

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

September 2014
The Season after Pentecost



FoMA

The Feast of Mary Allen

Please join us for a fun casual evening of
Band, BBQ & Adult Beverages
to celebrate our Fabulous St. Mary's Community!

Come on by & stay as long as you like

Friday, September 19th - 6 - 9pm

rsvp: 784-5678 or FoMA@stmarysgoochland.org Ages 21 & up

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Dover Parish in the Diocese of Virginia
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Richmond, VA 23238

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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.

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Associate Rector	The Rev. Eleanor L. Wellford
Priest Associate	The Rev. David H. Knight
Minister to Children & Youth	The Rev. Kristopher D. Adams
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Class of 2015

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 Benjamin A. Weimer, Jr.

Class of 2016

Scott Barton
 Jane DuFrane
 Steve Guza
 Brantley Holmes

From the Parish Register:

Transfers In:

15 June 2014 Ryan Childress from White Memorial United Methodist, Shawsville, VA
 19 June 2014 Janet Moncure from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
 30 June 2014 Louise Mason Bates from Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal, Richmond, VA
 10 July 2014 Sarah Biathrow Gunn from White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC

Transfers Out:

12 August 2014 Gregory Coleman Utz to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO
 12 August 2014 Kimberly Coburn Utz to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO
 12 August 2014 Ryan Coburn Utz to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO

Baptisms

22 June 2014 Marjorie Anderson Childress
 28 June 2014 Dylan Hall Van Ness
 29 June 2014 Nathaniel Addison Thompson
 13 July 2014 Thomas Ellstrom Whitlock
 20 July 2014 Alexandra Jacqueline Grace Harvey
 20 July 2014 Campbell Maxwell Horner
 27 July 2014 Susanna Lee Shepard

Weddings

07 June 2014 Kendall Marguerite Priddy and Leon Ismael Smith-Harrison, II
 30 August 2014 Alden Elizabeth Ramsey and Gary William McDaniel
 12 July 2014 Marion Nolan Cosby and Jonathan Gilson Kastenbaum

Burials

07 June 2014 Catherine Baird Smith
 23 June 2014 Edwin Thurman Boyd, Jr.
 25 June 2014 Kay Joy Hunnicutt Hardy
 22 July 2014 Helen Hayes Hamilton



An Angel's Embrace

*A Sermon for the 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 13 – Year A – 3 August 2014*

John Edward Miller
Rector

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

- Genesis 32:22-31

The Collect

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

One of the least favorite things I had to face in college Phys. Ed. was the wrestling requirement. All freshmen were introduced to a number of challenging sports, including cross-country running, football, soccer, basketball and track. The athletics department promoted the "sound mind in a sound body" ideal while pushing us to engage in a wide variety of activities. Wrestling, the toughest sport of all, was reserved for the cold winter months in Lexington. I had covered wrestling as high school editor, and I had great respect for the grapplers who gave their all every time they hit the mat. But I was not drawn to the sacrificial discipline and strenuous effort that wrestling demanded.

Nevertheless, the curriculum required that I experience the sport, and I complied. My class consisted of thirty or so guys, and we were paired up with opponents who were roughly our size and weight. As luck would have it my wrestling partner was a fellow pledge brother in our fraternity. Neither Bill nor I was really thrilled at the prospect of all that exertion, and so we always looked at each other and shrugged our shoulders as our time came to step onto the mat and assume the wrestlers' positions. However, our mutual disinterest and feigned boredom did not continue after the coach blew his whistle. We went at each other with severe intensity.

After a grueling, and seemingly unending, period of grappling the clock would wind down to zero. The coach would sound the final whistle, and a great deal of muscle strain, maneuvering, skin-searing holds, and sweaty struggle would end. The daily combat would cease with a stalemate. Neither Bill nor I could ever pin the other, and the points we amassed for various moves always remained equal. So we simply shook hands and laughed and waited for another day on the mat. Victory exceeded our grasp throughout the gray days of winter.

As a test of strength and perseverance wrestling was without equal. I learned a lot about my own mental toughness and physical potential, and I grew to appreciate the virtues of my opponent as well. However, in our case the outcome of the sport was inconclusive. We were too evenly matched. And yet, the memory of the contest and fact that it resulted in a draw no matter how hard we tried to dominate the other, remains with me. Who knew that match would serve as a lens for interpreting a great biblical text in my later life?

