

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R

*The Season after Pentecost
Summer 2012*

“Up on the Roof” Rebuilding Together



Perched above his colleagues, Gray Stettinius pauses his re-roofing job to join (left to right) Steve Guza, Chris McCracken, and Rowland Williams for a team photo-op. St. Mary's once again collaborated with St. John's, Church Hill, in the *Rebuilding Together Richmond* mission. The parish crews were coordinated by Chris McCracken and the Rev. Laura D. Inscoc, Rector of St. John's. Our continuing work with Laura, who served as St. Mary's Associate Rector, has extended our mutual ministries and friendships.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Dover Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
 12291 River Road
 Richmond, Virginia 23238

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St. Mary's School Telephone: (804) 784-2049

Episcopal Leadership

The Archbishop of Canterbury
 The Most Rev. and Rt. Honorable Rowan Williams
The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
 The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
The Bishop of Virginia
 The Right Rev. Shannon Sherwood Johnston
Assistant Bishop
 The Right Rev. Edwin F. Gulick, Jr.

The Parish Staff

Rector	The Rev. Dr. John E. Miller
Associate Rector	The Rev. Eleanor L. Wellford
Priest Associate	The Rev. David H. Knight
Minister to Youth	Sara M. Grattan
Minister to Children	Anna T. Johnson
Nursery Director	Meg Zehmer
Organist & Choirmaster	W. Dwight Graham
Assistant Choir Director	Beth P. Stephens
Parish Administrator	Gina M. Alexander
Parish Secretary	Lori R. Smiley
Parish Sexton	Paul E. Pace
Assistant Sexton	Gersain Agudelo

The Parish Vestry

Senior Warden	W. Edward Goode, Jr.
Junior Warden	Molly Mitchell Snow
Treasurer	Howard E. Cobb
Register	Margaret M. Mickel

Class of 2014

Jeffrey A. Allende
 Ruth A. Hill
 Molly Mitchell Snow
 Christopher C. Spencer

Class of 2013

Margaret M. Mickel
 Allen B. Rider, III
 W. Edward Goode, Jr.
 Catherine C. Keiger

Class of 2015

Dede Andrews
 Constance R. Bowden
 Peggy Talman
 C. Kemper Wharton

From the Parish Register:

Baptisms:

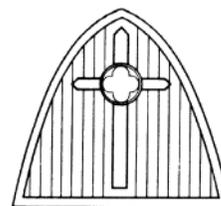
05 May 2012 Duncan Gildea O'Hara
 06 May 2012 Brantley Frances Holmes
 06 May 2012 Harrison Barr Holmes
 06 May 2012 Mary Lou Holmes
 06 May 2012 Robert Byron Holmes, II
 13 May 2012 Robert Nottingham Laing

Weddings:

12 May 2012 Sarah Flynn Snoddy and Robert Brian Fox
 19 May 2012 Anne Latané Saunders and Charles Allen Schwabe

Burials:

17 May 2012 Robert W. P. Martin, Jr.



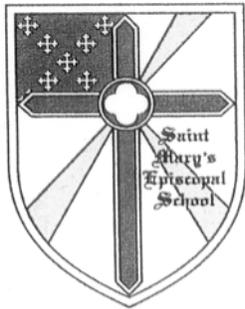
Summer Worship Schedule

New St. Mary's
10:00 a.m

from Sunday, May 27 through
Sunday, September 2

Summer Sunday School
Ages 3-6
beginning
Sunday, June 10
10:00 a.m.

Nursery is open every Sunday.



