



**St. Mary's Church  
Manhattanville  
Harlem, NYC**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

Presented at Annual Meeting  
February 1, 2026

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## **from the rector**

**Every year seems more and more full of both blessings and challenges.** I am deeply grateful to St. Mary's and especially to Vestry and other leaders who supported my **sabbatical** this past summer. It was a blessing of rest, study and family time that was powerfully restorative. I will never forget the beach time with Renée, a writing retreat in Connecticut, and taking my mother to Italy.

One of the blessings included in the sabbatical was the chance to share VISIONS Inc. with St. Mary's through the **workshops on Multicultural Process** (see Practicing Community Connections, p. ) This year has been a chance to step back and consider where we've been, and to look ahead towards new ways to be church together. I look forward to engage more multicultural processes in our growing bilingual congregation.

My appreciation for the extra work that Vestry and other leaders took on to keep things going while I was away is equalled to the **appreciation for other new events** that were organized: the Revival in July and the Blessing of the Backpacks in August were meaningful new ways to come together and to reach out to our community.

In the midst of many blessings we are facing **the intensity of financial shortfalls** that has resulted in my reduced hours for 2026. There is grief for me in what we have to let go of in this time of diminished revenue and minimal reserves. We are not alone in our struggle; as we continue to participate in congregational development, and as the Diocese continues to focus on local communities, we know that many other congregations are coming to terms with increasing needs and limited resources.

**Our faith is that we are an interdependent people**, that we are each caught up in and dependent upon the well being of others. We find this within our own community, and as part of the Diocese, and it continues to be an opportunity for learning. We appreciate the generosity of Diocesan grants for property, clergy support, and programs. We appreciate the time and attention of Bishop Shin who prayed the Great Litany with us last January when law enforcement had blocked a meeting of students that was scheduled here. We remember Bishop Heyd helping at our Pantry this past Fall, and Bishop Matt and Canon to the Ordinary Alissa Newton having meetings with lay leaders and with me as we strategize how to get through this stressful time. We depend on committed pledging from members, and significant gifts of support from the Sarah Schieffelin Residuary Trust, and the Bonnie Cashin Fund (through New York Community Trust) as well as our neighbors. The Rev. Cn. Jamie Callaway, a friend of St. Mary's (having been ordained here back when) has patiently and persistently offered guidance as we seek prospects for increased revenue.

All along **we celebrate the sacredness of ordinary life**: Liz and Allen Mellen's 50th wedding anniversary last Spring, and the funeral of our oldest member Arthur Williams last summer. We were blessed to share in *three* ordinations to Holy Orders of members of our community: Linda Aristondo and K. Booker Kidd, and Simón Morell. We rejoiced at the birth of

baby Aurelia to Ben Mizel and his wife Kelsey. Our bonds of affection have deepened with our St. Martin's and St. Luke's members.

St. Mary's has **minimal staff** due to our budget constraints and they, along with Wardens, Vestry and outstanding volunteers that you will find listed in these pages, support St. Mary's **doing the "most."** Our newest staff member joined us last Spring, **Parish Administrator Yarilynne Regalado**, is in regular contact with worship leaders, organizes St. Mary's calendar, manages the phone and walk-in inquiries three afternoons per week. **Music Director Ly Bedaña** continues to inspire and move us musically, introducing new hymns and responding to special requests. **Deacon Simón Morell** brings amazing friendliness and commitment to justice, and a particular connection for new members who speak Spanish. Newly ordained, **Mo. Linda Aristondo** also brings bilingual/bicultural skills to her worship leadership and support for outreach in her generous role as non-stipended assisting priest. **Bookkeeper Sajia Choudhury** maintains a biweekly schedule and supports **Finance Chair Dorothy Ross** to produce clear and detailed reports, particularly important when funds are low. **Sexton Jacobo Medrano** cleans twice per week, now for nine years, still mostly unseen by the congregation and community. We are blessed by **assisting priest, the Rev. Cn. Arlette Benoit-Joseph**, who leads worship with meaning and joy and quiet support behind the scenes. **Wardens Celia Braxton and Freddi Brown-Carter** have had a year of heavy lifting, especially when I was away. And, our all around person for whom I had to make up a title because nothing else could incorporate all the ministry and support that he offers, "**Parish Associate**" **Kym Roberts** is the heartbeat of our community, for whom I give thanks daily.

*Mo. Mary Foulke, Rector*

## ***from the wardens***

Dear beloved members & worshippers at St. Mary's,

Last year at this time, Dorothy Ross, our then Senior Warden and Chair of the Buildings & Grounds and the Finance Committees, warned us that St. Mary's was on an unsustainable path. We were spending more money than we were taking in. Costs were rising every year, and, she told us, income and membership were not.

Although our fundraising, donations, Sunday collections, and Thrift Shop earnings all surpassed expectations this year, costs surpassed expectations as well. As projected, we still end the 2025 fiscal year with a significant budget deficit, another of which is projected for 2026. Dorothy, no longer a warden but still Chair of the B&G and Finance Committees, has produced the Finance Report for this report showing how and why we still face financial difficulties.

Suffice it to say at present that the ongoing budget deficit is a major reason why Mother Mary suggested that she become a half-time Rector, as announced a few weeks ago during our Sunday service. Salary and benefits for our Rector have accounted for nearly half of the yearly budget.

In spite of this, there is good news. We're still here, and there are more of us. Those who came from St. Martin's/St. Luke's to share our church services continue to attend St. Mary's, adding their talents, their stories, and their spirituality to our services and celebrations. Our Spanish speaking congregation continues to grow under the care of Deacon Simón Morrell, so we English speakers have had the opportunity to learn some Spanish prayers and songs, which is a good thing! We welcome many new and some younger faces this year as well. Este año también damos la bienvenida a muchas caras nuevas.

We sponsored three Ordinees during the past year: Reverend Linda Aristondo, who has volunteered here for many years in various functions, and Reverend Kevin Booker-Kidd, who did field education here, were both ordained to the priesthood in September. Reverend Simón Morrell was ordained to the Deaconate in May. Coming up, Davíd Eli Patiño, who filled many positions here and is responsible for the initiation of our Pinkster celebration and our yearly Hispanic Festival day will be ordained as Deacon next month.

Programs instituted last year and the year before, such as Tuesday Noonday Prayer in the Sanctuary, The Welcome Place on Fridays before Movie Night, and Connie and Jessie Mae's Food Pantry on the fourth Wednesdays of the month, all continue to grow.

