



The Messenger

7070 Immokalee Road

Naples, FL 34119

stmonicasnaples.org

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2018/2019

Advent and Christmas Schedule at St. Monica's

December 1/2 - The First Sunday of Advent

December 6 - Special Advent Holy Eucharist - A Service of Hope and Healing - at 6:00 pm

December 8/9 - The Second Sunday of Advent

December 15/16 - The Third Sunday of Advent

December 16 - Advent Concert: Lessons and Carols - at 4:00 pm

December 22/23 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 - The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

4:30 pm Family-friendly service with "Pop Up" pageant (all children participate),

6:30 pm Festive Holy Eucharist with carols

9:00 pm Special Christmas music with choir, soloists, and instrumentalists

9:30 pm Festive Holy Eucharist with carols, candles, and adult choir

December 25 - The Nativity of our Lord – 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

December 29/30 - Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus - regular service times

January 5/6 - The First Sunday after Epiphany - the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord



From The Rector...

Direction, Purpose, and Vision

Flying has been a part of my life since my early teens. Sometimes I just take a leisurely flight around our beautiful Southwest Florida area, to merely look out over the landscape, take it all in, and enjoy the peace of God in that place. Sometimes my flights have a specific purpose beyond mere sightseeing. Sometimes I have to go from point "A" to point "B" in a purposeful, directed, and unencumbered way. Regardless of purpose, no pilot just decides one morning to go to the airport and fly to Miami. All journeys require meticulous preparation, reviewing weather, fuel requirements, airport details, aircraft condition, pilot health, and so much more. Like the pilot on a journey to a destination, all organizations must have a direction and vision, in order to fulfill their mission and purpose.

The late President John F. Kennedy once said, "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." Some theologians have described the life as a disciple of Jesus Christ as being on a "spiritual journey." Some traditions see this journey as merely a "personal stroll with Jesus," but discipleship in our tradition recognizes that as disciples of Jesus, we are on a journey in community. The Body of Christ (Christ's church) is a community of individuals gathered together as one, being formed as one, and being sent out in mission as one.

The church's purpose and mission is to partner with God's mission of reconciling the world to Godself. Now you may ask, "what does that mean?" 20th Century theologian, pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others." St. Monica's mission statement is:

Engaging, equipping, and empowering one another to live out our baptismal promises.

We accomplish our mission as a parish community, when (as scripture asserts) we are devoted "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42) When we gather together to hear God's word preached and taught, when we gather together for fellowship and mutual support, and when we gather together for Holy Eucharist and prayer we are living in community together, but the journey does not end there. When we gather, we are being prepared, formed, empowered, and equipped to go out into the world (and in our daily lives) serving as emissaries, ambassadors, and witnesses of Christ's reconciling love for the world. We are a community on a mission from God, and our journey and mission together has just begun.

It is hard to imagine, but we are only in our ninth month of mutual ministry together, and Terri and I are blessed to be on this journey with St. Monica's. Over the past several months I have been listening to your stories, your hopes, your dreams, and your ideas. I have observed, listened, and learned about God's people at St. Monica's Episcopal Church, and I have come to know that we are a community of diversity, acceptance, welcome, and commitment. We are a church with great potential and unequalled dedication. St. Monica's is an incredible Episcopal faith community, with a great history, and wonderful future.

Two months ago, I wanted to with intentionality research the parish's history and dreams and so, I began reviewing the Parish Profile and Parish Survey documents that were used during the rector search in 2017. It was so interesting to once again explore this community's dreams for the future. From that wonderful body of work you all completed, I began formulating a "vision and purpose document," and I organized it using the current SWEEPPS organizational structure we have in place.

This vision document is in no way set in stone, nor does it serve as a substitute for the kind of comprehensive and "parishioner inclusive" strategic planning that we need to accomplish in the next year or so. This document, like any good flight plan, serves as a possible road map that hopefully, includes where we have been, where we are now, and will point us to where God might be calling us moving forward. I shared this vision document with the vestry at our November vestry meeting, and I asked for their feedback and input on its ongoing development. I welcome yours as well. Please let me know what you think!

As 2018 comes to a close, and as we move into 2019, I know God will guide and direct us in our mission. I ask for your ongoing prayers for St. Monica's Episcopal Church, and for her mission to "**Engage, equip, and empower one another to live out our baptismal promises.**" Terri and I pray you all have a blessed, anticipative Advent Season, leading up to the joy, peace, and love of the Christmastide, and culminating in the hope and expectation for the New Year that God has in store for us.

