

## A Year in Review at Saint Mary Anne's Episcopal Church, 2018

Many of us put pen to paper and list our goals for the New Year but before we do that, it is usually helpful to review what was recently accomplished. In the Book of Job, we are reminded that *we should choose to follow what is right, but first of all we must define among ourselves what is good* (Job 34:4). Let's take this opportunity to review and define "good" that was accomplished this year at Saint Mary Anne's toward our continued mission and growth as a parish.

### Outreach

- Under the direction of Donne Lewis and with the help of over 30 volunteers, the Outreach Office was open **141** days this year. In the past 12 months, we helped **1,281** families and **3,542** family members. We packed **6,449** bags of SMA food and **1,290** bags of federal food, with 97% of our income was spent on food; 1% on assistance; 2% on supplies/misc. items.
- In November, our Outreach volunteers distributed turkeys and fixings to **61** needy families for Thanksgiving.
- We re-energized our efforts with monthly Outreach Food Drives. On the fourth Sunday of the month, parishioner donations of requested items (such as diapers, cereal, and laundry detergent) are brought to the altar and blessed.
- Collaboration with other churches, the Rotary, Tome's Key Club, and a very new partnership with Walmart's December Food Drive, helps fill our Outreach Office's pantry shelves for food distribution.
- Six days a week, our Parish Center is an active community meeting place. Using our facilities are four support groups (2 NA, AA and Al Anon), two Scout troops, 4-H classes, a chess club, a senior group, and a civic gardening club. During the summer, we hosted a 12-Step Yoga class.
- Our hearts were saddened by the devastation of the California fires this past fall. A parishioner serving in the Air Force, Lucy Burchess, enlisted our aid to help a specific Paradise California family that suffered tremendous losses. In response, we collected \$3,000 from the parish and the Vestry matched \$2,000, enabling us to send \$5,000 via Lucy to help this family in crisis.
- Our Giving Tree Project has brightened the lives of many needy children this year. Our parishioners, led by Linda Hunt, helped **76** local school children in three area schools.
- We began a Heart & Sole Ministry and collect new shoes to be distributed to the neediest children at North East Elementary School. We have collected and distributed **80** pairs of shoes and **258** pairs of socks to the school.
- We continue to collect gently used or new children's books for local school children, and used eyewear for the Lion's Club.

### Worship

- Holy Week was a sacred journey with many opportunities to worship and pray including: Evening Prayer, Maundy Thursday Dinner & Table Eucharist; Good Friday noontime service and an evening Tenebrae Service; Easter Vigil on Saturday; and 6:30AM, 8 and 10AM Easter morning services. The Easter Bunny visited that day too!
- Bishop Santosh Marray made his annual visitation in June. While here, he baptized one baby boy, confirmed two teenagers, recognized an EFM graduate, reaffirmed three in faith, and received seventeen members into our parish community.
- The Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Hartman, Rector of St. Mary Anne's from 1990-2013, is now Rector Emeritus. Bishop San and Father John, along with the parish, bestowed this title on Father Sam during the Bishop's visit.
- The ever popular St. Francis Day in October was celebrated in our Parish Center. Lots of furry friends—even a duck and rooster—were blessed that day!
- Our Sacramental Report: 11 funerals; 4 marriages; 5 Baptisms; 2 Confirmations; 17 Receptions
- New to the worship team: Linda Gibeck and Melissa Cook Mackenzie as Eucharistic Ministers. Jim Kamihachi and Karen Schaeffer as adult acolytes.
- At least twice a month, Fr. John, Fr. Sam Hartman, and Fr. Bob Smith (each Monday), visit the Sisters of Episcopal Carmel in Rising Sun to celebrate a Eucharist service.
- Fr. John celebrates a monthly Eucharist service at Victoria Park Senior Apartments in North East.

- This December, Fr. John and Eucharistic Minister Linda Gibeck began a twice monthly Eucharist service at Calvert Manor.