Our survey of the Genesis account of the patriarchs of Israel reaches a moment of transforming truth today. The text tells the story of Jacob's wrestling match with a mysterious nocturnal attacker at the River Jabbok. This was a night terror that was not just a bad dream; the nightmare was real, and whoever the assailant was, he was trying to overcome Jacob with brute strength. He forced Jacob to fight for his life, and that is what he did. The wrestling revealed the kind of power that both men possessed. And that is the focus of God's word for us this morning.

Jacob was clearly a match for the mysterious individual with whom he had to wrestle throughout that dreadful night.

He was known to have almost superhuman strength. Still, the fact that he was not subjugated by the stranger's might may also indicate that he gained advantage by trickery – which would be consistent with Jacob's character. He was innately a trickster and a fierce wrestler. Not only did he do battle with his twin brother Esau in the womb, but he also grabbed hold of Esau's heel as exited the birth canal first. Jacob always wanted to win, and it was obvious that he was hard to shake, a man whose wits and physical strength was a force to be reckoned with.

Throughout his life Jacob had sought to gain unfair advantage. He cheated Esau out of his birthright. He deceived his elderly, nearly blind father Isaac, and tricked him into giving him the paternal blessing reserved for the firstborn. And when he himself had been the victim of trickery in the service of his uncle Laban, he figured out ways to build up a fortune in sheep and goats at Laban's expense. He even influenced his wife Rachel to follow his dubious example as a deceiver. As a crowning bit of self-promotion, Jacob sent his whole household – wives, children, servants, and flocks of sheep and goats – ahead of him across the Jabbok River. This may sound as though he was safeguarding them at the crossing, but there is little to support that. They didn't need a rear guard because there was no one in pursuit. Laban had declared an uneasy truce with Jacob, allowing him to return to his native land.

The thing to fear lay *ahead* of Jacob's entourage. His brother Esau and a large contingent of men were reportedly riding to meet him as he made the trek homeward. This news caused Jacob great concern, and rightly so. He was a cheat and a supplanter, and Esau was his usual victim. It was altogether likely that Esau would be seeking revenge rather than reunion. Thus, Jacob's sending forth his retinue ahead of him could be seen as using them as human and animal shields in a forthcoming fight.

Needless to say, Jacob had a lot to think about on that night by the river. His deceitful past was shadowy, and his future seemed even dimmer. Guilt and doubt drew a pall over his consciousness. Jacob was anxious about the day ahead; his uncertainty about it was unbearable. He was groping about in the darkness – both literally and figuratively. That's when he felt the powerful grasp of someone who wrestled him to the ground, and would not let go. The hand-to-hand struggle that ensued was terrifying. Jacob was afraid, but determined. He had the tenacity to contend with the stranger instead of capitulating. That was his choice, to strive with his mighty opponent rather than attempting to run or collapsing like a spineless jellyfish.

The match went on through the night. Jacob's opponent was formidable, but he did not dominate the struggle. Despite the fact that the other wrestler had enough power to put Jacob's hip out of joint, he did not pin him and declare victory. Jacob would not let that happen. He was locked in mortal combat, and adamantly refused to let the man go without receiving his blessing. This was a deadlock that would not be decisive, one-way or the other.

As daybreak approached, the stranger tried to call a halt to the struggle. He signaled for Jacob to loosen his hold and let him go, because the sun was about to rise. That was Jacob's clue that he had been wrestling with more than a man. Mortals live and move in the light of day, but God's messengers often prefer to come to us by night. He realized that he had an angel in his grasp, and he was more determined than ever to hold on for dear life. Jacob sensed that he had done well to wrestle him to a draw, and he may have thought that he could get a favor granted from the divine being.

Seeing that Jacob would not relent, the angel grunted out a question. He asked, "What is your name?" His query was not for information – an angel of God would already know the identity of one to whom he had been sent. Rather it was to get Jacob to say his name out loud, thereby exposing his identity. Names in the biblical world were regarded as symbols; they revealed the essence of the person to whom they were attached. Jacob answered, identifying himself to his opponent, who was in reality his advocate, the one sent from God to speak a word of grace to him. The angel replied, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."