St. Mary's Episcopal School

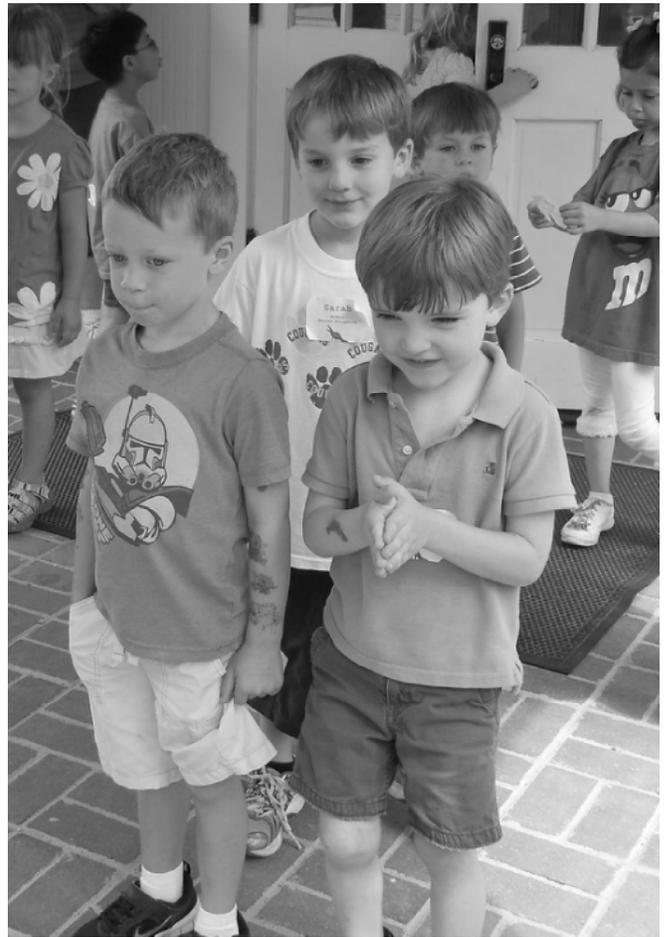
by Susan Rawls
Director

What a great way to end another successful year at St. Mary's Episcopal School. The children celebrated the second annual Field Day with so many fun activities; tennis relays, obstacle courses, basketball games, and scooter board relays. The cheers and the laughter coming from all corners of the school were indicative of the great fun that was had by all!

Our summer camps will be held in June and August. We are having an Art Extravaganza and An "Everything Animals" Camp in June and a "Getting Ready For School" in August. There are lots of exciting activities planned for all three weeks. We welcome church members' children to our June camps.

Enrollment is solid for the 2012 - 2013 school year. We have space for 3 two-year olds, 1 three-year old and 1 four-year old. Our applications may be found on our website at www.saintmarysschool.net and also outside the church infant nursery. Please call if you would like to have a tour. (784-2049)

Have a wonderful summer!!



Field Day Fun!



MEG ZEHMER BECOMES NURSERY DIRECTOR

Beginning Sunday, May 27, at 10:00 a.m. St. Mary's will have a new Nursery Director to care for our youngest members and visitors. Meg Zehmer, a long-time communicant of our parish, has accepted Rector John Miller's appointment to this important post. The ministry to infants and toddlers, as well as to their parents, is our opportunity to extend care, hospitality, and welcoming nurture as acts of Christian service. Meg is a gifted teacher of the young. She has taught at the Collegiate Lower School, St. Mary's Episcopal School, and in the Henrico County Schools. In 2012, Meg was named "Teacher of the Year" at Crestview Elementary School. We are grateful for her willingness to serve in this capacity, and we look forward to her leadership.

Shepherd Eternal

A Sermon for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year B - 29 April 2012

John Edward Miller
Rector

Psalm 23 *King James Version*

*The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul; *
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
Name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; *
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies; *
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

The Collect

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

On the second Sunday in Advent, 1970, a young minister asked the congregation to be seated following the closing hymn of the morning service. As anxiety infiltrated the sacred atmosphere of worship, a tall grim-faced man walked to the chancel of the church to make an announcement. From his demeanor the people in the pews gathered that the news would not be good.

When he spoke, the church elder trembled with emotion. He said, "We have lost our shepherd." The people gave up a loud gasp. Tears followed. The spokesman soldiered on to deliver the message. He said that the pastor had died unexpectedly in the days following his surgery. And though bright December sunlight streamed through the rounded-arch windows of the great church, it became as dark as night for the people comprising the flock of their late leader. There was not only a major sense of loss that morning, but there was a feeling of being lost in the midst of life.

I learned this news when I called home on that Sunday afternoon. Newly married and living in Roanoke, I was accustomed to connecting with my parents on a weekly basis. I was blithely unaware that anything unusual was happening in Richmond. So, I was stunned when I learned of my pastor's tragic death. He was 56 years old, and seemingly in good health. With his leadership, our congregation had just completed the construction of a new, beautiful worship space. Together we had realized what the pastor had described in his sermon as "my dream for this church." So, the parish was riding the crest of a wave of enthusiasm and confidence in our mission. I myself had just applied to Union Seminary, and my pastor had written an eloquent letter of recommendation for me. He had seen my vocation as a sign of the congregation's spiritual health, and he had happily promoted his new seminarian, noting in the weekly newsletter, "May his tribe increase!"

My admiration of his articulate leadership, his thoughtful, polished sermons, and his expansive vision of the future knew no bounds. He was my hero. The awful truth learned at long-distance flattened me, and pulled a shadowy curtain around me. The words, "We have lost our shepherd," were more than just dispiriting. They were disorienting, as though someone had stolen my compass; and they were discouraging, and I mean that literally – they were enough to drain the courage right out of me. I was a part of that flock. I was raised, educated, baptized, and married among the faithful people who looked to the pastor for spiritual care, for the interpretation of God's Word, and for the administration of the sacred rites of the church. He was our guide. Now he was gone.

When I look back on that time, I can still feel the lost-ness that we all felt. And I can remember the experience of going to seminary, a place of learning where I would be equipped as a pastor, knowing all the while that I would not have him as a resource. Gone was the opportunity to ask him questions, to get his advice, and to absorb his wisdom.

In retrospect, I believe that one of my key pursuits during seminary was searching for my shepherd. And it was a good thing that I did, not only for my vocation, but also for my personal

journey. Many jarring experiences lay ahead of me – things that had enough force and firepower to have blown me off the path and into despair. That I am here testifies to the enduring goodness and eternal presence of our shepherd. While I was in the dark, trying to relocate him, he found me and led me home.