Peace, love, and blessings, Fr. Eric+



DRAFT VISION DOCUMENT

Service

Following Jesus' call "to love our neighbors as ourselves," we will actively (with hands and hearts) serve in new local mission initiatives, joining with local partners to bring God's Kingdom to bear on the poverty, suffering, emptiness, and loneliness of our neighbors.

Worship

Gathering to give thanks to God for God's abundant grace, we will encourage St. Monica's people to take their active and appropriate roles in worship. We will explore expanding worship opportunities that will serve to call our neighbors, (who in our changing culture may be disconnected from a faith community) to worship God alongside the people of St. Monica's.

Evangelism

Responding to the Great Commission, we will create evangelism initiatives and processes that will attract and welcome new members. We will strive to help new people become members of the parish through which, we will embrace the diversity and gifts of our neighbors, and grow our capacity for further mission in the local community.

Education

Growing in a deeper love of Jesus Christ, we will provide intentional, transformational, and life giving opportunities for Christian formation for all ages through which, all of us will develop as disciples.

Pastoral Care

Following Jesus command to "love one another," we will grow the ministries, and expand the reach of our pastoral care teams: Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Healing Team, Stephen Ministers, Pastoral Care Team, and Prayer Chain Team to ensure all are cared for with the love of Christ carried within each of us.

Parish Life

Gathering, so we might grow together as the family of God, we will come to love one another more deeply, know one another better, and transform as the Body of Christ. We will play together, eat together, and share our lives together.

Stewardship

Becoming a nimble, flexible, and responsible community of "Followers of Jesus Christ," we will develop financial strategies, budgets, expense controls, decision-making processes, and accountabilities to insure the longevity of our parish mission. We will ensure that we responsibly care for the resources, to which we have been entrusted, so we might partner with God, in God's mission of love for decades to come.

HOW WE WILL MINISTER TOWARD THIS VISION?

Service

Begin a process of actively listening in our community, to discover the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our neighbors, so we might be Christ's hands and feet to our neighbors. Discern what the gifts of St. Monica's Episcopal Church, exploring how we might meet the discovered needs of our neighbors. Develop partnerships with local neighboring service entities, and build parish service teams, in order to bring our gifts to bear on the community's needs. Invite, train, and engage our parishioners to seek out where God is calling them to serve with both hands and heart.

Worship

Invite new people in our community to accept positions of leadership and service on our worship support teams. Explore the possibilities of new times/venues/services for worship, all within the tradition of the Episcopal Church.

Evangelism

Concentrate on radically welcoming, embracing, and engaging in ministry with all people. We will renew our efforts to radically welcome ethnically diverse families in our area. Increase the frequency, quality, and effectiveness of our communications through social media, our website, and mobile applications to meet others where they are every day. Institute systems and technology to make possible live streaming and archived videos of our worship services. Create a culture of evangelism among all our members. We will offer workshops on evangelism, and teach all how to witness to the Good News of God in Christ in our everyday lives.

Education

Develop and expand our Children's Sunday school, the Adult formation classes, the Rector's Bible study, and provide other Bible study opportunities, to be led by lay people. Offer day long, on campus retreats through which, we might carve out time for intentional prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth. Form spiritual learning groups and formation groups such as: Daughters of the King, The Brotherhood of St. Andrew, along with informal formation groups. Offer Spiritual Leadership Development Classes that will prepare our parishioners to serve in positions of parish leadership.

Pastoral Care

Invite and train our people to provide pastoral care through the many ministries we now offer. Discern and develop additional ministries, needed to provide pastoral support to our members. Seek out and support qualified people from our parish, who may be discerning a call to the diaconate.

Parish Life

Create and support monthly “fun/fellowship” events whereby, we will play, eat, and get to know one another better. Individually support various post-worship Coffee Hour events, by inviting all parishioners to serve as Hosts. Create parish and community “fellowship/fun events” that are theme-based (seasonal, sporting event, the beauty of our surroundings, and holidays). Create “fun/fellowship” events to which, we might invite our non-church friends to enjoy alongside us, and to get to know us better.

