

# ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R

### *The Seasons of Advent and Christmas*

*December 2012*



#### **December 2**

##### **The First Sunday of Advent**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

#### **December 9**

##### **The Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

10:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer I

*Preschool Bake Sale*

#### **December 16**

##### **The Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist II & Holy Baptism

#### **December 23**

##### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I & Lessons & Carols

11:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols

#### **December 24**

5:00 p.m. Children's Lessons & Carols

11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist II

#### **December 25**

##### **Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

Little St. Mary's

#### **December 30**

##### **First Sunday after Christmas Day**

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist I

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer I

*No Sunday School*

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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

Telephone: (804) 784-5678 Facsimile: (804) 784-1940  
 E-Mail Address: info@stmarysgoochland.org  
 Website: stmarysgoochland.org  
 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  
**The Bishop Suffragan**  
 The Right Rev. Susan E. Goff  
**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
Parish Administrator	Gina M. Alexander
Parish Secretary	Lori R. Smiley
Parish Sexton	Paul E. Pace
Assistant Sexton	Gersain Agudelo

## The Parish Vestry

<b>Senior Warden</b>	W. Edward Goode, Jr.
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Molly Mitchell Snow
<b>Treasurer</b>	Howard E. Cobb
<b>Register</b>	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:

## Transfers In:

20 November 2012 Anne Manning from  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

## Transfers Out:

19 November 2012 Catherine Shelton Avery to  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN

## Baptisms:

28 October 2012 Henry Fairchild Schaeffer  
 24 November 2012 Gage William Reynolds

## Weddings:

17 November 2012 John Edward Miller &  
 Deborah Barr Halloran



## ST. MARY'S ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

**And your clippers  
 and greens**

Please bring greens and/or come help decorate for Christmas on **9:00 a.m. Friday, December 21** in New St. Mary's.

### Questions?

Call: Sue Thompson (389-3631)  
 Betty Rinehardt (282-8374)  
 Joanie Robins (741-6393)

**Order Poinsettias now** to remember your loved ones. Please send your donation for \$25.00 for each Memorial to: St. Mary's Church, 12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238.

Checks may be made payable to St. Mary's Altar Guild and will be used to defray the cost of Christmas decorations at St. Mary's.



# Episcopal Visit by The Right Reverend Susan E. Goff

*Bishop Suffragan of Virginia*

**The Twenty-fourth  
Sunday after Pentecost  
11 November 2012**

## *Received Adults:*

*Mary Brantley Barr Holmes  
Douglas Warren Pera  
Randy Nicklas Reynolds, Jr.*

## *Confirmed Youth:*

*Claiborne Adams Bowden  
William Hill Brown V  
Ainslie Perrow Cosby  
Samuel Davis Cuthbert  
William Martin Davenport III  
Regan Ashley Ellis  
Alexandra Frances Ferrell  
Catherine Harrison Foster  
George Stuart Grattan Jr.  
Maria Tucker Harris  
Virginia Lee Harris  
Sarah Cushman Holzgrefe  
Lilian Holladay Horsley  
Margaret Hamilton Horsley  
Meredith Virginia Hughes  
David Jeremy Maitland Innes  
Margaret Cary Kell*

*John Roberts McCracken  
Kyleigh Ryan Negus  
Lewis Franklin Powell IV  
Quincy Cole Rhodes  
Bruin Scott Richardson IV  
Helen Christian Roddey  
Gordon Bohannan Galusha Roper  
Nathaniel Burwell Smith  
Robert Nash Spencer  
William Cabell Tavenner  
Charles Morgan Tolleson  
Wilhelm Harry Venitz  
William Jacob Viverette Jr.  
Daniel Copley Wake  
William Wallace White  
Jane Elizabeth Wilton*

# Symbols

*A Sermon for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost*

*Proper 28 - Year B - 18 November 2012*

Eleanor Lee Wellford  
Associate Rector

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*As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."*

*When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs."*

-Mark 13:1-8

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For some reason, we are a culture that loves symbols - symbols of power and might, symbols of prestige and accomplishment, symbols of remembrance, religious symbols, even symbols of love. But what happens when the symbol disappears? Does the underlying reason for its existence disappear, too?

About 15 years ago, my mother lost one of her rings. It was her mother's, or my grandmother's wedding band and my mother loved it and wore it constantly. It had apparently slipped off her finger while she was gardening. She called the whole family together to help her look for that ring which finally did make a reappearance - but quite by accident several years later. My mother grieved over the loss of that ring almost as much as she did when her mother died. The ring itself was a simple gold band but it represented a strong connection that she felt to her mother that seemed to have become broken when the ring was lost.

About 7 years ago I did an internship at a church here in town. As you might imagine, I paid close attention to what the rector did there as I was forming my own sense of what it means to be a priest. One thing that struck me as curious was that he would always kiss his stole before he put it over his vestments. It seemed too personal a gesture for me to question him about what he was

doing, but when I think back on it, I realize that the stole represented a strong connection to something deep and meaningful to him. Without that symbol, would his idea of what it means to be a priest be different?

