

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R

*The Seasons of Epiphany and Lent
February 2013*



Photo by Chris Spencer

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. -John 1:5

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Dover Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
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Episcopal Leadership

The Archbishop of Canterbury
 The Most Rev. and Rt. Honorable Justin Welby
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 Children	Anna T. Johnson
Minister to Youth	Sara M. Grattan
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

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
 Howard E. Cobb
 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:

13 January 2013	Latham Christopher Staab
20 January 2013	Anne Frances Weinstein

Burials:

12 January 2013	Catherine Metz Bridgers (Kitzi) Moore
22 January 2013	William Grant Maynard
26 January 2013	Hudson Hugh Williams



Snow Policy

When winter storms of snow and ice occur on Sunday, St. Mary's will be open for worship unless conditions prevent all safe travel. In that case, we will post cancellations on the website, www.stmarysgoochland.org, and on voice mail (784-5678), at the "schedule of services" option # 12.

At all other times, when icy or snowy weather strikes on Sunday, we will consolidate the worship at St. Mary's to one service at 11:00 a.m. in New St. Mary's.

Our grounds crew will make every effort to clear walkways and the parking lot to enable members to have safe access to the buildings.

In every instance of winter precipitation please use your own discretion concerning safety and travel conditions.

Immersed

A Sermon the 1st Sunday after The Epiphany The Baptism of our Lord

Year C - 13 January 2013

John Edward Miller
Rector

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Collect

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Baptisms are happening throughout the Christian world today. The reason is that, on this first Sunday after the Epiphany, we are celebrating the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. Churches like ours regard this day as a time for following suit with our liturgies of Holy Baptism. At St. Mary's today, the parents of godparents of Latham Christopher Staab will present him to receive the sacrament. Although Latham is an infant, this will be his rite of initiation as a Christian whereby we proclaim his full inclusion as a member of Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We pray that in baptism God's blessing of unconditional love may find in him the will to grow into the full stature of Christ. And we pledge our support as a community to help him reach that goal of moral and spiritual maturity.

There is nothing unusual about a baptism in the Episcopal Church, particularly one that features a beautiful baby as a candidate. We are familiar with this ritual; it is a deep and vital facet of our family life. I relish these events. Each one proclaims faith, hope, and love in ways that words cannot equal. As someone once told me, a baptism is like a fresh start for the human race. Every life is infinitely precious to God; every life has the potential to make a definitive difference for the good of this world. And through Jesus Christ every life has access to grace – God's mercy when we fail, and God's power to transform us when we accept help.

These are good things; they are things that we count on, and need. But do you ever wonder why Jesus thought it necessary that he be baptized? Given who we believe him to be, why on earth would he have presented himself to John for baptism? Certainly he was not trying to make up for a personal deficit. Clearly he was not in need of enlightenment, or yearning for a "yes" from God. He went there conscious of his calling; he had a unique mission to commence. And he knew that John was just the man he needed to see.

According to Mark, John the Baptist was practicing a ritual of repentance for the forgiveness of sins¹ as he baptized. He challenged the people to recognize the wrongs they had wrought, and to turn their life around. John demanded that the penitent signify their desire for righteousness by accepting the baptism of immersion. Those who waded into the Jordan's waters and took the plunge admitted their sin and guilt, and asked to be washed clean. Apparently there were many who answered the Baptist's call. John's role in all four of the Gospels is a prominent one. He is a key transitional figure, acting as the last of classical prophets as well as the precursor to the Messiah. Even though John decreased as Jesus increased, we remember him especially as the man who baptized God's anointed one.

When John dipped Jesus into the water, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God enveloped the dripping Messiah. And a voice from on high was heard to proclaim, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

As electrifying moments go, I'd call that super-charged. In a flash everything was changed. That one act of baptism served as the turning point for all mankind. Through it Jesus became the union of nature and grace, man and God. Born of Mary, he was as human as we are; recognized by God as his Beloved Son, he was as godly as one can get. Jesus was a living bridge spanning

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

heaven and earth. He had become what Tillich would call the New Being—a whole new creation conceived in love for the sake of love.

This momentous event was an epiphany. It was a window of truth. Through it we can see what God has in mind for each of us. Jesus' life affects God, and it affects our life story. Paul the Apostle put it this way:

If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new is come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the message of reconciliation; that is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.²

God was in Christ reconciling. In other words, God was as literally *reuniting*³ parties that had been separated, namely God and us, in the person of Jesus. To do that God did not just draw near, or come close to whisper words of guidance in our ear. God became fully immersed in humanity. God, our Father, was *in* Christ (the Messiah), as was Jesus our brother. The two become one, and we are the beneficiaries.

The Baptism of our Lord enacts a great message. It tells us that God is not an absentee landlord or an alien-in-residence. In Christ God becomes human. God is totally immersed. God is *all in*, not partially present. It also tells us that Jesus, the man, was not a marginal messiah. Nor was his devotion to God tepid, or fair-weather, or subject to convenience and whim. The fully human Jesus of Nazareth gave himself to God fully. He too was all in – immersed.

