

Saint Mary's in the Mountains
2017 Annual Meeting
January 28, 2018





2017 SAINT MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS VESTRY

- **THE REVEREND CANON NICHOLAS PORTER**
 - **WARDEN: RICHARD WARD**
 - **TREASURER: DIANE CHAPMAN**
 - **SECRETARY: PETER JOHNSON**
 - **CAROL BOGARD**
 - **IAN SCHRAUF**



INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT ANNUAL MEETING 2017 FIRE & ICE

Throughout 2017, St. Mary's in the Mountains Parish (SMM) glowed with Divine Fire. In 2016, various organizations recognized our parish's growing energy and invested in our infrastructure. We are grateful, and the power of the Holy Spirit disappointed neither them nor us during 2017. In almost every way demonstrable, we strengthened and expanded our ministry.

Liturgy: The Worship Team worked hard to insure consistent quality of our music, preaching, and leadership. Essential to their formula is the inclusion of musicians, preachers, and officiants from both inside and outside our parish. Many were involved, but none so much as our talented and ever patient Music Director Debbie Canedy.

Mission & Outreach: Loving others as Jesus loves us stands as a hallmark of this parish's life. SMM's long history of outreach now includes: Jerusalem Peacebuilders, a raffle and tag sale, Food4Kids and the Red Door Concert Series. We are grateful to Marcy McElroy for the partnership that Food4Kids gives us with WDCC and to Holly and Joe Fortner for the impact and profile that the RDCCS offers us.

Administration: Under the leadership of our warden, Richard Ward, the SMM Vestry ably administers the parish. Great gains have been made in office and financial administration, thanks to Diane Chapman's sterling organization. We all owe Ian Schrauf a debt of gratitude for his dedication to improving our building and to Peter Johnson for his attention to essential detail.

Pledging: Generous financial support for SMM's ministry and mission continued to rise with 2017 pledges higher (20%) than in 2016 but over 100% higher than in 2015. A sign of confidence and of inclusive ministry, more parishioners pledged and more increased their pledges. Vestryperson Carol Bogard kindly tracked pledging with reminders and updates.

Attendance: Attendance posted modest gains. It remains predictable and stable at 23 people ASA.

Parish Life: Our active hearth transforms this parish into a family. Our coffee-hour and monthly community suppers provided outstanding hospitality. The parish's dedication to

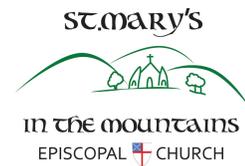


the MMR preparation shaped SMM's short- and medium-term goals, including the successful launch of an evening Bible Study.

Ice: Along with the Spirit's fire, we also experienced the ice of winter and death in 2017. Our lovely church is expensive to heat, and the vestry struggled to pay the bills last winter. More significantly, two iconic members of the SMM family - Pat Zach and Jeanne MacDougall – died. They leave a huge hole in our hearts that is only exacerbated by the departure of Judith Louderback and the deaths of Deb Canedy's brother and Peter Johnson's mother.

SMM is and will remain a small, country parish. Thanks to committed lay leadership and a dynamic clergy-lay partnership, we are a vital Episcopal parish that "punches above our weight." During his visit in June, Bishop Tom Ely was visibly impressed with all that he saw and with all whom he met. He recognized the Spirit's fire among us. SMM is a healthy parish. Our past troubles are behind us. Today, our challenge is to grow our family and to fill the pews of this church. How will this be done? By letting the Spirit's fire illumine the path beyond icy conventional and imagined scenarios to the Deerfield Valley that actually exists – a recreational area filled with weekenders, seasonal residents, empty nesters, and single adults - for whom SMM would be a welcoming spiritual home.

Respectfully Submitted, The Rev. Canon Nicholas T. Porter



WARDEN'S REPORT 2017

Under the tutelage of our Priest, Nicholas Porter, we have completed the initial priorities of the Mutual Ministry Review of 2016. This includes a continuation of the Red Door Concerts for community outreach, Community Dinners, a recently launched Church Web Site, Bible Study, and a campaign for membership growth. As we look ahead we need to revisit our Mutual Ministry Review and update our goals for the next three years. There were many good suggestions that still need to be set into motion, such as ideas concerning the physical plant and others for further outreach and membership growth. We will schedule a coffee hour or two to revisit the MMR.

We are a small vibrant congregation with members participating in teams for worship, music, altar guild, buildings and grounds, hospitality, and healing. I wish to thank Nicholas and every member of our Vestry - all of whom have taken on specific responsibilities for management of our Church. Vestry member Diane Chapman has taken on a larger share of the Church financial record keeping, posting to QuickBooks, and other banking duties. Ian Schrauf will be stepping down this year from the Vestry after serving five terms, but will continue to chair the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Ian has overseen the major upgrades to our Church including the exterior painting, and the new heating system; and you will be hearing from him this year about the upgrades needed for the Organ. Our Vestry members to be voted in today bring new and welcomed energy and expertise to our Church administration.

