



The  
Church of  
Bethesda-by-the-Sea

*Love and Serve*

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2016

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# Agenda

Call to Order.....	The Rector
Opening Prayer and Necrology.....	The Rev. Kimberly L. Still
Acceptance of Minutes.....	The Rector
Election of New Vestry Members.....	The Rector and Susan Keenan, <i>Clerk</i>
Finance and Stewardship Report .....	Matthew Lorentzen, <i>Chair, Finance Sub-Committee</i>
Capital Projects Report .....	Wendy Victor, <i>Junior Warden</i>
Rector's Address .....	The Rev. James R. Harlan
Other Business.....	The Rector
Closing Prayer and Blessing.....	The Rev. Burl Salmon

## Tellers

Jethro Hurt

Becky Myers

Connie Purcell

# 2015 Necrology

Jane Wissman Buxton  
Antoinette Caroline DeSousa  
James Grafton Gore  
Hal B. Howard  
Patricia Ann Hubsmith  
James Franklin Keenan  
Sydney Macalester Lowndes  
Margaret Kemp Maddock  
Michael Allan McIntosh  
Wallace McTammany  
Eric Ocoma Miessau  
Ruth Hillary O'Connor  
Nancy Morrison Orthwein

Hugh Marion Pierce  
Martin Alexander Purcell  
Ronald David Royal  
Frances Montgomery Salisbury  
Patricia K. Schmidlapp  
Raymond Gasper Tronzo  
Barbara Wells Turner  
Eleanore Mary Van Osdol  
Patricia Skeoch Warren  
Jacob George Zimmerer  
Charles A. Kibort, Jr.  
Deanne Pierce  
Dorothy Plummer Cary

## 2015 Bequests

*We give thanks to God for the generosity of these beloved members of our parish family  
who this year provided for Bethesda's future life and ministry with a legacy gift:*

Helen S. Cluett  
Nancy M. Orthwein  
Edna Y. Reed  
Joseph V. Torres

## Services for 2015

Baptisms ..... 6  
Confirmations, Receptions ..... 1  
Marriages ..... 8  
Burials ..... 27

Holy Eucharists ..... 250  
Holy Eucharists (Private) ..... 206  
Morning Prayer ..... 23  
Stations of the Cross, Good Friday..... 1  
Evensong..... 5

### Transitions

Baptism ..... 22  
Confirmation ..... 8  
Transferred In ..... 8  
Transferred Out..... 17  
Lost by Death..... 26

# From the Rector

I find myself filled with gratitude as I look back on 2015 and the tremendous ministry we shared at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. More than that, I am filled with incredible joy that we can look back and see so clearly that even insofar as we accomplished amazing things together, even more we experienced the clear and strong presence of God in our growing capacity to carry out all our programs.

Every week someone will share with me what this community has come to mean to them. Of course what this place means to each person is wonderfully different. We so easily forget that each person's experience of the clear and strong presence of God here is distinct. Sometimes we find it too easy to experience frustration or disappointment that exactly what draws one person more deeply into the presence of God here is one of the aspects of this place that another person dislikes strongly. Yet this richness of experience is what makes Bethesda so beautiful.

And so in that vein, we provided our youth opportunities to feed the hungry and to walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela and to simply enjoy fellowship with one another. We gathered for a simple meal that, in its simplicity raised \$50,000 for the Palm Beach County Food Bank and then prepared 102,000 meals for hungry people through Palm Beach Unites. We offered the Eucharist each and every Sunday and major holy day, singing God's praises and preaching the Good News.

And more importantly, perhaps more than any moment in our lifetimes, we live in a world where religion is becoming a weapon with which to bludgeon those with whom we disagree—a world where the primary public conversation is colored much more by fear of difference than longing to love and welcome our neighbor. Churches like Bethesda cannot merely be communities to fill us with peace. Churches like Bethesda, where the presence of God runs clear and strong, must be places that stretch and challenge us and give us the strength to stand up for hope in the face of despair; for inclusion and welcome in the face of fearful exclusion; for forgiveness in the face of impatience; and for charity in the face of rampant intolerance.

These will be the criteria by which our life together will be measured by our children. Our children will not consider so much how happy this place made us, apart from how bold we were in our action to bring about God's loving work in the world around us. Our heirs will primarily be concerned with how our four core ministries of worship, learning, service, and stewardship have grown us to be instruments of God's love, compassion, and justice for the least of God's children.

So as we move forward into 2016 and beyond, I hope and pray that our faith will grow deeper and that our life will grow bolder. I pray that we will come together, not because we always see eye-to-eye, but because God is drawing us to discover a unity of purpose and mission that cannot come from affinity but only from the mysterious binding together in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Indeed, 2016 will be ever more challenging for the Church at large and for Bethesda in particular. When I look around this place, I see a community astoundingly ready for that challenge. Bring on 2016!

