



In 1955, a former United Service Organizations entertainer who had worked during World War II named Jill Jackson-Miller was processing the devastating impact of the war on the world around her. Repercussions from the conflict were still present, and many had a deep desire for peace. Jill wanted to write a song that reflected this collective longing. She collaborated with her husband, Sy Miller, who was a composer and a musician, to come up with a song that became an anthem for people of all nations, beliefs, and backgrounds. Their song, "Let there be peace on earth," was the result. In the song, the phrase to let peace "begin with me" is repeated three times. This highlights the impact we have in our own small way for promoting the good of the whole. What may seem impossible at a global level seems more manageable when broken down into steps that can be taken each day. Their anthem ends with a rousing promise: "With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally." The song's call to take and live in each moment would have been well understood by Benedict, who knew how crucial it was to be intentional with our time.

The rule he wrote for his monks back in the 6th century centered around the awareness of the presence of God and the integration of every aspect of life as a form of prayer. He wanted his monks to "glorify God in all things" (RB 57:9). Benedict did this by training them on how their thoughts, actions, words, and belief systems impacted their relationship with God, with themselves, and with those around them. He believed that "the divine presence is everywhere" (RB 19:1). Because of this, Benedict wanted his monks to approach each moment of

their lives, including their approach to material things, with an attitude of reverence and attentiveness. He wanted them to know that every encounter was a chance to listen to God.

Benedict was no stranger to violence. While he was the leader of a monastery at Vicovaro, the monks tried to poison his drink. Legend has it that Benedict prayed a blessing over his poisoned cup and it instantly shattered. He lived during the crumbling of the Roman Empire in western Europe which resulted in continual violence with ongoing and destructive wars and invasions. It was a time of moral decline, social chaos, and political unrest. His monastery was the rare place where sons of nobles could be found praying, working, and studying alongside sons of peasants and slaves. It was a place where Benedict taught that the presence of Christ was to be found equally among all the members, regardless of status or ethnicity. His monks were a countercultural witness to unity and peace amidst societal destruction and violence.

The wisdom and instruction of Benedict were not limited to those within his monastery walls over 1500 years ago. With God's help, we can all be peace-makers at every level of our lives. The rule says that we can do this by "preferring nothing whatsoever to the love of Christ" (RB 4:21). It begins, and ends, by acting in love. We love Christ by loving others. This requires us to learn humility, something near and dear to the heart of Benedict. Without humility, we cannot listen to others nor can we ever hope for peace.

Humility comes from the root word *humus*, which means earth, ground, and soil. Humus is produced by

the decomposition of matter which makes it nutrient rich and essential to the growth of plants. The origin of this word reminds us that we are all God-breathed dirt, made from the earth and headed back there. By remembering our common humus we can acknowledge our similarities as well as our own shared limited time on this earth. The people I've known with terminal illnesses aren't spending their final weeks holding on to past hurts, grudges, or resentments. They are doing all they can to heal wounds, promote reconciliation, share love, and strive for peace in their relationships. What if we could all have that mindset every day?

In how we spend our time, we are "never to despair of God's mercy" (RB 4:74). As we learn and recognize the unfailing mercy that God shows us all, this can inspire us to continue to show mercy to others. This assurance of God's help can strengthen us to step out in courage and faith in our own small daily acts of love and remind us that Christ can make community out of the unlikeliest of beginnings. With every step we take, may this be our solemn vow: to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

- Sr. Hannah, CSM

Inside this issue

- * Pentecost Reflection, p. 1
- * Associate News, p. 2
- * Continuing Service and "Reflections on the Organic Prayer Program Internship" p. 3-4
- * "From City Streets to Mountain tops" p. 4-5
- * Sr. Hannah Shares News from CSM, p. 6-7
- * St. Mary's Chronicles, p. 8

Associate News



Dear Associates,

Since our last newsletter, we celebrated our 159th anniversary as a Community, received 5 new Associates on

Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

February 2nd, and sponsored our annual June Silent Retreat.



The Sisters with our new Associates:

Sr. Hannah, Lee Wineland, Ryan Clinton, the Rev. Kris Paul, Sr. Madeleine Mary, Butch Yates, Sr. Elizabeth, the Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey, and Sr. Felicity on February 2nd, 2024 in our convent chapel

In our Advent newsletter, I shared with you the importance of "telling our sacred stories." As I continue this theme, I have had the opportunity to reconnect with our Western Province in Wisconsin by visits, and with our Associates in the Philippines by Facebook Messenger. I'd like to share some of their stories.