If you've seen the Steven Spielberg film, "Lincoln," then you know about the title character, played to perfection by Daniel Day-Lewis. His portrayal of President Lincoln is hauntingly real. Every aspect of Lincoln's demeanor – from facial expressions and dialects to his profound melancholy – is authentic. Historians on the production team, including biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin, kept everyone on track. The recreation of historic scenes photographed by Matthew Brady and others was exquisite. Daniel Day-Lewis became more than a great character actor; he *became* Abraham Lincoln. It was easy to believe that he had been fully immersed into the life of one of most revered and reviled men in the history of our nation.

Spielberg, along with Kearns Goodwin and screenwriter Tony Kushner, spoke about the film last weekend at the Richmond Forum.⁴ When asked by moderator Tim Reid what the filming of the movie would you like people to remember, Spielberg replied that he wanted it known that Daniel Day-Lewis was completely in-character throughout the four months that his role was filmed in Richmond. He said that Day-Lewis, who is British, so fully entered Lincoln's persona that traces of his own life and other roles he had played were totally absent.⁵ 'Lincoln' spoke with the accents and patterns of speech that hailed from 19th-century Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, as well as showing that he could parody an Englishman's voice when telling a story about Ethan Allen while still remaining true to his historic personality.

Spielberg said that he never referred to Day-Lewis as "Daniel" during the production. Instead, he called him "Mr. President," or "Mr. Lincoln," and that's what Day-Lewis would respond to. At the end of production, Spielberg paid a visit to Mr. Lincoln's trailer. His purpose was to thank him for his commitment to the film as well as his professional excellence. When Daniel Day-Lewis welcomed

him, said Spielberg, he spoke in his usual voice – that of a sophisticated British actor with roots in England and Ireland. Having finished the part of Lincoln, Day-Lewis was again himself. He was all in as the president, but his immersion in the part was not a new creation. The actor's life as Lincoln was temporary; his personal integrity knows its limits.

For the Christian, however, baptism is the sacrament of transformation. It is more than a transitory commitment, and it is more than an occasional duty. Baptism begins a lifelong process of change. Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of that process. For us and with us he took the plunge, and became God's New Being. He beckons us to follow him, to join him in the water of life, and become the person God intends us to be. In that way, Jesus gives us the model for ministry, a ministry of reconciliation that has love as its aim, as well as its means. To love one another as Christ loves us requires full immersion. We cannot grow in true godliness if we are only willing to dip our toe in the baptismal water once in a while.

Hugh Jackman's portrayal of Jean Valjean in the recent remake of "Les Misérables" gives the moviegoer a dramatic, and very graphic, look at total transformation. Valjean is a man who has rebuilt his life as a prosperous and upright citizen after having been reclaimed by the love of God. Earlier he was a paroled thief – a man who has suffered under the cruel lash of tyranny, serving an 18-year sentence for having stolen a loaf of bread to feed his starving family. But the turning point for Valjean came when he accepted the hospitality of a Catholic Bishop, who welcomed the ragamuffin into his residence and gave him food and shelter. Valjean repaid Bishop Myriel's kindness by stealing his silver and skulking away into the night. After being captured and summarily dumped at the Bishop's door, Valjean was in jeopardy of being returned to the slave camp. But the Bishop showed compassion on his ungrateful guest, telling the gendarmes that the silver had been his gift. He then had Valjean promise to live his life as an honest man, and that transformed him – almost completely.

Some years later, a remarkably prosperous Valjean was living under an assumed name. He has been serving as guardian to orphaned Cosette, who has grown up under his care, and has become a lovely young woman. He is devoted to her wellbeing and she to his, but she is also young and attractive. Cosette soon meets Marius, an idealistic young aristocrat turned revolutionary, and she falls in love with him. Valjean cannot bear to lose his beloved ward. His unredeemed self-interest seeks to possess Cosette, leading Valjean to move in order to prevent her from ever seeing Marius again.

However, when Valjean witnesses the violent repression of a revolutionary uprising, in which Marius is wounded and all of his comrades killed by government soldiers, Valjean's better self makes a difficult, but loving choice. Although he is afraid of Marius' influence on Cosette, he nevertheless decides to save the youth's life rather than leaving him to die. The only route of escape is the sewer, and Valjean goes all in, dragging the unconscious Marius with him. In the process of saving Marius for Cosette Valjean is covered from head to toe in the excrement of Paris. His fouled form, carrying the body of the one he had viewed as a rival, is an icon of immersion. The redeemed Valjean realized that in Christ all things are possible – even an act of compassion for someone who posed a threat to his way of life.

"Les Misérables" closes with a musical message that sums up

what it means to be immersed in life, empowered by the grace of God. Valjean is gathered unto the angels, having spent himself for goodness' sake. As he breathes his last, a lyric of the finale gives us a word of hope. A trio of voices produces an enduring grace note that still rings in my ears. They sing, "To love another person is to see the face of God." And they are right. That is the way, that is the truth, and that is the life. Jesus has tested the baptismal water for us, and promises that it is refreshing. Shall we join him?

In the Name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

1 Mark 1:4

2 II Corinthians 5:17-19

3 The English word, "reconcile," is derived from the Latin, *reconciliare*, "again" (*re*) + "unite" (*conciliare*).

4 http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/local/lincoln-a-high-point-for-spielberg-kushner-and-kearns-goodwin/article_e4aa6294-3f43-5a8e-9629-46a4d8525bcb.html. The Richmond Forum featuring Spielberg, Kearns Goodwin, and Kushner will be broadcast on WCVE-TV on January 17, 2013, at 9 p.m.