Peace,



The. Rev. James K. Harlan, *Rector*



# From the Senior Warden

## Leadership and Governance Sub-Committee, chair

It has been my very great pleasure to accept the position of Senior Warden of the Vestry of Bethesda-by-the-Sea for the past year. It has been a journey of discovery and growth for me, personally, as well as a reaffirmation of the love and spirituality of Bethesda as a parish. I am thrilled with the growth of our parish and with the sense of commitment and pride that each person shows in their love of our church. The magnitude of volunteers is overwhelming and is only matched by the dedication of the leadership in all areas of our ministries, both inside Bethesda and those beyond our campus. I am heartened by the willingness of so many to strive to be a part of the solution to our many challenges, working tirelessly to maintain our status as an exemplary Church, not only in Florida, but in our nation. I look forward to continuing the good works of this Church, striving to bring the clear and present love of God to each and every one with whom we come in contact, spreading the light of Christ to one and all.

Blessings and love,



Bobbie Leek, *Senior Warden*



# From the Junior Warden

## Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee, chair

This year has seen many projects completed and just a few to be finished in early 2016.

### Projects completed in 2015:

- restoration of façade—north side, Garth
- Parish Hall carpet installed, room painted
- exterior painting of Rectory
- renovate men's restroom
- minor work to chiller to complete install
- cooling tower
- one air handler
- termite control of main church and administration wing
- electrical change-out
- emergency generator

plus:

- replanting of perimeter of church buildings
- replanting in Garth
- continued work on planting in Cluett Garden

plus:

- expansion of Building and Grounds Committee
- indoor painting of Vicarage

We have spent both capital and some building reserve funds for the above. All funds have been raised by special donations.

Spent in 2015—\$1,190,984

Remaining on hand to complete projects: \$1,555,210

### Projects for 2016:

- complete restoration of façade
- replace cloister fixtures as needed
- complete few items for Garden Chapel
- Rectory driveway
- Replanting inside Garth

*All projects except for the men's restroom have come in on time and on or under budget.* Restroom was over budget by \$1,800. Total money *saved* under budget for projects is \$163,073.

This work would not have been possible without the superb assistance of Fred Staley, Conkling and Lewis, and the Building and Grounds Committee. My deepest thanks to them.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Victor, *Junior Warden*





# Rector, Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

The Rev. James R. Harlan, *Rector* \*

## Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

Barbara (Bobbie) Leek, *Senior Warden* \* (2017)

Wendy Victor, *Junior Warden* \* (2016)

Susan Keenan, *Clerk* \* (2017)

William (Bill) Atterbury III, *Chancellor* \*#

James (Jim) Myers, *Treasurer* #

Barbara Callahan (2018)

Paul Coombs (2017)

Frances Fisher (2018)

William (Bill) Gee (2016)

Matthew (Matt) Lorentzen \* (2017)

Donald (Don) McKenna \* (2016)

David Paulson (2018)

Patricia (Pat) Reichenbacher (2016)

C. Tanner Rose, Jr. (2017)

Zachary (Zach) Shipley (2017)

Bailey (B.B.) Sory III (2018)

Sandra Stern (2018)

Frank Young (2016)

Chuck Zettler (2018)

\* *Member of the Executive Committee*

# *Not on Vestry*

**Vestry term expires at the Annual Meeting of the year indicated.**



# Vestry Nominations

Nominating Task Force—Susan Keenan, *chair*

## Vestry Nominees

**Serving the Vestry Term 2016—2019**

*The Vestry presents all four nominees for Parish consideration to fill the four of the six expiring Vestry positions.*

At their December meeting in 2015, the Vestry approved a resolution presented by their Leadership and Governance Subcommittee to amend the By-Laws. This amendment, passed unanimously by all members present (17 of 19) will reduce the size of the Vestry to 13 members (12 elected members plus the Rector). This reduction will happen by nominating and electing only four new members to the vestry each year from now on, so that, in 2016, the Vestry will be 17 members, in 2017, 15 members, in 2018 and thereafter, 13 members.

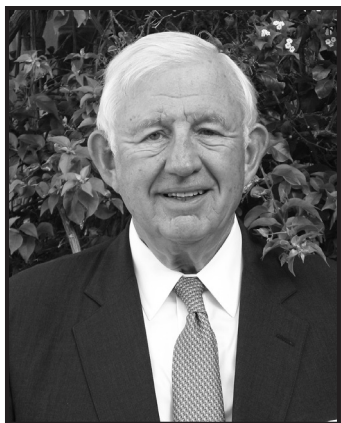
This decision came primarily out of some continuing work with a consultant to help the Vestry to work more effectively through its regular meetings, through the Executive Committee, and through its four subcommittees.