Because we are still running at a deficit, we need to make the most of our physical plant – our buildings. The Undercroft space is a good space for special parties, so if you know someone who is looking for a party space, let them know to phone St. Mary's office and arrange a walk-through. We are also looking for long-term space-sharing partners, not-for-profit organizations whose values align with ours, need a largish space to serve clients on a regular basis, and can afford to share the costs of keeping up the space. The Parish Hall can also be shared more for meetings. If we do not increase our income, we will have to further cut expenses. This will be difficult, since our budget has been "bare bones" for many years. Hard decisions will have to be made about what to cut.

We ask you to pray for St. Mary's, that we may continue to serve God in the world. We also urge you to actively search for potential new members and space sharing partners, who share a heart for that mission.

*-Frederica Brown-Carter (2024-2027) & Cecelia G. Braxton (2025-2026)*

# VESTRY LEADERSHIP 2026

## **Wardens**

Dr. Celia Braxton (2024-2026, 1st partial term)  
Ms. Frederica Brown-Carter (2025-2027, 2nd term)

## **Class of 2027**

Mr. Radford Arrindell, 2024-2027 (1st term)  
Dr. Dorothy Ross, 2024-2027 (1st partial term)  
Ms. Hilda Cabrera-Jordon, 2024-2027 (1st term)

## **Class of 2028**

Ms. Christiane Berry (2nd term)  
Mr. Lawrence (Kym) Roberts (2nd term)  
Ms. Natasha Wong (2nd term)

## **Class of 2029 (three members elected at February 1 meeting)**

Mr. Adam Massman (1st term)  
Ms. Celeste Oram (1st full term)  
Ms. Lisa Slocum (1st term)

## **Representatives to Diocesan Convention**

Ms. Chris Berry  
Ms. Freddi Brown-Carter, alternate

## **Representatives to Manhattan North Interparish Council**

*(has not been meeting because of the Harlem Conversations)*

## **Gratitude for service: outgoing Warden & Vestry Members**

Warden Term completed: Celia Braxton (1 partial term)  
Vestry Terms completed: Stephanie Harewood (2 terms), Ben Mizel (1 term, and has served as Clerk), Celeste Oram (1 partial term).

## MEMBER LEADERSHIP

St. Mary's would not survive without the regular support of pledging members and other regular givers (Vestry members are identified with "V," Wardens with "W" -Members of St. Martin's/St. Luke's who have pledged to St. Mary's are indicated by St. M/L). To make a pledge, please email [parishoffice@stmarysharlem.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysharlem.org).

Altagracia Immanuel Alvarado  
Linda Aristondo  
Radford Arrindell (V) & Rosemarie Robotham  
Sophie & Ly Bedaña  
Arlette Benoit Joseph  
Chris Berry (V)  
Celia Braxton (W)  
Freddi Brown-Carter (W)  
Janet Burgess  
Marsha Butler  
Hilda Cabrera-Jordon (V)  
Darcy Cassidy  
Gritley & Edward Daniel (St M/L)  
Jill Davis (St M/L)  
Gloria Ellis-Smith  
Edna Estime  
Felicia Febles  
Mary Foulke & Renée Hill  
Charon Francis-Hartley (St M/L)  
Chris Gordon  
Stephanie Harewood (V)  
Elice Higgenbotham & Max Surjadinata  
Armando Howard  
Judith Johnson  
Bianca Jones (St M/L)  
Melvin Jones

Andrew & Anna King  
Louis Lake  
Eleanor Maillard (St M/L)  
Adam & Abby Massman  
Kinuthia McDavid  
Yvette McKenzie  
Allen & Liz Mellen  
Ben Mizel (V)  
Simón & Beridania Morell  
Daniel Neghassi & Cynthia Pong  
Mark Nelms  
Celeste Oram (V)  
Davíd Patiño  
Kima Kraimer Pierre  
Lysander Puccio  
Wesley Quailey (St M/L)  
Lawrence (Kym) Roberts (V)  
Esmay Robinson (St M/L)  
Dorothy Ross (V)  
Thomas Sayee  
Stefanie Skerritt (St M/L)  
Lisa Slocum  
James Snyder  
Walter & Claudette Thomas (St M/L)  
Vita Wallace  
Arthur & Marsha Williams  
Natasha Wong (V)

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The year 2025 was again a year of many financial trials.

Because of the vagaries of the government,

Many of our space sharing partners were impacted. The unreliability of grant funding, uncertainty over revenue streams made their commitment to us reduced. Issues arose around building, and great ideas to increase revenue, require investment. Which we do not have. We had to draw on investment funds, now severely reduced. We had passed a deficit budget last year, and the prospects were bleak.

However God graced us, and with the help of friends, the Diocese, our Rector, and the Schieffelin fund we closed the year still on our feet. Led by the Financial Committee Chair Dorothy, we completed our internal Audit, paid our Diocesan Assessment, which qualifies us for the forgiveness of all arrears in that regard, and have strengthened our commitment to financial responsibility.

Our Rector has gone to half time, we will lose her generous contribution, the Apartment is in flux and we have again put forth a deficit budget. Because of the stresses from 2025 we have a reduced buffer to start the year.

St. Mary's struggled in the past, but has never retreated, with faith and prayer we have served this community, and plan on continuing. Stewardship is not just money. It is Time, Talent, and Treasure. I pray we continue to grow in these areas, so we remain the "We are not Afraid Church here in Harlem "

Prayerfully submitted,  
*Radford Arrindell, Treasurer*

Members of the Finance Committee include Radford Arrindell, Celia Braxton, Allen & Liz Mellen, Dorothy Ross (Chairperson).