On September 11, 2001, the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed as a result of a terrorist attack. As we remember all too well, it was shocking and stunning to our entire country not only that we would be attacked so brutally, but that so many innocent lives were lost. Whether we realized it then or not, those buildings were symbols - symbols of everything that terrorist organizations resented about America. The terrorists must have thought that destroying those symbols would destroy our collective spirit - but how incredibly wrong they were.

In this morning's gospel reading, we heard Jesus warning his disciples about the awful things that might take place during their life time, one of which was the destruction of the Temple. As the disciples heard this, they must have looked around in disbelief that such a magnificent structure and everything it symbolized to them could be destroyed.

Why would Jesus have said such a thing? Well, it was actually apocalyptic, a glimpse of the end times and similar to what is found in the entire book of Revelation. It contains predictions of political unrest, natural disasters, and persecutions that Jews and early Christians believed would usher in the kingdom of God. It describes the end of one age and the beginning of a new one. Contained within all apocalyptic predictions, however, are seeds of hope - although they may be hard to find. And these seeds are most often the only things left when the symbol itself is destroyed.

It took 7 years to build the first temple in Jerusalem and it happened during the time that Solomon was king. The temple was literally an attachment to Solomon's palace and was understood to be a royal chapel with the king serving as high priest. In the minds of the Israelites it was a place where the traditions of God's saving grace were remembered and celebrated. It was also thought of as God's dwelling place where God's presence was mediated through priest and sacrifice. (A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament, Birch, Brueggemann, Fretheim and Peterson, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1999, 248-249).

That first temple survived for 500 years but then was destroyed when the Babylonians overran Jerusalem and sent the Israelites into exile. Their overriding fear was that if God's dwelling place was destroyed, where would God be, then? They literally had to rethink what the Temple symbolized for them; and unfor-

tunately, they had plenty of time to do that. Once the Israelites returned to Jerusalem, the temple was rebuilt and a renaissance of worship took place in which the Temple was thought of more as a house a prayer, than a connection to the royal seat of power. The rebuilding was an expression of those seeds of hope that the Israelites still felt, despite what they believed to be God's judgment against them in letting Jerusalem fall and in the disruption and despair of their subsequent exile.

The temple was an outward and visible symbol of the desire of the leaders and people to put God first. It became the center of devotion and worship for the Jewish people for the next 500 years. And that brings us to the time when Jesus lived.

In his day, Jesus saw the temple as having become corrupt and he compared it to a fig tree that gives every appearance of health but yet bears no fruit (Mark 11:12-14, 20-21). He no longer saw the temple as the house of prayer that it was intended to be when it was rebuilt. It had become a house of slaughtered animals and a mecca for merchants. He predicted its demise which seemed unbelievable to all who heard him; but what was even more unbelievable was that he predicted it would be rebuilt without the use of human hands - without bricks and mortar. What kind of temple would that be? (Mark 14:58).

My guess is that those who heard Jesus had no more understanding of what he meant than our own St. Mary's children did when 6 or so years ago our then Suffragan Bishop, Bishop Jones spoke to them. He very innocently asked the children gathered around him where St. Mary's church was. Thinking literally, as children do, they didn't know how to answer him. They saw him standing right in the middle of our beautiful worship space and couldn't imagine that he didn't

know where he was - as if he was somehow lost and asking them, the children, for directions. So, Bishop Jones raised his hands toward the ceiling and said: "Is this building St. Mary's church?" And all the children immediately said "YES!" And Bishop Jones shook his head and said "No, it's not!" The children were still confused by his answer. Finally he opened his arms as if to embrace them and said "You are St. Mary's church!"

If his message was lost on the children, it certainly wasn't lost on me. These structures that make up the "campus" of St. Mary's are beautiful. In fact they are so beautiful that people who don't even belong here yet who have spotted pictures of our buildings on the internet or passed them by on River Road want to be married and photographed here. Without these buildings, though, would we still be St. Mary's church? Of course we would. We don't come here to worship these buildings or any symbol that is contained in them although that doesn't mean we don't enjoy being in this space or that the symbols that are in here don't inspire worship. We come together as a community to worship God together, to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as we



laugh together and cry together and to be the support that we need to be to each other in both Inreach and Outreach.

What Jesus was trying to teach his disciples about the temple and what Bishop Jones was trying to teach our children is that we are the church. Our buildings may be graceful and elegant but more importantly, they are only a reflection of the spirit of this community. Our churchyard symbolizes our past - the saints who have gone before us. We are the present and our children are the future. The bricks and mortar certainly provide space for worship and protect us from the outside but they could never contain the hopes and dreams we have for ourselves or for our children which make up the fabric of our community here. No symbol, no matter how beautiful, could ever do that. Nor would we want it to.

