

# OUTERMOST VOICE

## ST. MARY OF THE HARBOR

WHERE THE LAND, THE SEA, AND THE SACRED MEET

### Vestry News



#### December - January

Designated Christmas offering to be split between outreach and deficit reduction.

Approved \$1500 grant to SKIP in lieu of cancelled winter lunch program at St Mary's.

Approved employee annual wage adjustments.

Approved honorarium for soloist.

Accepted \$8300 bid from East West Associates to install livestream equipment in the church.

Approved Rectory IRS Housing Allowance Resolution.

### Adapting to a New Reality

In addition to disrupting everyday life, COVID-19 has changed the way we worship as a community of faith. Out of necessity, St. Mary of the Harbor has adapted to



this new reality. With the exception of a few Sundays last October, pre-recorded services and online coffee hour get together have temporarily replaced in person gatherings. In addition to these, Deacon Charlie Nichols has supplemented Sunday worship with online noonday prayers on Wednesdays and weekly reflections.

If we have learned anything, it is that technology has been indispensable and it will continue to be long after the pandemic is over. While technology cannot replace in person gatherings, it provides new opportunities to reach a wider audience, something we have monitored over the past year as the number of people watching our online services has routinely exceeded our average Sunday attendance pre-pandemic.

Looking to the future, the vestry approved funding for the installation of an audio integrated video system that will allow people to livestream our Sunday services. Installation is tentatively scheduled for sometime in late March.

As to when we will return to in person worship, that will depend on two things: the prevalence of COVID on the Outer Cape and the weather. We will most likely resume

## Treasurer's Report

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Like a number of churches, St. Mary of the Harbor concluded the year with a substantial deficit. Ours was **- \$19,364.**

Total revenues came in at \$217,596 (\$47,638 less than the previous year). Total expenses came in at \$236,960, a decrease of \$5,352 from 2020.

While pledge payments were up from last year by \$5,487 it was not enough to offset the loss of other revenues which make up a substantial portion of the church's annual income. Lost revenues included cancellations of the church's annual art auction and the Summer Fair, lost income from parish hall rental and wedding fees, reductions in bequests & gifts, and reduced giving at Christmas and Easter. Loose plate collections alone dropped by \$10,569. Together, these categories account for over \$51,000 in lost income.

*Rector's article from page 1 continued*

in person worship outdoors a while and then migrate indoors once it is safe to do so. For the time being though, online services and virtual coffee hours will continue.

Terry+

### Ash Wednesday Service Online



There will be no Ash Wednesday service at St. Mary of the Harbor this year. Instead, we invite you to livestream St. Paul's Cathedral **Ash Wednesday service at noon on Wednesday, February 17.** Dean Amy McCreath will be preaching with Bishop Alan Gates, presiding. The live stream link and a bulletin for the service will be [available on the Cathedral's website Worship page.](#)

The service will include the remembrance of those who have died from COVID-19 and a modified version of the imposition of ashes. This year, in accordance with current safety protocols, those participating from home are invited to impose ashes upon themselves. All are invited to send the names of friends, loved ones, and parishioners who have died from COVID-19 to be read aloud during the service and written in a memorial book at the cathedral. Send names to [cathedral@diomass.org](mailto:cathedral@diomass.org).

### Ashes Available

**Individual packets of ashes will be available to pick up at St. Mary's beginning Sunday morning, February 14. The packets will be in a basket on a table under the porch located at churchyard entrance. We can also mail a packet to you. Call 508-487-2622.**



*Treasurer's Report continued*

Fortunately, St. Mary of the Harbor received a \$28,000 loan under the Payroll Protection Act enacted by Congress last summer. This financial lifeline provided much needed cash flow to pay for salaries, insurance and other recurring operating expenses during 2020.

One bright spot: even though St. Mary's finances took a big hit in 2020, we were able to meet our 10% outreach goal, paying out \$23,109. Another bright spot was that the church's investment accounts recovered from a series of tumultuous market downturns in 2020.

While it is impossible to know what 2021 will bring, we are hopeful that this year will at least be less volatile than 2020. As always, we will keep a close eye on the church's finances.