We have one Sister, Sr. Ines Miller, in the Philippines. She has been life-professed over 20 years. She lives in Sagada, a town in Northern Luzon. Our Community first went to the Philippines in the early 1900's. We presently have 13 active Associates in that area; the group meets monthly for Eucharist and fellowship. Some of the Associates live in nearby towns; they travel by jeep or by foot to come to the gatherings. Retreats are offered during Advent and during Lent. Sister

Ines wrote to me in February, that one of our Associates, Mary Magdalene, volunteered "to be our retreat leader for our Lenten retreat."

Marcia Mary Cook, one of our Oblates, and I went to Wisconsin in March for DeKoven Day. Our Western Province had run DeKoven Retreat Center for many years. We were able to connect with Associates and friends of the Western Province. I have also heard through email from Western Associates in Oregon, Colorado and Missouri. The Sisters were given multiple copies of the book, *Ten Decades of Praise (1865-1965)*. This book tells the story of the Community's first 100 years. The books are currently available through our online gift shop or at the Sewanee convent.



Sr. Elizabeth putting the Associates' medal on the Rev. Lisa Hlass on April 28th at our convent chapel

In April we received a new Associate from the Diocese of Arkansas, the Rev. Lisa Hlass. We look forward to gathering with more Associates in Memphis in September for Martyrs' Weekend. We will commemorate, with them, Constance and Her Companions and all who died during the yellow fever epidemic in 1878. If you would like more information about this weekend, please contact the Sewanee Sisters.

We thank each of you for being a part of this community, and for living a life of love and hope in the world. We appreciate all you do and all you are.

With love,
- Sister Elizabeth Mills, CSM

In Memoriam

Our longtime friend, the Rev. David Kearley, died on December 8th, 2023. Father David was an Associate of our Community for 37 years.



The Rev. David Kearley

He was our regular Saturday celebrant for over 20 years, a member of our Sunday congregation, and he would occasionally accompany our organist on Sundays with his cello. He celebrated his 90th birthday with us at the convent. Many Sewanee community members and friends were in attendance.



The Rev. David Kearley with his sons, John (left) and Stephen (right) at his 90th birthday celebration at the convent in 2019

Fr. David would regularly volunteer to help at our Sunday services as a reader or leader of the Prayers of the People. Even as he got older, he would attend our Sunday services and get help from his grandson Sam so that he could stand up each time the gospel was read. We will miss his musical talents, his holy heart, and his kindness. What an example of a life of devotion.

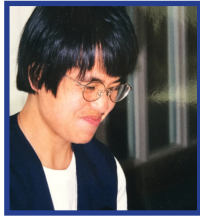


The Rev. David Kearley with his cello at our convent chapel

Continuing Service

Sister Ines has a diverse local ministry in the Philippines.

In December she participated in the Simbang Gabi, a nine-day series of Masses that lead up to



Sr. Ines, CSM

Christmas Eve and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The phrase “Simbang Gabi” translates into “Night Mass” in Tagalog, the official Filipino language. This tradition dates back to the arrival of the Spanish missionaries in the Philippines about 500 years ago. Sr. Ines informed us that the observances started at 6pm in the evening where she lives. As a lay Eucharistic minister, she was given the chance to provide a reflection on the Mass readings during one of the services.

In January she participated in the Etag Festival, also known as the Sagada Town Festival. The word “etag” is the Igorot term that means “salted meat.” She said there was a sermon preached about unity, love, and peace that was very inspiring to hear. The festival is a time for dancing, local food, the sharing of Sagada’s rich cultural heritage and history across generations, and the promotion of a spirit of community unity.

In April Sr. Ines was reunited with a friend of our community, Virginia Clare, who traveled there to be a part of the convention of Episcopal Church Women at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Sagada. Virginia met with the women to teach them how to make Anglican rosaries.

In May Sr. Ines participated in the Saint Mary’s School Alumni Homecoming event where there were 59 new graduates. Former graduates from five years ago came back for the reunion. Sr. Ines graduated from there in 1990.



Sister Ines (bottom and far right) with the group of Associates in Sagada

Sr. Ines continues to worship with our Associates at the monthly Eucharists at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and attends their retreats during Advent and Lent. She enjoys the fellowship with the Associates after the services. Some of the Associates get together twice a week to make handcrafts using recycled newspapers and calendars. They also enjoy making Anglican rosaries. In July she joined a group of lay people at church who started working on translations of the English Bible to Igorot.

Thank you for your service, Sr. Ines!