5 Katherine Calos of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* (see link in the footnote above) quotes Spielberg thus: "I miss it because I had a profound experience with the actor playing Lincoln (Daniel Day-Lewis), who became Lincoln for all of us. I forgot his entire body of work, and he's made some profoundly genius movies in his relatively short career, and he wiped them clean from my recollection. I only saw the 16th president every single day for four months here in Richmond."



St. Mary's to host William & Mary Choir Friday, March 15, 7:30 pm

Host families needed for Friday night

Join us for an evening of choral music in New St. Mary's as the Choir of the College of William and Mary makes the first stop on its 2013 Spring Concert Tour on Friday, March 15, at 7:30 pm. St. Mary's will provide the choir with dinner and overnight accommodation, and you are invited to help! Host families will be asked to provide sleeping accommodation for students (in groups of 2) plus breakfast and transportation back to the church on Saturday morning as they continue on their tour.

Under the direction of Dr. James Armstrong, the Choir of William and Mary is an undergraduate ensemble of fifty-five

members, representing a wide array of disciplines and performing a varied repertoire of sacred and secular music. With the 2012–2013 academic year, the Choir celebrates 90 years of choral singing, making over thirty appearances throughout the year for College functions and touring in the U.S. and abroad.

We promise a wonderful evening of music, and we hope you will join us in offering our fellowship and hospitality. If you can host a pair of students (or more!) or would like to assist with dinner preparation, please contact Dwight Graham (dgraham@stmarysgoochland.org) or Beth Stephens (bethpstevens@gmail.com).

Water into Wine

The Miracle of Abundant Life

A Sermon for the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Year C - 20 January 2013

David H. Knight
Priest Associate

"When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (thought the servants who had drawn the water knew) the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:9-11

Someone once remarked that a wedding can be an accident waiting to happen. Despite the best laid plans, something can always go wrong. At a wedding at Christ Church in Winchester some years ago, the caterer approached me in the sacristy shortly before the wedding was to start. "Father Knight, how long will the service take?" she asked. I told her it would be about an hour as there would be a homily and Holy Communion. The caterer said "Good," and then she asked, "Can you make your homily a bit longer?" I was thinking, "This is the quintessence of the bizarre." She then told me what had happened. There was no wedding cake. The woman from whom the cake had been ordered never showed up and her husband said she was out of town for the weekend. This caterer, calm and resourceful, had just informed the distraught mother of the bride that she would produce a cake but she would need to buy some time. The mother of the bride said to her, "Then go see David!" After the service, in an unusual concession to wedding photographers, I let them take as long as they wanted for pictures. The altar guild thought I'd lost my mind. Finally, we would all arrive at the bride's home for the reception. There in the center of it all was a beautiful wedding cake made up of several tiers of sheet cake purchased a local supermarket yet beautifully frosted and decorated as if done by someone trained at the Culinary Institute of America. Magnificent! Renee's ingenuity and imagination saved the day. Celebration in abundance followed.

We hear once again the account of Jesus' first and most well known miracles. On the surface it is a simple story. Jesus and his mother and the disciples were at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. This story reminds us that Jesus loved to celebrate with people on joyous occasions. He wanted them as he wants us to have joy and abundance in our lives. It was the third day of the celebration. Suddenly the supply of wine was exhausted and a festive celebration was about to come to an end. The host was about to be embarrassed. But then, a miracle happened. But the miracle was

not in the magic of water becoming wine, though that was a happy outcome for the moment to be sure. The miracle was at a much deeper level, it had to do with the gift of abundant life that Jesus gives to us. Elsewhere in his Gospel, John speaks of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who came into this world that you and I might have life, and have it abundantly.

Abundant life. Where is it that we find abundance in this life? What does it look like? What does it feel like? How do we experience it? Abundant life is what Jesus intends for us to have, yet it has little to do with affluence and wealth. The miracles of abundant life that you and I look for—indeed that we long for—are not of the happy-ever-after variety. Rather, they are of the sort that marks a new beginning as promised by God through God's son Jesus, miracles that include joy in the midst of hardship, kindness in the midst of despair, love in the midst of hatred, a way forward in hope when hope seems illusive. We live in a world that is broken, a world that is full of violence. We live in a world that isn't as it should be. Bad things happen to good people. So many times in things we see around us, it is hard to imagine the possibility of abundant life, yet, in the midst of all that life brings, Jesus promises that he has come to us that we might have life and that we might have it in abundance. Certainly in the age to come, when we enter into eternal life, there is that promise, but Jesus says, even while on our earthly journey, he promises abundant life. How could this be?