St. Mary's Finance Report 2025

	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	% Annual Budget	2026 Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>				
Pledges, Plate & Gifts from Members	\$62,084	\$51,000	122%	\$55,000
Rector Contribution	\$26,000	\$27,600	94%	\$0
Donations & Grants	\$75,511	\$30,000	218%	\$30,000
\$10,000 Diocese; \$5000 Diocese; \$37,000 Bonnie Cashin; \$10,000 Bequest				
Thrift Shop	\$3,320	\$1,800	184%	\$2,000
Other Fundraising	\$6,056	\$2,000	303%	\$2,000
Sabbatical Support (Diocese Grant)	\$25,000	\$25,000		
Regular Use Space Sharing	\$76,193	\$77,825	98%	\$39,825
Other Space Sharing	\$14,698	\$10,500	140%	\$10,500
Interest Income	\$1,596			
Schieffelin Bequest	\$74,936	\$74,936	100%	\$84,522
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$365,394</b>	<b>\$300,661</b>	<b>122%</b>	<b>\$230,847</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Diocesan Assessment	\$15,561	\$15,581	100%	\$9422
Clergy Cost	\$149,407	\$153,514	97%	\$113,869
Lay Employee Cost	\$61,965	\$60,200	103%	\$60,200
Parish Program	\$2,030	\$1,900	107%	\$1,900
Liturgical	\$2,905	\$3,000	97%	\$3,000
Evangelism / Latino Ministry	\$14,864			
Administrative	\$17,755	\$17,515	101%	\$18,106
Maintenance & Repairs	\$9,362	\$17,500	53%	\$19,500
Utilities	\$47,621	\$48,870	97%	\$45,870
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$33,659	\$36,810	91%	\$40,491
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$355,129</b>	<b>\$354,890</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>\$312,359</b>
<b>Building Fund Income</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>			
<b>Capital Expenses (Rectory Exterior, Undercroft Stairs)</b>	<b>\$41,414</b>			
<b>Parish Based Outreach Income</b>	<b>\$12,493</b>	<b>\$10,200</b>		<b>\$10,200</b>
<b>Parish Based Outreach Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,963</b>	<b>\$13,520</b>		<b>\$13,520</b>
(Mail Program, Food Programs, Discretionary Fund)				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$378,887</b>	<b>\$310,861</b>		<b>\$241,047</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$417,506</b>	<b>\$381,490</b>		<b>\$325,879</b>
<b>Total Income Minus Expenses</b>	<b>(\$38,619)</b>	<b>-\$70,629</b>		<b>-\$84,832</b>
<b>Account balances</b>	<b>12/31/2025</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>		
Chase Checking	\$62,519	\$66,361		
Chase Savings	\$1,879	\$4,678		
Investment Accounts	\$14,971	\$54,526		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79,369</b>	<b>\$125,565</b>		

In 2025, the Diocese of New York forgave Diocesan loan # 3 in the amount of \$26,097  
Debts - Fines and payments owed to NYC \$61,318

## **Friends of St. Mary's**

Friends of St. Mary's come in a great variety! Sustaining Friends are those who give regularly, and Supporters are those who contribute once or twice a year. For more information about our many friends, see "FP" for those who give specifically to the Food Programs, "D" for those who give specifically to Discretionary funds. We are so grateful for this support.

### Sustaining Friends

James & Mary Chilton Callaway  
Dorothy Carey  
Keir & Siuli GoGwilt  
Anastasiia Khlopina  
Michaelene Loughlin (D)  
Elizabeth Mackie  
Mary Christine O'Connor-Thomsen  
June Zacccone (FP)

### Supporters

Stuart Aaronson (FP)	Ellen & David Fried
Andrew Ackerman (FP)	Sheila Geist (FP)
Julia Alberino	Kyle & Susan Goetz-Haver (FP)
Peter Arnold & Tim Braun	Glenn Govier
William Baldwin II (FP)	Candy Gulko (FP)
Nicholas & Tania Blair (FP)	Dina Hampton-Goldberg (FP)
Anne Boggan (FP)	Terry Harris
Andrea Brecker (FP)	Mark Hofmaier (FP)
James Burden	Celia Irvine (FP)
KR Careddu (FP)	Erica Itzkowitz (FP)
Karen Ann Carr	Kate Itzkowitz (FP)
Olga Della Cava (FP)	Roberta Janis (FP)
Susan Chimonas (FP)	Margaret Johnson (FP)
Lisa Robinovich Courtney (FP)	Sheryl Kane (FP)
Gregory Darling (FP)	Joanna Kapner (FP)
Michael Davidson (FP)	Pamela Kellner (FP)
Michele Everett (FP)	Marcella Kerr (FP)
Gail Ferraro (FP)	Stefan Knust
Douglas Forand (FP)	Dilys E Lande (FP)
Earl Francis	Harry Laracuente (FP)
Maureen Friar (FP)	Bridget Leicester (FP)

Christiana Leonard (FP)	Todd Ruffins (FP)
Janet Levy (FP)	Cecile Russo (FP)
Kristin Martin	Lawrence & Jennifer Schorr
Joseph Masheck	Jonathan & Ana Maria Secor
Kevin McGee (FP)	Thomas Secor
Donald Meeker (FP)	William Simmons (FP)
Esther Menjor	J. Mark Speyer (FP)
Dana Minaya (FP)	George Stouffer
David Moody	Stephanie Stone (FP)
Gilead Morahg (FP)	Idell Small (D)
Pamela Morton	Alene Smith (FP)
Beth Mydans (FP)	Mary Teel (FP)
Yanick Noisy (FP)	Kenneth Thomas (FP)
Ralph Norgren (FP)	Phyllis Trible (FP)
Barbara O'Farrell (FP)	Dace Uris (FP)
Anthony Paraskevopoulos	Alessia Valfredini (FP)
Martha Patton	Joan Walrich (FP)
Michele Pellar (FP)	Walton Waterbury (FP)
Donald Peppler	Cicely White
Sylvia Pirani (FP)	Marion Wright (FP)
Solomon Prophete	Sarah Wunsch (FP)
Roger Puckett	Elaine Yaniv (FP)
Ella Rayburn	
Elena Rivera (FP)	

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Thank you to Kym Roberts for being alert to the needs of the building, and for carrying out many of the small repairs himself!

### **Major Projects in 2025**

The Rectory was painted and rotting woodwork was replaced.

A small area of the roof was repaired.

The ceiling in the Rector's apartment was repaired.

Three loose or missing shingles on the Sanctuary roof were fixed.

*The total cost of this work was \$38,066. Thank you to the Diocese of New York for giving \$12,500 towards this project.*

The interior stairwell from the Red Door on 126th Street to the Undercroft - the metal stairs were repaired and painted, and new flooring installed. *The total cost of this project was \$10,000.*

When the boiler was replaced in 2014, the Department of Buildings was not informed. St. Mary's did not know this until in 2023 we received 6 years of violations. In 2025, the old boiler was decertified.

The paperwork for bringing the gas lines up to code and converting the Undercroft Kitchen to a commercial kitchen was completed.

The Exterior Stair Lift to Undercroft has been placed on hold until more funds can be raised.

### **Small Projects in 2025**

Work days were conducted on May 10 and August 24 to maintain the yard and the Parish Hall Apartment.

The old gas stove in the Rectory Common Room Kitchen was removed and a new electric stove installed. The Rectory is no longer supplied with gas.

The lavatory stand in the Parish Hall bathroom was replaced.

A new metal shed was installed in the back yard to hold gardening tools and the snowblower. *Thank you to Christopher Michalski for help with both those projects!*

Filing cabinets in the Parish Hall Vestibule were emptied and the paperwork sorted - *thank you Liz Mellen & Celia Braxton!*

An overhead pipe in the Undercroft Kitchen, which had been leaking, was replaced.

Extermination of carpenter bees and mice was completed.

We have come into compliance with NYC curbside composting. Please dispose of food scraps responsibly.