If you've ever been knocked to the ground by an irresistible force, such as the death of someone you have cherished, then you may know what it's like to have your prayers muted. Familiar phrases, the thanksgivings, and petitions, and sacred symbols, simply cease. Faith persists, but words fail. In those times, you may have lain awake in the night, desperate to maintain your connection with God, and yet you find that there is nothing to say.

I've been there – speechless before the God I love, and the Lord I serve. For someone who's expected to have the right word to say when speaking about God, and to God, it was a lonely place to be. I knew that I would need help to find a way forward through the logjam. That's when the psalms gave me a precious boost. They broke open the shell of silence encasing me. They filled the blanks, and reshaped my prayerful speech.

One psalm in particular placed holy words on my tongue, and bid me to speak them aloud. It was the 23rd Psalm, in the King James Version. I learned it long ago in Sunday school, and so did you. Even though I didn't understand some of the expressions at the tender age of six or seven, I realized that it was an important piece of poetry. Thus I learned the psalm by rote, inscribing the lines on the tablet of my memory. Gradually, the meaning of the words dawned on me, lighting up like bulbs of understanding and relevance. And it became mine – a mantra for my self in search of meaning. Thank God for this psalm; and thank God for that early childhood discipline, and for the patience of my teachers, and for the star that marked the accomplishment on my memory chart. Because of that process of formation, the 23rd Psalm is a prominent part of my spiritual inventory. Now hardly a night passes without me reciting it to begin or end my prayers. In a very real way, the 23rd Psalm has been a lifesaver.

If you are anything like me, then you can attest to the persuasive power of Psalm 23. I find that I am drawn to its phrases, its cadence, and its metaphors. Whenever, I read the psalm, or hear it chanted by the choir, I find without exception that its attractive allure pulls me close and embraces me. We call the biblical witness "inspired," meaning that the breath of God animates texts like this. Divine truth becomes its soul. Therefore it has gravitas, its weight draws a falling object, including people like you and me, toward its center.

And what is its center? What is its attractive essence? Simply put, it's that the LORD is my shepherd. And because he is my shepherd, I shall not want. This is an incomparable promise. It beckons us to trust that God will always be there – with us and for us.

We cannot lose our shepherd. In fact, he is with us even when the penumbra of grief, doubt, or fear obscures the light of the sun. We may fear the worst, and sink into disappointment, but the psalm presses us to carry on, and to fear not, for he is with us. And we shall lack nothing; for the LORD our shepherd is never absent, and is always promoting our good.

In a book of daily meditations, John Van Nuys offers this reminder of the good shepherd's eternal presence:

When we experience pain and feel abandoned by God, maybe some of what is going on is blessing that we cannot yet recognize. Spiritual director Margaret Guenther counsels, "When in doubt,

I always assume God is at work." When you are struggling or doubting or at the end of your rope wondering, "Lord, I'm doing all I can here; where on earth are you?" it is a good bet to trust that God is indeed at work – in veiled ways you may not yet perceive or understand, but certainly in gracious ways you can trust are loving."¹

That teaching has been confirmed by my experience. Even though the pastor of my youth had died, I was able, by the grace of God, to see beyond my vale of sadness. In the light that began to shine in the darkness I could once more envision the good shepherd's guidance in my life. The form he took varied, but in every instance the shepherd was a source of pastoral care – for me and for others. Nurture, and wisdom, and insight, and learning emanated from these pastoral people who have enlightened my journey. Some were family members – my parents, and my wife, and my son. Trusted friends, teachers, mentors, and counselors have led me forward. Other shepherds have served as professional colleagues on our parish staff, both lay and clergy. Still others have been churchwardens, and vestry members, committee leaders, and you, the faithful members of our beloved St. Mary's community. My pastors have been numerous, and diverse, but they all have been servant leaders in the Lord's flock.

And then there were those ordained to carry the shepherd's staff – the Episcopal crosier. Their calling makes the ministry of our Lord visible, and palpable, in our midst. All of our bishops in Virginia have served us well as vicars of Christ – "stand-ins" for the shepherd eternal. In my lifetime, however, two of those pastors have stood out. First, I thank God for Bishop Robert Bruce Hall, who placed his hands on my head to receive me as a communicant, and then to ask God to make me a priest, in this church. And then I was blessed by Bishop Peter James Lee, who served as shepherd for God's people for a quarter century, confirming our youth, receiving new adults, celebrating the sacraments and the consecration of New St. Mary's, preaching God's Word to uplift our hearts in the adventure of faith, as well as to offer us "night vision"² in times of grief. Bishop Lee blazed a bold, brilliant, and dynamic trail for his sheep to follow. He did so with enthusiasm for the new, and deep respect for the traditional. His pastoral care was his presence – his practical, intelligent, humorous, and comforting presence. He was always there for us, whether he was rapping on the doors of New St. Mary's with his shepherd's staff, officiating at Parson Souder's funeral, or praying for us when we were too choked up to utter a sound. I find it meet and right that Peter James Lee was the first occupant of the bishop's chair in our new church. It is designated as a memorial to the pastor I lost in 1970.³

For me, these are signs that the LORD is our shepherd. We shall not want. All we have to do is to pay attention to our life. That is where the shepherd is eternally present, taking form in those who care. Through them, and with them, and in them, our shepherd LORD leads, guides, provides, encourages, and saves us. That is the truth. That is the good news. Take heed. Be fed, and be at peace.