With their blessing and permission, I want to share with you glimpses of a story about a family whose journey over the past 25 years or so is a profound example of what abundant life can mean even as life for them has turned out in a far different way from what they had hoped for a number of years ago. Last weekend, Jeannie and I drove to New Hampshire where I officiated at the funeral of our very dearest and long-time friend, Jim Lafferty. Jim and his wife Toni had raised four fine sons a half a generation ahead of our four boys. Their second son Tim and his wife, Joan, raised two sons, Pete and Joe. Tim tells how when their boys were toddlers their hope grew as they thought about their lives and dreamed about who they would become. But then, life for Tim and Joan, and for their sons Pete and Joe would soon take a different turn. As infants, the boys seemed pretty normal, yet Pete began to show some signs of developmental delays. At the time they didn't think it was a big deal but they decided to let their doctor know what was going on. A few days later they got the call that changed their lives. The doctor told them in no uncertain terms that their son Pete had

a muscle disease. Given Pete's diagnosis, there naturally was concern for their other son, Joe. Their worst fears were realized. He had the disease as well. It is called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive, muscle wasting disease that ultimately affects all the muscles in the body. There is no known cure. Ultimately it would claim their lives. Tim recalls how their hearts ached. He told me their hearts ached because they were broken. Tim looks back at how the first few days after the diagnosis they were devastated as a couple. But nearly a week passed before they made a decision. It was a decision about how they would raise Pete and Joe. "Though their lives would be shorter, we would give them the best lives they could possibly have," their mother Joan said. "They are God's gift for us to raise." As I was talking the other day with Tim, he shared with me that he and Joan knew that they could not do it alone. They decided to place their trust in God. Their whole perspective would change. "We have been given front row seats to see God's hand at work," he said. He spoke about how Joe during his life taught them about living in the present and about giving thanks for each day. Then, five years ago, after Joe's courageous fight, the disease would end his life at age 20. Pete is now 26. His health now is stable, his heart and especially his attitude are both strong. In fact, in 2011, the Nashua-Hudson Toastmasters of New Hampshire recognized Pete's ease with public speaking by naming him Toastmaster of the Year. Pete's grandmother, Toni, remarked how when people encounter this family, the way they see them facing life makes it easier for others.

Tim had shared their journey some time ago with some friends in their church. "As you can imagine," he said, "we grew a lot over the ... years as we continued to trust God with our lives and with the lives of our sons... Our journey was difficult and a lot of hard work but we were drawing closer to God and each other, and it was an exciting time of growth in our family." At then, at one point he said, "Despite our circumstances, each day is a gift. God wants us to live fully in the present." Talk about life in abundance! Pete manages in a motorized wheelchair and at his grandfather's funeral on Saturday, he read a poem he had written for his grandfather. In it he shared precious memories. He concluded his tribute with these words:

*I was so thankful to be a part of your life,
And trusting that you now have eternal life,
You're home with those who went before
And look forward to the day when we're reunited forevermore.*

As Pete spoke of his grandfather, you could feel a spirit of uplift in the congregation. It was palpable. Talk about a family experiencing life in abundance! The service had been designed such that my homily was to follow Pete's tribute to his grandfather. As

I stepped into the pulpit I had to invite the congregation to a moment of silence not only so we might reflect on Pete's words of inspiration, but also so that I could have a moment to collect myself.

As we left on Sunday to begin our trip home and were driving the roads in beautiful New Hampshire, it began to occur to me that what Tim and Joan, and their sons Pete and Joe have experienced is an example of abundant life in its truest form. In the midst of the turns that life has given them, they have experienced in its fullness, the abundant life that God promises to us even in the circumstances—especially in the circumstances—that we face in life. Their story is an example of the miracle about which the gospel speaks this morning. Jesus turning water into wine is about the miracle that happens when Jesus meets you and me where we are in life and provides for us hope and yes, even joy when we need it most and yet least expect it. In the circumstances that you and I must face, abundant life is possible, and not only in the life to come of which we are promised, but also here and now as you and I are given a foretaste of that heavenly banquet prepared for us.

You and I cannot do it alone, as Tim and Joan and countless others over the generations including many of you here this morning have discovered. It is God who provides that abundance for which we long, and it comes to us by grace. It is a gift, and a precious gift indeed. It is at God's table that we are fed. As I was thinking about the service for this morning, I was struck by the words the choir will sing (at the 11:00 service) (in a few moments):

*O sacred banquet! In which Christ is received,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge
of future glory to us is given.*

Jesus' first miracle at that wedding in Galilee is a gift that brings abundant life to us in the midst of all that life will ever bring our way.

As you come to God's table this morning, bring with you, your hunger for that abundant life, that abundance that God has promised to you and to us all through his son Jesus Christ. Bring that hunger with you, and you—and I—shall be fed. *Amen*

(Notes: Glimpses of the family's journey have come from conversations with the family as well as from an article published in The Nashua Telegraph on November 27, 2011, and from an address given by Tim Lafferty to the people of Crossway Christian Church in Nashua, NH where he is on staff as Associate Pastor for Adult Ministries.

Choir anthem text is from "O sacrum convivium" by Andrea Gabrieli)

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.

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Mrs. Lori Remington Smiley, Parish Secretary
The Parish Staff
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

Children's Ministries February Schedule

- February 3 11 a.m. Sunday School
- February 10 9:45 a.m. Children's Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. Family and Preschool Sunday
Wee Worship and Children's Chapel
- February 12 5:30-7:00 Mardi Gras Party and Pancake Supper
- February 17 11 a.m.. Sunday School
- February 24 11 a.m. Sunday School



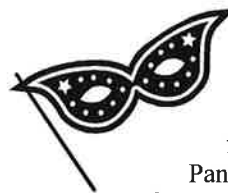
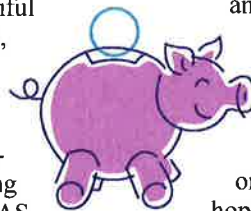
JOIN US FOR THE MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE!