Stewardship

Commit to supporting the mission of God through St. Monica’s, by individually working toward a commitment of the scriptural tithe. Create and adhere to a balanced operating budget. Develop a Capital Improvement/Maintenance priority schedule, and work toward insuring the long-term health and vitality of our buildings and grounds. Strengthen our Endowment and provide for the long-term support of God’s mission through St. Monica’s. We will encourage our members to contribute to the endowment, and to include St. Monica’s in their estate plans. Pay off our mortgage on an accelerated schedule, by instituting a year-long campaign, inviting our members to “free up resources for mission.” Develop a Five Year Strategic Plan that will include feedback, input, and discernment of our parishioners and parish leaders.

METRICS – MEASURING HOW WE ARE DOING.

Service

We will have at least five Local Mission (Outreach) teams directly and actively serving (or partnering with) area agencies in our local neighborhood. We will have (on a weekly basis) at least 33% of our parishioners actively serving in some type of Local Mission (Outreach) ministry through St. Monica’s.

Evangelism

We will grow in numbers! We will increase our membership by 10% each year. We will move New Visitors to canonical membership, within two months of their first visit. We will move new parishioners to active membership within three months of their first visit. We will develop a social media team that will update weekly our website, Facebook Page, and increase our visibility in the neighborhood through targeted ads and new post placement on other social media sites. We will be live streaming our worship services by Easter 2019.

Education

We will grow the number of formation offerings for adults, and expand the number of facilitators. We will strive to re-institute an active EfM group at St. Monica’s. We will expand and grow our Children’s Sunday school program by adding additional teachers, and focusing on recruiting students/parents. We will create a Youth program for Middle and High School Youth.

Pastoral Care

We will continue to support our current pastoral care teams through prayer, by providing training, and by recruiting new members. (LEV’s, Healing Team, Prayer Chain, Stephen Ministers, etc.) We will coordinate with at least two local care facilities to open up opportunities for our Lay Eucharistic Visitors to take communion to not only our members, but others outside the St. Monica’s community. We will insure all members who are suffering from illness, isolation, and troubles are cared for with the love of Christ in us.

Parish Life

We will develop a Parish Life Special Events team that will host at least one a monthly fun/fellowship activity for all members of St. Monica’s and their guests. We will assign two Coffee Hour Host Team Leaders who will recruit and train Coffee Hour hosts for each Sunday 9:30 am service. We will develop a Kitchen Guild Team that will: work with the Junior Warden to conduct monthly cleaning, maintenance, and organization of the Kitchen. We will create at least two seasonal events/fundraisers that will bring all of St. Monica’s together for fun and fellowship.

Stewardship

Annually, we will pass and adhere to a balanced budget that provides for the operations, mission, and ministry of the parish. Within five years, we will have sufficient Capital Reserve on hand to deal with most unforeseen emergencies: (Goal: \$50,000). Within five years, we will double the size of the Endowment. Within twelve months of establishing a Debt Reduction Campaign, we will pay off the existing balance on the mortgage. We will establish a committee of the vestry to begin the process of Strategic Planning, to develop a five-year mission and ministry plan for St. Monica’s Episcopal Church

Liturgically Speaking...

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY ARE TIMES TO PRACTICE EXPECTANT LIVING

Advent means "coming" - it is the season when we prepare for the Coming of Christ. This season includes 4 Sundays, beginning this year on December 2nd. Liturgically we mark the season with blue vestments and hangings - blue, the color of expectation, a royal color. We will light the candles on our Advent wreath to mark the weeks, one new candle each week - then we will light the large white Christ candle on Christmas Eve.

Advent is a short season, a season that if observed faithfully, will prepare you for the celebration of Christmas. You are encouraged to make it a point to come to church each weekend, and to participate in Sunday School and Adult Forum.



Christmas is a 12 day-long season, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We begin our season on Christmas Eve, December 24th. There will be 3 services, 4:30 PM (family-friendly, Eucharist with carols, candles, and "Pop Up" pageant – all children participate), 6:30 and 9:30 PM (Holy Eucharist with choirs, carols and candles). At 9:00 PM we'll enjoy our choirs, soloists and congregational singing and playing special Christmas music. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate at 10:00 AM. The liturgical color is white

Jan. 1st and 2nd, we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus - the 8th day when we remember Jesus' circumcision and naming. It is one of the principal feast days of our church year.

Christmas season ends on January 5th - the Twelfth Night - the day before Epiphany (January 6th).



Epiphany means "to make manifest" or "to show forth." It is the season when we begin to learn who this Jesus who was born in Bethlehem really is. The first manifestation was to the sages from the East who traveled to Bethlehem with gifts for this child that they had learned about by studying the heavens.