### **Future Projects**

The Vestry has decided not to continue space sharing with seminarians; the complexity of tracking 3 or 4 different people's responsibilities is not sustainable. The plan is to refurbish the Parish Hall Apartment bathroom and kitchen and paint the apartment for occupancy by one entity.

Heating pipes in the Undercroft and cold water pipes in the Undercroft Kitchen ceiling need to be insulated.

Parapet inspector in 2024 said that the Bell Cote on top of the Sanctuary has cracks in the masonry and needs to be evaluated by a NY licensed engineer.

The Parish Hall Vestibule (where the bathroom and stairs that go to the 2nd floor are) - flooring is in poor condition. There is concern that the supporting beams may need reinforcement or replacement. Also, the brick of the stair case going to the 2nd floor apartment has flaking mortar, and needs to be sealed on the interior and exterior walls.

The exterior Sacristy door needs to be painted.

### **Help Needed!**

St. Mary's has no staff for building work; our Sexton provides 11 hours of cleaning per week. St. Mary's depends on volunteers for **work days and to assist with small repairs**. Please speak to Kym Roberts if you are interested.

St. Mary's is looking for **space sharing partners who share our mission and can help pay for the cost of maintaining the building** as we work to balance our budget. Interested persons should contact the Rector.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee includes Radford Arrindell, Celia Braxton, Liz Mellen, Kym Roberts, Dorothy Ross, Rowland Watermeyer

*–Dorothy Ross, Chairperson*

## St. Mary's Garden

Our mission is to celebrate creation and heal human relationships with the natural world. The Garden does not have strong leadership, and it does have strong support: Felicia Febles is a weekly and sometimes daily volunteer in the sweeping, raking and tending to plants and flowers, and Jennifer Garmendia Turcios often helps. New member Abby Schroering has expressed interest in rebuilding the side garden and possibly the greenhouse. Other Garden workers include: Troop 5 Boy Scouts, Freddi Brown-Carter, Kym Roberts, Dorothy Ross and Rowland Watermeyer.

## MINISTRIES AT ST. MARY'S

### A Welcome Place

The Welcome Place (2:30-5:00) is run by William Brown, with assistance by Deborah Hall and other volunteers. The program takes place before Movie Night and gives Movie Night guests and the wider community, many of whom live on the street, a safe space free of weather/temperature issues, along with snacks or an early meal, fellowship, books/games/activities, and general assistance, etc. We've also been blessed with a couple of volunteers who have social work experience. In addition to these services, this Summer we ran a successful pilot hygiene/shower program and are currently working on incorporating it into the regular program, although to do so we need regular shower volunteers.

Volunteers in the past year include William Brown, Coordinator; Gren Coffee, Romy Felder, Sandra May Flowers, Deborah Hall, Elishia McAllister, Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, Kym Roberts; we are also grateful for the support of student interns (facilitated by Sandra May), and Evelon Ferguson from The Bridge (<https://www.thebridgeny.org/>).

### Children's Ministries

St. Mary's offers several events for children during the year, sometimes in collaboration with Unity Fellowship Church NYC.

St. Mary's offered **Easter Egg dyeing** for children and adults on Holy Saturday, April 19; the event organized by Mary Foulke; this year it was mostly adults who participated.

St. Mary's again partnered with Manhattan North Summer Education Program and St. Peter's, Chelsea to offer **Summer Camp** for one week, August 25-29, 2025. Overseen by the Rev. Lisha Epperson, the program was a joyful Creative Arts Program including art, dance, and music. Thanks to Kym Roberts and Yarilynne Regalado for their daily support, and to Celia Braxton, Freddi Brown-Carter and Lisa Slocum for their support.

St. Mary's participated in the Back to School Block Party organized by the 26th Precinct on August 28, and advertised our first ever **Blessing of the Backpacks** (August 31); thanks to Deborah Hall, Dn. Simón & Beridania Morell, Lysander Puccio, Kym Roberts, and Lisa Slocum for organizing, and to Mo. Anahi Galante for presiding.

For **Halloween**, St. Mary's supported the annual Pumpkin Giveaway for Children (October 25) organized by Christian Johnson; Kym Roberts represented St. Mary's. And Kym Roberts, Felicia Febles, Jenny Garmendia-Turcios, and Lisa Slocum organized "treats" for Halloween day trick-or-treaters.

We did not offer an **Epiphany/Three Kings Day Party** in January this year.

## **Choir & Music**

2025 offered new opportunities for community and connection. Many singers and musicians generously shared their talent, time, and equipment for the Mardi Gras event and the Tent Revival over the summer (see below descriptions). In the fall, a group of St. Mary's singers started gathering twice a month after church to sing together and Lift Every Voice . Voices raised include: Sophie Bedaña, Celia Braxton, Janet Dorman, Deborah Hall, Dwayne Lavender, Liz Mellen, Mark Nelms, Celeste Oram, Lysander Puccio, and Lisa Slocum,.

We're also grateful to the many guest musicians who supported and enhanced our worship throughout the year: April Armstrong (vocalist), Benjy Balatbat (pianist), John Fischer (pianist), Jerome Hunter (drummer), Nabate Isles (trumpeter), Ayodele Maakheru (guitarist), and Grace Wong (pianist).

On the housekeeping front, the piano was tuned in November, got a needed repair, and now has a proper cover to help keep it protected and in good shape.

*—Ly Bedaña, Director of Music*

## **Coffee Hour**

Thank you to all who help set up, clean up, bring food or drinks, set up coffee and all the little things that offer hospitality following the Sunday worship service to the gathered community. Chris Berry, Edward & Gritley (Pam) Daniel\*, Edna Estime, Stephanie Harewood, Judith Johnson, Bianca Jones\*, Yarilynne Regalado, Kym Roberts, Dorothy Ross, Denine Stewart\*, Claudette Thomas\*, and likely others whom we have not recorded. (\*denotes member of St. Martin's/St. Luke's)

## Comunidades en Crecimiento

The Latinx community in, out and all around St. Mary's community is something which has existed much longer than what we call "Latinx Ministries." This year we were delighted to celebrate the ordination of the Rev. Linda Aristondo (bilingual-bicultural) to the priesthood, and that she has stayed on as a non-stipendiary Assisting Priest. Another wonderful celebration was the ordination of the Rev. Simón Morell (bilingual-bicultural) to the diaconate; he has been placed at St. Mary's for at least his first year. Dn. Simón reaches out more to the Spanish speaking community in St. Mary's neighborhood. Dn. Simón, and regular volunteers: Mo. Linda Aristondo, Carmen Cabrera, Hilda Cabrera-Jordon, Maria Carrasco, Felicia Febles, Ana Jimenez, Beridania Morell, Yarilynne Regalado and Jennifer Garmendia Turcios have all contributed to several events.