**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

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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.*

# The Courage to be Faithful

*A Sermon for Christ the King Sunday*

*Proper 29 - Year B - 25 November 2012*

David H. Knight  
Priest Associate

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In the Name of God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8*

On this Sunday which is now called Christ the King Sunday, these words from the Book of Revelation place God’s sovereignty and the reign of Christ at the very center of our attention; “Alpha and Omega”, the beginning and the end, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” There are for most of us those biblical passages that somehow, and for some reason, bring back memories and associations. Whenever I hear, for example, this passage referring to the Alpha and the Omega, I think of Jeannie’s grandmother, Jean Newbourg Littleton, a magnificent Philadelphia lady, a lady with incredible grace and dignity, a lady who was also known for speaking her mind directly and to the point. It was in the early spring of 1977. Jeannie and I had been married for six and a half years and at that point had a young family of three active little boys ages 5 and a half, 4 and a half, and one and a half. It was March or so as I recall, and the occasion had now presented itself for us to announce to our families that yet another little Knight was on the way and would be arriving in early October. It was reported through the family grapevine that Jeannie’s grandmother, upon hearing the announcement, gave her response to the happy news. It was swift and direct: “Well, I certainly hope they name it Omega!”, she opined. If the truth be known, however, it is that Grandma was herself a great one to talk. She and Pop had raised four fine children who also happened to be only six years apart. In a manner of speaking, we did name our fourth son “Omega” as he would complete our family, yet never do I encounter the passage in scripture about Alpha and Omega that I don’t think of Grandma, bless her heart.

The message of this Sunday is about the courage to be faithful. Years ago, back when I was alive, I remember—and you may remember as well—this Sunday was called the Sunday next before Advent as next Sunday will begin a new Church year. For us on these shores, the concept of kingship is one with which it is hard to identify. I suspect that the image of Christ as King may seem for us to be somewhat remote. The word “sovereignty” normally refers to the political authority over subjects as in kings and queens over their subjects, yet in a broader sense it can also describe the fact that there are those things that have sovereignty

over our lives. There are those influences that have power over us. They become the guiding forces in the way we live. They can either empower us or can hold us captive. In today’s Gospel, Pilate asks Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” But is that really his question? You see, Pilate is in a bind. Does he himself actually think that Jesus is an insurrectionist, or is he trying to find a way to placate the political leaders by finding a way to condemn Jesus because that’s what they wanted? Is Pilate free to act on what he knows to be the truth about Jesus regardless of the cost to him, or is he trapped? Is he forced to hide his own convictions in order to keep his job? Trapped, it appears that Pilate decided to hide his true convictions. He chose not to raise honest questions. He kept his fears and his thoughts to himself so as not to confront the matter.

This Sunday’s message is about the courage to be faithful to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ in our lives and in the life of the church. On this Sunday of Christ the King, the Church is faced once again with two questions in particular; “Who is Jesus Christ, and what does his sovereignty over the church that bears his name mean to us?” and, “What does the Church look like when it is faithful to what Christ is calling it to be?” The spirit of today’s readings speaks to how fearful; even trapped we might be if we are to take this question seriously to heart. Dr. Pete Peery, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina, has this to say about this Christ the King Sunday. He writes, “...evidence of this captivity is present in the pews of many congregations. In mainline churches, most members have every creature comfort imaginable, including houses, cars, and freedom to travel on expensive vacations. Yet dare these members be real at work or in public life? Dare they reveal who they are, what they truly believe, how they actually perceive things? Or, are they trapped by their fear of losing their position and with it the continuing path of upward mobility on which they bank to pay the mortgage, the car payments, and the credit card debt? Must they hide themselves, doing and saying things they do not want to do or say in order to ‘stay in control?’”

Dr. Peery goes on. He speaks about the captivity experienced by the church as he writes, “On this Sunday the Church proclaims Christ the King. The Church announces that it bows only to Jesus the Christ. The church declares that it does not give allegiance to any other person, principality, or power claiming to be sovereign. Yet will the church live out its profession? Forever fearful in this increasingly post-Christian era of losing members and thus losing

influence in the community, does the church temper its message and its mission in a desperate effort to maintain its position?" Profound questions these are as we contemplate not only today's readings, but as we contemplate who Jesus Christ is—in our own lives, and in the church of which you and I are a part that bears his name.

How often are there matters of justice that confront each of us and we are hesitant to say what we really think in fear of the consequences? How often is the church confronted by matters of justice as was Jesus himself, yet at times throughout history it has remained silent for fear of rocking the boat? We discover that any family system or any institution, including the church, can find itself stepping oh so carefully around the elephant in its midst. We find that any gathering of people can ignore the conventional wisdom that tells us of a very simple truth. It is that if something becomes unmentionable in our lives or in the life of the church, it simply becomes unmanageable. The blessing of it all is, however, that you and I live in the lap of God's love. It is that love that empowers us to be courageous even when it is risky to be courageous. Jesus offered us nothing less even as it led him to the cross.

This Sunday's message builds upon last Sunday's readings and what Eleanor said in her sermon bears underlining and repeating. She spoke of how for the Israelites the temple was an outward and visible symbol of the desire of the leaders and people to put God first. It became the center of devotion and worship for the Jewish people for the next 500 years. Jesus then, however, saw the temple as having become like a fig tree that gives every appearance of health yet bears no fruit. He no longer saw the temple as the house of prayer that it was intended to be. He predicted its demise but that it would be rebuilt. But what kind of temple would it be? Her message of last Sunday leads us into today's message. Jesus' vision was that it would be a temple that once again would put God first and that its people would display the courage to follow God's commandments to seek justice and to spread God's love to a broken world, that it would seek the truth, come whence it may, cost what it might.