Reflections on the Organic Prayer Program Internship



David Paddon, one of our long-term Organic Prayer Program interns for the 2023-2024 year

By: David Paddon

Reflecting on my time at the convent has made me so thankful that I chose to take the risk and apply to the internship. I think going forward I will be braver

because my experience at St. Mary’s has shown me how much good can come from taking a leap of faith.

The regular prayer times are what I have missed the most about being

back home. I know I can pray the Daily Office on my own but without gathering with other Christians, it is not the same. This has made me more aware of the importance of Christian community. I now feel much more grateful when I am at church on Sunday, and now once a week church attendance doesn’t feel very often at all. I now have a greater desire to be connected to my local church community. I enjoyed learning to serve at the altar and I am now beginning to serve at my home parish.



David Paddon reading at the Easter Vigil service at our convent chapel

I think attending the prayer services taught me a lot through the scripture readings, hymns, and the saints’ days that we observed. It was a blessing to hear at least four scripture readings a day and I now have a greater familiarity with parts of the Bible that I did not know before. Being new to

The Episcopal Church there weren’t many hymns that I knew when I first came to the convent. Now, I am quite familiar with many of them. My time at the convent provided me with a great introduction to The Episcopal Church, which I was grateful for when I got



David Paddon after being confirmed at All Saints’ Chapel in Sewanee

confirmed at the Easter Vigil at All Saints’ Chapel on campus at Sewanee.

I really enjoyed getting to know Stephanie and the four Sisters. Stephanie became one of my closest friends. I am very introverted so the fact that I had to get along with another intern for nine months helped me to get out of my shell, and this will help me in the future. Working on the grounds was the most interesting for the last couple of months because we planted many things in the garden. I was a little sad that I did not get to see the fruits of my labor because the vegetables were not yet ready to harvest when we left, but looking at this fact another way it teaches me to trust others to continue my work that could not see to completion. I am happy that others get to enjoy harvesting and eating what I planted. My experience with the Organic Prayer Program was transformative both spiritually and socially, and I am thankful that it gave me time to contemplate my next step in life.

By: Stephanie Peramas



Stephanie Peramas, one of our long-term Organic Prayer Program interns for the 2023-2024 year

It's been about two months since my last day of the Organic Prayer Program (OPP) at St. Mary's Convent. I've had some time to reflect on my internship at the convent. I learned a lot about organic gardening and groundskeeping, Benedictine spirituality and monastic communities, intentional living, The Episcopal Church, the Sewanee community, and even about myself. My experience fostered discipline; obedience; humility; service; communal, modest, and sustainable

living; and of course, prayer.

An appropriate expectation of discipline to the Rule of St. Benedict and to the Rule and rules of the Community of St. Mary fostered the monastic value of obedience to the community that I'm grateful to have been a part of. Though interns live a much different life than the Sisters, when we are together, all respect the typical rhythms of the Sisters' life. For example, we all partake in a weekly silent breakfast on Friday- a custom of the Community of St. Mary.

As an intern, I engaged in new ways to be of service to support the Sisters. We worked daily in the gardens, grounds, and convent buildings, but this service has a higher purpose than might be noticeable at first glance. In his Rule, St. Benedict speaks about appreciating the dignity of all manners of labor. Watering the spinach in the convent's garden serves not just that living being, but also the Sisters who will consume it after we harvest. Polishing the chapel brass each week prepares a more beautiful worship space. Cooking for the Community on Saturdays nourishes bodies. All the humble work done is to support the good of the Community, as well as the convent's visitors.



Stephanie Peramas standing in front of one of the Saturday lunches she made for the Community

Interns also develop a Rule of Life that includes an individual and communal rule. My daily rhythms were inspired by the Benedictine way of life. As a general rule, this life is a modest and more sustainable lifestyle, deeply

rooted in living in community. In our intern housing, David and I had a space for hand-sorted recyclables that we rotated taking out each week. This is an example of a small, communal action we could take in the greater calling to sustainable living.

Work and prayer were the biggest components of the internship and I'm grateful to have prayed so often. Although I had participated in an Episcopal Benedictine-inspired community before coming to the convent, I sought a radical deepening of my prayer life here. I laid a strong foundation for a future centered on prayer- to "pray without ceasing." This is truly one of the best gifts.

