

The United Thank Offering is a program of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church, founded by and administered by women since 1889. The United Thank Offering Board is a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of The Episcopal Church, through every person in every pew. UTO will continue our historic mission to address compelling human need and expand the mission and ministry of the church.

The United Thank Offering addresses compelling human needs through grants to projects that alleviate poverty, both domestically and internationally, within the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses. We will focus on projects that implement significant change toward alleviating poverty that the Millennium Development Goals address.

The United Thank Offering supports projects:

- That address poverty
- That make significant impact
- That demonstrate new and innovative work
- That are a part of a planned diocesan/provincial mission strategy

**The Episcopal Church
UTO Vision:**

We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.

Did you know?

St Mary's holds an annual UTO drive in the season of lent as a discipline of thankfulness for all that God has given.

In 2011, St. Mary's contributed \$1,209.50 to the national UTO in-gathering.

In 2011, UTO awarded 59 grants, for a total of \$1,634,526.19.

How it works: save your coins in the "blue box" with a prayer of thankfulness and watch the blessings grow for you as a thankful giver and for our churches locally, nationally and internationally.

What happens to the money in the blue boxes? All of the money is collected once per year at the national office. The money is granted in September.

St. Mary's UTO Ingathering will be Sunday, April 29, 2012.

Our youth partners will have "coffee cart" specials and donations of proceeds in the month of March during our lent drive.

Alaska's historical connection: In 1952 Bishop Gordon of Alaska was awarded UTO money for an airplane in order to reach the parishes. He coined the phrase "Blue Box," and named the plane in its honor. ☩



United Thank Offering



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee coordinates all aspects of the worship services at St. Mary's, including clergy, music, lay readers, altar guild, acolytes, baptisms, confirmations, receptions, special services, and in addition to some activities that occur in the chapel or sanctuary. Dede Allen was elected in January 2011 for her first term on the Worship Committee. Tom Bradley was re-elected to a second term, which ends this December.

The Worship Committee, despite its involvement in so many facets of the St. Mary's experience, acts in an advisory capacity, as the church vests final say in all worship matters with the rector.

Committee members continued to bring regular calendar and special events to the parishioners and looked for innovative ways to remain dedicated to the tradition and diversity of the church. The committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 pm. Regularly providing input are the Rev. Michael Burke, the Rev. Dr. Ted Cole, Jr., Deacon Sara Gavit, Penny Cowan, Caroline Mitchell, Marty Quimby, Nancy Talbott, Marilyn Barry, and Wade Hampton Miller.

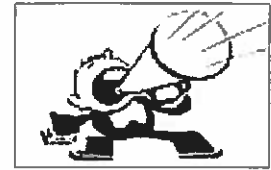
Respectfully submitted by Tom Bradley and Dede Allen, Worship Co-chairs ☩

Worship Committee



The Rev. Michael Burke and a young parishioner, January 2010

Youth Ministry - "OPUS"



It is with great pleasure that I submit this annual report. I did not join the Vestry until August, so the report will be shorter than most, but I will be as specific as possible. Upon joining the Youth Ministry I found it to an active, vibrant ministry. Under the guidance of Father Ted Cole, I learned much about the many different areas of the ministry:

Sunday school: This ministry deals with the weekly Christian education of our youth—middle to high school grades. The focus of the younger grades was the Rite 13 service, and the upper school is focusing on different forms of spirituality and prayer. They are also working on getting their "Malawi Miles" for the pilgrimage next summer to Malawi. Towards this end, they have engaged in many fund raising activities: Jesus Java, Christmas Bazaar Wrapping, Pancake Breakfast, and Malawi-Gift donation cards. In addition, they will begin preparing for the trip by Reading William Kamkwamba's *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope*. In addition, they will be completing the Elder Project, a project which connects the elders and the youth of St. Mary's. This project, which will preserve the sacred stories of our elders, will serve a three-fold purpose: First, it will allow us to share the stories with the people of Malawi; second, it will give the St. Mary's youth an opportunity to bond with the church elders, to hear their stories, and to preserve the stories in audio/video format, and third, it allows the elders to share, forever, the wisdom they have gained, over the years, of community and church building.