The first Sunday after Epiphany is the day we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. It is one of the Sundays appropriate for baptisms and thus, we will renew our Baptismal Promises in place of the Nicene Creed. The color for Epiphany season is green



ENTERING the CHURCH

As we enter into the church, many of us dip our hands into the blessed water of the baptismal font, and some of us make the sign of the cross, or bow to the altar, or simply pause and reflect. Our entrance into this holy space reminds us of the fact that it is through the waters of baptism that we enter into the sacred community the Church; The Body of Christ.



From The Junior Warden...

At this time of the year when Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas being around the corner, it is appropriate to reflect on what we are thankful for in our daily lives. As I look at 2018 many thankful moments come to mind. I am thankful for my God who has blessed me in many ways over the years. He has blessed me with a wonderful family and friends especially my friends at St. Monica's parish. As my family has supported me over the years, so do my friends at St. Monica's who have supported my commission as your Junior Warden. During my 3 years as the Junior Warden we have undertaken certain projects which you have supported both physically and financially for the benefit of the church. I hope and pray that everyone is pleased with the results.

If you have not noticed, the kitchen is finally operational. The final hookup to the natural gas line occurred in September. Jill Ducatman and her kitchen crew have been busy with the new appliances creating meals for functions such as the women's dinners as well as the Stewardship dinner campaign. Food was created and leftovers stored in our new refrigerator and freezers. This left over food was then distributed to Café of Life. We are looking forward to 2019 and utilizing the kitchen more often for many church functions. Thank you to all for making this possible.

And have you seen the gardens. They overflow with beauty thanks to the diligent work of Jill Ducatman's husband Steve Ducatman (also known as the Jewish gardener). Steve has nurtured the gardens while I was away this summer with fertilizer and other nutrients. Please stop by the gardens which are now in full bloom and give Steve a thank you when you see him.

As 2019 approaches, I am looking for volunteers to join the building and grounds team. If you have time to volunteer this season please let me know. I would like to have a group of people to call upon for various projects around the campus.

Blue cups are also available in the parish hall for you to dispose of any unneeded change, dollars or checks. All money's collected through the Blue Cup program will be designated for campus improvements outside the church budget.

We all have a lot to be thankful for at St. Monica's as we continue to support our parish life and the ministries that we have created for the betterment of our community around us.

Very Thankfully

Tom Cote'
Junior Warden



Endowment News...

ST. MONICA'S ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE AS OF JULY 31,2018

Your Endowment Committee thanks all new and repeat members of the Endowment Birthday Club who have donated in 2018 as of October 31.

Ralph Miano	Margaret Miano	Islay Hedger	Sydney Richards
Jeri Borchers	Charles Kalwinsky	Frank Dowd	Sean King
Cooper Dearborn	Lisa Dearborn	Joan Blessing	Cindy Gault
Doug Ball	Sue Lemons	Fred Swendeman	Tom Cote
Betsy Smith	JoAnn Sarconi	Gordon Macdonald	Sandra Kilmon
Diane Traicoff	Kathy Schillreff	Linda Freund	Sara Meekins
Scott McCurdy	Leon Burrows	Robert Des Jardin	Janet Ross
Debbie Chairs	Steve Borchers	Sue Baker	Colleen Rossomando
Stacey McCurdy	Steve Corey	Beau Crevier	Patrick Dearborn
Bill Chairs	Ruth Kalwinsky	Bill Richards	Al Ciano
Susan Shrewsbury	Ann Hoffman	Barbara Reiss	Ned Meekins
Linda Smith	Wayne Barnes	Jack Baumgartner III	John Hedger

Your contributions to the Birthday Club have helped to increase St. Monica's Endowment Fund to \$62,214 as of October 31, 2018. We hope everyone will consider becoming part of this most generous group. If you have contributed to the Birthday Club during this year and your name was not listed please let the Committee know so we can make sure you are recognized for your gift. You can email me at s.borchers.com.

Friends of St. Monica's Endowment Fund

The following individuals have contributed to the Fund in 2018 outside of the Birthday Club.