Amen.

¹ John Van Nuys, "The Good Shepherd." *Forward Day by Day* (April 24), p. 120.

² "Night Vision" is the title of a sermon preached at St. Mary's by the Right Reverend Peter James Lee on his first pastoral visit after the death of our parish organist, Mary Marguerite Hays Miller, on October 8, 1998.

³ The bishop's chair in New St. Mary's is a memorial to the Rev. Dr. Vernon Britt Richardson, pastor of River Road Church, Baptist, 1965-1970.

Being the Fruit

*A Sermon for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
Year B - 13 May 2012*

Eleanor Lee Wellford
Associate Rector

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

-John 15:9-17

In something called a free-association test, a person is asked to say the first thing that comes to mind in response to a word, concept, or image. So, in the spirit of free association, what immediately comes to mind when I say the word "love"?

Is it a specific memory or perhaps a picture or image? Maybe it's a poem or song about love such as "All you need is love." Maybe because of what today is, a picture of Mom comes to mind (or not!) Or better yet, maybe it's something David said in his sermon last week such as "God is love." For me, pictures of my children as babies pop into my mind just as I'm sure there is no greater love than what Clara and Kevin Laing feel right now for their baby son "Bo".

The word "love" is complicated by the fact that it is so misused. We humans are famous for doing that to some of our best words. And apparently there are organizations that track such misuse.

One such organization is Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan which publishes each year its "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness." In 2011, its 37th year of compiling such a list, the word that topped it was the word "amazing". It has apparently finally replaced "awesome" as the most annoying misuse of a word.

The word "love" it seems, is used just as broadly as the word "amazing" in that the list of words that we connect to love is

endless. We can love just about anything – a color, a car, the beach, the mountains, clothes, jewelry – which dilutes and distorts its meaning when we want to use it in reference to and in reverence of a person.

It's interesting to me that the Greeks got around the complications of this word by breaking it down into three separate categories. One word for love meant friendship; another meant romantic love, while still another, agape, the word used in this morning's Gospel reading from John, meant divine love which one commentary said is "what God has by nature and in which we participate by grace" (Feasting on the Word pg 498 "Theological Perspective").

It's the love that doesn't try to possess or dominate the other and is free from self-interest. It's the gold standard or maybe the platinum standard of love.

John used the noun version of this type of love 7 times throughout his gospel while he used the verb version 39 times. It makes me wonder if John who was writing about Jesus was more interested in the actions that flow from this type of love – the doing of love – rather than the idea of it.

Agape love is a selfless giving of ourselves - almost an emptying - which is at odds with our nature to want to receive or be filled up, instead. I do believe we humans are very capable of selfless acts - just not most of the time. Jesus was capable of selfless acts – all the time - and we have a written history of all the many times and ways he acted out of love. He was completely secure in his Father's love for him and it was as real as life itself, yet at the same time, it cost him his life.

The verses that we heard this morning from John's gospel are all about love and are a continuation of the vine/branch analogy that we heard in his gospel last week. He uses this analogy to explain how we are connected to our Creator. Love is the glue that holds that relationship together. Because God loves Jesus, Jesus loves us. So, when we abide in his love, we also abide in God's love, making our joy complete. (*Lectionary Homiletics*, Volume XX, Number 3, "Pastoral Implications" pg 54).

Jesus said all of this to his disciples in a farewell discourse which they didn't understand because they didn't know that Jesus was about to lay down his life for them purely out of love. They didn't yet understand how his death could possibly be a source of joy for them.

Theologian Paul Tillich observes that, in general, "Christians are poor examples of embodied joy." He wonders if that's due "to the fact that we are Christians, or to the fact that we are not sufficiently Christian." He points out that many Christians, even the most devout, are surrounded by an air of heaviness which may

have something to do with not knowing what real joy is or with the guilt that we feel when we are joyous (*The New Being* New York/London Scribner's Sons, 1955) as if we don't deserve it when there is so much suffering in the world.

So, perhaps "joy" is as misunderstood a word as "love" is and when Jesus talks about both love and joy in the same sentence, what are we to take away from that?

I think what we can take away is that agape love, the love that brings us joy, is much like grace, in that it's not something we can seek out. Rather, it comes as a gift in seeking us out in the context of giving unselfishly of ourselves.

None of it happens apart from God because as we heard Jesus say in John's gospel: "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:4-5). "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

What we do for others may simply start out as random acts but they will eventually lead to intentional acts of kindness. And according to Tillich, the awareness of how our true being is fulfilled by those acts is what causes us joy.