Like so many, I have long been an admirer of Winston Churchill, his courage and some of the brilliant things he said at crucial moments in time and on a wide range of matters. Some were witty and demonstrated his humor, some were wise. All were profound. As you may recall, for example, and this has nothing to do with our subject this morning, Lady Astor once said to him, "Winston, if you were my husband, I would poison your tea." Churchill replied, "Nancy, if you were my wife, I would drink it." He once said, "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind, and won't change the subject." He also once said, "You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood for something, sometime in your life." But then, about courage he said—and this one relates to what this Sunday is about—"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak;" though he also added, "courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." When you and I listen to the words in scripture that speak the truth of who Jesus is and to what it is he is calling us to do, we come to realize that there will be those times that call for courage on our part, individual courage, and courage as the church, the community of the faithful, courage to speak out and to do the next right thing. God, who is the Alpha and the Omega, who was and is and is to come, the Almighty, calls us to response. The question remains and is with us daily, "What is my life like when I strive to be the person Jesus calls me to be?" In like manner, "What does the church look like when it has the courage to stand up and follow in the path of what it means to be the Church that bears his name? For everyone who belongs to the truth listens to his voice. As you and I strive to be faithful to Christ who is Lord of the Church and Lord of our lives, there is that wonderful prayer in our Prayer Book that can serve as a guide, one in which we pray,

*O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP, p.832*

## *Advent/Winter Exploring Prayer*

- Please make your reservation to attend **Martin Laird on Dec.1st** at St Stephen's Church. His latest book *A Sunlit Absence* will be available.
- Beginning in **December** and during the winter **BE STILL** will meet **once a month**. We will meet at 5:15 before the **Parish Supper** in Little St Mary's for Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer. The schedule will change for Lent.
- On January 19th please join **Mary Lou Bean, RYT**, for a morning of gentle Yoga: "**Settling the Body- Stilling the Mind**" Details to follow.
- Suggested reading - Give yourself a Christmas gift of *The Daily Reader for Contemplative Living* by Fr. Thomas Keating.

# Children's Ministries

Anna T. Johnson  
Minister to Children

## Special Children's Ministries Dates

<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	11 a.m. Sunday school with Special music
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	11 a.m. Sunday school Giving Tree Deadline
<b>Wednesday, December 12</b>	5:30-6:45 p.m. Parish Supper and Special music rehearsal
<b>Saturday, December 15</b>	Giving Tree Donations Delivered
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	9:30 Children's Committee Meeting 11 a.m. Special music and Program for Children/Parent Curriculum Meeting*
<b>Saturday, December 22</b>	10-11 a.m. Rehearsal for Children's Service of Lessons and Carols
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	11 a.m. Sunday school
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	5 p.m. Children's Service of Lessons and Carols
<b>Sunday, December 30</b>	No Sunday school (childcare will be provided)

## CHILDREN'S SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

St. Mary's Children will once again be bringing their own special gifts, joy and excitement as they act out the good news of Jesus' birth. Our littlest cast members—the 3 and 4 year-olds—will be sheep; our children ages 5 and 6 and those in 1st grade will be our adorable angels and our 2nd and 3rd graders will be the children of Bethlehem. Our 4th and 5th graders will round out the cast as shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the Magi. The Lessons will be read by members of the 8th grade confirmation class and all of our children ages 5 through 5th grade will be sharing their musical gifts. We especially thank Molly Snow and Jennifer Waldbauer for leading this wonderful project. We also extend our sincere gratitude to Eazy Milligan who has generously offered her musical talents to direct our children's choir. If you have any questions, please email Molly Snow at [mollysnow@verizon.net](mailto:mollysnow@verizon.net). Childcare for infants and toddlers up to age 2 will be provided in the nursery.

### Rehearsal Information

Rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 22nd from 10-11 a.m. at St. Mary's. If your child would like to participate in the service, please make sure he or she can attend this rehearsal. We invite parents of children to stay to help ensure that we run an efficient rehearsal.



## CHILDREN TO SING AT DECEMBER PARISH SUPPER

Remember to mark December's Parish Supper on your calendars! Our children will be practicing for our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols and will share a few songs with families! If you

would like more information on our special music, please contact Eazy Milligan at [elizabethstjohn@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethstjohn@yahoo.com).

### \*PARENT CURRICULUM MEETING

Attention all parents! Please join us at 11:05 a.m. in the Parish Hall on December 16th (during church) for a meeting about Sunday school curriculum. We are eager to hear your thoughts on what you love about our educational programs and what opportunities you see for growth. We will offer fun activities for children this Sunday while you attend the meeting. All are invited!



The 3rd, 4th & 5th grade group enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Bowl America Short Pump on Sunday, November 18th. A big thank you to the Schmidt, Snow, Goode, Inge, and Holmes families for participating! A winter event is being planned for February, more info to come.



Brantley Holmes with her daughter brought placemats to Christy Ellis, director of community resources at Freedom House. These beautiful projects were made as an outreach project by St. Mary's children and youth during October and November.



### GIVING TREE NEWS

Giving from the heart is the whole idea of the Christmas Giving Tree. Our tree, which will be in the Sunday school greeting area, will be full of Christmas ornaments with gift ideas.