**BETH COLE** was born and raised in Westchester County, NY. She has a B.S.E. in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University and a M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. She held various marketing and sales positions in the electronics industry in Silicon Valley, including 10 years at Novellus Systems in San Jose, CA, during which time the company grew from \$0 to \$500 million. Beth is in her 10th year working as a Realtor with Tina Fanjul Associates. At Bethesda, Beth has volunteered in the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival for 16 years, the majority of the time as casting director. She has also taught in the church school for 15 years and is currently involved with the confirmation class. She serves as an usher and currently leads one of the 9:00 a.m. usher teams. Beth previously served as a vestry member and volunteered in the St. Georges ministry for many years. Beth and Peyton, her husband of 30 years, have two children, Laura and Peyton, Jr. (P.J.).



**KITTY LANIER** is a native of North Carolina and graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in sociology. She recently retired from Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches as a grant writer, case manager, event director, and volunteer coordinator. Prior to that, she was employed at Bethesda-by-the-Sea as Coordinator for Lay Ministry. Kitty has been a member of Bethesda since 1984. She served as ECW President from 2007–2009, and was one of the first three Stephen Ministry leaders at Bethesda. Currently she is a Bethesda Cares Shepherd, altar guild member, ambassador, and church school teacher. Kitty and husband, Denny, enjoy traveling, golf, long daily walks, and being with their five children and ten grandchildren.



**CHARLES MCGILL**'s career is noted for creating and building substantial consumer products, chain restaurants, food services, and information services business groups as a top executive of major global companies. He is completing fifteen years as an Adjunct Professor of Finance at New York University's Stern School of Business and has lectured globally on corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and negotiating. Charles has served on the boards of Trinity College (CT), the Tuck School at Dartmouth, the United States Naval Academy Foundation, and many other corporate and non-profit organizations. He has served on the vestries of St. James Church in New York City, St. Martin's By-The-Lake in Wayzata, MN, and Christ Church in Bronxville, NY. He and Pat have been married for 44 years and have two children and four grandchildren. Throughout their marriage they often worshiped at Bethesda-by-the-Sea, becoming members several years ago.



**JODIE PAYNE** has been a longtime communicant in good standing at Bethesda. She has served numerous community and church leadership roles throughout her tenure. Though a seasoned vestry member of the past this time as a new nominee Jodie hopes to bring optimism, mindfulness, and a discipline to remain in the present on all current matters. Her higher education includes a BS in Nutrition from East Carolina University and an AB in Restaurant Management from The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. Her career has been in the high-end hospitality industry. She is proudest of her young adult children and shares a common interest with others in travel, sports, and the arts and sciences. Her love of the ocean, however with all of its vastness and mystery, is the link that connects her with devotion to a seaside sanctuary like Bethesda.

## Diocesan Convention Delegates

Tom O'Brien   Jan Shoobridge   Michael Smyser   Ben Williams (Alternate)

*\* Vestry Nominees are selected by the Nominating Committee after an exhaustive review process that at times included the consideration of more than thirty-five church members. The slate of six is presented to the members at the Annual Meeting for consideration to fill the open positions. Vestry members are elected by members in good standing. Persons eligible to vote must be sixteen years of age or older, regular in attendance, and contributors of record. One-third of the vestry is elected each year for a period of no more than three years. A person is eligible for re-election after one year has elapsed. A vestry member appointed to fill an unexpired term may be elected at the end of that term to serve a full term.*

# Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting

**Call to Order:** The Rev. James Harlan called the 126th annual meeting to order at 9:32 a.m., noting that there was a quorum present.

**Opening Prayer & Necrology:** The Rev. Kimberly Still opened with prayer and the 2014 necrology was recited by The Rev. Susan Beebe.

## Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting

**Motion:** A motion was duly made by Peg Ekberg and seconded by Nick Kindred to accept the minutes of the 2014 annual meeting as written in the distributed annual report. The motion passed unanimously.

## Vestry

**Senior Warden:** Susan Keenan announced that she has asked to be replaced as Senior Warden due to family obligations. She will remain on the Vestry. Fr. James has appointed Barbara Leek to serve as Senior Warden.

**Outgoing Vestry:** Father James thanked the outgoing Vestry members, Mark Cook, Deborah Hale-Hagy, Pamela Miller, Robert Moore, Gary Sullivan, and David Paulson, who filled the unexpired term of Ervin Duggan. Each outgoing member was presented with a commemorative gift to thank them for their years of service.