The Diocese of Vermont has been very generous to St Mary's. Significant funding through grants has allowed us to paint the exterior of the Church. Honoring the Bishop's request in 2017 that each Church pledge to the Rock Point Appeal for capital improvements, St. Mary's has committed \$5,400 to be paid over three years. The Vestry has requested that each member (and we need 30) pledge \$5 per month to the appeal, or \$60 per year. That would allow us to present a check for \$1,800 per year. Bishop Tom will be with us for his last visit as Bishop of Vermont on May 17, and we plan to present him with a check for Rock Point at that time. If you haven't signed up for the Rock Point Appeal, please submit your donation to St Mary's and memo " Rock Point ".

I wish to thank our committed congregation for their pledge support for 2018, which allows the Vestry to plan more accurately for the coming year. Our Vestry Meetings are monthly, open to all and we invite you to attend. We may have some of our Vestry Meetings after Church on Sundays this year. Hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Ward



WORSHIP TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Worship's Teams main goal is to continue to offer meaningful and spiritual uplifting experiences for each Sunday, holy day and times of worship, weddings, funerals and some liturgical season adaptations such as offering special meditations during the Lent. Worship services are conducted, planned and executed by the Worship Team. Our worship team consists of Nicholas, our Interim Pastor, Deb, our Music leader, Worship Leaders and parishioners who serve as readers, chalice bearers, greeters, presenters, hospitality ministers, and altar guild as well as the person who gets the plans posted on Face book, Thank you Joe.

Team leaders are responsible for scheduling the various ministries required for worship services, so that no one person is scheduled for multiple ministries on a given Sunday. This practice led us to realize the all of our "Special Services" were falling on Morning Prayer. Watch for a change. Training and refresher sessions for various ministries are held periodically. The goals of the worship team are to enable fuller participation by all members of the congregation in the ministries of the parish, to provide a small group ministry that fosters closer relationships through team work and to incorporate new members into the life of the parish.

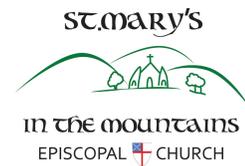
We do our best to meet monthly and will consider using more technology so the meeting attendance does not mandate your physical presence at the meeting. We will be able to attend long-distance so to speak.

2017 was a very busy year for the Worship Team. We held ecumenical services during Lent with the West Dover Congregational Church. On Ash Wednesday 12 SMM parishioners attended services at DWCC and 5 directly participated. We also held a service for Maundy Thursday with WDCC and we reciprocated with hospitality and openness. The Worship team and Jeremy Kirk of the WDCC hope to continue and expand this partnership as well as to create opportunities to work together in providing services and outreach ministries locally.

In June Lorrie and Lars partnered and offered a worship service with focus on Gay Pride.

In July we held a Service with a focus on Recovery. We invited our AA friends and had the participation of AA, and Al-Anon at the service. (5 people)

We tried out a Hymn Service in the early fall, and want to look into expanding the use of this type of service.



Blessing of the Animals was a hoot with a new family of Pugs and others joining in the fun.

During Lent we also offered a meditation hour each Friday. It was attended by 3-5 people each week.

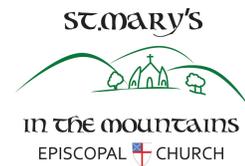
We made the decision to use RITE I during the penitential liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent. This continues to be discussed and revised.

We have instituted the singing of a Taize during all healing Sundays with the hopes in the future of offering a full service of Taize.

We ended the year with Lessons and Carols a very bitter sweet service it was the Fifth year that Jeannie and I had put it together and sadly the first year without Jeannie sharing it with us. Our recent loses of Pat and Jeannie are affecting us all, may they rest in peace. In early May there will be a celebration of Jeannie's Life.

Our continued goal is to look forward to making services meaningful, relevant, thought provoking and enjoyable. We are open to suggestions for services you may have experienced and would like to see offered at SMM.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth McEwen



MUSIC MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

In 2017, SMM saw and heard many changes in music, not the least of which was a more contemporary “vibe” with music from Holly and Joe Fortner, as well as when I joined in on piano and vocals. Traditional hymns and tunes were sung and played throughout the year as well. Solo instrumentalist, Kathleen Loomis Ward, played clarinet and recorder at different times for services. When I was not playing for a service, Lorrie Scime, Rich Mattern, and Holly and Joe Fortner very agreeably led worshipers in music. With a variety of styles of music presented not only at varying times of the year, but also during each service, I hope that at least one of these will fill the hearts of worshipers with a sense of joy, peace, contemplation and glory of God.