This year we are expanding our Giving Tree project to include both the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Service's Christmas Closet AND two families through the Goochland Christmas Mother Project. This year we are pleased to meet the Johnson/Morman family and Mrs. Clara Thomas. The Giving Tree will have three different types of ornaments—each a different color for a family or GFCFS. Please take an ornament and re-

turn the gift and the ornament to the tree by Sunday, December 9th. Gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 15th. If you choose to purchase for one of our families, please wrap the gift and place the ornament on top. If you purchase for GFCFS, please place items in a gift bag so item may be viewed and opened easily. Remember to place the ornament with the gift. Thanks to Carrie Schaeffer for serving as our Lead Coordinator for our Giving Tree! For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carrie at [carrieschaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:carrieschaeffer@gmail.com).

### ALL SAINTS DAY THANKS

Thanks to all of our Children's Ministries volunteers for helping make our All Saints Day Parade around St. Mary's church cemetery so special. We enjoyed meeting all of our little Saints, including Mother Teresa, St. Joan, John Donne and more! We especially thank Betsy Rawles for taking such gorgeous photos of the morning.



# Youth Ministries

Sara Grattan  
Minister to Youth

## Sunday School Information

Sunday School for 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades meets during the 11 am Worship Service. Youth go with their parents to church and then are dismissed to the Youth and Education Building for Sunday School. We will meet on the following days in December:

- December 02:** Sunday School during 11 am service
- December 09:** Sunday School during 11 am service. After church we will go to Peter Paul Development center to host a party.
- December 16:** Sunday School during 11 am service
- December 23:** No Sunday School during 11 am service
- December 30:** No Sunday School during 11 am service



## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT PETER PAUL December 9

St. Mary's Youth are hosting a Christmas Party on December 9th at Peter Paul Development Center from 1-3 pm. We will ask each person to bring an unwrapped gift as prize for BINGO. Parents are needed to chaperone and provide lunch.

## RHYTHMS OF GRACE December 16

*Rhythms of Grace* is a Worship Service/Sunday School for children with special needs. We meet once a month in the youth building for fellowship, fun activities, and Holy Eucharist. Volunteers are needed. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month from 1-2 pm. Our next Service is December 16. If interested in participating, please email Sara Grattan at [sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.org).



## TUBING ADVENTURE JANUARY 3 For Dads and Youth in grades 6-12

Join your St. Mary's friends and our friends from Peter Paul Development Center for a trip to Wintergreen on Thursday, January 3 from 2-9 pm. We will tube from 4-6 pm and then come off the mountain and have dinner in Charlottesville. We would love for you Dads to volunteer to spend the afternoon with your children. Younger siblings are invited if the dad chaperones. Cost of the trip is \$35 which includes dinner.

Please let Sara Grattan know if you plan on attending.



## EPIPHANY CAMP SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

January 3rd and 4th  
9 a.m.-Noon

The St. Mary's youth will host a camp for children ages 3 years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It will be a mini VBS. Parents and youth are needed to volunteer. 100% of the proceeds will go toward St. Mary's fundraising efforts for World Pediatric Project. Camps will include crafts, games, songs, stories, snacks and more. If interested in participating as a volunteer or if interested in signing up your child, please contact Sara Grattan at [sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.com](mailto:sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.com)

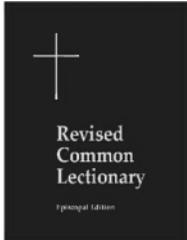
## HIGH SCHOOL SKI TRIP JANUARY 19-21 with St. James' and St. Stephen's

St. Mary's, St. James' and St. Stephen's High School youth are going skiing together. The weekend of January 19-21 we are heading to Watermark Camps for a weekend of skiing at Wintergreen and fellowship with our friends. Cost of trip will be around \$150. If interested in participating, please email Sara Grattan at [sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:sgrattan@stmarysgoochland.org)



*Bishop Goff's First Visit to St. Mary's. The Right Reverend Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia, visited our parish on Sunday, November 11, receiving adults and confirming youth (See p. 3), as well as serving as celebrant and preacher. Bishop Goff poses here with two confirmands and their parson.*

# ADULT MINISTRIES



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY FOCUSES ON WEEKLY LECTIONARY

The Wednesday Bible Study has begun its Fall season, meeting every Wednesday in the Library at 10:00 a.m. Led by Rector John E. Miller, each Bible study session focuses on the Lectionary readings assigned for the succeeding Sunday. Members are encouraged to bring a Bible in a translation or version that they enjoy reading. Annotated study Bibles in the New Revised Standard Version, the New International Version, the New English Bible, and other versions are available online at Amazon.com, at Barnes and Noble, at Cokesbury Bookstores, and other retail dealers.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend and participate. Discussions are always enriching, and every point of view is appreciated. While no prior biblical training is required of group members, an open mind and readiness to learn and share insights are always welcome!

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

This small group facilitated by Associate Rector Eleanor Wellford meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30-6:00 in Eleanor's Office. The group spends its time in theological reflection and review of specific reading assignments.