Jack Baumgartner III

Islay and John Hedger

St. Monica's Legacy Society Members (those who have included St. Monica's in their estate plans or donated \$5,000 or more to the Endowment Fund)

Margaret & Ralph Miano	Hal & Kathy Schillreff	Susan & Tom Gibson
Barbara Metcalfe	Jeri & Steve Borchers	Marjorie Keenoy
Jill & Steve Ducatman	Helen M. Strong	Bill & Betsy Smith
William A. & Ann James Frazier	Tammi Raye Pittaro	Dr. Ron Doiron
Fred & Lynn Swendeman	Betty Gamel	Bob & Carol Boyden

Please consider a Legacy Planned Gift to our Endowment Fund in 2018. Leaving a planned gift to St. Monica's will help assure that our mission continues and reminds the next generation of our enduring faith. For more information on Planned Giving please see St. Monica's website under Giving Ministry/Endowment Fund or contact any member of the Endowment Committee listed below.

Steve Borchers - Chairman - s.borchers@aol.com

Bob Des Jardin - djbigtop@comcast.net

Tom Gibson - tohdov3@gmail.com

Bill Richards - bill.richards@fastradios.com

Fred Swendeman - fswend@aol.com

From The Music Director...

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

ADVENT is a time of preparation and new beginnings...so why not give yourself an early gift this year and join our Music Ministry Family! All are invited to participate, including "seasonal members," as a singer in the St. Monica's Choir or as a ringer in the St. Monica's Handbell Choir - no audition necessary! All you need is a willingness to rehearse and participate as we experience an incredible joy serving the liturgy and our parish through our shared music ministry. Below is a schedule for each group and additional information about ways to serve our community of faith. If you have any questions, please be sure to see me after a weekend Service or contact me at the church office. We hope to see you soon!

Dr. Ronald Doiron
Director of Music Ministries



ST. MONICA'S CHOIR

All High School Students and Adults Welcome!

Weekly choir rehearsals on Wednesdays, at 7-9 pm

The Choir sings regularly for the 9:30 am Service on Sundays, sometimes at 5:00 pm on Saturdays

Calendar and music schedules are available when you attend your first rehearsal. Please contact Dr. Doiron in advance at the Church Office or via email (drdoiron@aol.com or rdoiron@stmonicasnaples.org) so that a music folder and robe may be prepared for your use!

ST. MONICA'S HANDBELL CHOIR

All High School Students and Adults Welcome!

Weekly choir rehearsals on Wednesdays,
at 5:40 - 6:40 pm

The Bells ring every 4-6 weeks for either the Saturday or Sunday Service.

Calendar and music schedules are available when you attend your first rehearsal. If you have never played handbells, please contact Dr. Doiron in advance at the church office or via email (drdoiron@aol.com or rdoiron@stmonicasnaples.org) so that we may

welcome you and determine your possible position in the handbell choir - no previous experience necessary!

ATTENTION SEASONAL SINGERS!

If you are a "Seasonal Singer" (that is, someone who is not here year round), you are welcome to join the Choir when you arrive. Please contact Dr. Doiron at the church office or via email (see above) before you arrive so that a music folder and robe may be prepared for your use.

ATTENTION HOLIDAY SINGERS!

With joyful expectation, rehearsals for Epiphany, Lent and Easter will begin on January 2, 2019. All are welcome!

ATTENTION INSTRUMENTALISTS!

Musicians of any age taking lessons are welcome to participate any time with advance planning.

If you play an instrument and would like to share your talents as part of our music ministry, please contact Dr. Doiron at the church office or via email (see above). We can schedule your participation for a weekend liturgy in advance so that you have plenty of time to rehearse your music!



More From The Music Director...

St. Monica's 2018-2019 Friends of Music Program and Concert Series Join St. Monica's Friends of Music this year!

About the St. Monica's Friends of Music. . .

Designed as an outreach to the parish and the greater Naples community, our Friends of Music provide a means of supporting new choral and instrumental music programs presented on St. Monica's Concert Series and for enhancing special Sunday and holiday services with guest soloists and instrumentalists. In addition to memorial donations to the music fund, offerings received at future concerts, and the continued support of St. Monica's parishioners, our Friends of Music program is supported by specific tax-deductible donations throughout the year.

How to join St. Monica's Friends of Music. . .

We always appreciate your support for our special programs through your attendance and any contributions in memory or in honor of loved ones to our Music Fund. However, we hope that you will also consider supporting plans for our 2018-2019 Concert Series by becoming a St. Monica's Friend of Music! Your tax deductible donation for 2018-2019 includes the following benefits:

\$50-\$99- Friend of Music Support

- Preferred seating for all special concert and choir programs
- Although gladly accepted, there is no sense of obligation to make additional contributions when attending special concert programs

\$100-\$199 - Friend of Music Angel

- In addition to the benefits above, with your approval, your name will be listed as a Friend of Music in all concert series programs and you will be recognized publicly in the Messenger at the end of the season.