Just a few weeks ago I saw a rerun of a 2008 movie that expresses this so clearly. It's called "Gran Torino" and stars Clint Eastwood as an aging, newly widowed Korean war veteran named Walt Kowalski, whose anger, prejudice and bitterness are given new life when an Asian family moves into his neighborhood, right next door to him. It consists of two teenagers and their mother and grandmother.

When the teenage boy is bullied by street gangs into trying to steal Walt's prized possession – his 1972 mint condition Ford Gran Torino Sport - Walt feels even more contempt for his new neighbors than when they first moved in. And to make matters worse, the Asian family treats Walt with great respect and deference

which just increases his irritation.

Despite Walt's repeated and heated requests to leave him alone, the boy, at the insistence of his family, begins hanging out at Walt's house and willing to do whatever it takes to make up for having tried to steal Walt's car. Finally Walt begrudgingly begins to let the boy help him out with some odd jobs around his house and slowly, very slowly, and in spite of himself, he begins to take an interest in the boy's life.

All the attention that Walt used to lavish on his prized possession of a car and the joy he thought he was getting from that, eventually shifts to the well-being of the teenage boy. He becomes the boy's strongest advocate in helping him find a job and finally a hero not only to the boy, but to his family and to the entire neighborhood as Walt risks his life to bring the terror of the street gangs to an end. Once Walt let that boy into his hardened, angry heart, he was able to look beyond his own unhappiness and find real joy in the acts of kindness he did for a family he once despised.

The doing of love or the acts that become the fruit of the vine can only happen as a result of God's loving us first. And if God's love never ends as Jesus revealed, than neither will the potential for us to be the fruit and to find joy in our true being. Unfortunately, we often have trouble getting out of our own way long enough for that to happen.

So maybe we start being the fruit with small steps, such as giving a minute of our time that might lead to an hour next time. Or maybe it starts by giving \$10 in Outreach

before giving \$1000; or maybe it's by loving the person sitting next to us in church instead of loving our neighbor; or as Walt Kowalski showed, maybe it's loving our neighbor who used to be our enemy (*Lectionary Homiletics*, Volume XX, Number 3, pg 58). Being the fruit by giving of ourselves is hard, but thankfully, it's a process that begins with God. Is there any better time or place to continue that process than right here and right now?

"Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:4-5).

The St. Mary's NEWSLETTER is published monthly from September through May, with one summer edition, as a ministry to the members and friends of Dover Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. The views and information expressed herein are guided by the mission statement of our parish:

We are a community of faith that worships and learns together, welcomes all people, and serves the needs of others in gratefulness for God's love and grace revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Editor-in-Chief	The Reverend John Edward Miller, Ph.D., Rector
Managing Editor	Mrs. Lori Remington Smiley, Parish Secretary
Staff Photographers	The Parish Staff
Contributors	The Lay Leadership and Professional Staff of Dover Parish

The regular deadline for submission of articles for publication is the fifteenth day of each month.

Children's Ministries

Anna T. Johnson
Minister to Children

THANK YOU



The St. Mary's Children's Committee wishes to thank Hilary Sharpe and Tricia Miller, who shall be rotating off of the Children's Committee this year. Hilary and Tricia have given countless hours of dedicated service to our children and have helped create the ministry that we are so proud of today! We also wish to thank our Children's Committee for their continued leadership. Members include Armpie and Wright Ramsey, Lisa and Sean Pumphrey, Susanna Payne, Eazy St. John Milligan, Bobby Rhodes, Sarah Price and Betsy Rawles. Molly Snow, who has gracefully led the Committee over the past two years, will fortunately be joining us for one more year. We couldn't do it without you!

We also wish to thank our amazing Lead Teachers for organizing Sunday school for the 2011-2012 school year! Thanks to Lisa and Sean Pumphrey (3-4 year old class), Ashley Tunner (5-6 year old class), Tricia Miller and Victoria Chen (1st Grade), Laureen Mertz (2nd Grade), Armpie Ramsey (3rd Grade), Hilary Sharpe (4th Grade) and Eazy St. John Milligan (5th Grade).

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to Betsy Rawles and Sudie Pasco, who have led our highly successful and enjoyable Wee Worship and Children's Chapel this school year. We always look forward to our 2nd Sundays!

ST. MARY'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all teachers, assistants and event organizers! Anna Johnson, Minister to Children at St. Mary's, is currently collecting names of parishioners who would like to share their gift of time and talent with our preschool and elementary-aged children next school year. Opportunities include classroom teaching, classroom assisting, organizing our Annual Giving Tree, Christmas Eve Children's Service, Easter Sunday and more! Please e-mail her at ajohnson@stmarysgoochland.org or call her at 784-5678 ext. 18

Summer Sunday School

Ages 3-6 at 10:00 a.m.

This summer young children will have lots of fun learning about the Parables of Jesus in Godly Play! Godly Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that teaches children the art of using Christian language—parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action—helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Summer Schedule:

May 27 and June 3 OFF

June 10-August 19 Sunday school in 3rd and 4th grade classroom (children ages 3-6— all other children attend church with parents) from 10-11 a.m.