## ROB BELL'S NOOMA SERIES

First and Third Wednesdays of each Month  
11:00 a.m. - Education Building Loft



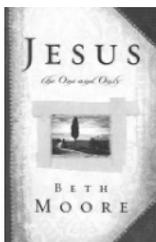
Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month beginning at 11:00 a.m., parishioner Laurie Rogers will lead a small group in a discussion of Rob Bell's Nooma series which are 10-15 minute videos exploring such topics of faith as forgiveness, compassion, mercy, justice, anger and sin. Used in churches of all denominations, they are sure to spark plenty of discussion.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library of the Adult and Youth Education Building. Its purpose is to knit, weave, or crochet shawls as the ministry's participants pray for God's blessing on those in need of pastoral care. The end product is not only a lovely source of warmth, but it is also a tangible means of comfort. Each shawl represents the loving witness of prayer offered by a community knit together by the Spirit of God. We encourage all who enjoy knitting to take part in this prayerful ministry. Inquiries about the Prayer Shawl ministry should be directed to Associate Rector Eleanor Wellford, 784-5678, or e-mail her at [ewellford@smarysgoochland.org](mailto:ewellford@smarysgoochland.org).



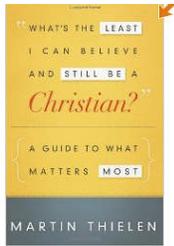
## BETH MOORE STUDY JESUS THE ONE AND ONLY by Eazy Milligan



St. Mary's Adult Ministries and Eazy Milligan are continuing a Beth Moore Women's Bible Study entitled "Jesus the One and Only." This is a ten-session course that studies the life of Jesus, primarily relying on the Gospel of Luke. At each session, participants will enjoy fellowship, watch a 60-minute video presented by Beth Moore, and engage in group discussion of the previous week's home study assignments. The study group meets every other Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Adult Education Building. It will not meet during Christmas Week, or on Valentine's Day. Depending on private and county schools spring break schedules, we may skip those weeks as well, but the class should be finished by Easter, March 31.

If you are interested in joining the class, please purchase *Jesus the One and Only* Book (\$14.95) available at Lifeway or Amazon. You will also need a Bible; any Bible is fine although the NIV (New International Version) Study Bible is recommended. Finally, the cost of the \$199 DVD purchase price will be divided equally among those attending.

Please let Eazy know by email [eliz64.milligan@gmail.com](mailto:eliz64.milligan@gmail.com) or by phone at 314-7686 if you are interested. The class meets in the Education building.



## WHAT'S THE LEAST I CAN BELIEVE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN?

December 5, 12

7:00 p.m. Education Building

Parishioners **Kim and Charles Glenn**, along with **Rector John Miller**, will lead a spirited discussion using as a reference the book entitled *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still be a Christian?* Author and Pastor **Martin Thielen** has honed in on the ten things Christians need to believe—and ten things they don't—to “qualify” as Christians. This book will help bring comfort to all of us who may find ourselves questioning some of the assumptions with which we grew up.

## EDUCATING FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WORKFORCE

Sunday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m.  
New Parish Hall

St. Mary's parishioner, **Laura W. Fornash**, will be giving a presentation this Sunday, December 2, in the New Parish Hall between the two services. Her topic will be: *Gov. McDonnell's Education Priorities: Educating for the 21st century Workforce*. As Secretary of Education and as a member of the Governor's Cabinet, **Laura** is imminently qualified to lead this discussion and answer questions about the state's education policy.



## St. Mary's Seniors to Strike Celebratory Tone at December Meeting

by Fred Clark

At its meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, the Seniors Group will honor the **SUPER SENIORS** and the newly-labeled **GOLDEN PIONEERS** of St. Mary's. The celebratory program will be topped off with some selected readings and carols in anticipation of the coming Christmas season. We hope you can and will join us as we hail some special friends and colleagues on this light-hearted occasion. We need your presence and your voices.



For the Super Seniors, arbitrarily defined as St. Mary's members who have achieved 90 years of age (now numbering 10), this will be our 7th Annual Recognition. For the Golden Pioneers, arbitrarily defined as St. Mary's members who, regardless of current age, have been members for at least 50 years (now known to number at least 15), this will be their initial party. The Seniors Group believes that each of these stalwarts deserves our collective acknowledgments, thanks and salutes.

Our nod to the upcoming Christmas season will serve as a 'teaser' to the opportunities in the St. Mary's service calendar for fuller remembrance of and reflection on the great

Advent and Christmas lessons and music.

As usual, we will meet in the New Parish Hall at 12:00 noon, with a delicious lunch at 12:15, program beginning around 12:45 and adjournment by 2:00. Regardless of age or affiliation, all are welcome to Seniors fellowship events. Please make reservations by noon on Monday December 10 (call the Church office at 784-5678, unless you have responded to a prior reminder call.)

- On **January 16** (note this is 3rd Wednesday), **Dr. Ed Ayers**, President of the University of Richmond, will address the Senior's Group on "The future of private college education: challenges and opportunities".

- **Advance notice: For Mar 13**, the Seniors are planning an expertly-documented bus tour of new and old downtown Richmond, with a 40 minute stop at St. Paul's for a Lenten Lunch. No limitations on age or affiliation. Reservation Forms, available at the December meeting, will be accepted on a 'first come-first served basis'.