Different instruments utilized during services, including our 102 year old Odell pipe organ, our baby grand piano, electric guitar, clarinet, recorder, and tambourine, all add tremendously to the music ministry.

Not every tune is known to SMM, but it is the desire to broaden our musical horizons by introducing new tunes and hymns. This will be accomplished by hearing the history of the hymns and hearing the tunes themselves prior to church services throughout the year. The Worship Team has been extremely supportive in their approval of how we learn new music. The new hymns and tunes will also be played at varying times of the church year, in order to truly learn them.

One of the main themes running through SMM’s ministry is diversity: diversity in cultures, diversity in learning, diversity in services and also, diversity in music. We are working out of four different hymnals now, giving us a wide spectrum to choose from. With all this diversity of styles of music, we can feel a sense of new life and new beginnings for St. Mary’s through music.

I wish to thank Father Nicholas, the Vestry, the Worship Team and St. Mary’s worshipers for all their support during this past year and into the future. May we all have a bright and happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted, Deborah J. Stewart Canedy, Minister of Music



ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

The Altar Guild members consider it an honor and privilege to care for the altar and set the Lord's table.

We started the year as a small group of 3 members (Helen, Sue and Marcy) and sometimes had help from Judith before she moved.. We are very pleased to have 2 new members, Joyce and Doug. Having a larger group means that we serve about once a month. We are thankful for the Rota and cover for each other if our scheduled times are not convenient.

We are responsible for setting the altar each Sunday. For morning prayer, we remove the altar cover and light the candles and extinguish the candles and replace the cover after the service.

For Eucharist we remove the cover and set the altar with the veiled chalice, the communion bread, lavabo bowl and cloth, the Missal on the brass stand and the Book of Gospels. We follow the Eucharistic calendar for the proper colors for the chalice veil. We light the candles and extinguish them after the service. We wash the chalice and paten and replace them in the sacristy. After the service we take the small linens home to be washed and pressed.

Many of our linens are quite worn and some need to be replaced. We would like the Vestry to consider funding for purchase of some new linens-purificators and a fair linen cloth.

We thank Helen for baking our wonderful communion bread. We also thank Helen for the complete manual she put together for the Altar Guild. It will be very helpful for all of us and especially so for new members.

We are responsible for buying and replacing candles and for the purchase of the communion wine. At least once a year, usually around Easter, we get together to polish the silver and brass, and to replace the candles as needed. We also launder and press the fair linen and altar cover. We care for the baptismal font year round to make sure it is clean and has consecrated water.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Eddy & Marcy McElroy



EXTERNAL FUNDING REPORT FOR 2017

We are hoping to replace the sound system in our sanctuary with a new amplifier, new speakers, and several microphones. In addition, we would like to update the electrical system both in the sanctuary and in the lower level meeting room.

We submitted a grant request to the Diocese, which was considered at their December meeting.

The committee has put forth a challenge for us. They are willing to give us \$2 for every \$1 we raise, not to exceed \$4,500 on their part. In other words, in order to get the full \$4,500 we would need to raise \$2,250. That would give us a total of \$6,750 toward the project.

In order to receive this matching grant however, the money must be raised no later than March 31, 2018.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Bogard

PLEDGE REPORT FOR 2017

The total amount pledged for FY 2017 amounted to [REDACTED] Total amount received as of December 31, 2017 amounted to [REDACTED] or 104% of the pledge total. A monthly summary of pledge income through 2017 is shown on the following page.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Bogard

RED DOOR CONCERTS REPORT

2017 saw the continuation of our Red Door Concerts, with four events during the year. Drawing on the talents of our parishioners, our community and other invitees, we raised over \$2500 for four organizations, had over 225 attendees, and offered performance opportunities to over 40 musicians.

We began in February with A Red Door Valentines Concert. A program of love-oriented jazz, blues and vocal standards was presented by Holly & Joe Fortner, along with Eithne Eldred and Evon Mack. Our audience of approximately 25 was offered chocolates and roses, and over \$500 was raised for the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry.



In June, we presented a Red Door Musical Potpourri, a concert with a wide variety of musical styles, including classical, folk, jazz, and oldies, most with a light, summer theme. Performers included Deb Canedy, Kathleen Loomis-Ward, Rich Mattern, Holly & Joe Fortner, Susan Nalewajk, Bob & Flaminia Zeman, and Eithne Eldred. An audience of about 70 donated approximately \$800 for the Adaptive Sports at Mount Snow program.





