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Welcome to St. Mary’s by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, known to many as “The Little Red Church That Cares.”

Since 1887, the people of St. Mary’s have worshipped in a beautiful redwood church located on the shores of Monterey Bay. From the front steps of St. Mary’s we can see the sparkling waters of the bay, with pines and eucalyptus framing the view.

Enter the church and you will see above the altar, a stained glass window of the Annunciation depicting the Angel Gabriel greeting Mary with that same view of Monterey Bay in the background. It is for us a reminder that God calls us to act in the world beyond the church walls.
Our Spiritual Identity

We see ourselves as a spiritually-engaged and welcoming intergenerational community devoted to living out the two great commandments:

*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind.*

*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

St. Mary’s serves, within the broad framework of Episcopal tradition, as a safe place where each individual is supported in his or her own spiritual journey.

We are not dogmatic. We predominantly experience and express our connection to God sacramentally, through worship and action.

During the Listening and Gathering sessions with the parish, when asked about St. Mary’s Spiritual Identity, the conversations reflected two streams.

Inward: We are nourished through each other, our worship, prayer, music, and study.

Outward: Striving to love our neighbors as ourselves, we are a community committed to following Christ’s example and responding to God’s love by welcoming and offering supporting ministries.

Although not enunciated specifically, as the two streams converge, they reveal our engagement as sacramental, embracing a deeply-known presence of God’s grace.

We Value

Supporting each person’s growth in his or her own relationship with God, through worship, prayer, music, study, reflection, and deep conversation.

Living out our relationship with God in ministries that serve others and promote justice.

Being an inclusive community, where everyone feels that they belong and are valued.

Being faithful and grateful stewards of God’s creation, including our church buildings and grounds.
**We Are** a parish of roughly 350 adults and children, with an average Sunday attendance (ASA) of 132. About a third of us have been members for more than 20 years, while about a quarter of us have been members for less than five years.

Most of us live within a 15-minute drive of St. Mary’s. Like the surrounding community, we are racially homogeneous, predominantly white. About two-thirds of us are female and one-third male. Although outwardly we may appear fairly similar, we are diverse in our opinions, situations, and preferences, all sheltering under the same big Episcopal tent, abiding with each other in Christ.

Most adult members are over the age of 45, and about half are retired. We have some families with children, including military families stationed nearby. A majority of members are college-educated, and many have completed postgraduate work. About 90% support St. Mary’s financially. Household incomes vary, with almost half reporting annual incomes of $100,000 or more.

Most of us are active in one or more of the many ministries of St. Mary’s, and most of us attend worship at St. Mary’s at least twice a month. A few of our members split their time seasonally between the Monterey Peninsula and a location elsewhere. Membership and involvement in St. Mary’s has been relatively stable in the past few years.

The Monterey Peninsula features two academic military installations: the Naval Postgraduate School, and the Defense Language Institute, both of which frequently bless us with interesting and lively transient members. Pacific Grove is also home to Canterbury Woods, a unit within Episcopal Senior Communities. While they have their own Chaplain, many residents worship with us and are integral to the St. Mary’s community.

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**What Brings Us to St. Mary’s**

**We come to St. Mary’s** for a wonderful variety of reasons.

We come from many different faith traditions. For those raised in the Episcopal Church, the traditional liturgy and setting is familiar and comforting. For those coming from other faith backgrounds, St. Mary’s provides a welcoming place to find a sense of community and God’s grace.

We make friends and bring family members here. Whether within St. Mary’s or through community outreach, we participate in programs that make visible what we believe. We share our blessings and serve others.

For all there is a sense of welcome, acceptance, and the opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth.

“I found a group of friends at St. Mary’s when I struggled to find them at school. I began seven dedicated years of community service at a time when I was beginning to think for myself and choose my own values, and I found another family in the time I spent getting to know such a unique, kind, and hardworking group of people.”