# St. Mary's Episcopal School

by Susan Rawls, Director



*School Thanksgiving Feast*

As I look out my window here at St. Mary's Episcopal School and see the seasons changing right before my eyes, I am struck by the magnificence of God's amazing creation and His ability to capture my attention by His ever changing world. The children of St. Mary's are "captured" too. In amazement, they watch the colors change and blanket the ground, they see the birds and squirrels going back and forth to their nests, and they watch the windswept leaves dance circles in the air. It is exciting for us to see their responses as they embrace the natural setting of St. Mary's School. They have made parties for birds and squirrels, they try to imitate the dancing leaves, and they pile leaves over and over to enjoy the "big jump." What a blessing to have a place to really experience God's world!

In addition to enjoying the changes of the season, November has been very busy for St. Mary's School. In celebration of Thanksgiving, the children and their families participated in the Goochland Family Service collection program. We collected many bags of groceries and provided money for turkeys to help families in need celebrate Thanksgiving. We also celebrated Grandfriend's Day with visits from grandparents, neighbors, aunts, uncles and parents. They enjoyed a special program in which all of the children sang. Artwork was displayed by each classroom and delicious refreshments were provided by the parents of St. Mary's. What a joyous celebration we had!

Currently, we are providing tours for prospective students. Please call our office (784-2049) if you wish to schedule a visit with us. Applications are now being accepted for the fall of 2013.

## School Holiday Bake Sale

December 9

Pies! Cakes! Breads! Cookies! And more! Come support the preschool on Sunday, December 9 for our annual bake sale to be held during the Parish Breakfast and after the 11 o'clock service. We will have a variety of whole pies, cakes, and breads, perfect for holiday entertaining or hostess gifts, and we will also have smaller, individually wrapped goodies. Thank you for supporting us!!



# From the Parish Administrator

Gina Alexander

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and with that comes my annual list of reminders.

Thanks to all of you who have paid or continue to faithfully pay your pledges. Please help us stay on budget by paying your 2012 pledge before the year ends.

If you are paying your pledge via a stock gift, please allow plenty of time for that transaction. The stock transfer must be made no later than Monday, December 31 to allow a tax deduction for 2012. **The office is closed on December 31**, but I will check my messages. I encourage you to make your stock gift early so that we can produce our year end statements on time. For your convenience, there is a stock gift form on the back of the calendar page. There is also one on our web site. You can send it to your broker & fax a copy to me. **Please do not rely on your broker to inform me of your gift** – they often don't. Every year I receive stock contributions without any donor information. Our fax number is 804-784-1940, or you may e-mail me at [galexander@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:galexander@stmarysgoochland.org).

If you choose to mail your donation, it must be postmarked by Monday, December 31. Again, the office is closed on December 31, so all hand delivered gifts should be made by Friday, December 28. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Be sure to indicate your gift designation on the memo line of your check, i.e., 2012 pledge, 2013 pledge, discretionary fund, etc. If no designation is made your gift is automatically applied to your current year's pledge, or if there is no pledge, to unpledged gifts for 2012. Please help me avoid errors by noting how you want your funds to be applied; and if you know your giving number, please write it on the memo line.

If you have not yet made your pledge for 2013, I encourage you to do so before year end. We need everyone to participate in order to make our budget for next year. St. Mary's is aging, and the cost of keeping your church running is always a challenge. Please show your appreciation by making an appropriate pledge for your family. If you do not have a pledge card handy, you may make

your pledge at our web site [www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org).

As always, your graciousness and generosity in giving is so appreciated, and many of you have gone above and beyond this year. It is my privilege to be a part of the St. Mary's family, and I look forward to a wonderful 2013 with you.

## TO DO GOOD AND TO DISTRIBUTE. . .

### 2013 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

<b>Cards Sent</b>	549
<b>Cards Returned</b>	336

61% Cards Returned

<b>Goal</b>	\$870,000
<b>Pledges to Date</b>	\$734,016

. . . FORGET NOT



### New Campus Maps Provide Visual Access to St. Mary's

Two campus maps—one near the Music Building and one near the Parish Office—have increased visual access to the St. Mary's buildings and churchyard for both visitors and members. Drawn by Margaret Lundvall, who has also created pen-and-ink views of Little St. Mary's (see page 5) and New St. Mary's, these maps give a birds eye view of the parish grounds.

## PARISH SUPPER

Wednesday, December 19  
5:30-6:45 p.m.  
New Parish Hall

### Menu

Beef tenderloin  
with red wine sauce  
Roasted potatoes  
Cranberry walnut salad  
Dinner rolls  
Peppermint ice cream

*6:45 p.m. Special Treat! Children will be previewing songs from their service of Lessons & Carols.*

If you would like to help, please contact Dede Andrews at [aalden7@gmail.com](mailto:aalden7@gmail.com) or 741-6606

*Please call 784-5678 for reservations,  
Requested Donation: \$7.00 per Adult,  
\$4.00 per child age 9 to 14, Family Maximum \$22*

## PARISH BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 9  
10:00 a.m.  
New Parish Hall

### Menu

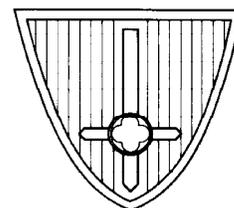
Creamed chipped beef  
Biscuits  
Scrambled and fried eggs  
Bacon  
Home fries  
Pastries  
Fruit