August 26 and September 2nd OFF

Youth Ministries

Sara Grattan
Minister to Youth

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH

Vacation Bible School
July 9-13
from 9-11:30 a.m.

Please mark your calendars now for an exciting week of fun and service. We will plan some fun youth oriented activities for several afternoons.



TUBING ON THE JAMES FOR GRADES 5-8 ON JUNE 2

5th - 8th grades are invited for a two-hour tubing trip on the James with Riverside Outfitters. We will meet at 2:30 pm at Riverside Outfitters' office on 6836 Old Westham Road Richmond, VA 23235. Cost of trip is \$15. Please go to our website and print off the Waiver form.

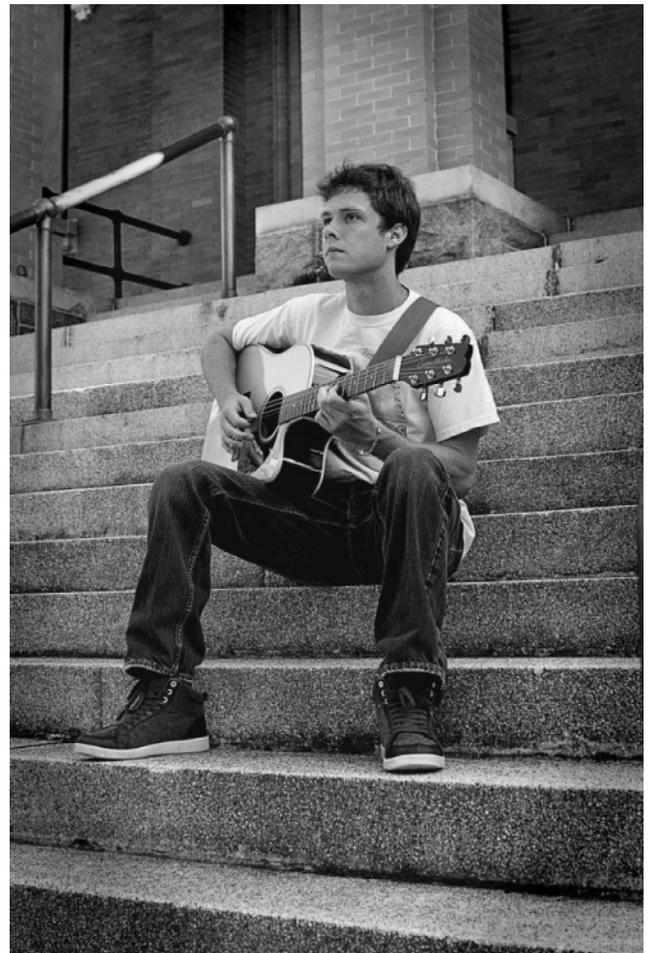
HOMILY FROM PARISH FAMILY SERVICE

by Ian Rowland

Throughout my life I have dealt with things that were beyond my reach; things I had no concept of understanding. Whether it was due to my innocence or unaccepting nature, I would find myself in a whirlwind of emotions that would force me into solitude, any place where I did not have to deal with others. At the time, this was all I could think of doing, but I would always find that I would become even more emotional as time went on. I was lost, and unwilling to accept the help of others. It was my first trip to Shrine Mont that made me make a change to my lifestyle.

In Orkney Springs, Virginia, if you expect to find service for your iPhone, or plan on eating fast food, you probably should stay home. For miles around you, the only thing you can see is the vast landscape of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The smell of the air around you makes you fully appreciate where you are, somewhere that is safe. The other people around you feel the same way, and everyone immediately becomes friends, no matter who you are. You don't have to be nervous, because the stress of homework, finding a homecoming date, or winning a track meet is gone. You know that with God's help, it is all going to be okay.

Since that trip I have been able to embrace the St. Mary's community. Whether it was helping at Bible School, playing music for the Christmas service, listening to John's sermons, or just hanging out at Youth Group, I was not afraid to be myself. With the support that every member here gives freely, I immediately was ready to give of myself, in and out of St. Mary's. Now as I head off to college this Fall, I have even more things to worry about, but I don't have to. Carrying the lessons I've learned while at St. Mary's, I'm ready to take on anything life throws at me, with a smile on my face.



P A R I S H • N E W S • I N • B R I E F

SABBATICAL FOR THE 5:00 P.M. SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION

Our Sunday evening service has provided a time of quiet, comfortable worship for nearly 5 years. Some of our parishioners have enjoyed the music, the beauty of the lighting in Little St. Mary's, as well as its intimate setting. The service has earned a rest, however, for at least the summer.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR Gina Alexander

Summer is upon us, and many of you will soon be heading off to summer homes or extended vacations. There is always so much to do before you can actually get away. Please remember to include your St. Mary's contributions in your planning. Bills continue to arrive, and we often have to borrow from reserved funds to make payroll during the summer months. **Why not consider setting up an automatic draft from your checking account, so that we can count on your contribution over the summer.** Please see the form in this newsletter to see how easy it is to set up. Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful church. Have a happy and healthy summer.