Members of Comunidades also participated in the Community Connections: Multicultural Process and Transforming Harm workshops.

### 2025 Activities included:

**Continued and expanded monthly bilingual worship** every 3rd Sunday/month.

**Gatherings to speak in Spanish** following bilingual worship (occasional).

**October 19** - Celebration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage with bilingual worship & preaching and a celebratory meal to follow; thanks to Hilda for coordinating.

**November 1** - Building the Ofrenda/Ancestor Altar.

## Congregational Development

St. Mary's had a team involved in a Diocesan program called the **College for Congregational Development (CCD)**, and includes the **Harlem Conversations** (a group of leaders from Episcopal churches in Harlem, gathered by Bp. Shin, facilitated by Diocesan consultant, the Rev. Charles Wynder which met through June 2025).

Since June, Celia Braxton has been participating in the Saturday trainings for CCD. Specific activities for Harlem churches seem to be on hold for now. Participants in Harlem Conversations have included: Linda Aristondo, Radford Arrindell, Chris Berry, Frederica Brown-Carter, Stephanie Harewood, Dorothy Ross, Natasha Wong.

See also, Practicing Community Connections: Multicultural Process and Transforming Harm.

## Congregational Education

To some extent education happens in everything we do; activities like Comunidades, Congregational Development, Discernment Committees, Multicultural Process, the Revival and much more all involve learning. Congregational Education includes specific topics that we intentionally study together. This year included: Freedom Practices (a MLK multifaith retreat day exploring movement, meditation, music and service to sustain work for justice), the Palestine Kairos Document study (organized by Lysander Puccio, see below), and The Nicene Creed (organized by Romy Felder, Liz Mellen and Dn. Simón Morell). We also enjoyed collaborations with St. Philip's Church, Harlem, including the Online Book Group in Advent (*Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb, led by Fr. K. Booker-Kidd), and Epiphany Series on the Holy Family as Refugees, led by Mo. Linda Aristondo. The Online Book Group is planned to continue in Lent with *Atonement: A Guide for the Perplexed*, by Adam Johnson; led by Fr. Booker.

## Palestine Kairos Document Study

This past summer, St. Mary's embarked on a multi session group study of the Palestine Kairos Document which was prepared by the Presbyterian Church. The 2024 Diocesan Convention had passed a resolution recommending parishes study it. The Document was written by Palestinian Christians from different denominations who have asked that Christians around the world study it to learn about their experience and to take action to help them; though dated, it reflects much of the current situation in Occupied Palestine. Anabelle Helsell, a student at Union Theological Seminary and member of the Palestine/Israel Network of Episcopal Peace Fellowship (<https://www.episcopalpeacefellowship.net/>) was a guest. We learned a lot and still feel there's more to learn.

One action the group feels called to take is to develop a relationship with a church in Occupied Palestine. We are working on making a connection through a Palestinian Episcopal priest. Eight of us also participated in a silent procession for Gaza organized by Jewish Elders on October 5. The Palestine Kairos Document is currently in the process of being updated. When that is completed, the Episcopal Church is planning on creating its own study guide to learn from it. We hope to be involved with this process.  
—Lysander Puccio

## Discernment Committees

The principal focus of a parish discernment committee is exploring how closely an individual's gifts and experience match the unique challenges of ordained ministry in this time and place. Group members work with an individual to explore their calling as a baptized person, and specifically if their calling includes Holy Orders. Those who become deacons, priests, and bishops serve God and the Church by encouraging and supporting all the baptized in the diverse ministries to which each is called. Aspirant and Committee Members pray for the Spirit's guidance in all stages of the process, and are called to trust that the process will continue to evolve over time. It does not predict a particular outcome. There is currently one Discernment Committee with Aspirant Romy Felder. Committee members include Radford Arrindell, Chris Berry, and Deborah Hall. The Discernment Committee for Stephena George have concluded their work, thanks to Dorothy Ross, Linda Aristondo, and Walter Thomas (St. Martin's).

## Food Ministries

St. Mary's has sponsored programs to address food insecurity since 1982. While the ministries have changed, expanded and contracted over time, the commitment to feeding our neighbors has been consistent. Currently St. Mary's sponsors a Community Fridge, Movie Night (see below) and the collaborative Connie & Jessie Mae's Food Pantry (see below). St. Mary's also distributed 100 turkeys to the community just before Thanksgiving (thanks to Columbia Community Services); thanks to Linda Aristondo, Radford Arrindell, Jennifer Garmendia, Renée Hill, and Kym Roberts for volunteering. St. Mary's volunteers for Food Programs include: Linda Aristondo, K. Booker-Kidd, William Brown, Freddi Brown-Carter, Carmen Cabrera, Deborah Hall, Bianca Jones (St. Martin's), Amron Mahraj (exalt intern), Jahmiere Mitchell (exalt intern), Yarilynne Regalado, Kym Roberts, Claudette & Walter Thomas (St. Martin's). *see A Welcome Place, Movie Night and Connie & Jessie Mae Food Pantry for more information and listing of other volunteers.*

## Friday Movie Night

Friday Movie Night (5:00-8:15pm) attendance has stayed at around 18-30 guests each week. Sandra May Flowers, Sophie Bedaña, Paulette Thomas, Linda Aristondo, and the Movie Night team have worked hard to feed our guests delicious, nutritious, and satisfying meals, with occasional assistance from chef Dwayne Lavender. Some chefs have passed the NY Food Protection Safety class, while others are still studying.

Our team of regular volunteers— William Brown, Deborah Hall, Kym Roberts, and Lisa Slocum— continues to be assisted by a lively team of high school students under Sandra May’s care. We also have some wonderful volunteers from the church and the community, including Nimpsony Clairvil, Clare & Liam Friedrich, Julian Jarrett, Abby & Adam Massman, and student volunteer Maya O’Dwyer. We are grateful to our donors from Morningside Gardens who help us provide snacks and beverages to our guests. Thanks also to Yarilynne Regalado for coordinating these purchases and supplies and to Mother Mary for all the ways she supports Movie Night and its core team.

Our goals for 2026 are to continue growing the programs to include even more guests and to address more of the social services needs of our guests.

