

A Year in Review: Wow, 2017 was a busy and blessed year at St. Mary Anne's! God was good and faithful to our parish. Let's look at some highlights...

- During late January and February, we participated in the Rotating Homeless Shelter. For two weeks, we organized meals in our Parish Center and provided volunteers to staff the shelter.
- We re-established the 2:42 Men's Group; began Women's Fellowship Circles and a Cemetery Committee.
- We provided education to our parishioners by co-sponsoring Managing Senior Life Workshops; had a 4-part Lenten education program on Faith & Science; and studied The Book of Acts.
- We evaluated our sacred graveyard and learned preservation techniques to straighten and clean the grave-stones. A team of dedicated volunteers are now hard at work to preserve this sacred space.
- In early April, we celebrated a parish-wide wedding and reception for Amanda & Jon. Days later, Amanda underwent complex brain surgery. She has had a phenomenal recovery. God is good, indeed!
- Holy Week was a sacred journey. We provided many opportunities to worship as we prepared to celebrate the Resurrection on a beautiful Easter Sunday.
- Our 20th Annual Garden Market blossomed in early May. Thousands of visitors walked through our gates, purchased flowers and plants from a variety of vendors, ate delectable food, and even had the opportunity to ring our historic church bell!
- Bishop Santosh Marray made his annual visit in June. While here, he baptized and confirmed both babies and adults.
- Six baptisms this year!
- Our Annual Church Picnic was held on a picture-perfect summer day! Grilling and delicious picnic food, fellowship, and kayaking made this annual event memorable.
- Six days a week, our Parish Center is an active meeting place for 3 recovery support groups (N/A, A/A and Al Anon), Scouts, 4-H, a chess club, a senior group, and a civic gardening club. This high usage area needed some renovations, so this year we completely remodeled our Parish Hall and kitchen, front and rear lobbies, and restrooms. We installed a new roof over the kitchen, ductless heating/air-conditioning units, new ceiling tiles, new flooring, paint, countertops, dishwasher, fridge, sinks, vanities, toilets and plumbing fixtures. A new audio-visual system was gifted and installed as well. This work was funded by a grant and a combination of memorials, financial gifts and donations, along with hundred's of hours of volunteer labor.
- A "Dream Big" Scholarship, initially funded by a financial gift from the Flood family, has been established. Graduating high school seniors, who are active members of this parish, are eligible to apply.
- Our Church School is growing with children, with lessons for kindergarten through grade 8.
- Two members of our Youth Group journeyed to Oklahoma this July to participate in EYE (Episcopal Youth Event).
- The 1st Annual Men's Chili Cook-off, in November, raised over \$1400.00 for Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico.
- In the fall, our ECW sponsored a Mystery Trip Bus Trip to the Eastern Shore. More than 50+ parishioners and friends participated in this fellowship adventure.

- Our Gingerbread float in the Cecil County Christmas Parade won 1st Place in the Non-profit category!
- Our 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk was a huge success! From our estimates, we sold approximately 270lbs of homemade cookies!
- Our 2nd Annual Wreaths Across America was held this month. Following a moving tribute ceremony, wreaths were laid on over 70 veterans' graves in our grave yard.
- Our Giving Tree Project has brightened the lives of many needy children this year. Our parishioners donated 66 boxes of Christmas gifts to local school children.
- Dennis and Jacob joined our Choir. You can hear our lovely Choir sing every Sunday morning at 10:00AM!
- Our music program, led by our Director of Music Steve McBride, was also enhanced by guest musicians and concerts. First, the glorious Requiem concert prepared us for Holy Week. A brass quintet joined us on Easter. And a handbell concert rung in the Christmas season!
- Victoria Robertson, professional vocalist and daughter of parishioners Sheila & Gordon Robertson, gave a delightful summer concert in our sanctuary; soloed at our Christmas Eve Services and with Steve, headlined the entertaining Songs of Joy!! Christmas Concert.
- Our sweet parish children participated in the yearly Christmas Pageant under the direction of Rachelan Griffin. A week later, generations of female parishioners gave a moving Voices of Mary presentation during our Sunday Services.
- We raised awareness about the problems of addiction in our community at our first National Overdose Awareness Church Service in late August. Guest speakers provided valuable information and testimony.
- We began a monthly 12-Step Recovery Church service this month. Future ones will be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00PM. This service is designed to strengthen those in recovery with the message of hope, redemption, and God's grace.
- Our Mission Committee participates in two major fundraising endeavors: Train Day in January and the Duck Races at our Garden Market. Each year, they distribute Mission funds (approximately \$33,000+) to local, national and international charities and ministries.
- Three days a week, year long, our Outreach volunteers provide bags of food to the hungry. **In the past 12 months, they helped 1,207 families and 3,657 individuals, as they distributed 5,992 bags of SMA food and 1,509 bags of federal food!**
- Our Pastoral Care team visits infirmed parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. They provide food, companionship and Communion. They are angels in our midst.

Start a new tradition in 2018 and join us on Sundays at 8:00AM and 10:00AM!

To learn more, visit our website: stmaryanne.org