"From City Streets to Mountaintops: a blessed journey with the Community of St. Mary"

St. Benedict, in his monastic rule, shares that "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matt 25:35)." St. Benedict's Rule has empowered monastic communities to serve Christ



The Rev. Kevin Goodman

while living with others since its introduction to the world in 530AD. Joan Chittister, in her book *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*, shares, "The Rule of Benedict is not concerned with a single time and place, a single view of church, a single set of devotions or a single ministry. The Rule of Benedict is concerned with life: what it's about, what it demands, how to live it. And it has not failed a single generation."

I arrived in Sewanee during the hot

summer of July 2023. I had recently been appointed Executive Director of Education for Ministry (EfM), at the School of Theology, the University of the South. For those not familiar with Education for Ministry, EfM is a faith formation program for all seeking a deeper relationship with God and with God's people. EfM participants gather in small groups to read scripture, study Christian history, and theologically reflect together, while discerning what God is calling them to do. I believe that it is God's hope that we are formed in the faith in intentional community, praying and learning together, hoping to live out what we discover in the world. I have been involved with EfM since I was 21 and never thought I would be given the opportunity to shape and form the future of the program as Executive Director.

As I began working, my apartment was not ready for me to move into. A friend recommended I check and see if the Hermitage at the convent of St. Mary's was available. Luckily, it was. I submitted a reservation, packed my bags, drove my car down a beautiful path through the woods, turned around the bend, and pulled up to the convent. I was warmly welcomed, given the community's worship schedule, checked in to the Hermitage, and began to transition from city life to mountain living. The opportunity to practice the Daily Office in community during this seminal time was a blessing.

As I worshipped with the Sisters, shared meals with them, and met those who are a part of and support their community, I discovered that generous hospitality and the formation of the faithful was an important aspect of the Community of St. Mary. Not only do the Sisters offer worship and hospitality, but they also share their spiritual gifts, accompanying others on their journey of faith. Beyond the practice of raising up Associates and Oblates, they have created an inspired internship program. Intentional community living is coupled with

creation care and stewardship of the earth, empowering interns to take care of the planet and each other. During community meals, I have been inspired by the vision, faithfulness, and willingness of the interns to engage the world in hopes of transforming it. They have also taught me a lot about the journey of faith.

I had more connections to the Community of St. Mary than I initially realized. One morning, through a conversation at breakfast, I discovered that my retired spiritual director in Racine, Wisconsin, is an Associate of the Community of St. Mary. Katharine "Kitty" Clark had shepherded me through my early years as a priest. She had a lovely apartment at the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Several Sisters had recently visited the DeKoven Center, and I fondly recalled my three-day spiritual direction retreats with Kitty in that haunting place of spiritual connections. One morning during a breakfast conversation, Sister Elizabeth shared that Kitty had lost her Associates' medal and had written to the Sisters requesting a replacement. When Sister Elizabeth recognized my connection with Kitty, we gathered one Sunday morning and blessed Kitty's new medal.



Sr. Elizabeth, Sr. Felicity, and the Rev. Kevin Goodman as he blessed Kitty's new Associates' medal at our convent chapel

As I attend worship services with the Sisters and with the community they have and are creating, I offer several prayers of thanksgiving that I was welcomed into this most holy place. I often wonder how lost and alone I

might feel on top of this mountain if I hadn't been blessed with the welcome and hospitality of the Community of St. Mary. As I pray about the Community and the people that are connected worldwide through the ministry of the Sisters, I wonder about your journey and connections here. God works in mysterious ways to bring God's people together for prayer and service.

I am grateful for another connection between the Community of St. Mary and Education for Ministry. EfM celebrates its 50th Anniversary June 5-8, Pentecost 2025. All are invited to this joyful celebration. Several exciting aspects of my current work with EfM include a curriculum revision, the creation of new formation products, and the development of resources to support the people of God within their ministry context. As part of the revision, each new program year will have spiritual sojourners accompanying EfM participants through the year's studies and reflections. I am extremely excited and grateful that the Sisters of St. Mary have agreed to guide our participants through the spiritual insights in the first Path titled "The Journey with God." They will be our revision's first sojourners. What a gift to all who study in EfM.

As I pray for the future of the EfM program and the mission of the Community of St. Mary, I am grateful to have found this spiritual community of visionary Sisters.

Have you considered a planned gift or leaving a bequest to the Community of St. Mary?

You can make a tax-deductible gift by check or by an online donation to "The Sisterhood of St. Mary"

Sr. Hannah Shares News from CSM



Sr. Hannah, CSM

Since our last newsletter, we've had many opportunities to continue our ongoing relationships with a variety of churches, institutions,

and other organizations as well as to reach out to form new connections. These new connections have been international, ecumenical, both within the diocese and without, both in-state and out-of-state, and have included a wider reach within the Episcopal Church. We've also had opportunities to say goodbye and welcome new interns, maintain our connection with our presence in the Western Province, and celebrate a milestone within the community.