Mike Sutila, Treasurer

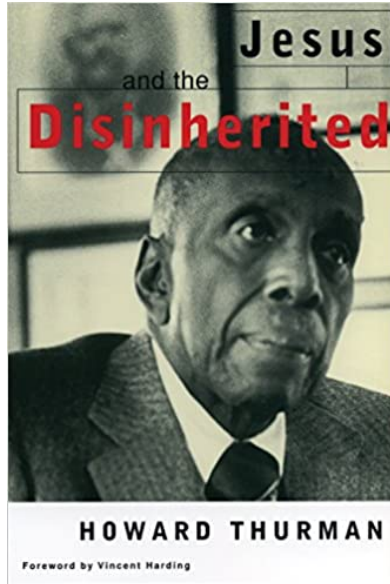
## **2021 Pledge Update**



St Mary of the Harbor relies on the generosity of parishioners to fund Christ's ongoing mission and ministry on the Outer Cape. As of February, 63 households have pledged \$113,685. Last year, 67 households pledged \$138,808.

If you have not yet made your pledge, there is still time to do so. You can email the church's treasurer at [MSutila@chasemachine.com](mailto:MSutila@chasemachine.com). Or you can request a pledge form by contacting the church office at 508-487-2622 or emailing your request to [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com).

## LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITY



Join us this Lent to read and discuss *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman over five sessions on Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

The acclaimed theologian and religious leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the Gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and his life's example offers a solution to ending the descent into moral emptiness. Hatred does not empower -- it decays! Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail.

First published in 1949, *Jesus and the Disinherited* is a brilliant and compassionate look at God's work in our lives.

### *Our weekly schedule:*

5:30 – 6:20 *Discussion*  
6:20 – 6:40 *Open conversation*  
6:40 – 7:00 *Night prayer*

Please order a copy of the book from wherever you shop for books and read the Foreword and Chapter One for the first session. Please reply to Deacon Charlie at [ack4me@comcast.net](mailto:ack4me@comcast.net) to be included and to receive the Zoom link.

**Repentance 2021 -**  
**Turning back to God here and now**  
Lenten Preaching Series: Thursdays at noon in Lent  
We will gather by ZOOM  
[www.stpaulboston.org/services2020](http://www.stpaulboston.org/services2020)



February 18	February 25	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
					
<i>The Rev. Morgan Allen</i>	<i>The Rev. Gregory G. Perez</i>	<i>Ms. Omolara Fatiregun</i>	<i>Mr. James Rutenbeck</i>	<i>The Rev. Kate Bast</i>	<i>Dr. Sujin Pak</i>

Cathedral Church of St Paul - 138 Tremont St, Boston MA 02111  
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Cathedral Church of St Paul's Lenten Preaching Series will be live streamed this year. A conversation with the preacher and others will take place following the NoonDay Prayer Service and will conclude at 1:15 p.m.

One time registration is required and can be accessed at this link: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?jmtk=Uj0ucO-grzliG9biKf91g2MltlHYDKtMIllr>

#### 2021 Lenten Series Guest Preachers:

February 18 - The Reverend Morgan Allan, Trinity Episcopal Church, Boston

February 25 - The Reverend Gregory G. Perez, Priest in Charge, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Lynn

March 4 - Ms Omolara Fatiregun, Cheng Fellow & Doctoral Student, Harvard Graduate School of Education

March 11 - Mr. James Rutenbeck, Filmmaker, Lost Nations Pictures, *A Reckoning in Boston*

March 18 - The Reverend Kate Bast, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Melrose

March 25 - Dr. Sujin Pak, Dean of Boston University School of Theology

### Day by Day

A limited number of the daily devotional booklets are available. Please contact the church office at 508-487-2622 or email [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com) to request your copy. They can be picked up in person on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or we can mail them to your address.



## New Office Manager

St. Mary of the Harbor rang in the new year with a new office manager. [Arthur \(Art\) Tupper](#) moved to Provincetown ten years ago after retiring from a 32 year career in airport field operations and customer service with Delta Airlines. Art is in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Prayer Shawls

Lee Ann Fanning has been busy this winter knitting prayer shawls. An important healing ministry at St. Mary of the Harbor, prayer shawls are blessed and delivered to anyone who is ill or housebound. If you know someone who could use a spiritual lift during this difficult time, call the church office at 508-487-2622 or email us at [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com).

## Storm Damage

The beach stairs adjacent to the church's parking lot collapsed after back to back winter storms and high water pounded the seawall. The steps are scheduled to be removed and to mitigate future liability issues involving church property, they will not be replaced. A sign has been ordered and will be posted directing the public to the town's Atkins Lane beach access located to the east of the rectory.







## Directory Assistance

Stay in touch! Please don't forget to email us at [smothoffice@gmail.com](mailto:smothoffice@gmail.com) or call the church office at 508-487-2622 if there is a change to your address or phone number. Church directories are available to parishioners upon request.

## Diocesan and National Church News Sources

**Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts news link:**

<https://www.diomass.org/news-pubs/diocesan-news>

**Episcopal Church News Service link:**

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org>