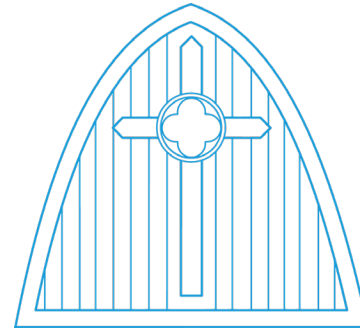
The image shows the front facade of a church with a white steeple topped by a cross. The main entrance features a red door and a set of brick steps leading up to it. The church is surrounded by green bushes and a brick walkway. A large white box with the text 'ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2021' is centered over the image.

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2021



**“The Spirit has kept
our lives knitted
together in Christ.”**

If you're anything like me, thinking back about the past year is a bit hazy. In fact, there are some things that happened at St. Mary's last year that I could have sworn happened in 2020. I don't think that's just age – though that could be a contributor. I think it has more to do with this extraordinarily challenging time we have all been living through together. This past year began with us completely shut down. But then as vaccines became widely available and the weather turned, we began to come back together in person – first outdoors and then indoors. There was a wonderful time during the summer where the virus seemed to be largely suppressed. But then came Delta. And then a few months later Omicron.

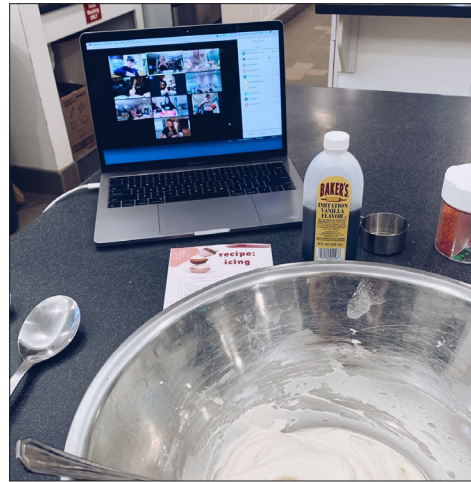
What I give thanks to God for in particular is the resiliency of this parish through it all. This beautiful booklet narrates the month-by-month story of our resilient, creative, hopeful parish this past year. Outdoors, indoors, in person, on-line, masked, unmasked, at a distance and right next to one another, the Spirit has kept our lives knitted together in Christ. I hope this booklet will call to mind for you God's goodness and faithfulness for this parish this past year; as the Lord promised, we shall not be left comfortless.

David May
Rector





- Filming of Pre-Recorded Sunday Worship Services. Filmed 13 Sunday Services + Ash Wednesday totaling over 500 minutes of worship video.
- Fellowship Committee continued Parish Take Home Suppers. Four suppers cooked serving 475 people total.



- Above: Virtual Youth Group continued including a Virtual Cooking Class with over 10 participants decorating 60+ cupcakes over Zoom together.
- Above: David passing out over 100 Ash Wednesday kits which included a Lenten Devotional featuring reflections written by over 30 parishioners.
- Below: Altar Guild created the "Anti-Pandemic Flower Project." Over 80 flower arrangements were delivered to parishioners. One wrote, "I have to smile each time I see the flowers; they have truly brightened the cloudy, cold days."



JANURY - MARCH



Throughout January, February, and March 2021, St. Mary's Church could not meet in person for worship. Nevertheless, the ministries of St. Mary's never ceased. Through deliveries of food, flowers, and spiritual offerings, we fed and healed one another. And through the Outreach Ministry we fed our neighbors in the larger community. St. Mary's youngest members packed snack bags for children at the Goochland YMCA, and held a bake sale and food drive for GoochlandCARES. Margaret Weinsten (pictured below right) wrote, "It is overwhelming and heartwarming to see and experience the never-ending love and grace of our church community."



APRIL - JUNE



On Sunday, April 4, we celebrated a chilly, but glorious Easter Morning in the parking lot - our first in-person service of 2021! In May, we moved inside to sit in plastic chairs and then, finally again, in our beloved pews. On June 6, we said “no more” to pre-registration and rejoiced, “if you want to come to church that morning, please just come!” Over these months, we baptized five babies and confirmed 48 young people and celebrated the return of youth and children’s ministries in person. Little by little, during that remarkable time, our lives began to be brought back together.



- **Left: First Family Picnic on June 13 which served up Mister Softee Ice Cream.**
- **Below: End of Year Bash for Youth Group to say Goodbye to Youth Director, Emily Bruch.**
- **Below: On Wednesday mornings Amelia held Storytime on the playground.**



- **Held first in-person worship service in New St. Mary’s on Sunday, May 2.**
- **Right: Sunday, May 9, the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff visited and confirmed 48 youth of St. Mary’s.**
- **39 pews returned to New St. Mary’s on May 13.**



JULY & AUGUST



- Above: David May and Patsy Simril led five youth on a mission trip to Savannah, GA.
- Above: That feeling of seeing old friends at church.
- Above: The return of the Wednesday service of Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in Little St. Mary's.



- Above and Left: Celebration of Isabel Souder Correll's 100th Birthday on Friday, August 27. Over 100 people came to celebrate Isabel whose St. Mary's history began when she was a child worshipping here during WWII. As David said, "life just blooms when Isabel is around."

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER



Sunday, September 12 marked St. Mary's Fall Kickoff. We were excited to see many familiar faces return, and to welcome those who were new to our St. Mary's family. Outdoor Sunday School kicked off, Youth Group began again, and Adult Forum returned out on the terrace. While the ways we gathered looked a bit different, we were thankful for this season to be together.



DECEMBER



- **Left:** Welcomed two new staff members - Kilpy Singer and Lauren Clay.
- **Left:** Blessing of the Animals including two bunnies!
- **Below:** 100 Thanksgiving Bags packed for GoochlandCARES.
- **Below:** Choir Appreciation Sunday.



The beginning of the Church year, Advent, was joyous with the return of traditions such as Advent wreath-making, families lighting the Advent wreath, Advent Lessons and Carols with St. Mary's Choir. But also introduced a new tradition - the Jesse Tree! And, although, a last minute pivot occurred to an outdoor pageant, St. Mary's children beautifully told the story of Christmas.

- **Above:** First in-person Parish Supper.
- **Above:** Baptized six babies on All Saints' Sunday.
- **Above:** Youth Group met outside seven times with an average of 25 youth present.
- **Right:** BBQ & Brews on November 5 raised over \$20,000 for Outreach.