Jacob's "prevailing" lay not in subduing the angel, but in not being subdued by him. His true victory was the change in identity that God bestowed upon him. The new name symbolizes that change. "Jacob" had described him as the "heel-holder" or the "supplanter." The name "Israel" can be translated as "one who has striven with God," but other meanings include "triumphs with God" and "prince of God." In every case, though, the name Israel shows the transformation of Jacob's character. No longer a cheat and a claim-jumper, he is one whose life is in the presence of God, a life now to be lived for the sake of God. That is a big change. It took a struggle and a blessing to make it a reality.

The text says that Jacob – now known as Israel – sought to learn the angel's name. He did so in order to get a handle on him, to grab hold of the essence of God, so that he might still get an advantage. But he got no name from the other wrestler. Instead, he got a blessing, which is to say, a transformation. That gift was far better than an advantage. It was a conversion of his heart and mind, so that he could cross the river without guilt or fear, embrace his home and his brother, and experience redemption.

So Jacob arose from dust, and saw that the angel had vanished. He named the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." Jacob understood that his transformation was a miraculous gift. He had survived "facetime" with God. That is, he had looked God in the eye, and neither he nor God blinked. That is an amazing revelation. The ancient fear was that anyone who saw God would perish. The glory of God was like a consuming fire; no one could withstand its vaporizing heat.

But Jacob did. For him the face of God was a refiner's fire. It made him a better man, and the father of the covenant people, Israel. The struggle left him with a reminder, though.

He had not emerged unscathed. Jacob limped away from the wrestling match, and across the river Jabbok, because his hip had been damaged. That was his reminder of the night that changed his life. Jacob faced his own demons by facing his angel – the one whose message was the truth, the face of God. The encounter's travail gave birth to Israel. The blessing was grace sufficient for the rest of his life.

God sends us his messengers in various forms. They come to us, and help us to face the truth, especially when our vision is obscured by the darkness caused by things we have done and left undone. They approach us when we are para-

lyzed by doubt, or fear, or uncertainty. Sometimes they take hold of us and wrestle us to the mat, and there coax us to reveal who really are, so that we may become the person God means us to be. The angel by the Jabbok River revealed the true power of God. He showed us that it is not coercive; it does not decimate or destroy. The power of God is creative; it is transforming love.

Jacob was changed. And we are all heirs of that transformation.

In the Name of God, whose love will not let us go, let us welcome that embrace and live. Amen.

SCHEDULE FOR LAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

9:00 a.m. Service— Little St. Mary's— September 2014

Date	Service	Ushers	LEM	Lay Reader	Prayer Leader
Sep 7	Holy Eucharist I	Liz & Al Rider	Cabell Jones	Martha Rhodes	Cabell Jones
Sep 14	Holy Eucharist I	Bill Gooch & Ralph Fisher	Margaret Mickel	Elizabeth Baskin	Martha Rhodes
Sep 21	Holy Eucharist I	Anne Lower & Wally Stettinius		Anne Lower	Liz or Al Rider
Sep 28	Holy Eucharist I	Karen & Mike Huennekens	Robin Lind	Pam Loree	Robin Lind
Oct 5	Holy Eucharist I	Anne Lower & Wally Stettinius	Martha Rhodes	Elizabeth Baskin	Martha Rhodes

11:00 a.m. Service— New St. Mary's— September 2014

Date	Service	Ushers	LEM	Lay Reader	Prayer Leader
Sep 7	Holy Eucharist II	Marshall Bowden Cay & Ben Weimer	Sydna Street	Marshall Bowden	Sydna Street
Sep 14	Morning Prayer	Susan Stevens & Temple Cabell Ben & Fongsanith Harper Molly & Tim Harris		Lawrence Croft	Lisa Powell
Sep 21	Holy Eucharist I	Cabell Jones Jan & Martin Betts Helen & Garrett Horsley	Sue Thompson	Sue Thompson	
Sep 28	Morning Prayer			Tracey Ragsdale	Brenda Johnson
Oct 5	Holy Eucharist II		Marilynn Ware	Patricia Plaisted	Lisa Powell

Desperate for Mercy

*A Sermon for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 15 – Year A – 17 August 2014*

Eleanor Lee Wellford
Associate Rector

Jesus left Gennesaret and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. - Matthew 15: 21-28

Have you ever been in a position to receive the benefit of something that wasn't directly meant for you? For example have you ever been close enough to overhear someone else's golf or tennis lesson? Or have you enjoyed listening to the music coming from a neighbor's party that you didn't happen to be invited to?