—Lisa Slocum

## Fun and Fundraising

There were several fun and fundraising events this past year spearheaded by Lisa Slocum:

**Mardi Gras (March 4):** Basically the whole of St. Mary’s stepped up to support this fundraiser! So many donated the abundant food: Linda Aristondo, Radford Arrindell, Sophie Bedaña, K. Booker-Kidd, Freddi Brown-Carter, Cn. Arlette Benoit-Joseph, Hilda Cabrera-Jordon, Gloria Ellis-Smith, Stephanie Harewood, Renée Hill, Armando Howard, Simón Morell, Celeste Oram, Lisa Slocum, and more! The amazing drinks at the bar tended by Celia Braxton and Lisa Stokes, and the beautiful music organized by Dwayne Lavender (including our own Celeste & husband Keir!) helped create the wonderfully festive mood. We had a huge group of volunteers on the day as well: Dee Dee, Sophie, Celia, Lisa S, Linda, Simón, Renée, Chris Berry, Deborah Hall, Julian Jarrett, Lysander Puccio, Kym Roberts, high school volunteers through Sandra May Flowers, etc. We were also blessed to have great auction items donated by Dr. Woodbine, Freddi, Dwayne and Lysander! *Our total raised was a whopping \$3,111.00, due to our heavy reliance on the St. Mary’s community to donate everything we could possibly need for the event! Many thanks to you all!!*

**Revival (July 26):** This was a true community-building event and was a beautiful way to share St. Mary’s worship, social justice spirit, and resources with the wider community. The organizing team included: Romy Felder, Deborah Hall, Dwayne Lavender, Elishia McAllister, Lysander Puccio, Lisa Slocum. Volunteers on the day: Radford Arrindell, Chris Berry, Celia Braxton, Felicia Febles, Chris Gordon, Julian Jarrett, Celeste Oram, Lysander, Kym Roberts, Lisa S. & more! Preachers & Speakers: Dn. Booker, Mo. Chloe Breyer, Rt. Rev. Br. Mark D’Alessio, Rev. Areli Figueroa, Elice

Higgenbotham, Romy, Elishia, Dn. Simón. Chefs/Servers: Kym & Julian on the hot grill all day! Plus Elice, Chris B., Linda, Lisa, and Yolanda (BestNYCtamales). Singers & Musicians: Vita Wallace (writing up scores!), Dwayne, Celia, Mark Nelms, Lisa, Peter Homans on the Keyboard all day!, Celeste (keyboard), and Marcos de Jesus (finale). Art teachers: Lysander, Elishia. Panel organized, moderated, and participated in by Elishia: Autumn Palma, Booker, Romy, Arelis, Na'T'Cesses ("Icy"). Prayers for attendees: Dn. Linda, all day! Welcome/sales: Deborah Hall, Radford, and Celeste. Readers/testimonial speakers: Radford, Romy, Deborah, Jenni Garmendia, G-man, & more! Countless community members also joined in!

**Alter-knit-ive Crafts Fair (December 6):** This was small, but was a great opportunity to connect 12 local makers with the St. Mary's and Harlem communities. And we made some decent money\*, too! Dwayne Lavender, Celeste Oram, Lysander Puccio, and Lisa Slocum organized, with much help on the day from: Linda Aristondo, Chris Berry, Celia Braxton, Renée Hill, Simón Morell, Liam Myers, Yarilynne Regalado, Kym Roberts, Celeste, Lysander, and Lisa, and donors Freddi Brown-Carter, Jean Callahan, Dwayne Lavender and Jane McAndrew. Many thanks to all, especially all the shoppers!! \**Approximately \$1,000!*

## **Mail Service (Free!)**

St. Mary's receives mail for community members with no permanent or secure address. Participants are able to pick up their mail between 10 am and 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Lawrence (Kym) Roberts manages the program as the official Mail Clerk with the help of volunteers Frederica Brown-Carter, Lisa Slocum, and Marion Smith.

## **Office Volunteers**

Office volunteers serve in a number of different capacities. Frederica Brown-Carter comes two afternoons a week to answer phone calls, organize files, and try to keep clutter under control. Renée Hill often supports the work of the office by receiving mail and packages.

## **Pastoral Care Network**

The Pastoral Care Network is an online forum (Basecamp) for sharing pastoral concerns including prayer requests and pastoral needs for mutual response, whether praying for those on St. Mary's prayer list in a regular way, sending cards or making phone calls upon request, or problem-solving particular needs (e.g. bringing groceries or communion, washing dishes). Mo. Linda Aristondo, Radford Arrindell, Celia Braxton, Brian Cabezas, Janet Dorman, Gloria Ellis-Smith, Stephanie Harewood, Armando Howard, Sabra Jones, Ben Mizel, Dn. Simón Morell, Davíd Patiño, Lysander Puccio, Kym Roberts, Lisa Slocum, and Jim White.

## **Practicing Community Connections: Multicultural Process and Transforming Harm**

In connection with the Rector's Sabbatical, two workshops were offered in 2025, guided by VISIONS (<https://visions-inc.org/>) multicultural facilitation leaders Rick Pinderhughes and Josy Gallagher, and funded by grants from Congregational Development (Hispanic Ministry) and the Bishop of New York. Specifically we looked at strategies to combat systemic issues of loneliness, disaffection and communal disempowerment through discovering avenues of resistance and self-care, identifying coping skills, and learning new vocabulary for emotions. The first workshop in March was held in English with a follow up online in Spanish, the June workshop was bilingual (English & Spanish). Freddi Brown-Carter, Linda Aristondo, Celeste Oram and Yarilynne Regalado supported the workshops. We hope to continue this work as funding becomes available.

## **Referrals**

St. Mary's has a long history of providing referrals, support and guidance to people who come to the Parish Office. Office volunteers and clergy meet every request with our best ability to respond: we have served cups of water, we provide written referrals for services, especially food services at African Services Committee or similar agencies, we distribute directions to shelter intake centers, walk people to a bus or subway, look up appropriate places to shower or get a meal, allow people who need it a few free clothing items from the Thrift Shop, pray with people and offer a listening ear. Kym Roberts, Yarilynne Regalado, and Freddi Brown-Carter are the primary leaders.

## **Spirit and Strife**

For the past year, Spirit and Strife has continued to invite anyone to participate who feels an extra need for prayer support for their joys and sorrows. We meet once a month after church on 4th Sundays for an hour and a half or two hours. We share what's on our hearts and pray for and with each other. Often we do an art, craft, writing activity or spiritual practice to reflect and to develop our resilience to the ups and downs of life's challenges and these difficult times we live in. Everyone is always welcome to join us.  
–Lysander Puccio

## **Thrift Shop/Tienda**

St. Mary's offers gently used clothing and housewares at low prices; we provide up to three items of clothing for free to people in need by request. The Thrift Shop is open Fridays (2-4 pm), Saturdays (12-4 pm) and Sundays (12-2 pm). Jennifer Garmendia Turcios manages the shop with the help of volunteers Felicia Febles and Ana Jimenez and others.