*Requested Donation: \$5.00 per person  
Family maximum of \$20.00*

If you would like to help,  
please contact Sarah & Bruin Richardson at  
740-9060 or [srichardson@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:srichardson@stmarysgoochland.org)

12291 River Road Richmond, Virginia 23238

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*Ooh La La!*

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

invites you

to a Fun French Cooking Class with

Chef in Residence

**Lanette Walker**

Thursday, January 24, 6:00 pm

**Prepare a delicious French meal while enjoying  
fellowship, food and wine!**

Grilled Vegetable Antipasto with Herbed Chevre and Crostini ~ Thyme Gougeres  
Chicken with Morels ~ Warm lentil Salad with Mustard Vinaigrette  
Green Beans and Zucchini with Sauce Verte ~ Rustic Apricot and Almond Tart

**16 guests maximum - \$45 per guest**

**To register please call St. Mary's at 784-5678 by January 17th**



-----REGISTRATION FORM-----  
EPIPHANY CAMP AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
Thursday, January 3rd from 9am-12pm... "Three Kings"  
Friday, January 4th from 9am-12pm... "Temple Run"

For children ages 3 through 10

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to offer two days of fun-filled activities during St. Mary's Epiphany Camp and hope you will sign up to have your children ages 3-10 participate!

We have two themes... "Three Kings" and "Temple Run", which will focus on Baby Jesus' presentation to the temple and the special visit from the Wisemen. Our camps will include crafts, games, songs, stories, snacks, and more! Camps are open to all children, so tell your friends!

**\*\*100% of the proceeds will go toward St. Mary's fundraising efforts for World Pediatric Project. Help us raise the \$5000 needed for this wonderful outreach opportunity!\*\***

The cost is \$30/child per session, \$50/2 children per session, and \$60/3 children per session. Please return this form as **soon as possible** with your check payable to **"WPP"**. If you have any questions about participation or if you can help us out on one of these two days, please contact Joanne Miller at [joannekmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:joannekmiller@yahoo.com) or 363-1042. Thank you!

-----  
Parent's(s') Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom's) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dad's)

e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom's) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dad's)

(Important information continues on the back of this form)

**Each child participating in Epiphany Camp:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Which days: Thurs Fri

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**

Please sign up if you are available to help one of the days. Thank you!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Which days will you be available to help? Thurs Fri

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (6<sup>th</sup> graders and older)!!** Please come help make Epiphany Camp a success for WPP and fun for the kids!

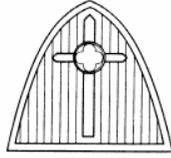
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # or email \_\_\_\_\_ Which days will you be available for help: Thurs Fri

**\*\* Please return completed form and check made out to "WPP" to Lori Smiley in the church front office or you may send it in your child's preschool folder in an envelope marked "Epiphany Camp."**

## December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 10:00 AM A.A.
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  10:00 AM Adult Education Class  11:00 AM Holy Eucharist I	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3:30 PM EFM	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Fellowship Committee  10:00 AM Bible Study  11:00 AM Nooma Series  7:00 PM "What's the Least" Class	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM A.A.
<b>9</b> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  10:00 AM Parish Breakfast  11:00 AM Morning Prayer I  School Bake Sale	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 3:30 PM EFM	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Outreach Committee  10:00 AM Bible Study  11:30 AM Morning Prayer  12:00 PM Seniors  7:00 PM "What's the Least" Class	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Outreach Committee  10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry  7:00 PM "Jesus The One & Only"  7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM A.A.  10:00 AM Adult Lessons and Carols Practice  11:00 AM HB - LSBM
<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  9:30 AM Children's Committee Meeting  11:00 AM Holy Eucharist II & Holy Baptism  Giving Tree Pick Up	<b>17</b> 11:00 AM Calendar Meeting  4:00 PM Finance Committee	<b>18</b> 3:30 PM EFM  5:00 PM Vestry	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study  11:00 AM Nooma Series  5:15 PM Be Still  5:45 PM Parish Supper	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Altar Guild	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM A.A.  10:00 AM Children's L & C Practice
<b>23</b> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  11:00 AM Lessons & Carols	<b>24</b> 5:00 PM Children's Lessons & Carols  11:00 PM Holy Eucharist II	<b>25</b> 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - LSBM   Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM A.A.
<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  11:00 AM Morning Prayer I  No Sunday School	<b>31</b> Office Closed					

## STOCK TRANSFER DOCUMENT



For ease in making a gift of stock to St. Mary's simply complete the form below and mail or fax it to your stockbroker. **PLEASE NOTIFY ST. MARY'S OF YOUR GIFT:** Gina Alexander at 804-784-5678 or [galexander@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:galexander@stmarysgoochland.org), or fax a copy to 804-784-1940. **THANK YOU!**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Broker's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Please transfer (#) \_\_\_\_\_ shares

of (name of stock) \_\_\_\_\_

from my account (#) \_\_\_\_\_

to SunTrust Bank, DTC #0226, account # BNG 005088, in the name of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your name printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
form 122