Last year my family and I were at the River over the 4th of July and for some reason hadn't thought to bring even a sparkler with us. But it didn't matter because when we had finished dinner and were sitting out on our porch looking out across the Rappahannock River, we were mesmerized for about 20 minutes by the most amazing fireworks display - the kind where each burst looked like the grand finale!

If I had known who the people were who entertained us so well, I would have written them a thank-you note. Those fireworks weren't meant for us but that didn't stop us from enjoying them!

In today's story from Matthew, the Canaanite woman found something that most people of her day wouldn't have thought was meant for her, either. What she found was mercy – God's mercy extended through Jesus. But first, the context for this story so it might begin to make some sense to us hearing it today.

Jesus and his disciples, all Jews, were traveling in the predominantly Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon. As you might remember from the Old Testament, the Canaanites

were pagans and specifically the people whom the Israelites had to conquer before they could get to the Promised Land and with whom they were forbidden to mingle once they got there.

Somehow, the Canaanite woman in Matthew's story knew who Jesus was and surprisingly called out to him as the Son of David, which was a very Jewish reference. She had done her homework when it came to Jesus, (or as we might say, she had looked him up on the Internet) and when she found out that he had been curing people of demons, she knew what she had to do.

So, she tracked him down and shouted at him to get his attention because her own daughter was possessed by a demon and the woman was desperate to have Jesus cast it out of her. At first, Jesus ignored her, and his disciples advised him to keep ignoring her because as Jews traveling in a foreign country, they didn't want to be noticed by having someone shouting at them.

She didn't let Jesus' silence stop her, though. She kept tracking him until she finally got close enough to fall on her knees and pray fervently: "Lord, help me!" (Matthew 15:25).

And then came this strange dialogue. Jesus told her: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." To which the Canaanite woman was quick to answer: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Something in Jesus must have shifted as a result of what she said and out of compassion he answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And then Matthew wrote that her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15:26-28).

What seems to be at stake here is the nature of God's mercy: just how far does it extend through Jesus? Should it be "wasted" on pagans such as the Canaanite woman or kept just for the Jews?

In Jesus' day, the term "children" was a reference to the children of Israel, and apparently pagans were sometimes referred to as "dogs" which to our ears sounds demeaning and insulting no matter how much we love dogs. Yet despite the unworthiness of her nationality and social position in the eyes of any self-respecting Jew, the Canaanite woman risked her dignity and appealed to Jesus on behalf of her daughter. It makes me think that Jesus must have recognized the extent of her faith in the sheer brazenness of what she said and did.

The Canaanite woman must have known that she was out of her element in asking for Jesus' healing power of mercy, but she somehow felt the wideness in it – that it didn't stop with Jews alone. Whether she was entitled to those crumbs or not, she sensed that through Jesus, they were within her grasp. So she opened her hands and her heart and gathered them in.

In her book called *Traveling Mercies* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1999), Anne Lamott also experienced something that wasn't meant for her; yet that didn't stop her from benefiting from it. In her writing, she makes no secret of the fact that when she was in her early 30s, she struggled with alcohol and drug addictions and lived in a ghetto section of affluent Marin County, California. By virtue of her middle class upbringing, she shouldn't have been living there.

Her addictions, however, were in full control of her life and she eked out an existence, writing and buying what she needed at flea markets. One Sunday she was wandering around the streets of the ghetto, mingling with the dusty people at the flea market and feeling terribly hung over.

It was around 11:00 o'clock that morning when she heard gospel music coming from a church across the street. It was called St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. "It looked homely and impoverished" she wrote, "a ramshackle building with a cross on top, terrible brown linoleum inside and ... plastic stained glass windows" (pg 46).

The music wafting out of the open door caught her attention and she stopped and listened to it. It reminded her of a happy time in her childhood when she would go to church with her grandparents and sing gospel music. She knew, though, that the music and singing were clearly not meant for her. She wasn't a member there. She was an outsider, a bystander lost in the dust and bustle of the ghetto.

Yet she approached the doorway of the church, anyway. And during the part of the service when the people were

greeting and hugging each other, she found herself shaking hands with complete strangers and being drawn into their circle of warmth.

Instead of judgment, there was complete wideness in their acceptance of her. "No matter how bad I am feeling" she wrote, "or how lost or lonely or frightened, when I see the faces of the people at my church and hear their tawny voices, I can always find my way home" (p. 48).