- Lizzy, member of St. Mary’s Youth Group
**Worship at St. Mary’s**

*All are welcome at God’s table*

**We worship** together on Sunday mornings with a Rite One service at 8:00 am and a Rite Two Choral Eucharist at 10:00 am. Lay involvement includes lectors, chalice bearers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, Altar Guild, and choir.

Occasionally we have ventured into different worship formats, such as children’s services, an ecumenical Palm Sunday procession, Friday evening Taizé services, and a staged Tenebrae during Holy Week.

We value the traditional Sunday services. At the same time, we welcome the opportunity to experiment with creative liturgy, such as incorporating into the worship dramatic readings and poetry, linking liturgical variations to current world events, exploring alternatives to the Book of Common Prayer, and creating deep liturgy that connects with tradition while generating creative energy to open us up. We hope to find forms of liturgy and music that will attract more young people and give greater scope to children. We also love finding ways to allow greater lay participation in worship.

*I’ve enjoyed being on the Altar Guild for many years. This ministry is a meaningful combination of spiritual nourishment and liturgical lessons. We work as a team in our beautiful church, with such a sense of being close to God, as we help to prepare a place for everyone who comes to God’s table there.*

- Melinda
We see and feel the presence of God in each other, in the bread and the wine, in our music, and while worshipping together in our beautiful old church.

Our values are witnessed by participation in our many ministries.

The younger children are engaged in the story of God’s people both in the Pre-School Room and later through the interactive experience of Godly Play. As they grow, some of them serve as acolytes.

Youth Group members demonstrate their values through acts of service, hosting Halloween and Easter parties for the little ones, and raising funds, which they donate entirely to help local folks in need and those far away through Episcopal Relief and Development.

For musically inclined young people, we have the “Celtoids,” offering an opportunity to learn and play Celtic fiddle music at designated worship services and parish social events. Members of the Celtoids serve food at Celtic concerts at St. Mary’s, with the proceeds going to Christian Social Concerns.

The Irish say it best, “cead mile failte” or “a hundred thousand welcomes.” That’s us!

Celtic music is just a natural fit—music is such a joyful and beneficial spiritual pursuit, especially when learned in a supportive inter-generational group in the form of a traditional “session.” We call ourselves “The Celtoids” and we even made a CD!

Through our community Celtic concert series, we open our doors wide as an absolute demonstration of what the sign on the corner says: “The Episcopal Church welcomes you.”

- Jackie
For adults the opportunities are numerous, starting with service in worship as lectors, ushers, chalice bearers, and choir members. Engagement with the broader community is integral to our parish identity.

Opportunities to serve include:

Christian Social Concerns, which offers food, clothing, and other respectful and loving assistance to those in need;

I-HELP, in which, along with other local churches, we take a regular turn in providing dinner and a safe overnight for homeless men, and recently, a similar program for homeless women;

Walking Together, a St. Mary’s Ministry that joins with Communities Organized for relational Power in Action (COPA), a regional organization of churches and other groups committed to working together for the common good of the Monterey Bay Region;

Support of programs beyond the diocese, such as Our Little Roses Home for Girls in Honduras, and El Camino Real’s partner dioceses of Gloucester and Western Tanganyika.

“It is a privilege to be part of Christian Social Concerns, which is a program that for more than 50 years has provided food, clothing, and other help to people down on their luck. It gives us and the many volunteers who staff it the sense that we are actually following the commands of Jesus to his disciples in Matthew 25.”

- Grant and Norma
**Fellowship** is enjoyed after church at Coffee Hour; as well as at our annual Parish Camping trip in Big Sur; Fall Barbeque potluck; Easter, Halloween, and Christmas parties; and at Stone Soup, our monthly Bible Study and potluck. Newcomers often remark on the friendliness of St. Mary’s parishioners that brings them back again and again. They, too, see and feel the presence of God.

**Other activities** include the Altar Guild, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Order of St. Luke, the Wedding Guild, the Memorial Reception Guild, and the newly-formed Leslie Garden Standing Committee.