**Vestry Nominations:** Father James announced that the Nominating Committee has nominated the following six people to serve three year terms on the Vestry: Barbara Callahan, Frances Fisher, David Paulson, Sandra Stern, Bailey B. Sory, and Chuck Zettler.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Peg Ekberg and seconded by Mike Victor to elect the proposed slate of six candidates by acclamation and a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:** The Nominating Committee has nominated the following to serve two year terms as Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Tom O'Brien, Jan Shoobridge, Michael Smyser, and Ben Williams, Alternate.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Peg Ekberg and seconded by Charles Kibort to elect the Delegates and Alternate by acclamation and a voice vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**Stewardship:** Father James reported that the average gift in 2014 was \$2,662 which represented an increase, while the median gift remained constant at \$1,200. While 790 households belong to Bethesda, only 490 households pledged. It is the pledges that help us plan.

"Ask and Inform" sessions will be an important part of the stewardship campaign this year. Each member will be invited to attend one of these sessions to give feedback as well as to receive information.

**Communicant in Good Standing:** For a church member to be a communicant in good standing, the following is required: 1) faithful worship 2) daily prayer 3) volunteer for church 4) give financially.

**Financial Report:** Matt Lorentzen reported that annual campaign contributions in 2014 were about the same as 2013 at \$1,924,000. This followed five years of increases in annual campaign giving, so it was necessary to reduce some budgeted expenditures to match revenues. Bethesda ended the year 2014 with a surplus of \$163,000. This was due to cutting some planned programs and deferring the hiring of some essential staff.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Wendy Victor reported that the restoration of the façade is on target and is on budget for \$3.8 million. The total raised for the restoration is \$4.5 million, with \$500,000 still needing to be raised.

Funds in the Unrestricted Fund (B) are down from about \$948 thousand to \$501 thousand due to the \$400 thousand spent urgently on new air conditioning chillers. The 2014 surplus of \$163 thousand will be put into the Unrestricted Fund to help defray the cost of the chillers.

The essential priorities in 2015 will be to complete the Garden Chapel, to take care of the termite problem, and to install a generator to protect the organ and artwork in the church in case of a significant power outage.

The first optional priority in 2015 will be to renovate the men's bathroom.

**2015 Budget:** Father James presented the 2015 Vestry approved budget and answered questions on 2015 expenses. The total revenue projected for 2015 is \$2,929,467 with expenses projected at \$2,931,945 resulting in a projected deficit of \$2,478.

**Rector's Address:** Father James began by reporting on "living in and living out" of the four core ministries at Bethesda. In each area Father James stressed how we experience the presence of God in the ministry offered (living in) and how we understand and spread Christ's teachings (living out).

**Worship**—Bethesda will consider adding a weekday evening service in the coming year. This service may be less formal than our Sunday worship.

**Learning**—The strong youth program under Greg Knight will host a Mardi Gras on Shrove Tuesday this year. There is also a planned spiritual pilgrimage to Spain for the older youth.

**Service—Feeding in February:** Bethesda continues a strong commitment to service to the hungry with Feeding in February. On Sunday, February 8, Bethesda will participate in Feeding God's Children by helping to package 100,000 meals at the Palm Beach Day School, and on February 13, Bethesda will once again host the Empty Bowls event to benefit the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

**Bethesda Life**—Originally for newcomers, Bethesda Life offers a way for members to discover what is going on in Bethesda right now.

**Our Little Roses**—On March 15, some Bethesda parishioners will make a trip to Honduras to the Our Little Roses home for girls.

**Stewardship**—Our 2014 spending was kept in line with the budget by deferring hiring of some staff and cancelling some programs. It is necessary in 2015 to hire a Director of Stewardship, a receptionist and a new sexton to replace Danny Lanier, who has retired after 32 years of service to Bethesda. Fr. James thanked each parishioner who has already pledged, and each member for service to the Bethesda community of faith.

Father James ended his report with thanks to the Wardens, Associates, Assisting Clergy and especially to Eli and Hannah.

**Denny Lanier's Retirement:** Father James praised Denny Lanier as a spiritual and pastoral presence at Bethesda during his 32 years of service. Denny had a warm welcome for each person who came to Bethesda and shared his gift of Godly hospitality and humor. The Vestry has voted to place a bronze plaque at the church in his honor.