Maybe in the same way, the Canaanite woman in Matthew's gospel, found her way home by reaching out for something that wasn't meant for her. She, too, was an outsider looking in upon a circle of people who were doing their best to ignore her. But she would have none of that. There

was something in that circle that she needed desperately - even if it meant risking her dignity to receive it.

Have you ever been so desperate for something that you were willing to risk being shamed or losing your dignity to receive it? Forgiveness might fall into that category; but as the Canaanite woman proved and as did Ann Lamott, so might mercy. Like grace, mercy is not something we earn or deserve but seeks us out when we are most open and in need of it.

Mercy is defined as "a disposition to be kind and forgiving; the feeling that motivates compassion" (Word Book app). The Canaanite woman's pres-

ence and persistent faith must have appealed to Jesus' compassion and he healed her daughter. And there was something in Anne Lamott's surrender to the presence of the Holy Spirit on the doorstep of St. Andrew Presbyterian that stirred up compassion among the members of that congregation. As she described it, their hospitality and mercy became both breath and food to her.

So there are two examples of God's mercy that span a period of time of over 2000 years. And the good news is that it hasn't run out yet and like God's love and grace, I can't imagine that it ever will.

Like grace, mercy is not something we earn or deserve but seeks us out when we are most open and in need of it.

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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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 & YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Rev. Kristopher D. Adams
Minister to Children and Youth

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- Sunday, September 7 Sunday School Starts & Confirmation Class Begins *
** a meeting for all those seeking confirmation in 2015
and their parents will follow the 11:00am service*
- Saturday, September 13 ReeseStrong 5K—benefitting Callen Tyson
- Sunday, September 21 Children's Giving Program Begins
- Wednesday, October 15 Parish Supper followed by Children's Programs
- Saturday, October 25 Youth Chili Cooking
- Sunday, October 26 Annual Youth Chili Fundraiser

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

This summer at St. Mary's, we had lots of exciting events for children and youth. Vacation Bible School was a wonderful opportunity for our children (age 3-grade 5) to learn how God guides and provides as we went on a Wilderness Escape! Our journey in VBS led us out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, as we learned all about the great stories of Israel's exodus. Our youth (grades 6-12) were excellent helpers during VBS, and we had a great team of adult volunteers as well. Throughout the summer we also held Summer Sunday School along with Children's Lessons during our summer worship services. We had a wonderful time learning many stories from the Old Testament and Psalms, and we are grateful for all of our adults who volunteered to teach.

Our youth in middle and high school were also busy this summer as they had two important mission projects. Our middle school youth (grades 6-8) held a service activity at Peter Paul Development Center and painted their community garden shed. After hours of getting covered in Peter Paul's colors of purple and green, the youth completed a very well-done job. Our high school youth (grades 9-12) headed down to Petersburg for their Tri-Cities Workcamp, where they labored for an entire week doing various home repair projects. Special thanks go to all of our adult volunteers who worked with our youth on these projects.



WELCOME BACK! SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER!

On Sunday, September 7, the new Sunday School year begins at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. We are excited to provide Christian Education for all ages (birth through grade 12), and we hope that you will join us for the first day of Sunday School. [Please click here to download and complete this year's Sunday School Registration Form](#), and please see the schedule below for details on when and where our Sunday School classes will meet.

10:40am - High School Class (Grades 9-12)

10:45am - Ages 3-4 and Ages 5-6 Classrooms Open

11:00am - Grades 1-8 participate in the worship service

11:20am - Grades 1-8 are dismissed from the worship service to Sunday School following the Gospel Reading

Grades 1-5 go to the Block Room

Grades 6-8 go to their classrooms in the Youth & Education Building

Our Nursery (Birth - Age 2) is open from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

REESESTRONG 5K

Saturday, September 13, 8:55am

8200 Center Path Lane, Mechanicsville, VA US 23116



Parents, children, and youth, we need your immediate support for an event that is coming up quickly in September! **Please consider joining us for the 2014 ReeseStrong 5K at 8:55am on Saturday, September 13, to benefit our own Callen Tyson.** A student at our school and member at our church, four year-old Callen was diagnosed with leukemia in March of 2014. Callen and his family have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of this year's ReeseStrong 5K. Proceeds from the race go directly towards Callen's medical bills, Savanna Anchell's medical bills (this year's other beneficiary), the ReeseStrong Family Emergency Fund, and Childhood Cancer Research.