These are just some of the ministries, activities, and opportunities to serve at St. Mary’s.  
[Click Here for more information](#)
WHO WE’RE LOOKING FOR

After much conversation, thought, and prayer, we know who we are looking for:

A loving, inclusive, spiritually nurturing, and collaborative leader
who is full of the creative energy of the Holy Spirit.

We Seek a Priest Who:

- Is warm, approachable, kind, and down to earth —someone with a good sense of humor and the ability to empathize and to listen patiently and non-judgmentally.
- Preaches inspiring, relevant, and thought-provoking sermons.
- Plans and leads worship that is sensitive to the needs of the congregation and that provides a spiritual experience that restores and deepens each person’s relationship with God and each other.
- Supports the spiritual development of people of all ages.
- Preserves tradition while embracing positive change.

We Seek a Leader Who:

- Listens, guides, and inspires, leading by example.
- Involves laity in planning and leading programs and events, providing supportive leadership to parish ministries.
- Makes it a priority to get to know each person who comes to St. Mary’s.
- Connects with young people.
- Is knowledgeable and comfortable with administering the “business of the parish,” while being able to delegate effectively.
- Has good time management and conflict management skills.
- Is able to lead, support, and value paid staff and volunteers.

St. Mary’s has many well-loved traditions. Going forward, we hope to see a church that embraces positive change while nurturing what we have. We hope our new rector will lead us, teach us, and like a pebble dropped into the center of a pool, inspire us with new ideas that ripple out, engaging all generations, and enlarging the pool. Our new rector will help us to develop our faith and put it into action so that we may strengthen or revise our current ministries and discover our gifts. Our new rector will support lay leadership; and with us, create a life together that is inspirational and uplifting. Our new rector will work with us to find the right balance between outward support of the community and inward development of our parishioners.
Our Hopes for the Future

Looking to the future, we hope to continue to live up to our unofficial motto, “The Little Red Church that Cares” through our ministries. We are especially dedicated to our Christian Social Concerns (CSC) ministry, now in its 52nd year. Through it we provide food, clothing, and financial assistance three days a week to all who come seeking help. In order to continue CSC, Godly Play, and our other ministries, we hope to find new ways to increase our membership, as these ministries rely on many volunteer hours. Recruiting new volunteers as we support and encourage those already serving is a challenge we hope to meet.

Our biggest parish fundraiser, the Annual Antiques and Collectibles Show, was put on every year from 1957 to 2017. It was a wonderful three-day opportunity for many parishioners to work together to put on an event for the public. Due to various issues (including the enormous amount of work required by volunteers to stage it starting 8 months ahead), we made the decision in the fall of 2017 to stop putting on this event. However, that feeling of mutual support, working together, and fun is something we would like to experience again with smaller fundraisers, possibly more than once a year. After a year off, we are starting to work together to find alternative fundraiser projects.

Christian Education for adults and children is an aspect of St. Mary’s that we would like to see strengthened. One area that has had recent success and growth is the Pre-School Sunday School. By hiring a dedicated Pre-School teacher who comes every Sunday, we have attracted new young families.

A big task ahead is to provide a Sunday program for older children. We have Godly Play in place for the K-2nd graders, but the older elementary children need something different.

The Youth Group would like our new rector to have a particular interest in young people, supporting their St. Mary’s experience directly through teaching or fellowship events.

A robust Adult Education Program is needed, perhaps including Bible Study, Adult Christian Education, and small-group discussion of theological writings.

"The people of St. Mary's are warm, caring, and generous, making this a wonderful place to work and attend church."

- Coral, Office Administrator
**A Brief History**

St. Mary’s was founded by a small group of Episcopal women on Annunciation Day in 1886. It was the first church building constructed in Pacific Grove. The architect modeled St. Mary’s after a church in Bath, England. On July 10, 1887, The Rt. Reverend Bishop Kip, the first Episcopal Bishop of California, presided at the dedication of St. Mary’s.

In 1890, the congregation built a rectory and a parish hall on the grounds. For decades St. Mary’s parish hall served Pacific Grove as the largest meeting hall in town, and it hosted dramas, concerts, and meetings.