St. Mary's children and youth are all invited to work as a community to learn more about the *Book of Common Prayer* and passages that are part of our Episcopal faith tradition. Children and youth learn The Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, The Nicene Creed and The Ten Commandments over the year, and successful "graduates" receive a prize or gift certificate to a local ice cream shop! Keep up the great work!

ST. MARY'S CHILDREN COLLECT QUARTERS FOR CARITAS

Our children have been busy creating 40 beautiful placemats for our CARITAS guests. In the mean time, we would like to encourage you to take some time to discuss the CARITAS mission with your children. St. Mary's will be hosting 40 homeless men for a week in March. In addition to serving three meals a day, volunteers from the church will take individual bags of clothing to the laundry mat and wash them for our CARITAS guests. It would be fantastic if our children could help us collect the quarters that will be used to do the laundry. Look for the large glass change jar on our Children's Ministries Welcome Table. We hope the children will take pleasure in giving quarters for this cause.

—Brantley Holmes and St. Mary's Children's Ministries Committee



MARDI GRAS— SAVE THE DATE!

Make sure that you save the date for our Annual Mardi Gras Party and Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. Children's Ministries will provide lots of fun activities for the children as families enjoy a delicious pancake supper! Please RSVP to info@stmarysgoochland.org if you plan to attend dinner.

CHILDREN'S GIVING PROGRAM REMINDER

We wanted to send out a reminder of the Children's Giving Program that we initiated back in September. This new and exciting program is providing our children with the opportunity to learn not only about the importance of giving, but also about the impact that they can make by giving to their church and community. So far our children have raised over \$100! Each Sunday the children are able to drop their envelope in a basket on the way to Sunday School. What is NOT important is the amount of money in the envelope. What IS important is that special feeling they will have by participating in something that is valued by God and their church family. At the end of the year, the children will collectively decide how the money they have given will be used either to benefit a ministry of the church, or even to benefit an organization in the community. Our hope is to raise awareness of our own abundance, which in turn creates a sense of gratitude and empowers each child with the spirit of giving to others. We hope that you will talk with your children about this program and share in our excitement of its potential to enrich our children's lives. Please contact Molly Snow at msnow@stmarysgoochland.org or Constance Bowden at cbowden@stmarysgoochland.org with questions or to become more involved with this program.

Scenes from Epiphany Camp

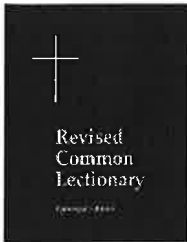


Epiphany Camp was held January 3rd and 4th with the help of St. Mary's youth and parents. With the themes of "Three Kings" and "Temple Run", the children participated in songs, dances, crafts, stories, and more. This was the second annual camp, which serves as a fundraiser for St. Mary's involvement with World Pediatric Project. Please be on the lookout for more fundraising efforts so that we can bring another child in need of a lifesaving surgery here to Richmond in the Fall!



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. **Please contact her if you are interested in joining an EfM group.**



ALL ABOUT BUDDHISM

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



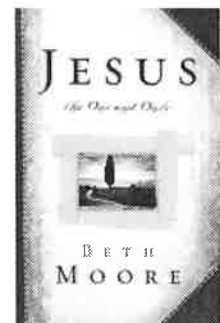
Are you curious about other religions? Come join us for an overview of Buddhism, using the Great Courses video series narrated by Dr. Malcolm Eckel. Dr. Eckel is a noted expert on Buddhism who teaches at Boston University and has been awarded BU's highest teaching award, the Metcalf Award for Teaching Excellence. This course will introduce us to the astonishing vitality and adaptability of a tradition that has transformed the civilizations of India, Tibet, China, Korea and Japan and has now established a significant presence in Europe and the Americas. We may choose to read a book to further explore Buddhist ideas, concepts and teachings. The fun begins Wednesday, February 6 from 11:00 to 12:30, and continues on Feb. 20, March 6 and 20, April 3 and 17 and May 1 and 15. Questions? Email Laurie Rogers at lcjr@me.com. All are welcome.

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 on Valentine's Day. Depending on private and public 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 or by phone at 314-7686 if you are interested. The class meets in the Education Building.





The Prophets: A Study on Amos

Meeting on February 3 and 17
10:00 a.m. New Parish Hall

Led by Dr. Frank E. Eakin, Jr., Weinstein-Rosenthal Professor of Jewish and Christian Studies at the University of Richmond and Dr. John E. Miller, Rector, St. Mary's Church, this series will be exploring the Old Testament prophet Amos.

The prophet Amos was an advocate of social justice. We will focus on Amos' context as an eighth-century Judean prophet (a brief introduction to the prophetic fraternity), the encounters which precipitated the initiation of his ministry (Amos 7-9), his call for social justice among the nations (Amos 1-2), and an addition to the Book of Amos which helps us to understand better both Amos and the prophetic literature (Amos 9:11-15).

We will seek to answer questions such as:

1. What does it mean to be a prophet?
2. Was Amos a prophet?
3. Was Amos a Jew?
4. Was Amos a monotheist?
5. What does social justice mean in a Judean context?
6. Does every word in the Book of Amos represent a word directly spoken by Amos?