WORLD PEDIATRIC PROJECT UPDATE from Sara Reed & Molly Snow

Thank you all so very much for all of the love and support that you gave to Merlik and Rosemary Cobbe while they were in Richmond. As you know, Merlik's heart and eye surgeries were completely successful. And, although their stay was somewhat extended because of these two procedures, they were overjoyed that they are able to return to St. Lucia with such a bright future ahead for Merlik. In addition, Rocio Watson, Program Administrator for World Pediatric Project, asked that I share her thoughts with you as well:

"Please give our deepest gratitude to the wonderful folks at St. Mary's for what they have done for this wonderful family. I hope you can communicate to everyone how much impact they have all had in Merlik and Rosemary's lives and how much this experience has meant to each of them. Please rest assured and relay to the rest of the wonderful folks at St. Mary's that both Rosemary and Merlik will be supported by a great organization in their home country and that all health related questions and or requests coming from the family should be rerouted to us so that we can connect them to the appropriate resource."

I hope that everyone enjoyed this experience with World Pediatric Project, and getting to know this special family! I encourage you to share your thoughts with us as we move forward with other outreach projects. Again, many thanks for your support.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS!

The Fellowship Committee had a busy and successful year. We cooked, hosted and served 11 dinners, 7 breakfasts, 1 Bishop's Brunch, 1 picnic, and just about 30 coffee hour socials. We could not have done this without the tireless commitment and talent of the church members who volunteered their time to help make their church into a community. I greatly appreciate their commitment to Saint Mary's and would like to thank them for their efforts.

As an aside, the Fellowship Committee would appreciate all items that have been borrowed from the St. Mary's Kitchen through the course of the year be returned before June 1st so that we may complete our end of the year inventory report.

My Sincerest Thanks,

Sean-Thomas Pumphrey
Chairman Fellowship Committee



The Friendly Face of Fellowship. Kelly McDonald, Sean-Thomas Pumphrey, Bill Gooch and Sarah Richardson cheerfully volunteer at St. Mary's Parish Breakfasts.

Exploring Prayer for Summer 2012

beginning June 6th and continuing through the summer

Be Still

*Wednesdays at 12:00 noon - 12:30pm
Little St. Mary's*

*(This will be a lay-lead quiet time of silence with
opening and closing prayers -
Holy Eucharist will be offered once a month)*

*12:30 Bring a brown-bag lunch for picnic in the
courtyard and discussion of*

Summer Reading: J. David Muysken's Sacred Breath
(order now from Amazon or Barnes and Noble)

Post EfM Study with Christopher Brookfield

The Rev. Christopher M. Brookfield, retired associate rector of St. Mary's has been offering courses in continuing education for members who have completed EfM or have had experience in that program of study. Leaders of the post-EfM group are forming plans for upcoming courses, and are interested in feedback from prospective students.

A prerequisite for the studies is some EfM experience. Exceptions to this standard are possible, depending on the nature of the course. There is a tuition fee for participation. At present, the course content is to be decided.

Length of the study will be determined by course content. Courses will likely start the middle of September and terminate at the end of November.

Possible meeting times: Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and/or Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. IF there are enough participants to fill two classes.

Course Options:

1. The Restored New Testament, Willis Barnstone with the Five Gospels commentaries (6, 8, or 10 weeks)
2. Elaine Pagels, the Gnostic Gospels and The Origin of Satan (along with the Book of Job and a re-examination of the Gospels of Thomas and Miryam) (6 or 7 weeks)
3. Existential Literature - religious and non-religious as in Dostoevski, Kafka, Camus, Beckett, Sartre, Eliot, Buber, Buechner (10 weeks - mid Sept through November)
4. "The Face of God in Literature" - whichever novels and plays that can be found appropriate to the theme (10 weeks - mid Sept through Nov.)
5. "The Struggle with God and Mishpat: What Would You Have Done?" Jeremiah; Waugh, Brideshead Revisited; Camus, The Stranger; Kafka, The Trial; Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor"; Landay, Defending Jacob. (for 10 or 12 weeks, mid Sept. through Nov. or early Dec.)

If you are interested, and for final plans and cost, please contact: Jane Covington at e-mail address: Janeonthreehopt@gmail.com Indicate whether you are a "yes" or a "maybe"!!! Also, indicate the course of study that you would prefer.



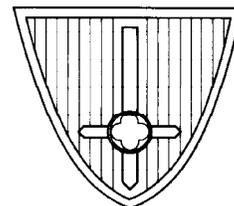
**St. Mary's Episcopal
Church Presents
SKY
Vacation Bible School
July 9-13
9-11:30 a.m.**

We are so excited to offer five days of fun-filled activities during Vacation Bible School this year and hope you will sign up to have your children ages 3 through rising (in the Fall) 5th graders participate! The theme this year is "Sky" where everything is possible with God! "Sky" is filled with incredible experiences. Kids will focus on Bible-point crafts, team-building games, Bible-learning experiences, music, drama, outdoor recreation and more! *Please know that this is not limited to children of St. Mary's parishioners.* The cost for all five days is \$35 per child. Please return the form as soon as possible with your check payable to St. Mary's Church. If you have any questions about participation or if you can help us out during these five days, please contact Anna Johnson (784-5678 ext. 18 or ajohnson@stmarysgoochland.org).



