

# Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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The Very Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca  
Rector



**Tell Out  
My Soul**

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."  
Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

November 5, 2025

Brothers and Sisters in Christ and Fellow Parishioners of St. Mary's,

Life is pretty difficult these days. We're bombarded with a firehose of news through a multitude of media formats. The economy isn't great. Investments may be performing well but every day expenses keep rising. Perhaps we're concerned about the health and wellbeing of loved ones or even ourselves. Forces seem to want to divide us. Things are changing in unsettling ways. Of course, when we think about it, when in general was life ever easy?

Thankfully we have a place of refuge, of safety, of assurance, of refreshment. It's a place of safe harbor where we can anchor in the tempestuous storms of life. It's a place where we can gather to become renewed and ready to go back into the world.

If you haven't guessed what we're talking about yet, it's God and His community at St. Mary's.

Like the place in the television series *Cheers*, at St. Mary's, God and the people know your name and are always glad that you are here. Here we enjoy the presence of God, of Christ, through Scripture, the Eucharist, and one another.

This place, though, costs money to function. Several years ago, we made a leap of faith in having a full-time rector. It makes a difference, and we are blessed to have Mo. Allison with us. We have trimmed expenses as reasonably as possible. But we still rely on a small number of parishioners for the largest contributions as well as the legacy investments from the many saints of this parish who foresaw future need. Things are not dire, but they are concerning.

Another disturbing reality is that trends are against us: decreasing numbers in the Church at large, fewer year-round residents on the island, more second homes, fewer children, and as you are aware increasing financial demands on the parish and our own budgets.

As important and necessary as the money is, stewardship is about much more. It's about wise, efficient custodianship. It's about compassionate, faithful care for one another – those within our parish family and those outside in our community, including strangers and those across the globe. It's about evangelizing and spreading the Good News to others. Like the parables of the pearl, the found coin, the reconciled son, or recovered sheep, we want to share our good news about St. Mary's and about God's redeeming love through Jesus Christ with others.

This year's stewardship theme is "Tell Out My Soul." We are called to commitment to our faith, God, and one another. With unsurpassed joy, let us shout about the good and great thing we have found, a place of sanctuary, of renewal. Let us tell it out by our financial support in the form of our pledges. If tithing is not possible, make a leap and increase your giving by 10% or more. Even 3% helps St. Mary's keep up with inflation. Consider a commitment in your will or insurance policies as a Morning Star legacy. Let us show it through our response to Jesus' call to love one another and mission in the world. Perhaps this is the year to get involved with a ministry or outreach project. Let us tell it out loudly, boldly, proudly, without reservation or fear.

We hope you will respond prayerfully, generously, and with joy and thanksgiving. "Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice!"

Yours in Christ with faith,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Larry Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Larry" and last name "Schmidt" clearly legible.

Larry Schmidt  
St. Mary's Stewardship Chair