Brainard
	Lay Assistant	Pam Anthony
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Danny Buck
	Oblations & Usher	Armin Jancis & Kim Davies
	Organist	Jennings Trawick
	Altar Guild	Heidi Robbins
	Coffee Hour Angels	Terri & Jim Hayes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b> <b>August 20</b> <b>The Twelfth Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b> <b>11:00 AM</b></p>	Celebrant	The Rev. Gray Hodson
	Lay Assistant	George Francis
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Emily Smith
	Oblations & Usher	Donna Anderson & Pam Anthony
	Organist	Jennings trawick
	Altar Guild	Hymnal Plus
	Coffee Hour Angels	Pat Casaw
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday</b> <b>August 27</b> <b>The Thirteenth Sunday</b> <b>after Pentecost</b> <b>11:00 AM</b></p>	Celebrant	The Rev. Philliip Craig
	Lay Assistant	Karl Hammers
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Pat Casaw
	Oblations & Usher	Johann & Daniel LeClair
	Organist	Jennings Trawick
	Altar Guild	Pat Casaw
	Coffee Hour Angels	Heidi & Jimbo Robbins

*IMPORTANT: If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and inform Pam Anthony of the change as soon as possible.*