Post EfM Study

with Rev. Christopher Brookfield

Dates and Times

February 19th - March 12th
Tuesday afternoons - 1:00 - 3:00 pm.
(4 - two hour sessions; 8 sessions, total)

Course of Study

“**When Things Fall Apart**”, “a confessional Lenten meditation inspired by the books of Barbara Brown Taylor and Pema Chodron, which will provide reflections on the Silence of God and The Way to make personal peace with absence and pain.”

“**Meditation**” in the title refers to our focussing personally on whether the authors are “right on” and address my life or “off base” and why I think (or feel) so.

“**Confessional**” refers to the engagement of the reader with the reading by speaking out of one’s experience rather than referring to what philosophers or theologians might think.

Contemplative responses rather than literary evaluation and rational argument are encouraged - (ie., responding from the heart rather than the head!!!)

Books

When God is Silent by Barbara Brown Taylor and *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chodron

Cost:

to be announced

Participation:

Open to all

Contact:

Jane Covington by e-mail - janeonthrechopt@gmail.com



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Thursday, February 21 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@stmarysgoochland.org.

PARISH • NEWS • IN • BRIEF



JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP EVENT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Please join us on Sunday, February 24th at St. Mary's for an afternoon of fun and fellowship from 4:00pm until 6:00pm in the Block Room (located off the hall behind the Kitchen)

We will have pizza and a movie and work together on a local community service project to benefit Full Circle Grief Center.

We hope you can join us!

Please RSVP to: Kristie.Inge@gmail.com



by Joan Wilkins

As part of St. Mary's Outreach programs, we will again be hosting 40 men guests for CARITAS during the week beginning March 16, 2013 and continuing until March 23, 2013. We will be responsible for housing, cooking a nourishing dinner and providing bagged breakfasts and lunches to be sent with them during the day. We will assist with personal laundry, providing transportation for showers at the YMCA and making our guests as comfortable as possible. We hope that each of you will find a way to share with those who find themselves in a difficult situation. Please watch for the sign-up board in the children's activity area beginning the week of February 17, 2013.

Your CARITAS Committee Thanks You!

Gentle Yoga & Centering Prayer Workshop

"Settling the body - Stilling the mind"

NEW PARISH HALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

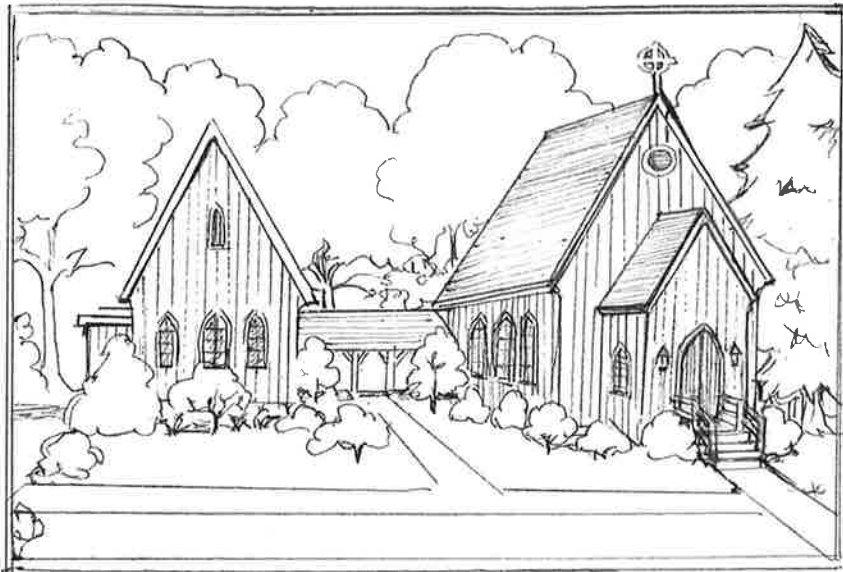
10:30 A.M. TO NOON

Gentle Hatha Yoga practice appropriate for Beginners/mixed levels

Please bring a small pillow for sitting and a towel and mat, if available.

Questions? Mary Lou Bean 363-2095 trmlbean@gmail.com or
Sydna Street 784-3942 streetsyd@gmail.com





Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

**Holy Eucharist I
Ash Wednesday
Service
11:30 a.m.
Little St. Mary's**

Mary Miley Theobald, Author, Historian and St. Maryian to Speak at February Seniors Meeting

by Fred Clark

The St. Mary's Seniors will be pleased to welcome and honor Mary Miley Theobald at its meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2013. Mrs. Theobald, an accomplished author and historian will speak on *First House: Two Centuries with Virginia's First Families*, her book written as the Bicentennial History of the Virginia Governor's Mansion (published October 2012). Her presentation, with projections of photos from the Mansion, promises to be both entertaining and educational. A review (J. Strafford, RTD, 01-13-13) states, in part, "A house—no matter how historic, beautiful or well-appointed—is no more than a shell without being placed in the context of those who occupy it. But when endowed with perspective, it can be a fascinating story. And that is what Mary Miley Theobald does for Virginia's Executive Mansion".

Mary was born in West Pointe, NY, but, as an "Army Brat", grew up in various places such as Pennsylvania, Illinois and Virginia. She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees from William and Mary in the 1970s, working summers as a costumed guide and later as Product Manager for the Historic Area. She taught American History at Virginia Commonwealth University for 13 years before turning to writing full-time. Mary has had 9 non-fiction books and over 175 magazine articles published, most on history, travel, and business topics. Her new career as a fiction writer will begin in September with the publishing of a Roaring Twenties murder mystery entitled *The Impersonator*.