#### **Mission**

- Our Mission Committee identified fifteen worthwhile local, national and international charities and distributed \$33,030 this year.
- Proceeds of \$1,552.00 from Train Day were collected for the St. Vincent School for the Handicapped in Haiti.
- Guests at our Garden Market enjoyed our “Duck Races” for Camp Care and raised \$746.00.

#### **Education**

- Interesting Adult Forums engaged parishioners during the early Coffee Hour (9:15AM). Presentations were on: the solar eclipse of 2017, The Chapel of Ease, The Town of North East, the Civil War in Cecil County, the Conowingo Dam, and the Meaning of Advent.
- We were “Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World” as we enjoyed a light supper and participated in Max Lucado’s video and book discussion for four Sunday evenings during Lent.
- A Summer Book Club met four evenings this past summer and explored “A Reason for God” by Tim Keller.
- A Fall/Winter Book Club is currently meeting for eight sessions to discuss “Resolving Everyday Conflict” by Ken Sande.
- A new EfM class began in September under the continued direction of Carol Weisel.
- A “Dream Big” Scholarship of \$1800.00, initially funded by a financial gift from the Flood family, was awarded in June to its first recipient: High school graduate and parishioner, Ethan Kyger.
- Our sweet parish children participate in the yearly Christmas Pageant (Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- Church school is held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month; and a nursery is available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.
- Youth Group meets once a month, and participates in Diocesan youth events too. This year, some members traveled to events in Ocean City, MD and a mission trip to the Niagara Falls, NY area.
- A number of children are training as acolytes under the direction of Andy Flood.
- We participate in a Diocesan Youth Group Leadership Cohort to learn about effective youth engagement in the parish and community.

#### **Evangelism**

- On Ash Wednesday, Fr. John and Eucharistic Minister Carol Weisel administered “drive-by ashes” to many on South Main St.
- Fr. John offered a blessing at a monthly Cecil County Council Meeting.
- Fr. John serves on the Board of Upper Bay Counseling & Support Services and the Bioethics Committee at Union Hospital.
- Fr. John is building relationships with advocates in the Recovery community (Dexter House, The Charlotte House, Ashley Recovery Center, and Voices of Hope).
- Established regular worship services at two local senior communities.

#### **Events**

- Our Annual Train Day (Saturday, January 6) had a record-breaking crowd stop by to see an amazing collection of trains and lunch in our “dining car”. Proceeds of \$1,552.00 were collected by the Mission Committee for the St. Vincent School for the Handicapped in Haiti.
- Our 21<sup>st</sup> Garden Market blossomed in May as 4000+ guests visited our church yard. For two days, vendors from the tristate area sold flowers, plants, food and crafts. This year, we had success with business sponsorships to help underwrite the costs of this burgeoning endeavor.

- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Walk (December 8<sup>th</sup>) was an incredible success! We sold out in 2 hours and 15 minutes—a total of 308 lbs. of cookies! Proceeds benefit The ECW's charitable projects.
- Rain didn't keep people away from our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wreaths across America (December 15). Chris & Amanda Inmon organized a moving tribute ceremony, with special guest Major General Randy S. Taylor, the Commanding General of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Then, wreaths were laid on 83 veterans' graves in our cemetery.
- For 22 seasons, the North Elk Coffee House has entertained parishioners and the local community with visiting folk singers and performers in our Parish Center. (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday evening of the month; Sept-May) Proceeds benefit The Meeting Ground, a local resource center for the homeless.

### **Fellowship**

- Hearts and flowers ushered in another Valentine Luncheon as parishioners enjoyed fellowship with their parish family and friends.
- Pancakes and syrup were poured by our Youth Group at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- The 2:42 Men's Group is now well-established and meets on the last Saturday of the month from 8-9:30AM for breakfast, conversation, and special church projects.
- Our Annual Parish Picnic was held on a glorious sunny summer day (July 29<sup>th</sup>). The parish enjoyed fellowship, picnic food, horseshoes, and free kayaking provided by Bay Venture Outfitters.
- The ECW gathered on a beautiful evening at the home of Mary & Ken Blomquist for the Annual ECW Covered Dish Picnic (June 26<sup>th</sup>). They gathered again at Pier One Restaurant for their Annual Christmas Soirée (November 28<sup>th</sup>). Shoes and socks were collected for the Heart & Sole Ministry.