September's concert – Classical Fare at the Red Door -- was held during Wilmington's Soup & Wine Stroll, and benefitted the Deerfield Valley Community Cares Heating Fund. Styles ranged from baroque to modern, and musicians included Kathleen Loomis-Ward, Rich Mattern, Marietta Formanek, Karen Horton, Barbara Lipstadt, Robin Matathias, Dennis Ainsworth, guest violinist Santo Patane, Peter Walker, and Pedro Pereira with his Baroque ensemble (Martin Hanft, Gudrun Weeks, and Wendy Redlinger). Approximately 60 persons donated about \$600.



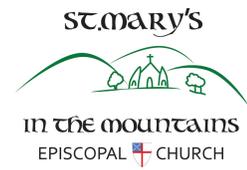
Finally, December saw the Second Annual Red Door Community Carol Sing, this time to benefit Deerfield Valley Rescue. A cast of over 20 performers began with a 40-minute pre-show of seasonal tunes followed by a sing-along of Christmas songs. Lyric books and programs were provided, and, once again, we had a juggler to entertain. Parishioners who participated included Deb Canedy, Kathleen Loomis Ward, Holly Fortner, Joe Fortner, the Chimes of St. Mary's (Joanne Bourbeau, Doug Fruge, Elizabeth Marshall, Elizabeth McEwen, Kathleen Loomis Ward, and Richard Ward), and we had many other Valley musicians participate. Our enthusiastic audience of approximately 80 donated approximately \$700.



We anticipate four events in 2018. Planning is underway for a mid-April concert of blues, jazz, folk, and other non-classical music, most likely with a “Spring” and “Mud” theme. We are likely to host another Musical Potpourri in June or July, followed by a concert tied to the September Soup & Wine Stroll. Finally, we will present our Third Annual Red Door Community Carol Sing in December.

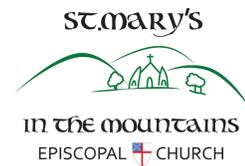
All events have been publicized through posters throughout the Valley starting approximately a month before the event, and press releases sent to the Deerfield Valley News, Brattleboro Reformer, and The Commons. We also publicize our concerts on the Church’s Facebook Page, and on its newly launched website, www.smmvt.org.

The Red Door Concerts are organized and planned by the Church’s Music Team, consisting of Deb Canedy, Joe Fortner, Holly Fortner, Kathleen Loomis-Ward, Carol



Ann Lobo Johnson, and Dick Ward. We also want to thank everyone who helped out with the concerts this past year, whether through set-up, baking, publicity, or just by attending.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Fortner



BUILDING COORDINATOR REPORT

My goal is that it is not about “the building” but how we use it for ourselves and outreach in the community. We currently have over 30 regularly scheduled meetings or activities per month happening at the church in addition to Sunday services! Not bad for a small congregation! Also special items like weddings, funerals, concerts, birthday parties and Halloween celebrations have recently happened in the church building.

One problem our small congregation faces is maintaining this old and large building so we can continue use it to serve the community.

- Organ – the organ has been playing reasonably well but an instrument built in the early 1900s will always have needs. We have learned that one tuning a year is not enough and have budgeted for two this coming year. We have also met with Peter Walker, our organ guy, and he has worked up a list of needs and wants so we can look ahead and plan it out.
- Cleaning - Our long time cleaner Erica Hunter decided this summer to give up her cleaning duties at St. Mary’s, thank you Erica for your hard work. We are experimenting with using a program at Twin Valley to teach Autistic kids job skills and it is working...sort of. We should discuss long term cleaning needs since as the church gets more use it also gets dirty faster. Professional cleaners are not a cheap proposition, so we need to move mindfully on this.
- Furnace and Water heater – our new furnace and water heater have been working pretty well. We have needed to make some adjustments to how they work and what our needs are. This is a work in progress! We have also been having some ongoing warrantee issues with the heat which the installer has been diligently trying to solve...fingers crossed it looks like he may have found and fixed the problem.

For the next year we are looking at a number of projects:

- The building is and will continue to be a significant expense. This year I am coming off the vestry and will be able to focus my efforts on the building committee and in particular more capital planning.
- The roof and paint will need ongoing repair and upkeep
- The organ and piano will need to be maintained



- We really need to upgrade the outlets in the church to meet simple needs like vacuuming and Christmas lighting. Have you tried to find a place to plug something in at this church?
- We will need to continue upkeep on walkways, shoveling, mowing etc.
- We have received a challenge grant from the Diocese to help fund the installation of a new sound system this spring or summer. This will allow for people to better hear the service and also equipment for musicians to plug instruments and microphones into. We will need to raise \$2250 before the end of March to receive a 2 – for – 1 match from the Diocese.

I hope we can continue to maintain this historic building for the benefit of this congregation and our wider community.

Respectfully submitted, Ian Schrauf, Building Coordinator