Mary, husband Jim and their 2 children, joined St. Mary's in 1994. She has been a valued member (a soprano) of the choir since 2001. We are privileged to add Mary to our roster of honored St. Maryians.

As usual, we will meet in the New Parish Hall at 12:00 noon, with lunch around 12:15 (donation \$4), program beginning around 12:50, and adjournment by 2:00. Our speaker will accept questions and commentary, and a few titles will be available for review and sale. Regardless of age or affiliation, all are welcome at Seniors fellowship events. Please make your lunch reservation by noon Monday, February 11 (784-5678 or www.stmarysgoochland.org) unless you responded to a prior reminder call. Many also attend the Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 11:30 in Little St. Mary's immediately preceding the Seniors Meeting.

PS: On **Wednesday, March 13**, the Seniors plan to sponsor an expertly docented bus tour of old and new downtown Richmond, with a 30 minute stop at St. Paul's for a Lenten Lunch. Please call Gina at 784-5678 before submitting reservation form and fee.

On **Wednesday, April 10**, we will meet at sunny Tuckahoe Plantation for a talk on the current and future interests of Preservation Virginia, a box lunch and an optional tour of the House and Gardens of Tuckahoe.

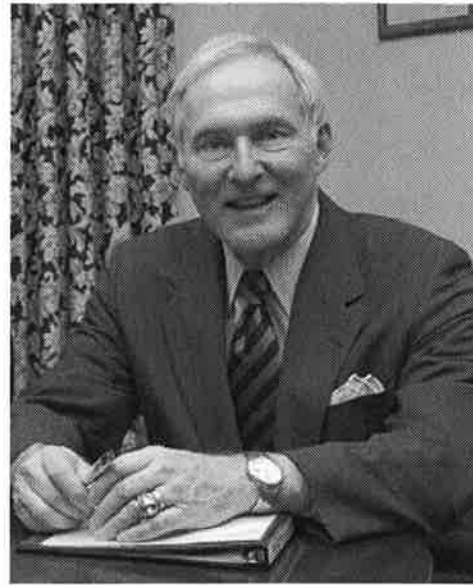
Wednesday Evenings in Lent

February 20, 27, March 6, and March 13

Suppers - New Parish Hall
5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

*Requested Donation: \$7.00 per Adult,
\$4.00 per child ages 9 to 14, Family Maximum \$22*

Program - 7:00 p.m. - New Parish Hall



Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D.

“Deadly, But Not Necessarily Dull History: Four Centuries of Death and Dying in America.”

Dr. Charles F. Bryan, Jr., a communicant of St. Mary's and a member of the Adult Ministries Committee, will present a series on the history of death and dying in America. Presented in three sessions, Dr. Bryan's series will explore the development of the distinctively American tradition of dealing with mortality. His presentations (see descriptions) will be on February 20, March 6, and March 13. St. Mary's rector, Dr. John E. Miller, will offer a presentation focused on Episcopal burial rites on February 27. Each class begins at 7 p.m. in the New Parish Hall.

Charles Bryan is founding partner with Daniel P. Jordan of Bryan & Jordan Consulting, LLC, which specializes in strategic planning, fund raising, board and staff relations, and executive searches for non-profit institutions and higher education.

Dr. Bryan retired in 2008 after a thirty year career as a public historian. He first served as assistant editor of the Papers of Andrew Jackson, a University of Tennessee documentary editing project. Then following stints as executive director of the East Tennessee Historical Society and St. Louis Mercantile Library Association, Dr. Bryan was appointed president and chief executive officer of the Virginia Historical Society in 1988.

February 20 “**The Precarious Life**—Death and Dying in Colonial America” [death ever present; high infant mortality rates; short lifespans; mourning was minimized; church services simple; burials in churchyards or in family plots near home; strong belief that final judgement of God would determine one's eternal fate]

Led by Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D.

February 27 “**The Anglican Way** - burial Rites in the Episcopal Church” [*The Book of Common Prayer* develops burial rituals for American Episcopalians; comparison of the 1928 Prayer Book and the 1979 Prayer Book traditions; St. Mary's Church and the churchyard sites for burial; growth trend in cremation vs. casket burial]

Led by The Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D

March 6 “**The Ritualization of Death**—Death and Dying in 19th Century America” [emergence of elaborate ritual and formal practices of mourning; emergence of funeral home profession; the beginning of grand cemeteries (Hollywood); the effect of the Civil War; with increasing urbanization and increase in immigrations, funeral rituals and practices change as well]

Led by Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D

March 13 “**Delegating Death and Dying**—the 20th Century to the Present” [with growth in hospitals and funeral homes, care of the dying and dead is delegated; mourning is again minimized; death is no longer a constant companion as people live longer; increase in cremations; hospice; the future of death and dying; latest polls on the afterlife]

Led by Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Ph.D

Please call 784-5678 for reservations,
or e-mail info@stmarysgoochland.org

A Letter to the St. Mary's Community

*To do good, and to distribute, forget not;
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

-Hebrews 13:16.

Dear Friends,

Your Vestry is seeking to close out our 2013 annual stewardship campaign. We have passed a realistic budget that responds to stated goals, the needs of our members, and responsible outreach to others. Funding this conservative budget depends largely on pledged giving from all of us. Currently we face a shortfall of \$43,000 in anticipated pledged income. This gap puts serious stress on the annual budget for 2013.