**Adjournment:** The Rev. Jeffrey Beebe offered a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.



# Finance Report

**Finance Sub-Committee:** Matthew Lorentzen, *chair*, and James Myers, Jr., *Treasurer*  
**Audit Sub-Committee:** TBA, *chair*

## Income Statement

Year-end 2015 results reflect an operating surplus of \$9,433 (before capital expenditures)

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT  
Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating Fund  
Period Ending December 31  
(\$ thousands)

REVENUE	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 1,815	\$ 2,063	\$ 2,001	\$ 1,865
General Endowment Draw	152	193	231	259
Building Endowment Draw	20	38	76	136
Other Revenue	228	205	571	595
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>2,855</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Payroll & Benefits	1,202	1,330	1,425	1,381
Diocesan Assessment	307	284	288	312
Other Expenses	660	779	1,003	1,152
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>2,845</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>10</b>

Annual campaign contributions in 2015 were \$1,788,072, an 8% reduction on 2014 contributions and the first reduction in six years. After a flat growth year in 2014, a decline in 2015 is a concern. Once again, in view of the below budget contributions during the year, the administration and staff were able to operate the Church and programs well below budget thereby achieving a modest operating surplus.

Total revenues in 2015 excluding retail operations were \$2,551,280, 5% below 2014. Increases in the endowment draw (including a deferred 2014 endowment draw) only partially offset contributed revenue declines.

Retail operations and outreach are excluded from this narrative because retail sales can vary significantly year to year, and outreach spending is based entirely on the net retail sales during the preceding twelve months. In 2015 net retail sales were \$416,903 as compared with \$327,382 in 2014, and the outreach figures closely followed.

Total expenses excluding outreach were \$2,429,086 a 2% increase on 2014. This was 6% below 2015 budget and reflects expense management in all areas of Church activities. Payroll and benefits decreased 3% in 2015 as several budgeted positions remained unfilled through most of the year to manage expenses.

The Diocesan Assessment, which is based on prior years' Operating Revenues (net of retail operations and other unrelated income), increased to \$311,904 in 2015, a slight increase over 2014.

## Balance Sheet

Total net non-fixed assets declined by \$1,035,000 to \$15,542,893 during 2015 primarily due to net draws on the capital repairs funds of \$240,000, draws for operations from endowment and other funds of \$395,356, investment losses on endowment and other funds of about \$300,000 (investment losses in various accounts ranged from -0.9% to -1.95% for 2015, net of fees), and a \$285,782.03 draw from the restricted/consolidated fund for construction of the Garden Chapel.

The endowment fund was established in 2009 with a \$3.4 million contribution from the Church's investment assets. A Preservation Endowment fund was established in 2013. At the end of 2015 the primary Endowment fund was at \$6.5 million and the Preservation Endowment fund was at \$2.46 million. Both funds have a 4% annual draw for operations and preservation. A separate Fitz Dixon Endowment Fund was valued at \$1.3 million at year-end and has annual draws based on earned income in the fund.

Major gifts received in 2015 include \$89,817 to the Common Endowment, \$86,180 to the Preservation Endowment, and \$492,650 to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Capital expenditures, which are not shown in the operating accounts, totaled \$1,190,984 in 2015 and were primarily comprised of \$522,263 for the ongoing building restoration project and repairs and maintenance; \$372,372 for Garden Chapel; \$214,825 for HVAC, electrical, and other capital maintenance; and \$81,524 for bathroom updates, carpet, and other aesthetic capital improvements. These projects were funded by \$759,860 from the Capital Reserve Fund, \$372,372 from project specific gifts, and \$58,752 from unrestricted funds.

**SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET**  
**Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea - Operating & Non-Operating Funds**  
**Period Ending December 31**  
**(\$ thousands)**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash	\$ 470	\$ 253	\$ 406	\$ 328
The Shoppe Inventory	16	10	10	15
Unrestricted Fund	790	948	501	424
Restricted/Consolidated Fund	1,282	1,428	1,927	1,593
Common Endowment	5,837	6,705	6,791	6,498
Restoration & Preservation	3,119	2,724	4,380	4,094
Other Designated/Restricted Funds	2,315	2,396	2,922	2,934
Pledges Receivable - R&P	1,325	1,732	1,740	1,640
Fixed Assets	4,075	4,108	5144	6,134
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>19,229</b>	<b>20,304</b>	<b>23,821</b>	<b>23,660</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Payables	366	290	441	393
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>18,944</b>	<b>20,279</b>	<b>23,380</b>	<b>23,267</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; CAPITAL</b>	<b>19,310</b>	<b>20,569</b>	<b>23,821</b>	<b>23,660</b>

# From the Associate for Administration

**Evangelism and Communications Committee**—Becky Myers, *chair*

**Fellowship & Hospitality Committee**—John Archer and Frank Young, *co-chairs*

**Personnel Working Group**—Don McKenna, *chair*

**Retail Operations Working Group**—Pat Reichenbacher, *chair*

2015 brought many new things to Bethesda. The most obvious of Bethesda's new things comes from the personnel area in the form of our new priest, the Rev. Burl Salmon. Father Burl has already proved himself a valuable addition to the Bethesda family. His role in the oversight of the areas of pastoral care and education have allowed Mother Kimberly to take on additional responsibilities in the area of stewardship. Although it seems they have been here longer, both Victor Maisonet, Sexton for Hospitality, and Ayana Pinero, Assistant to the Rector, also started early in 2015.