### **Music**

- Our music program was enhanced by guest musicians, soloists, and concerts. The glorious Requiem concert on Palm Sunday afternoon prepared us for Holy Week. Two "Broadway on Main" dinner shows were performed in our Parish Center, with funds to benefit our Music Ministry.
- In November, our Director of Music, Steve McBride, moved to Virginia for his full-time employment. We now have a temporary organist, Alex Bi, who will be with us until early 2019. We are in the search process for a permanent Organist/Choir Director.
- Our choir lend their voices to our weekly 10AM worship under the current direction of Carol Weisel and Dru Torregrossa. Our guitarist/soloist, Rick Waterhouse, plays during our 8:00AM offertory. Rob Robinson is our guitarist/soloist at our monthly Recovery meetings.

### **Pastoral**

- Our gracious and hospitable ECW (Episcopal Church Women) hosted four funeral lunches for bereaved families.
- Our Pastoral Care team visits infirmed parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, and the homebound. They provide companionship, Communion, occasional light meals, and deliver altar flowers.

### **Recovery Ministry**

- A focus on our Recovery Ministry brought a Cecil County Overdose Prevention Coordinator to conduct an educational training program on opioid overdose (Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>) and NARCAN training.
- We celebrated our 12-Step Recovery Service's first anniversary in December. Held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00PM, this monthly service tries to strengthen those in recovery with the message of hope, redemption, and God's grace. At the conclusion, a light meal is served in the Parish Center. Attendance varies but averages 30 and peaks to 70.
- Our Parish Center is the home for four support groups (two NA, AA and Al Anon) which meet every week.

## Building and Grounds

### The Church and Vestry House

- Front doors were repaired, sanded and painted by Ron Himmel.
- Eave and roof repair work was accomplished on both buildings to help with drainage and leaks.
- Spider web eradication on Bell Tower by Vickie Schultheiss and Sandy Taylor
- Estimates are now being obtained for window and shutter repairs, and Sanctuary painting.

### Cemetery

- Over 20 historic gravestones were cleaned, and a handful were straightened. We will continue with this preservation work in the spring.
- Our Memorial Garden had a makeover. Old hedges were removed by Vickie Schultheiss and Sandy Taylor. Three rose bushes, turf, a dogwood tree, and cement planters are now in place.
- Garden barrels, filled with seasonal flowers, are now at two entrances.
- Flowerbeds along the Vestry House and near Hoopes Court are rejuvenated with new plantings.
- French drains were dug and installed to help direct water away from the church building.

### Parish Center

- All the parish offices, and the front and rear stairwells to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, are freshly painted.
- Air-conditioning was installed in the parish offices.
- New signage around the building. Outside lighting at front sign.
- A significant roof repair was accomplished.
- An Eagle Scout and his troop painted the front porch and landscaped a portion of the frontage.
- Two church yard clean-ups by parishioners, recovery and community members, and Scouts.
- Additional landscaping was done by Vickie Schultheiss, Sande Taylor, Linda Gibeck, and Mr. Sandy Taylor.
- Handicap ramp cement work repairs, with railing reinforcement, by Tim Leizear.
- Paul Pudlinski, a parishioner and architect, evaluated the Outreach Offices and offered recommendations on how to expand and organize the space to better meet the needs of our Outreach clients. Thanks to Paul and Tim Leizear, work has begun!

### The Parish Center Garage

- Termite eradication
- Organizational hooks for tools were installed by Tim Leizear

### The Rectory

- Sectional fence replacement by Tim Leizear and Sandy Taylor

### The Wharf

- Renewed lease for Bay Venture Outfitters (kayak rentals)
- The bulkhead was repaired

*Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun.* (BCP 839)