Youth Activities: This ministry also provides all the youth with fun activities in which they can engage. Over the summer we hiked Flattop Mountain, saw the premiere of the latest "Harry Potter" movie. But the premier event was the retreat to Yukon Island. Ted Cole, Nancy Burke, Mike Hellings, and I chaperoned 12 St. Mary's youth on a spiritual retreat to a wonderfully secluded island in Katchemak Bay. The students engaged in some appreciative inquiry activities, Gospel Based Discipleship, creative outdoor spiritual activities, and lots of eating of delicious food prepared by Gretchen Bersch and her sister, Melissa. The final summer event was a trip to the Alaska State Fair, where fun was had by all despite the cooler temperatures and threat of rain. Since beginning the new school year, the youth continue to engage in group activities several times a month. Some activities this school year include a progressive dinner followed by bowling, a Christmas-wrapping dinner, and a trip to the 5th Avenue Mall to buy gifts for our Christmas Angel tree.

In addition to Ted Cole, Nancy Burke, and myself, we have also been blessed with the help of many other adults: Gayle Nauska, Brett Bissell, Heather Coulehan, Angela Gray, Becky Windt, and Heather Moderow. If I have left anyone's name off, I apologize: it is because of my poor memory and not because of their lack of support.

Thanks so much,

Terrilyn F. Watts, Youth Vestry Member ☪

Youth Ministry



BYLAWS
of
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Adopted at the Annual Parish meeting, January 25, 2004,
by unanimous vote of the parish.

PREAMBLE

These Bylaws are adopted this 25th day of January, 2004, by formal action of the voting members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Anchorage, Alaska ("the Church") in conformity with applicable church canons and applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Alaska for the purpose of enhancing the Church's ability to fulfill its mission, "to know Christ and to make Christ known," and to achieve the following goals:

- (1) to foster and maintain the Church's worship life in a way which is welcoming, nurturing, diverse, intergenerational, and which gives thanks and praise to God in all things;
- (2) to reach out to others outside the Church, both in service to others and in evangelism to bring others to the knowledge of Christ;
- (3) to foster and maintain a welcoming, nurturing Christian community for all persons, that we may be faithful to Jesus' call to love one another, and that we may seek out others so as to grow in size as the body of Christ;
- (4) to provide the tools and experiences for parishioners of all ages to grow in our faith, and to strengthen and deepen our discipleship as followers of Jesus; and
- (5) to provide effective administrative support for the church infrastructure, staffing, and ongoing operations so that the various ministries of the church are enhanced and maintained.

ARTICLE I

MANAGEMENT

Section 1

The management of the Church shall rest with the Vestry.

Section 2.

The Vestry shall be responsible for the discharge of those duties and responsibilities set forth in these Bylaws, applicable church canons and applicable state law.

The Vestry may adopt rules of policy and procedure from time to time as may be required for the guidance of the officers, Vestry members and members of the Church. The Vestry may authorize formation of committees and organizations to be activated upon direction of the Rector of the Church to conduct lay activities of the Church. The Vestry may take such other action as is deemed to be for the good of the Church, so long as such action is consistent with these Bylaws, applicable church canons and applicable state law.

ARTICLE II

VESTRY

Section 1

The Vestry shall consist of the Rector and twelve elected adult members in good standing of the Church; both lay and ordained adult members shall be eligible for election to the Vestry; however, at least ten of the twelve Vestry members must be adults in good standing aged eighteen or older, or fully-emancipated minors. An adult member in good standing is a baptized person sixteen years of age or over who has received Holy Communion in the Church at least three times within the preceding year, and who is a contributor of record, as determined by the Rector. A contributor of record is a person who has within the preceding year provided the Church with either financial support or his or her time and talent.

Section 2.

Members of the Vestry shall serve terms of two years. These terms shall be staggered, with six Vestry members being elected at one annual meeting, and six Vestry members being elected at the following annual meeting. A Vestry member may serve two full consecutive terms. A calendar year must intervene between the expiration of any Vestry member's second term and his or her re-election.

Section 3.

Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be convened at least monthly, following public notice of the time and place. Special meetings of the Vestry may be convened at the call of the Rector, or in his absence or disability, the Wardens, or a majority of the members of the Vestry. Fifty percent of the Vestry members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and unless otherwise specified in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, a majority of those present shall be controlling. A Vestry member who is under the age of eighteen and is not a fully-emancipated minor may participate in all Vestry decisions except those decisions that involve a contract between the Church and a third party.

The Rector may preside at meetings of the Vestry and shall have all the rights of a member, except that the Rector may vote only in case of a tie when the Rector is presiding. Should the Rector choose not to preside, or in the absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, or a member of the Vestry elected by the Vestry to preside, shall preside. A presiding Warden or Vestry member shall be entitled to vote on all matters regardless of whether there is a tie.

Section 4.

A Vestry member may resign by providing written notice to the Vestry. Any vacancy occurring shall be filled on an interim basis by appointment by the Vestry. The appointed member shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Church, at which time either the appointed Vestry member or another adult member in good standing of the Church may be elected to fill the remaining term.