In September 2015, the Evangelism and Communications committee developed a new publication—The Bethesda Catalog. It contains every public event from worship to fellowship with the date, time, location, and description, so you will be able to better prepare your calendar for the season. The catalog is in chronological order. The events will be clearly marked by the ministry and age group that is invited to participate. The Bethesda Catalog is posted on our website, [bbts.org](http://bbts.org). The Catalog is physical evidence in one publication of all the wonderful work and ministries we share. Check our website and be sure to save the date for our amazing events! The Evangelism and Communications Committee had their first of many Sunday Forums in October 2015. The forum was informative and interactive as we went through important pages on our website. We also talked about our popular Facebook page which continues to grow (1,128 fans and counting) and other electronic communications. We encourage you to visit [bbts.org](http://bbts.org) frequently, check out the catalog, and connect with us on Facebook.

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee has become a conduit for all committees and ministries to work together in unison by helping eliminating “silos.” This consolidation has been accomplished in part by expanding the F & H committee to 32 parishioners, clergy, and committee chairs for better interaction and communication of ideas. We also added new regular events such as Wine Under the Stars to offer more opportunities for fellowship and integrating new members.

This year The Church Mouse and The Shoppe have experienced a substantial amount of growth. The Church Mouse's 2015 sales exceeded the previous year's sales by approximately \$200K, providing more money for Bethesda's outreach programs. The Shoppe is growing but needs more volunteers; a lack of volunteers limits the hours when the Shoppe can be open. Sales were up during specific months during the year and could be improved with more regular hours. I look for Bethesda in 2016 to continue doing the work God has called us to do.

Yours in Christ,

  
Fred E. Staley, Jr., Associate for Administration





# From the Associate for Music and Liturgy

**Worship Committee**—Daniel Koinis and Chuck Zettler, *co-chairs*

Our Worship Committee, under the leadership of Daniel Koinis and Chuck Zettler, has been meeting to discuss the possibility of an additional worship service at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Our discussion is a result of the parish survey done a couple years ago in which many people indicated they would like another service. This service would be in addition to what we already offer, but *what* it will be and *when* it will be are still topics of discussion.

The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Holly Breeden and Gay Gregory, continues to do work that is vital to our worship life. They dedicate many hours to prepare for all our services—not only those on Sundays and at Christmas and Easter, but our regular weekday services, weddings, funerals, and many extra services throughout the course of the year.

The Flower Guild, now with over 100 members, continues to provide beautiful and lovingly-executed arrangements that immeasurably enhance our services. While we particularly notice their handiwork at Christmas and Easter, they are responsible throughout the year for exceptional arrangements in the church.

At the 9:00 a.m. service there are 5 teams of 6 to 7 ushers. Each team ushers once every 5 weeks. While not totally in place, this concept is being implemented at the 11:00 a.m. service. Additional ushers for this service are needed complete the implementation.

Our Vergers continue to assist in all areas of worship and have been a great help in coordinating the various worship ministries so that everything runs smoothly in worship services. They have also been essential in providing leadership at the training sessions for those who serve in worship capacities.

The Bethesda Choir and the Bethesda Youth Choir continue to provide music for our services from September through May. Our concerts and choral services during 2015 included our continuing series of First-Sunday Evensongs, each preceded by a half-hour recital. Other highlights included a concert by the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, the annual Christmas Concert and Community Carol Sing, and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Our ever-popular Boar's Head Festival is a gift to the community, as well as a way for over 150 members of our parish family to work together on a large-scale project. This is truly a cross-generational effort. The 2015 performances were well received by large and appreciative audiences.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harold E. Pysher, *Associate for Music & Liturgy*



# From the Associate for Outreach and Development

**Outreach Committee**—Pat Reichenbacher, *chair*  
**Stewardship Working Group**—Paul Coombs, *chair*

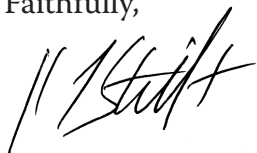
**Outreach:** This Committee focuses on three specific areas of need: Education, Food, and Shelter with the goal of containing the number of offerings so that Bethesda is known for doing a few things, albeit critical, very well instead of doing a lot of things with perfunctory effect. Our mentoring program at Lake Worth High School (a Title 1 school) continues to thrive, and our high school students have been busy sitting for the SAT, being inducted into the National Honor Society, and beginning to think about where they may want to apply for college. We are discussing the possibility of partnering with Opportunity Inc. to mentor some of their more advanced children. Our *Feeding in February* initiative includes two events. Through our *Palm Beach Unites* event we are on target to help package 150,000 healthy meals (up from 100,000 in 2015) which will be distributed to families in need. Through our *Empty Bowls* event we are on target to raise \$100,000 (up from \$50,000 in 2015) for the Palm Beach County Food Bank which, in turn, delivers food to over 100 pantries in the area.