We need your help as we put together our St. Mary's Episcopal Church Team for the 5K Run and Family Walk! Those walking can also register their little ones to walk along with them using baby joggers, strollers, or wagons. **For each child or youth runner/walker, a parent or guardian is needed to stay at the ReeseStrong 5K event for the duration of the race to support their runner/walker.** Please use the link below to register and see who else is registered for the race, and please make sure you are officially registered as part of the St. Mary's Team!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Register/RaceGroup-32074?racelid=4045>

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FOLLOWING PARISH SUPPER

Wednesday, October 15

On the third Wednesday of each month, St. Mary's hosts a parish supper from 5:30pm-6:45pm. Please join us for our first parish supper of the fall, on Wednesday, October 15, which will include programs for children and youth of all ages. We are encouraging families with children and youth to share their supper together from 5:30pm - 6:00pm. Beginning at 6:00pm, programs will be held for children and youth (kindergarten - grade 12). For our littlest ones (birth - age 5), childcare will be available beginning at 6:00pm in the nursery. All programs for children and youth will conclude by 6:45pm.

Our **Small Saints** program for young children (**kindergarten - grade 2**) will focus on learning about giving, outreach, and helping others in our community. The Small Saints will meet together in the Block Room. **Junior Youth Group (grades 3-5)** will give older children the opportunity to support the outreach efforts of St. Mary's. Junior Youth group will meet in the Grades 3-5 Sunday School Classroom.

REFORMING YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASS INFORMATION

High School Class (Grades 9-12) - 10:40am in Youth & Education Building
Middle School Class (Grades 6-8) - 11:00am in New St. Mary's, then dismissed
to Sunday School following the Gospel Reading

It's time to REFORM Youth Sunday School! Beginning this week, youth Sunday School will follow the new re:form curriculum. This year we will be using their Ancestors series, which is a DVD-based youth Bible study that helps students get to know personalities from the Old and New Testaments. But this is not a dry, stuffy curriculum about characters that lived a really long time ago. Our study of the ancestors of our faith will encourage self-reflection to help youth identify with the heroes, villains, and everyday folks that God selected to do extraordinary things. We hope you'll preview one of the videos using the link below, and we look forward to seeing you Sunday!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKyY9eBsIE>

Also, our Middle School Class this year will begin our new comprehensive Confirmation Program. Our confirmation instruction will follow a three year thematic cycle. Youth in Grades 6 and 7 will now be joining their Eighth Grade friends, and our curriculum emphasis will change each year to allow for greater preparation for our confirmands. By the time this year's rising sixth graders are ready to be confirmed, they will have completed three

rigorous years of preparation emphasizing: The Biblical Story (2014-2015), Thinking About God (2015-2016), Being the Church (2016-2017).

Please note that on the first Sunday of this year's confirmation class, September 7, we will have a short meeting for all parents and youth seeking confirmation this year (those who are entering at least the eighth grade) following the 11:00am service. It is very important that each youth and at least one of their parents join us for this meeting when all of the expectations for this year's confirmands will be presented in detail.

If you are entering at least the eighth grade this fall and would like to be confirmed after completing this year's class, please send a quick email with your name, address, and phone number to our Minister to Children and Youth, the Rev. Kristopher D. Adams, at kadams@stmarysgoochland.org to ensure that you are on the official roster of those seeking confirmation.

YOUTH CHILI COOKING & ANNUAL CHILI FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 25, 3:00-6:00pm

It's that time of year again for the one of the best combinations the world has ever seen... Chili and football!!! Each year during football season, the youth of St. Mary's host a Chili Sale to benefit their annual missions trip. **This year, we will be making our chili on Saturday, October 25, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.** While preparing our chili, we will have a few chili-inspired contests in order to crown a chili champion. I suggest you brush up on your culinary skills now and get into a hot sauce training program to see how much heat you can handle!