We've worked hard over the past couple of years to respond to your requests for increased programming and to celebrate in meaningful ways how we as a community have changed lives - our own and others. We anticipated that you would be enriched and excited by the fruits of our labors together but the lack of funding puts their future at risk. A substantial number of people who enjoy the benefits of our faith community are either not giving or not giving proportionately to what they are receiving. Our expenses continue to increase as yours do, yet our pledges have simply not increased enough to support our mission, ministry and maintenance.

Please prayerfully consider what our beloved St. Mary's community means to you and make a pledge as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you have already pledged, please consider increasing it. All pledges, from the substantial to the "widow's mite" are deeply needed, appreciated and gratefully received.

We anticipate thanking each and every one of you who has pledged for 2013 by publishing your name in the March Newsletter. If for some reason, you do not want to be thanked in this way, please notify our Parish Administrator, Gina Alexander at 804-784-5678 or galexander@stmarysgoochland.org.

*Faithfully,
Your Vestry*

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 12
5:30-7 p.m.
New Parish Hall



Come celebrate this traditional time of preparation for Lent.

Feasting, Fellowship, Festivity, Fun!

Mardi Gras Activities
for Younger Children.

*Please call 784-5678 for reservations,
or email info@stmarysgoochland.org*

*Requested Donation: \$7.00 per Adult,
\$4.00 per child age 9 to 14, Family Maximum \$22*

PARISH BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 10
10:00 a.m.
New Parish Hall

Menu

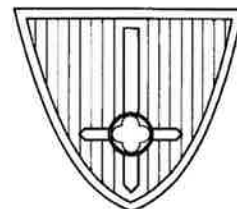
Canadian Bacon, Smoked Gouda
and Kale Frittata
Chocolate Chocolate Chip Pancake
with Chocolate Syrup
Fresh Strawberry Greek Yogurt
and Chocolate Granola
Homemade Double Cinnamon Scones
Ultimate Hot Cocoa

*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

12291 River Road Richmond, Virginia 23238

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 10:00 AM A.A.
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>3</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 10:00 AM Amos Study 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 5:00 PM Evening Prayer and Holy Communion</p>	<i>4</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>5</i></p> <p>3:30 PM EfM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>6</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Fellowship Committee 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Buddhism Series</p>	<i>7</i> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>8</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>9</i></p> <p>10:00 AM A.A.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>10</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 9:45 AM Children's Ministries Committee 10:00 AM Parish Breakfast 11:00 AM Holy Baptism 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<i>11</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>12</i></p> <p>3:30 PM EfM 5:30 PM Pancake Supper</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>13</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Outreach Committee 10:00 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist I 12:00 PM Seniors 7:00 PM "Jesus The One & Only" <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p>	<i>14</i> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>15</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>16</i></p> <p>10:00 AM A.A. 10:30 AM Yoga and Centering Prayer</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>17</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 10:00 AM Amos Study 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist II 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<i>18</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>19</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Calendar Meeting 3:30 PM EfM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>20</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Buddhism Series 5:30 PM Lenten Supper & Program</p>	<i>21</i> 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>22</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>23</i></p> <p>10:00 AM A.A.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>24</i></p> <p>9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 11:00 AM Morning Prayer I 4:00 PM Junior Youth Group 5:00 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<i>25</i>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>26</i></p> <p>3:30 PM EfM 5:00 PM Vestry</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>27</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Lenten Supper & Program</p>	<i>28</i> 7:00 PM "Jesus The One & Only" 7:30 PM Adult Choir		

February Worship Assistant Schedules

9AM Service – Little St. Mary’s - Schedule for Lay Worship Assistants					
Date	Service	Ushers	LEM	Lay Reader	Prayer Leader
Feb 3	Holy Eucharist I	Karen & Mike Huennekens	Joan Wilkins	Liz or Al Rider	Liz or Al Rider
Feb 10	Holy Eucharist I	Linda & John Hyslop	Kitty Williams or Robin Lind	Pam Loree	Kitty Williams or Robin Lind
Feb 17	Holy Eucharist I	Ellen & Pettus LeCompte	Neill Cobb	Susie Salsitz	Neill Cobb
Feb 24	Holy Eucharist I	George Locher Phoebe Van Valen	Fay Lohr	Elizabeth Baskin	Fay Lohr

11AM Service – New St. Mary’s - Schedule for Lay Worship Assistants					
Date	Service	Ushers	LEM	Lay Reader	Prayer Leader
Feb 3	Holy Eucharist	Sam Graham Molly & Tim Harris Helen & Garrett Horsley Cabell Jones	Penn Rogers	Laurie Croft	Penn Rogers
Feb 10	Holy Baptism	Laura & Andy Hughes Connie & Tom Martenstein		Mark Deutsch	Tracey Ragsdale
Feb 17	Holy Eucharist	Leigh & Drew Gallalee Burke McCormick Marion Price Scott Naurath & Kimberley MacMillan	Sydna Street	Patricia Plaisted	Sydna Street
Feb 24	Morning Prayer	Ginny & Coleman Perrin Duane & Tracey Ragsdale		Tracey Ragsdale	Marshall Bowden