**Stewardship:** The 2015 “Ask and Inform” campaign was a great success. Our \$3 million operating budget included \$1.64 million in pledges (which we achieved), \$300 thousand in unpledged offerings, \$82 thousand in unassigned plate offerings, \$450 thousand from The Church Mouse retail activities, which went to outreach, and \$552 thousand from endowment draws and other income. The restoration project on our building is coming close to an end, and the final touches are being applied to our new Garden Chapel. Both projects are fully funded. The 2016 “All the Pieces Matter: Building Bethesda’s Tomorrow” campaign is in full swing with events planned throughout February and early March—we hope you will attend.

Please consider your piece in Bethesda’s future by responding generously in any or all of the following ways:

- Increasing your pledge in 2016.
- Adding to the Preservation Endowment for the buildings and grounds we share with the local community. Funds contributed to the Preservation Endowment free up operating funds which are then redirected to other areas such as worship, education, and service.
- Making a provision for Bethesda in your will and estate plans, like many who have gone before us have done, to ensure that future generations are able to respond appropriately to the needs of the Church in their time.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Kimberly L. Still, *Associate for Outreach and Development*



# From the Assistant for Christian Education and Pastoral Care

**Bethesda Cares Committee**—Bobbie Leek, *chair*  
**Education Committee**—Bill Eckberg, *chair*

It is with great pleasure that I submit herewith the Annual Report of the Assistant for Christian Education and Pastoral Care. Arriving in Advent, I am humbled to have been called to Bethesda-by-the-Sea and pray God's blessing on my ministry with the good people of this holy place.

The committees associated with both Christian education/formation and Bethesda Cares have been active in 2015 and worked faithfully, respectively, to offer educational opportunities for the spiritual growth of the community and tend the flock of Christ within this same community.

Under the leadership of Greg Knight, whose report is contained herewith, the children's and youth ministry of Bethesda continues to flourish, aided by the support of Jessica Reed and countless adult volunteers.

The Education Committee, chaired by Bill Eckberg, worked with the Rev. Kimberly Still for the majority of 2015 to maintain two concurrent Sunday morning adult programs as well as Tuesday evening offerings for adult formation. Sunday mornings' offerings regularly included a bible study of the day's lectionary readings with a member of the clergy staff as well as a rotating forum with topics ranging from biblical translations to assessments of spiritual gifts to a conversation about the challenges faced by today's youth, to name a few. Leaders for those rotating forums included parishioners, members of the larger community, as well as Bethesda clergy. Sunday evening offerings included an adult inquirer's class as well as Deborah Staley's popular *Introduction to Creative Writing*.

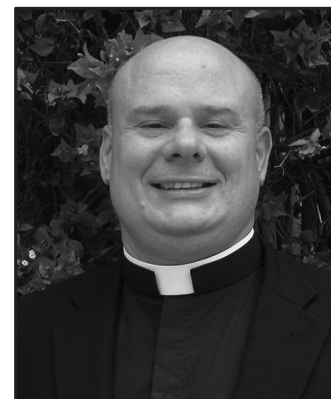
Bethesda Cares, chaired by Bobbie Leek, with its various and far-reaching iterations, has been active in looking after the pastoral well being of the community. The Shepherd Ministry placed emphasis on communication with their respective flocks while simultaneously increasing the integration of those within their flocks into parish resources or other ministries. The Caregivers' Support Group, led fortnightly by Elayne Forgie, began in the fall and continues to be a wonderful resource for those caring for others, and coupled with Widow's Walk, led by Gayle Petersen, offers a safe and supportive venue for those community members, not just parishioners, for whom that space is valued and needed. The Bethesda Cares Bears, given to persons as a tangible reminder that they are a part of a ministering and pastoral community, grew as an important and visible ministry among the community. Finally the Stephen Ministry, under the direction of Susan Innocenzi, strengthened as yet another component in the pastoral care network within this diverse parish.

I am honored to have joined the ministry team at Bethesda and to see first-hand the great successes of formation and pastoral care already at work. 2016 only will continue to build on those successes, and I pray the Spirit's presence as we seek to work toward the Kingdom.