## **Worship Leaders**

### Sunday Worship

St. Mary's depends upon faithful support and leadership of many volunteers! Now we have moved into a fully hybrid service—in person and via zoom, as COVID concerns continue—even more help has been required. The following members serve to make worship work including our wonderful partners from St. Martin's & St. Luke's: Altar Guild, Crucifer, Camera Operators, Readers, Tech, Torch carriers, and Ushers. Thank you to: Linda Aristondo, Radford Arrindell, K. Booker-Kidd, Celia Braxton, Nick Brotherton, Nimpsony Clairvil, Al Cornelius, Edward Daniel, Jill Davis, Romy Felder, Stephena George, Chris Gordon, Stephanie Harewood, Charon Francis-Hartley, Elice Higgenbotham, Bianca Jones, Eleanor Maillard, Elizabeth Mellen, Ben Mizel, Simón Morell, Lysander Puccio, Lawrence Roberts, Stefanie Skerritt, Lisa Slocum, Walter Thomas, and Jennifer Garmendia Turcios.

## Weekday Services

St. Mary's is also blessed to have worship leaders for weekday services including:

**Online Friday Compline**, led by Lysander Puccio and Lisa Slocum; with vacation assistance provided by K. Booker-Kidd, Romy Felder, Stephena George, and Deborah Hall.

**In-person Friday Compline** continues following Movie Night! With leaders Chris Berry, Deborah Hall, Lisa Slocum.

**In-person Tuesday Noonday Prayer** service continues with leaders K. Booker-Kidd, Freddi Brown-Carter, Lysander Puccio, Kym Roberts, and Lisa Slocum. The church is open from 10 am to 2 pm every Tuesday for private prayer and meditation; Lisa, Lysander, Deborah, Freddi and Kym also have staffed this wonderful hospitality.

## SEMINARIANS + PEOPLE PREPARING FOR HOLY ORDERS

St. Mary's has a long history of supporting and being supported by people preparing for various ministries, most often from Union Theological Seminary. Wherever they receive their education, "Seminarians" include students doing field education placement at St. Mary's and/or are members of St. Mary's in discernment about a call to holy orders--Diaconate or Priesthood--and/or living in the Parish Hall apartment, a practice of group living and service to the community.

*Linda Aristondo* graduated in Spring 2022, from Episcopal Divinity School at Union Seminary (EDS at Union); she was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in March, and to the Priesthood in September. She is a full-time Chaplain working with survivors of domestic violence, and assists at St. Mary's on Sundays. She continues to support Movie Night, Hispanic Heritage Sunday, and other special events.

*K. Booker-Kidd* graduated in Spring 2025 from Union Seminary, who completed his field education at St. Mary's. He was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in March, and to the Priesthood in September. After graduation he supported St. Mary's over the summer, especially the Pantry and Open Church. He is now an Associate Priest at St. Philip's, Harlem.

*Nick Brotherton* is a middler at UTS who transferred to do his Field Education at St. Mary's in December. Nick assists with worship and Friday Food Programs.

*Romy Felder* graduated from UTS in Spring 2021 and a Masters of Sacred Theology from Yale Divinity School in 2023; she is now a doctoral student in theology at Union. Romy mostly helps out on Sundays, and briefly with A Welcome Place. Romy began the Parish Discernment process in 2024.

*Stephena George* graduated from UTS in Spring 2025. She completed her field education at St. Mary's with a focus on young adults in 2024, and remained with St. Mary's until graduation, helping on Sunday mornings and continuing to gather young adults for an occasional meal. Stephena completed her Parish Discernment process and has been recommended to the Diocese for Ordination to the Priesthood.

*Simón Morell* completed his third year of Deacon training in a field placement at St. Mary's with a focus on developing our Spanish speaking ministries. He was ordained to the Diaconate in May, sponsored by our neighbors at Holyrood/Santa Cruz. Dn. Simón continues to work full time in a secular position, and has been placed at St. Mary's for his first year as a Deacon. He assists in worship and supports the building of our Spanish-speaking membership.

*Davíd Patiño* graduated from Bexley-Seabury Seminary in 2024 based in Chicago, IL in 2023. Davíd was instrumental in establishing Comunidades en Crecimiento, and he continues to support evangelism efforts more broadly at St. Mary's as he is able. Davíd has been approved for **ordination to the transitional diaconate on February 28, 2026 (all are invited to the Cathedral at 10 am)**, in the Diocese of New York, sponsored by St. Mary's. Davíd is currently serving as a Chaplain in California.

### Seminarian Residents

For a number of years St. Mary's opened the Parish Hall apartment for seminarians to live in community for a discounted space sharing rate in exchange for support for community events, and worship set up. After the expiration of agreements, the Vestry has decided to explore other options to get revenue from the Parish Hall apartment.

Elishia McAllister (summer intern)

### Those who moved out in 2025

Destinee Bates (graduated from Union Theological Seminary)

Fatima Jamal (MDiv student at Union)

Autumn Palma (MA student at Union)

# MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

## **Boy Scout Troop 5, Harlem**

Boy Scout Troop 5 led by Solomon Prophete. Colin Hall received his Eagle Scout rank after completing a clean out and upgrade to the side garden.

## **Columbia-Harlem Health & Medical Partnership (CHHMP)**

Medical Clinic Tuesdays at 6 pm

<http://chhmp.org/columbia-harlem-homeless-medical-partnership/>

CHHMP continues to provide free medical care every Tuesday evening to unhoused, uninsured, and under served members of the West Harlem community. As our patient volume has increased, we have adapted our services and partnerships to better meet our patients' needs. This year, our outreach team plans to expand our efforts to East Harlem, NYCHA public housing developments in West Harlem, attempt to distribute warm foods, and work alongside our partnerships teams to create new community partnerships. Additionally, we have continued our partnerships with other CHHMP care teams, including dental services (including a mobile dental van), occupational therapy, social work, and mental/behavioral health services through Communilife, a community wellness program. We hope to meet patient needs within the clinic and beyond. These partnerships have allowed us to widen the scope of services we provide to our patients and are an integral part of delivering our commitment to provide quality medical care to all, regardless of financial or insurance status. We remain incredibly grateful to the entire St. Mary's community for their generous support and partnership in this work.

Vestry liaison: Frederica Brown-Carter.

## **Connect NYC: Safe Families - Peaceful Communities**

Approximately every other month Connect NYC staff Alex Aielo leads our community in Circle Process reflection on topics including: Grief and Change, Spiritual Community, and Intimate Partner Violence. <https://www.connectnyc.org/> This partnership has paused due to staff changes at Connect NYC in the Spring 2025.

## **Connie & Jessie Mae's Food Pantry**

Distributes fresh produce monthly at 1 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month in collaboration with Love Wins Food Pantry NYC, Harlem YES, Masculine Identified Lesbians Collective, and Unity Fellowship Church of Christ NYC. Its leadership team includes: Rev. Sabrina Constella (Unity), the Rev. Mary Foulke (St. Mary's), Pat Martin (Masculine Identified Lesbian Collective, Harlem YES), Mauricio Piratova (Love Wins), and Paulette Thomas (Thomas Legacy). Staff liaison: Yarilynne Regalado.