\$200 or more - Friend of Music Benefactor

In addition to the benefits above, you and a spouse or guest are invited to attend a private champagne reception in April, 2019 (details to be announced)

\$500 or more - Friend of Music Benefactor Underwriter

In addition to the benefits above, you are invited to attend an end of the year Gourmet Wine Dinner prepared and presented by Dr. Ronald Doiron (details to be announced)

If you are ready now to join us as a 2018-2019 Friend of Music, please mail your tax deductible donation to:

St. Monica's Friends of Music
7070 Immokalee Road
Naples, Florida 34119
OR

You may contact the church office and charge your donation to a credit card.

Your questions or suggestions are greatly appreciated - please contact Dr. Doiron at the church office. We

look forward having you join us this year!



More From The Music Director...

2018-2019 Friends of Music Concert Series

In addition to special instrumental accompaniment at our All Saints, Christmas, and Easter Services, our Friends of Music are planning to offer the following special programs this year:

Sunday, December 16, 2018 - 4:00 pm
Advent Concert: A Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

Offered by St. Monica's Choir, Handbell Choir, Soloists, Orchestra and Congregational Participation
A free-will offering received. A Festive Reception follows in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, February 10, 2019 - 4:00 pm
Recital: Languages of Love

Performed by Frances Golden - St. Monica's Soprano Section Leader
Accompanied by Dr. Ronald Doiron. A benefit for St. Monica's Music Ministry
A Festive Reception follows in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, March 3, 2019 - 4:00 pm
Festival Evensong for the Last Sunday in Epiphany

Performed with St. Monica's Choir, Handbell Choir, Soloists, Orchestra and Congregational Participation
A free-will offering received. A Festive Reception follows in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, April 28 - 4:00 pm
Flute Cocktail in Concert!

Join us for a light-hearted concert of music for six flutes accompanied by Dr. Ron Doiron
A special catered reception and dinner honoring our Friends of Music Benefactors follows in the Parish Hall. Additional reception and dinner tickets for all parishioners available for purchase after April 1, 2019.

Sunday, May 19 - 4:00 pm
The Stewart Strings Advanced Performance Ensemble with Dr. Ronald Doiron, Organist
Violin and Viola students from the studio of Joan Stewart (ages 11 to 18)
Performing a Farewell Concert prior to their June European Tour



This and That...

COMPLETING THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The closing months of 2018 have been a busy time for Stewardship at St. Monica's to say the least. With the Rector's approval and hands-on participation, the Stewardship Team has tried a new approach to rolling out a traditional fall campaign. We started planning in earnest in August after forming a Team of five persons and settling on this year's theme of "Transformative Generosity". Then, we invited other parishioners in September help us to hand-write invitations to the entire congregation for each to reflect on their time, talent, and treasure which is devoted to St. Monica's and to attend a Stewardship dinner in the Parish Hall which included a free catered meal, a time for table reflection, a wonderful guest speaker in the person of the Rev. Canon Chris Gray from the diocese, and to be serenaded by a wonderful guest guitarist from Chile. What could have been a better parish church evening with approximately 90 parishioners taking part?!

Pledge cards went out to all parishioners after the dinner party, and the Team is now in the process of receiving those pledge cards for 2019. I thank all of you who have turned in your pledge cards in a timely manner. And all of you will receive a personal "Thank you" from the Stewardship Team.

Further, I wish to thank everyone who has made the 2018 Stewardship Campaign possible: Canon Gray for his wonderful talk on tithing; Fr. Eric for his confidence in us and his guidance on structure and timing; the Stewardship Team for their very hard work, contacts, and commonsense knowledge that they brought to the team; for all of the letter writers who had the most punishing job of all; Jill Ducatman for her invaluable guidance on kitchen and set-up matters; and someone whom we seldom think of thanking when all the work is done, our sexton, Cesar Guzman.

We are fast approaching the new church year, and the Team will present a new Stewardship focus for 2019. Look for it on the Stewardship bulletin board once we catch our breaths!

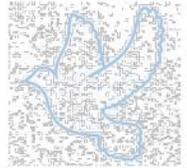
Doug Ball
Chair, Stewardship



WOMEN OF ST. MONICA'S PREPARING FOR AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD!