Towards the end of Advent, I was invited by my former seminary classmate and friend, the Rev. Adam Dawkins, to come preach and speak across the span of several days at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. I enjoyed getting to preach and talk about our community and Episcopal monasticism. I was surprised that, even in Canada, several people in the congregation knew about Sewanee!



Sr. Hannah with the Rev. Adam Dawkins at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver

February brought with it an ecumenical opportunity for education and fellowship. On the first of the

month, we invited Dr. Shannen Dee Williams to our convent to share with us her research on the history of Black Catholic nuns in the United States. Dr. Williams was eager to learn more about Episcopal monasticism and our community's history and work.

We have strengthened our ties within the diocese in several ways. Sr. Elizabeth and I attended diocesan convention and had a booth there to educate attendees about our ministries. Also, since last fall, our Community hosted the monthly Deacon School training formation program for the diocese, led by our Oblate, friend, and Archdeacon for the Diocese of Tennessee, Roger Saterstrom, alongside local vocational deacon, Betty Carpenter. These monthly classes included outside speakers for education in a variety of topics. During one of these classes, each of the Sisters were the instructors, and we spent the class teaching the two diaconal postulants, Laura Lowndes and Kathy Pack, about monastic life, Benedictine spirituality, and our own vocation stories. This cumulated with the ordination of Laura and Kathy to the diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, Tennessee this summer. What a joy for us to have been a part of their journey!



The Rev. Laura Lowndes, the Venerable Roger Saterstrom, Sr. Hannah, and the Rev. Kathy Pack at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville for their ordination

We have also sustained our ongoing partnership with St. Andrew's Sewanee. At multiple times this year, we had groups of students from the school come out to learn about us and volunteer in our garden. We share an ongoing connection with the parish of

St. Mark's and St. Paul's in Sewanee as we are regularly invited to be a part of their Sunday adult forum. In the spring, Sister Madeleine Mary was invited to give a presentation there about care for creation.

Our friendship with the University of the South remains ongoing and strong as well. For the second year in a row, I've been the walk chair for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "Out of Darkness" walk on campus at Sewanee. One hundred people participated and came together to support each other and bring hope in preventing suicide this year. I also was a guest lecturer at one of the Anglicanism classes at the university at the invitation of our friend, the Rev. Dr. Melissa Hartley. I provided the students with a history of monasticism and our community and provided a framework for how students can create their own Rule of Life.

Our convent chapel has continued to be a place of hospitality for seminarians at the School of Theology to preach, deacon, and celebrate. We had the joy of getting to know seminarian and priest, the Rev. Samuel Ponniah from Sri Lanka as a regular celebrant at our altar. Seminarian Nolan McBride gave us a presentation in our chapel about his interest in Celtic Monasticism that was open to the public.

We have continued to offer programs here at the convent. Our friend, the Rev. Casey Perkins, led a Lenten Quiet Morning with a focus on humility from the Rule of St. Benedict. Sr. Elizabeth also led a Lenten retreat here for the women's group from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Her retreat was about St. Mary and was entitled, "Pause, Ponder, Pray." As part of the retreat, Sr. Felicity led a rosary-making workshop for the attendees. They all appreciated her patience with them!

We were also asked to go out to other churches to preach and teach. We were invited to speak at two places

in Chattanooga, St. Paul's Episcopal Church during Advent as well as St. Peter's Episcopal Church over the summer. Invitations also included St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia and St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, Georgia.

May was the month of transitions. At the start of May we said goodbye to our long-term Organic Prayer Program interns David Paddon and Stephanie Peramas. Shortly afterwards, Sr. Felicity graduated with a Master of Arts in Theology from the School of Theology at the University of the South. Her parents and grandparents drove down from Missouri to support her.



*Sr. Felicity receiving her Master of Arts hood from the Rev. Dr. Becky Wright at All Saints' Chapel in Sewanee
Photo credit: Sewanee Flickr*



Sr. Felicity surrounded by her parents, Cy and Kirsten Parks, and her grandparents, Sharrie and Jere Stone

On the feast of the Visitation we had the commissioning service for our three summer Organic Prayer Program interns: Abby Cronan, Cece Constantino, and Claire Sims.