A member of the Vestry may be terminated for cause by a two-thirds vote of the entire Vestry. Any member of the Vestry who misses two or more consecutive Vestry meetings will be contacted by the Senior Warden, who will discuss with the Vestry member his or her intention about further service on the Vestry.





ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

Section 1.

A Senior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector and elected by a majority vote at the annual meeting of the Church, to serve a term of two years. At the conclusion of the Senior Warden's two-year term, or as necessary to fill the position, the Rector shall nominate one or more candidates for the position of Senior Warden to stand for election at the annual meeting. The Senior Warden shall be primarily responsible for the finances of the Church and for providing lay assistance to the Rector for the management of the Church.

Section 2.

A Junior Warden shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual meeting of the Church, to serve a term of two years. The Junior Warden shall be primarily responsible for the maintenance and safekeeping of Church property.

Section 3.

A Treasurer shall be appointed by the Vestry with the advice and consent of the Rector and shall serve at the pleasure of the Vestry and Rector. The Treasurer shall be primarily responsible for assisting the Vestry and the Rector in overseeing the proper maintenance of the financial records and accounts of the Church. The Treasurer shall render such financial reports as may be requested by the Senior Warden or Rector. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

Section 4.

A member of the Vestry shall be elected by the Vestry to serve as Clerk for a period of one year, or until a successor is elected. The Clerk shall be responsible for preparing or overseeing the preparation of the minutes of Vestry meetings, and shall be responsible for maintenance of Church records not specifically maintained by another Officer or the Rector. The Clerk shall render such reports as may be requested by the Senior Warden or Rector.

ARTICLE IV

CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1.

An annual meeting of the Church membership shall be convened at a designated time and place for the purpose of electing Vestry members, adopting a budget, and conducting such other business as may be necessary and proper. The Rector may preside and shall have all the rights of a member, except the Rector may vote only in the case of a tie when the Rector is presiding. Should the Rector choose not to preside, or in the absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, or a member of the Vestry elected by the Vestry to preside, shall preside. A presiding Warden or Vestry member shall be entitled to vote on all matters regardless of whether there is a tie.

Section 2.

Other meetings of the Church membership may be convened at the call of

the Rector, or in the Rector's absence or disability, the Wardens, or a majority of the Vestry, or by a majority of the Church membership.

Section 3.

The proposed agenda of all Church annual meetings shall be published at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Section 4.

Each adult member of the Church in good standing shall be a qualified voting member and shall be entitled to one vote at any Church meeting. An adult member in good standing is a baptized person sixteen years of age or over who has received Holy Communion in the Church at least three times within the preceding year, and who is a contributor of record, as determined by the Rector. A contributor of record is a person who has within the preceding year provided the Church with either financial support or his or her time and talent.

Voting at Church meetings shall be in person. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

Section 5.

Ten percent of the qualified voting members of the Church shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Church meeting. The presiding officer shall announce at the beginning of each meeting the presence of a quorum.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

Section 1.

The Bylaws may be amended only by a majority of the qualified voting members of the Church present, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to the members of the Church at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Such amendments shall become effective when approved.



St. Mary's Bylaws



We believe

*We, the leadership and congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church,
are called by God to:*

*Become an ever more actively
inviting, inclusive, and multicultural community of faith,
intentionally intergenerational from infant to elder,
with many small group opportunities in which to grow
and deepen our relationship with God in Christ Jesus.*

- Vestry visioning statement 2002-2003

Our focus

as it is emerging, is that God in leading us in:

- ‡ **Becoming a more multicultural church**
 - Seeking to identify and overcome barriers which limit or exclude participation based on differences in culture and background
- ‡ **Including all generations in what we do, from infant to elder**
 - Seeking to create a Christ centered community from creation to death, fostering relationships that break down generational and age barriers
- ‡ **Being actively inviting and inclusive of all**
 - Seeking to identify and overcome barriers by which we would exclude others from seeking the formation, fellowship and faith of the Christian community. All are welcome regardless of age, denomination, ability, or church affiliation.
- ‡ **Having lively and diverse music and worship experiences**
 - Encouraging and supporting the development of diverse worship experiences that reflect a broad range of new and emerging Christian traditions.
- ‡ **Strengthening and expanding small group ministries**
 - Supporting the development of faith formation in small community
 - Reaching out in Jesus' name to meet the needs of the community, nation, and world
- ‡ **Deepening our relationship with God in Christ**
 - Telling the story of what God's Holy Spirit has done, and *is doing* in our lives
 - Offering and inviting people to live more deeply into a sense of community rooted in a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ, and providing a progressive Christian alternative to the culture.