Regular St. Mary's volunteers: K. Booker-Kidd, Jennifer Garmendia, Dn. Simón Morell, Yarilynne Regalado, Kym Roberts, Mara (Tamara) Tucker (Morningside Gardens).

In November we offered a Thanksgiving meal (with thanks for regular volunteer Kym Roberts and extra help from Radford Arrindell, Chris Berry, Freddi Brown-Carter, Edward Daniel, Renée Hill, Katherine Giscombe, Yarilynne Regalado, and the Bishop of New York, Matthew Heyd).

Pantry distribution increased from serving 100 family units to 150 family units in October.

### **exalt youth**

This partnership was paused when the rector went on sabbatical, and has just restarted with a new intern, Jahmire Mitchell, at the end of January 2026. Interns help with office work, stocking the Community Fridge, and interviewing people in our neighborhood; Amron Maharaj was the intern who finished in February 2025.

<https://www.exaltyouth.org/>

### **Green Tree Textile Recycling**

Monthly pick up of discarded clothing from the Thrift Shop. Staff liaison: Yarilynne Regalado. <https://www.greentreetextiles.org/>

### **Harlem Havruta**

Jewish holidays from a liberationist/BIPOC Jewish perspective; this year: Sukkot (October 6-13) and Hannukah (December 14). Rabbi Mira Rivera & Renée Hill coordinate. <https://www.facebook.com/HarlemHavruta/>

### **Quality Services for the Autism Community, QSAC**

Provide weekly dusting for sanctuary; Liaisons: Yarilynne Regalado, Kym Roberts. <https://www.qsac.com/>

### **St. Martin's Episcopal Church & St. Luke's, Harlem**

Sunday worship partners <https://stmartinstlukeharlem.org/>

### **St. Mary's Center**

The Rector occasionally visits the community or individuals by request.

<http://stmarysharlem.com/>

## **Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle (STLC)**

The Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle is a Black Feminist theological project dedicated to the belief that loving Black lives is a spiritual calling and that a critical way to manifest that belief in the world is through creating opportunities to care for the bodies, minds and spirits of Black women folk.

From 2011 to 2023 Black women folk from across the United States, Canada, and South Africa participated in a cohort learning experience at Auburn Theological Seminary called the Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle (STLC). Designed by then Auburn Vice President Lisa Anderson in collaboration with a leadership team, STLC's mission was to support Black women who work at the intersection of faith and social justice; and STLC was created to promote the self-care and well-being of these leaders. Organized around the mantra, "self-care is a mandate for prophetic leadership" and dedicated to the principle that *movements for justice must no longer happen on the backs or over the dead bodies of Black women*, STLC designed retreats, rituals, and resources to help Black women discover what it means for themselves, their faith and the movements they serve when they show up for themselves.

With a change in leadership and restructuring of institutional priorities, the Sojourner Truth Leadership Circle was retired from Auburn Seminary's program roster in 2023, and in 2025, Lisa Anderson, STLC's founding director, left the organization. STLC is now reimagining what kind of intervention STLC could offer on behalf of the radical well-being of Black women in these times.

In December, the Vestry voted to establish a formal relationship to receive the assets and support the stewardship of STLC. This new partnership is based on the points of alignment between STLC and St. Mary's:

- St. Mary's is a radically inclusive Christian community with a long history of multifaith commitments and collaborations.
- St. Mary's is invested in nurturing the wellness of its local community through hosting weekly tai chi-qigong classes, a medical clinic and nutrition programs
- St. Mary's nurtures the leadership of students at Union Theological Seminary through the teaching ministry of its rector the Rev. Dr. Mary Foulke
- St. Mary's embraces its position as a justice leader within the Harlem community with a history of "speaking truth to power" on behalf of the most marginalized, inside of a larger liberation vision.

We rejoice in the establishment of this new relationship and look forward to the mutual possibilities for support of one another and our community.

### **Three and a Half Acres Yoga, THAY**

Instructor Timothy Lewis offers free Gentle Yoga was open to all on Saturdays until September 2025. After the dissolution of Three and Half Acres Yoga, and Timothy's move out of New York, the program has been discontinued.

<https://threeandahalfacres.org/thay-programs/>

### **Urban Qi Fit**

Dr. Robert Woodbine offers Tai Qi/Qi Gong classes Saturdays at 10 am, and Wednesdays at 7:10 pm, *free to members of St. Mary's community.*

New this year: Urban Qi Fit has been accepted as one of the branch schools of Yang's Martial Arts Association. Dr. Woodbine expresses his gratitude for 17 years of being "home indoors," at St. Mary's. During better weather they meet at the Harlem Meer. The Saturday morning class has taken up helping setting up chairs for worship on Sunday, thank you! Vestry liaison: Celeste Oram.

<https://www.urbanqifit.com/>

### **Women's Press Collective**

St. Mary's serves as a fiscal sponsor for Women's Press Collective, a women-led, all-volunteer, non-government funded membership association, dedicated to building independent press to tell the stories corporate media won't. WPC was founded on the principle that those most affected by society's problems must be involved in solving them and need access to the power of the printed word to do so. Vestry liaison: Dorothy Ross.

<https://www.womenspresscollective.org/>

# SPACE SHARING PARTNERSHIPS

## **12 Step Programs**

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) We Have a Dream Sundays at 7 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Peace of Mind Wednesdays at 6 pm  
NA Convent Avenue Group Thursdays at 7 pm  
Alanon Harlem Harmony Fridays at 11 am

## **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**

<https://www.forcesofnature.org/>

## **Master Anthony Richards Martial Arts for Children and Adults**

Sundays at 3:30 pm <https://www.facebook.com/karatewithmasterrichards/>

## **MODArts Dance Collective “Collective Thread” Dance Residency**

The goal of Collective Thread is to instill artists with the necessary tools to take on leadership roles in an effort to increase diversity, inclusion, and gender equality in the dance field. (Saturdays in January & February in 2025)

<https://www.modartsdance.com/>

## **Unity Fellowship Church of Christ, NYC**

Sundays at 1:30 pm, <https://www.facebook.com/ufcnyc/>

We also partner with Unity for projects including Connie & Jessie Mae Food Pantry, and other events.

## **Occasional Space Sharing Partners**

Columbia University, Department of English (and other departments)

Democratic Socialists of America, Bronx/Upper Manhattan Branch

<https://www.facebook.com/BUMDSA>

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition, <https://freemumia.com/who-are-we/>