Our summer interns Cece Constantino, Abby Cronan, and Claire Sims



The Rev. Dr. Julia Gatta giving a blessing to our summer interns at their commissioning service at our convent chapel

In June, Sr. Madeleine Mary led our annual June retreat with the meditations being held at St. Mary's Sewanee. It was called "Exploring the Earth and Encountering God." She shared some of the natural wonders of the earth that she experienced during her sabbatical and reflected on how we see God's beauty and greatness through that creation. In celebration and thanksgiving for her decade of service as Prioress, the other Sisters and I surprised her with a chapel banner that we commissioned to be made for her which was presented to her at the closing Eucharist of the June retreat. It was designed by our friend Gayle Happell who also made another chapel banner for us in the past.



Sr. Madeleine Mary in front of the new chapel banner designed by our friend Gayle Happell

Sr. Madeleine Mary and I attended the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church that met in Louisville, Kentucky on June 23-28th. It was a great time to reconnect with friends, sit in on legislation, worship with fellow Episcopalians, and have fellowship with other Episcopal monastics. We ran into our former summer Organic Prayer Program intern from 2020, Edith-Marie Green. We were also both able to see former seminary classmates.



Sr. Madeleine Mary and Sr. Hannah with members of other Episcopal religious communities at the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky

It's been a busy and full year thus far and we await to see where God leads us the rest of the year and beyond! We are grateful for your support and for your prayers.

St. Mary's Chronicles 2023-2024

November 19 – Sr. Hannah was invited by the Rev. Murdock Jones to preach and teach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga.

December 14-19 – Sr. Hannah was invited by the Rev. Adam Dawkins to preach and teach at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada.

February 2 – We celebrated the 159th anniversary of our founding. We received five new Associates at our convent chapel, Lee Wineland, former summer intern Ryan Clinton, the Rev. Kris Paul, Butch Yates, and the Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey.

February 24 – We hosted a Lenten Quiet Morning at our convent chapel which was led by the Rev. Casey Perkins.

March 3 – Sr. Hannah led the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's "Out of Darkness" campus walk at Sewanee.

March 8-10 - Sr. Elizabeth led a Lenten retreat at our convent chapel for the women's group from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga.

March 17 - Sr. Madeleine Mary was the guest speaker at the adult forum at the Parish of St. Mark's and St. Paul's in Sewanee.

March 18 - Sr. Hannah was invited by the Rev. Dr. Melissa Hartley to be guest lecturer for her

Anglicanism class at the University of the South.

March 20 – Sr. Hannah was invited by the Rev. Mary Grace DuPree to be the guest speaker at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Smyrna, Georgia.

March 21-23 - Sr. Elizabeth and our Oblate, Marcia Mary Cook, traveled to the DeKoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin to be the guest speakers for an event about James DeKoven. They spoke about connection between the Western and Southern Provinces of Sisters and the DeKoven Center.

March 23 – Our long-term intern Stephanie Peramas gave a presentation in our convent chapel on the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) conference which she attended virtually last year.

April 6 – Nolan McBride gave a presentation in our convent chapel about Celtic monasticism.

April 13-14 – Sr. Hannah was invited by Gloria Mongole to be the guest speaker at the Daughters of the King meeting at St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, Georgia. She was invited by the Rev. Remington Slone, rector at St. David's, to preach at their Sunday services and speak at their rector's forum.

April 28 – We received a new Associate at our convent chapel, the Rev. Lisa Hlass from the Diocese of Arkansas.

May 2 – We had a farewell party for our long-term interns David Paddon and Stephanie Peramas.

May 10 - Sr. Felicity graduated with a Master of Arts in Theology from the School of Theology at the University of the South.

May 31 - We had the commissioning service for our three summer Organic Prayer Program interns: Abby Cronan, Cece Constantino, and Claire Sims.

June 1 – Our friends Laura Lowndes and Kathy Pack were ordained to the diaconate at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville.

June 2 - Sr. Felicity and Sr. Hannah were invited by Kimberly Kilgore to go to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga to give a presentation about the community. Sr. Hannah also preached.

June 20-23 – Sr. Madeleine Mary led our annual June retreat at St. Mary's Sewanee entitled "Exploring the Earth and Encountering God."

June 23-28 - Sr. Madeleine Mary and Sr. Hannah attended the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky.



The Community of St. Mary
Southern Province
1100 St. Mary's Lane
Sewanee, TN 37375
Ph. 931-598-0046; Fax. 931-598-9519
Website: communityofstmarysouth.org
Facebook: Community of St. Mary, Southern Province
Instagram: StMarysConvent