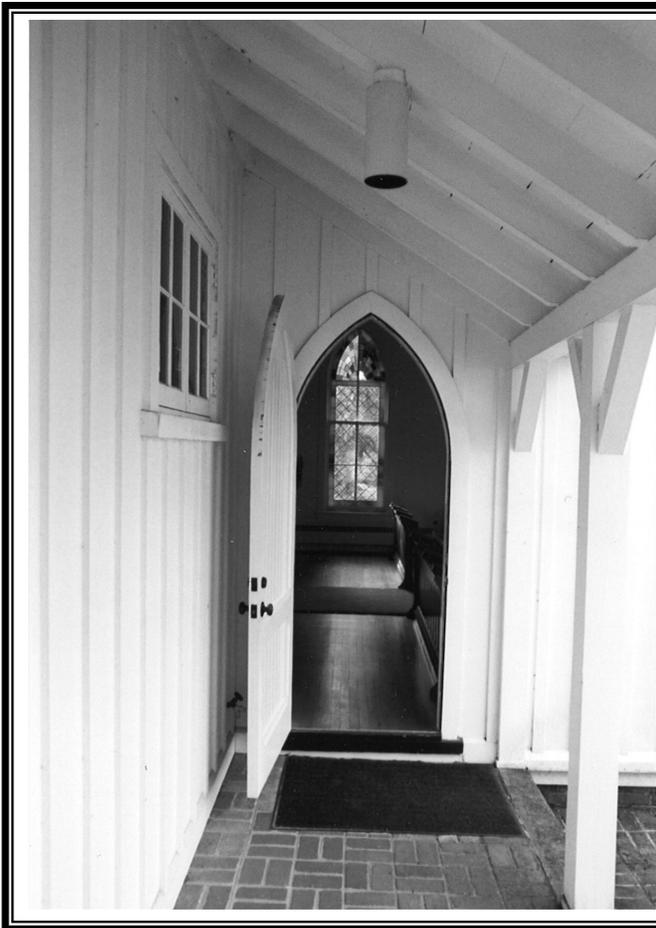
Come ready to get messy in the kitchen, and please bring \$5 for a pizza dinner. All youth (middle and high school) are welcome and invited, and please feel free to bring friends! **Our chili will be sold the following day, Sunday, October 26, before and after the 11:00am service. Please click the link below to sign up online and let us know if you'll be cooking with us in the kitchen!**

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acaa29aafe3-youth>

For more information about our children and youth ministries, including additional details for events or signing up as an adult volunteer, please contact our Minister to Children and Youth, Rev. Kristopher Adams, at kadams@stmarysgoochland.org, or the Chair of the Children and Youth Committee, Mrs. Brantley Holmes, at holmesby@comcast.net.

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:00 AM Fellowship Committee	<i>4</i> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 10:00 AM A.A.
<i>7</i> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist II - Sunday School Begins 12:15 PM Adult Education Committee 12:15 PM Confirmation Parent Meeting	<i>8</i> <i>St. Mary's School Begins</i>	<i>9</i> 4:00 PM EfM	<i>10</i> 10:00 AM Bible Study 12:15 PM Church and School Staff Lunch	<i>11</i> 9:00 AM Outreach 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>12</i> 11:00 AM Good Grief Group-Library	<i>13</i> 8:55 AM ReeseStrong 5K 10:00 AM A.A.
<i>14</i> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 11:00 AM Morning Prayer	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 3:30 PM EfM	<i>17</i> 10:00 AM Bible Study	<i>18</i> 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>19</i> 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM FoMA	<i>20</i> 10:00 AM A.A. 5:30 PM Wedding New St. Mary's
<i>21</i> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist I	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 3:30 PM EfM	<i>24</i> 10:00 AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Finance Committee	<i>25</i> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 10:00 AM A.A.
<i>28</i> 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist I 11:00 AM Morning Prayer	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 3:30 PM EfM 5:00 PM Vestry				



FIVE P.M. SUNDAY SERVICE CONCLUDES SEVEN-YEAR OFFERING

“When two or three are gathered together in his name...” (BCP, p59))

Well...on many Sundays at the 5:00 PM service, literally only two or three were gathered together for Evening Prayer and Holy Communion. After 7 years of offering this service in different formats and venues, it never found its natural congregation. So, your clergy and the leadership of the worship committee have decided to discontinue services at this hour each Sunday. However, we remain open to new offerings in the future. Suggestions are always welcome! Please send them to our Rector, the Rev. Dr. John E. Miller. He will discuss all suggestions with the staff and Vestry. We are grateful for those faithful souls who have supported this trial service.