12291 River Road Richmond, Virginia 23238

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH





Dear Parents,

We are so excited to offer five days of fun-filled activities during Vacation Bible School this year and hope you will sign up to have your children ages 3 through rising (in the Fall) 5th graders participate! The theme this year is "Sky" where everything is possible with God! "Sky" is filled with incredible experiences. Kids will focus on Bible-point crafts, team-building games, Bible-learning experiences, music, drama, outdoor recreation and more! *Please know that this is not limited to children of St. Mary's parishioners.* The cost for all five days is \$35 per child. Please return this form as soon as possible with your check **payable to St. Mary's Church**. If you have any questions about participation or if you can help us out during these five days, please contact Anna Johnson (784-5678 or ajohnson@stmarysgoochland.org). Thank you!

Parent's(s') Name(s) _____

Address _____

Cell Phone Number _____ (Mom's) _____ (Dad's)

e-mail Address _____ (Mom's) _____ (Dad's)

Each child participating in VBS:

	Name	Birth Date	Grade Entering in Fall
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____

(Important information continues on the back of this form)

Any problems with **allergies or medical conditions** that would affect participation in any VBS activity? No _____ Yes, please explain, especially food allergies _____

Emergency contact if you are unable to be reached:

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Family Physician:

Name _____ Phone # _____

St. Mary's has permission to seek medical treatment for my child, if necessary, if I or my emergency contact cannot be reached: Yes _____ No _____

PARENT/ADULT Volunteers

Vacation Bible School cannot happen without your help! Please sign up for days for which you are available and for activities in which you are interested. Thank you!!

Name _____ Phone # _____ e-mail _____

Which days will you be available to help? Mon _____, Tues _____, Wed _____, Thurs _____, Fri _____

Would you be interested in **leading** any of the following activities? We have great resources to help you with any of the following and it is SO much fun:

Recreation _____ Crafts _____
Snacks/Movie Time _____ Decorating _____

Would you be interested in **helping** with any of the following activities?

Recreation _____ Crafts _____ Snacks/Movie Time _____ Decorating _____

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (rising 6th graders and older)!! Please come help make VBS as much fun for the kids as it was for you!

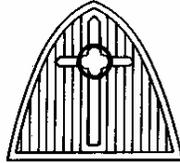
Name _____ Age _____ Phone # or email _____

Which days will you be available for help: Mon: _____ Tues: _____ Wed: _____ Thurs: _____ Fri: _____

Area of interest: Crafts _____ Snacks/Movies _____ Recreation _____ Where Needed: _____

June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	2 10:00 AM A.A. 2:30 PM Middle School Tubing 5:00 PM Wedding - New St. Mary's
3 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist I No Sunday School	4	5 9:00 AM Newcomer's Committee	6 9:00 AM Fellowship Committee 12:00 PM Be Still - Little St. Mary's School Camp	7 6:00 PM Thirty-Year Ordination Celebration	8	9 10:00 AM A.A. 5:00 PM Wedding - Little St. Mary's
10 10:00 AM Morning Prayer I Sunday School resumes for ages 3-6	11	12	13 9:00 AM Kitchen Clean-Up 12:00 PM Be Still - Little St. Mary's School Camp	14	15	16 10:00 AM A.A.
17 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist II	18	19	20 12:00 PM Be Still - Little St. Mary's	21 4:00 PM Finance Committee	22	23 10:00 AM A.A. Holy Baptism - Little St. Mary's - A.M.
24 10:00 AM Holy Baptism	25	26 5:00 PM Vestry	27 12:00 PM Be Still - Little St. Mary's	28	29	30 10:00 AM A.A.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

AUTOMATIC DRAFT AUTHORIZATION

To initiate an automatic draft for your pledge, complete the information below and attach a voided check.

- Full Name: _____
- _____
- Address: _____
- City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
- Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
- E-mail: _____
- Gift Amount: _____ Start Date: _____
- Withdrawal date will be the 20th of each month.

I hereby authorize an automatic draft on the day(s) of each month and in the dollar amount specified above, starting on the date shown above, from the account designated below. I may discontinue the use of this automatic draft at any time by giving notice at least 5 days before the next scheduled processing date. I also understand that drafts returned for insufficient funds (NSF) will be presented a second time unless I notify St. Mary's Episcopal Church not to present them again.

Signature Date

Name(s) on Account

- Bank Name: _____
- Bank Routing # 9 digits): _____
- Account #: _____

NOTE: If you bank at a Credit Union, you must verify with your institution the correct routing and account numbers to use with pre-authorized drafts on your account.

Return this completed form along with your voided blank check to:

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Attention Administrator
12291 River Road
Richmond, VA 23238**

Should you have any questions, please contact Gina Alexander at 804-784-5678.