Over the next 20 years, the congregation outgrew the little church and in 1911, the church building was greatly enlarged by splitting it in half and adding two bays as well as the front porch. But the parish kept growing, and in 1965 St. Mary’s replaced the old rectory with a two-story Christian education building, now known as Clay Hall.

Over the years, memorial stained glass windows in a variety of styles were given to the church, replacing many of the original brown windows. In 1922, farm machinery tycoon Cyrus McCormick, who had married his wife, Harriet, at St. Mary’s, donated a pair of stained glass flower windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany as a memorial to Harriet. In 1996, the parish installed a 20-rank Schantz pipe organ. In 1991, the parish hall was dedicated as Edwards Hall in honor of The Rev. Dr. Dwight W. Edwards, our rector from 1973 to 1998.

The most recent addition to St. Mary’s is the Leslie Garden, which includes a columbarium. It was completed and consecrated in 2016, named in honor of retiring rector, The Rev. Richard B. Leslie.

For more details and a complete history [Click Here].

**St. Mary’s Staff**

In addition to our Rector, the paid staff currently is made up of several part-time employees and contractors:

- Office Administrator
- Parish Accountant (Bookkeeper)
- Choir director
- Organist
- Toddler Room Teacher/Coordinator
Buildings and Grounds

Today, St. Mary’s occupies a full block in the City of Pacific Grove. In addition to the Church building, there are two other buildings on site: Edwards Hall, with full kitchen, a stage, and one small meeting room upstairs, and additional meeting space and storage downstairs; Clay Hall, a two-story building housing the parish offices, a library, Christian Social Concerns office, classrooms, and meeting rooms. The newly consecrated Leslie Garden and columbarium grace the grounds next to Edwards Hall.

Financial Summary

St. Mary’s is financially healthy and debt free. Income and expenses are relatively stable. Pledges provide the main source of income, supplemented by plate and non-pledge donations and fundraising activities. In 2018, we asked the parish to contribute one-year “bridge” funds to bridge the gap in our budget left when the Antiques Show was ended.

Summary of Operating Fund Income & Expenses

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<td>$6000</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$322,783</strong></td>
<td><strong>$359,020</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$394,340</strong></td>
<td><strong>$392,366</strong></td>
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| **OP EXPENSE**         |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Ordained staff         | $96,839     | $111,933    | $115,160    | $121,964    | $149,486    | $157,281    | $151,405    |
| Lay staff              | $49,058     | $63,541     | $63,420     | $61,539     | $63,986     | $48,757     | $55,063     |
| Sub-contract           | $37,235     | $31,037     | $32,750     | $36,124     | $33,750     | $38,225     | $38,150     |
| Office exp             | $15,645     | $17,816     | $18,500     | $16,236     | $14,450     | $16,110     | $12,700     |
| Diocesan apportionment | $46,599     | $47,460     | $47,200     | $47,701     | $58,368     | $55,290     | $58,524     |
| Utili/maint            | $40,320     | $39,729     | $41,700     | $47,979     | $45,999     | $43,960     | $45,340     |
| Other ex               | $26,773     | $26,612     | $40,250     | $35,697     | $29,351     | $25,740     | $34,138.00  |
| **TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE** | **$317,469** | **$338,128** | **$359,020** | **$367,240** | **$394,840** | **$385,052** | **$395,620** |
| **OP NET**             | $18,875     | $(15,345)   | -           | $(8,072)    | -           | $7,314      |             |
Over the years the Vestry has established several funds that are invested and maintained in conformity with a written investment policy. Among those funds are a Buildings and Grounds Endowment Fund, the “Rodgers Trust” (supporting Christian Social Concerns), and a small Clergy Housing Fund.