Children's Ministry's Vacation Bible School provided a creative, fun-filled, experience of spiritual growth for young members of the St. Mary's congregation this summer. The VBS team was led by the Rev. Kristopher D. Adams, our Minister to Children and Youth.

PARISH • NEWS • IN • BRIEF

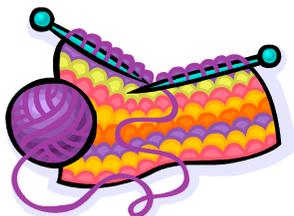


Rector's Weekly Bible Study

The Bible Study meets every Wednesday in the Library from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 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. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend and participate. 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 mentored by Associate Rector Eleanor Wellford and Cabell Jones meets every Tuesday afternoon from 3:30-6:00 p.m. in the Library of the Education Building. The group spends its time in theological reflection and review of specific reading assignments.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group of spirited knitters meets in the Associate Rector's office every third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. 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.

REQUESTING NOMINATIONS FROM THE PARISH TO SERVE ON THE VESTRY

The outgoing Vestry class of 2014 is charged with nominating four candidates to serve on the Vestry.

If you are interested or if you would like to nominate someone from the parish please forward your/their name to Lori Smiley at info@stmarysgoochland.org and please place Vestry Nomination in the subject line or call 784.5678.

*St. Mary's Supper Club
is coming back!
SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday, January 17th, 2015*



*Hosts: Mary and Jim Theobald
More information to follow!*

A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE

After the loss of a loved one there is, at first, a great buzz of activity as we make arrangements, as family and friends come together. There is comfort in the close press of friends, in shared tears and hugs, in gifts of food, in remembering. Religious services give meaning and hope as the community gathers around us in love and support.

But then the services are over, relatives and friends go home, and we are left to a new and strange land—a land where one of the persons who has given meaning to our life is gone.

Now there are spaces in the mind, spaces in the days and nights. Often, when we least expect it, the pain and the preoccupation come back, and back—sometimes like the rolling crash of an ocean wave, sometimes like the slow ooze after a piece of driftwood is lifted and water and sand rise to claim their own once more.

from the Introduction HEALING AFTER LOSS
by Martha Whitmore Hickman

From time to time here at St. Mary's we offer a safe place for people who have lost a loved one to come and be with others who share a similar journey. Even though each one's journey is unique, there are common experiences, feelings, and emotions that when shared, can bring both strength and hope. Just knowing that one is not alone in the feelings one has can be of great help. Over the years in being involved with such a group, first as a participant some years ago after we lost a son, and then, as some time had passed, as a facilitator of such gatherings, it has been a blessing to witness how people can gain strength and comfort from one another and yes, even begin to have glimpses of joy and of hope once again even in the midst of the pain of one's loss.

We are now offering another gathering for people who have experienced a loss. Our plan is to have an initial meeting at which time the group will determine the frequency and times of its meetings. Groups of this nature often meet over a period of six or so times. You are welcome to come to the first meeting if only to see if it might be a helpful thing for you. If you know of someone else for whom this gathering might be helpful, please feel free to invite them as well. Our own Sydna Street will be working with me in facilitating these gatherings. She will bring her gentle nature and her own experience to our time together and that will be a blessing. The initial meeting will be:

Date: Friday morning, September 12

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Place: Library in the Education Building

For more about this gathering, I would be happy to talk with you further.

David Knight, Priest Associate, St. Mary's 784.5678 dknight@stmarysgoochland.org

ST. MARY'S SENIORS TO RESUME IN OCTOBER

By Robin Lind

Times-Dispatch Political Columnist Jeff Schapiro will be the first speaker for the 2014 St. Mary's Seniors Luncheon Program which begins on Wednesday, October 8 in the Parish Hall. Please save the date.

New members of St. Mary's Seniors Steering Committee, Class of 2017, are Ralph Fisher and Temple Bayliss, succeeding outgoing members Bill Nolley and Ben Weimer; Dover Moore was re-elected to another three year term.

St. Mary's Seniors meet on the second Wednesday of each month, October through May, for a time of fellowship, lunch and discussion, with speakers from a wide spectrum of professions and interests. Previous speakers have included novelists, cabinet secretaries, historians, state delegates, educators, physicians, TV personalities and environmentalists — some from our own congregation.

All seniors — and aspirants to the order of seniority — are welcome.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
12291 River Road • Richmond, Virginia 23238