In Peace,



The Rev. Burl Salmon, *Assistant for Christian Education & Pastoral Care*



# Director of Children and Youth Ministries

“If there was ever any doubt whether or not Bethesda was the church for us, Cupcake Sunday proved it,” said one of our new parents to the Bethesda Sunday School program. That’s the power of invitation. It would be pretty hard to have missed us, but you may have seen our Bethesda young people running around the Garth on certain Sundays throughout the Fall of 2014. Whether it was our Cupcake Sunday, Scavenger Hunt Sunday, or Christmas Pageant Costume Fashion Show, the children and youth of Bethesda have been front and center at many fun events over the course of the year. All of these happenings are designed with one goal in mind – invitation. We want to create an atmosphere where children and parents feel comfortable inviting their friends to take part in all that Bethesda has to offer. It’s so much easier for a young person to invite their friends to a cupcake party or a scavenger hunt than it is to invite them to a Sunday School class. But by showing our youngest members that Bethesda is a safe, fun, loving place for everyone, we live out the life of evangelism that draws others into the story of our community.

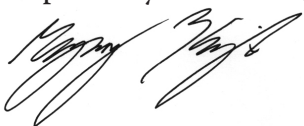
Of course education is at the heart of our children and youth programs at Bethesda, and we continue to offer wonderful bible-based programs for our Sunday School-aged children. The Pre-K and Kindergarten class learns about the major stories from the bible. The 1st and 2nd Grade Class go deeper as they look to interpret those stories for themselves. The 3rd and 4th Grade Class focus on how we order these stories through the weekly lectionary and liturgical calendar.

Beginning in 5th and 6th Grade, our children transition to youth ministry with their very own bible study designed specifically for their age group. The 7th graders learn to ask questions about the Episcopal Church and its beliefs in their Pre-Confirmation Class. That’s followed by the 8th Grade Confirmation program that explores the intersection between individual belief and Church teachings, recognizing along the way where they fit into the larger world of our faith. Finally, the 9th-12th Grade Mission Group puts all of those lessons into practice as they work on a common project to help the lives of those around the world, specifically by helping with the South Florida Haiti Project over the summer.

2015 didn’t only see a change in emphasis as we moved to intentionally inviting more people to experience our program, but we also participated in new ministries and welcomed new members to our team. The Bethesda Pilgrimage Group hiked 110 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain, a Christian pilgrimage that dates back to the Middle Ages. Jessica Reed took on the role of coordinating the Bethesda Youth Group for 5th-12th Grade, an organization devoted to prayer, local service, and exciting fellowship.

It has been a pleasure to see the power that has come with the simple act of invitation over the past year. I am a firm believer that God makes big things happen through small moments in our lives. The Bethesda Children and Youth Ministries are filled with small moments and small people, but they have filled my heart and the hearts of all of our volunteers with the love of Christ and the knowledge of the power that Christ has in our lives if we’re willing to look for it. I invite you to look for the small places where God is doing big things for you and, hopefully if that small place is here at Bethesda, you’ll invite someone you know to join you. Who knows where the power of one simple invitation will lead us in the future?

Respectfully Submitted,



Greg Knight, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*





# Clergy and Staff

## RECTOR, ASSOCIATES, AND FULL-TIME CLERGY

The Rev. James R. Harlan, *Rector*  
Harold E. Pysher, *Associate for Music & Liturgy*  
Fred E. Staley, *Associate for Administration*  
The Rev. Kimberly L. Still, *Associate for Outreach & Development*  
The Rev. Burl Salmon, *Assistant for Christian Education & Pastoral Care*

## NON-STIPENDIARY ASSISTING CLERGY

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Beebe, *Assisting Priest*  
The Rev. Susan R. Beebe, *Assisting Priest*  
The Rev. Dr. Cecily J. Titcomb, *Deacon for Spiritual Direction & Pastoral Care (Nov–May)*  
The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell, *Deacon for Port Ministry*

## STAFF

### PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Greg Knight, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*  
Jessica Reed, *Youth Choir Director & Youth Ministries Coordinator*

### COORDINATORS

Renée Boger-Cheifet, *Communications Coordinator*  
April Lawrence, *Stewardship & Membership Coordinator*  
Sharon Lawrence McGee, *Financial Coordinator*  
Regine Reimann, *Worship & Pastoral Care Coordinator*

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ayana Pineiro, *Assistant to the Rector*

### SEXTONS

Victor Maisonet, *Sexton for Hospitality*  
Robert Mancuso, *Sexton*  
Keith Risley, *Grounds Supervisor*  
William Thompson III, *Building Preservation*

### THE CHURCH MOUSE AND THE SHOPPE STAFF

Daisy Alvarez, *General Manager for Retail Operations*  
Evaristo Riestra, *General Manager of the Church Mouse*  
Rosie Cartagena, *Seamstress*  
Jonathan Goodine, *Receiving Specialist*  
Ricky Manuel, *Receiving Specialist*

The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea  
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