Summary Balance Sheet

Summary Balance Sheet - December 31, 2018

Assets

- Checking and Savings $172,449.16
- Buildings and Grounds Restricted $148,032.67
- Rogers Trust Outreach Restricted $114,659.62
- Other Restricted $71,350.79
- Pledges Receivable $6,561.50
- Clergy Housing $60,091.82
- Other $14,336.25
- Property and Equipment $3,306,100.00

Total Assets $3,893,581.81

Liabilities and Equity

- Current Liabilities $160,726.08
- Equity $3,732,855.73

Total Liabilities and Equity $3,893,581.81
Pacific Grove

Pacific Grove is located at the northwest tip of the Monterey Peninsula, in Monterey County, along California’s Central Coast. It is 115 miles south of San Francisco and about 75 miles south of San Jose and the Silicon Valley.

The community originated in 1875 as a Methodist Christian Seaside Resort for summertime camping, with canvas tents that could be stored away in the winter erected over wooden platforms.

The city was incorporated in 1889, three years after St. Mary’s was founded. It now borders Monterey, Pebble Beach and the Pacific Ocean. Known as PG, its population is in the low 15,000’s and stable. PG’s excellent public school district supports two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. There is also a Waldorf-inspired Charter elementary school within the city limits. Pacific Grove has a commercial center and traditions that exemplify its motto of “The Last Hometown.”

Pacific Grove has its own public library, a natural history museum, about 300 acres of city and state parks, beaches, and open space, and an 18-hole municipal golf course that plays along the Pacific Ocean.

The median price of an owner-occupied home in Pacific Grove is about $757,000. About 44% of Pacific Grove residents have bachelor’s degrees or higher, 30% are 55 years of age or older, 14% are under 15, 85% are white, and 11% are Latino.

Climate

We enjoy a Mediterranean climate, which means—in normal years—some sun and rain in fall, winter, and spring, and a foggy summer. The cities of the Monterey Peninsula are cooled by the temperate marine climate that creates a daytime high year-round average of about 64 degrees and a low of around 50. It’s a good place to own a sweater. Air quality is good-to-excellent most days.
Surrounding Area and Communities

The Monterey Peninsula is made up of the cities of Pacific Grove, Monterey, Carmel, and the community of Pebble Beach. Monterey Bay boasts a deep marine canyon that is part of one of our nation’s largest Marine Sanctuaries. The economy of this area depends on tourism, education, retail sales, and governmental services.

Monterey County has the longest coastline of any county in the state. Whale-watching cruises depart daily from Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey. The Monterey Bay Aquarium is located at the border of Monterey and Pacific Grove. There are many golf courses in the area, and the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail winds for miles along the shore.

To the south of Pacific Grove is Carmel-by-the-Sea, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, and is home of the Carmel Bach Festival. The County Fairgrounds hosts the famed Monterey Jazz Festival in September of each year. The Monterey Symphony Orchestra offers performances throughout the county. The area features many other opportunities to participate in and enjoy the arts.

There are many fine educational institutions here, including the Naval Postgraduate School, the Defense Language Institute, California State University Monterey Bay, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, and Monterey College of Law.

Monterey County also encompasses the Salinas Valley which, due to its rich topsoil, is the third-largest agricultural area in California. The City of Salinas is home to the recently-renovated Sargent House, a beautiful Victorian which houses the offices of our Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real.

For more on Pacific Grove and the Monterey Area, click here.
Thank You for considering and exploring St. Mary’s by-the-Sea parish in Pacific Grove.

As we gather each Sunday in front of the Annunciation window where Gabriel greets Mary seated by Monterey Bay,

We Pray that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will be called to care for us and equip us for our ministries;

We Hope that you feel invited in to seek more information; perhaps to come meet us face-to-face, share a meal, and worship together;

We Trust that, just as Mary joyfully accepted the call announced by Gabriel, so too will we and the one who is to be our new rector hear and accept the Holy Spirit’s call when it comes.

"We at St. Mary's are a close family, supporting one another as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Since taking solemn vows in 2002 as a tertiary with the Order of St. Luke, I have been blessed to witness healings of all kinds. Feeling strong gratitude, my closeness with Jesus our Savior has deepened."

- Annette
We see ourselves as a spiritually engaged and welcoming intergenerational community devoted to living out the two great commandments:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”