Prepare yourself for a new year filled with special events, programs and lots of fun and fellowship. We look forward to welcoming our newest members. Please save the date of December 1st for our first annual Christmas Luncheon and watch for forthcoming emails.

Heidi Varsames
Women of St. Monica's
239.776.2173
havarsames@gmail.com



ST. MONICA'S STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people. Stephen Ministers (a team of lay people) are equipped and empowered to provide one-to-one Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, divorce, financial stress, a terminal illness, or any other life difficulty.

The goal of Stephen Ministry is not to fix people or their problems. The goal is to just listen and to care for people as they discuss their life altering situation. Stephen Ministers walk with them reflecting Christ through empathy and understanding. The fixing is up to God.

Stephen Ministers are available at St. Monica's to help if you are going thru a difficult time. Many of our Care Receivers have said that the compassion and listening they got from our Care Givers was the best gift ever! Please contact Fr. Eric if you would like to have a Stephen Minister.

We are also looking for those who may be called to be a Stephen Minister.

Several Stephen Ministers have commented on the training they received and how that has guided them with their Care Receivers.

"My training experience occurred at a critical time in my life and became life altering for me. The training certainly helped me to become a Stephen Minister but it provided me with skills that I can use anywhere." The next training class will begin in January, 2019 and go thru April, 2019. Please contact Fr. Eric or Beth Moss if you would like to talk more about this opportunity.

Beth Moss

CLOTHES MENTOR

Phil Baker

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239-431-7083

cmofnaples@gmail.com • www.clothesmentor.com

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THE VESTRY

Rector: The Rev. Eric Cooter (239) 272-6131
fr-eric@stmonicasnaples.org

Senior Warden: Matt Devlin (239) 450-6229
mdevlin@stmonicasnaples.org

Junior Warden: Tom Coté (603) 261-6764
tcote@stmonicasnaples.org

Treasurer: Janet Ross (239) 777-3385
jross@stmonicasnaples.org

Secretary: Doug Ball
dball@stmonicasnaples.org

Bill Chairs
wchairs@stmonicasnaples.org

Carol Hedman
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Michael Kennedy
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Sarah Meador
smeador@stmonicasnaples.org

Betsy Smith
esmith@stmonicasnaples.org

Stuart Wisnom
swisnom@stmonicasnaples.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend Services

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:45, 9:30 a.m.

Christian Formation

Sunday: at 9:30 a.m. for children and youth
at 10:45 a.m. for adult

Weekday Services

Wednesday:

11:00 a.m. Contemplative Prayer

12:00 noon Contemplative Holy

Eucharist with Healing Prayers

Friday:

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

www.stmonicasnaples.org

THE MISSION OF ST. MONICA'S: TO ENGAGE, EQUIP, AND EMPOWER ONE ANOTHER TO LIVE THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

THE PARISH STAFF

Parish Administrator: Linda Flores
(239) 591-4550 info@stmonicasnaples.org

Music Director: Dr. Ronald Doiron
(239) 591-4550 rdoiron@stmonicasnaples.org

Bookkeeper: Stacy Hersha
finance@stmonicasnaples.org

Parish Nurses: Betty Gamel, Beth Moss

Wednesday Email: Pat Kearns
communications@stmonicasnaples.org

PASTORAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES

In the case of any pastoral need or emergency,
please call Father Eric Cooter at (239)-272-6131

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Office is Closed
for Lunch

2018 Advent and Christmas Schedule

Special Advent Holy Eucharist Rite II

Thursday, December 6, 6:00 pm

A Service of Hope and Healing

A Traditional Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

Offered by St. Monica's Choir, Handbell Choir, Soloists, Orchestra and Congregational Participation

A free-will offering received.

A Festive Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, December 16, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24

4:30 pm: Family Service - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

6:30 pm: Early Service - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:00 pm: Carols with Choral and Orchestral Accompaniment

9:30 pm: Evening Service - Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day Service

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II



Christmas Flowers & Greens

Donations are being accepted for the greenery and poinsettias that will decorate and beautify St. Monica's for our Christmas celebrations. Please complete this form and mail it to the office, or put it in the offering plate at any service. All contributions received by Sunday, December 16, will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Please PRINT CLEARLY so names are correct in the bulletin.

Your Name: _____

Contribution in Memory of: _____

-OR-

Contribution in Thanksgiving for: _____

Amount: _____

