

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

N · E · W · S · L · E · T · T · E · R

*Summer 2015
The Season of Pentecost*



Summer Worship Schedule

June

*10:00 a.m. service
in New St. Mary's*

July and August

*10:00 a.m. service
In Little St. Mary's*

*Summer Sunday School
begins on June 7*

*The Nursery will be open
for newborn through age 2.*

*First Sundays (June 7,
July 5, August 2,
September 6)*

*Lemonade on the patio
following the 10 a.m. service*

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

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

Telephone: (804)784-5678 Fax: (804) 784-1940
E-Mail Address: info@stmarysgoochland.org
Website: www.stmarysgoochland.org
St. Mary's School Telephone: (804) 784-2049

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
Associate Rector	The Rev. Louise Browner Blanchard
Minister to Children & Youth	The Rev. Kristopher D. Adams
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	Richard G. Lundvall
Junior Warden	Jane DuFrane
Treasurer	Howard E. Cobb
Register	Michelle D. Lewis

Class of 2016

William Gooch
 Michelle Lewis
 Richard Lundvall
 Benjamin Weimer, Jr.

Class of 2017

Scott Barton
 Jane DuFrane
 Steve Guza
 Brantley Holmes

Class of 2018

Betsy Rawles
 Bruin Richardson
 David Rose
 Charmaine Trice

From the Parish Register:

Transfers Out:

01 May 2015	John Andrew Clark to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
14 May 2015	Anne A. Manning to St. James's Episcopal Church, Cartersville, VA

Weddings:

16 May 2015	Elizabeth Anne Luckey and Eric Raleigh Suspanic
23 May 2015	Caitlin Ellen Wingfield and Alex Flint McClelland

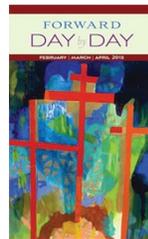
Burials:

29 May 2015	Gerald Keith Racquet
30 May 2015	Elizabeth Lou Watson



Worship on the Slow and Go

Summer is a time of slowing down and travel for many of us, including St. Mary's, but we'll still be gathering for worship every Sunday at 10 a.m., so join us when you're in town. If you have out-of-town guests, bring them, too. From now through June 28, we'll gather in New St. Mary's. From July 5 through September 6, we'll be in Little St. Mary's. And don't forget the chance to enjoy time with fellow worshippers on our new patio with Lemonade on the Patio on first Sundays (June 7, July 5, August 2, and September 6) following the 10 a.m. service. While you're on the go, keep in touch with our website, www.stmarysgoochland.org, and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/st.marysgoochland.



You might also enjoy trying something new. The Episcopal ministry Forward Movement, which publishes the well-known Forward Day by Day booklets, also emails those same reflections.

To sign up and to see other available resources, go to

<http://prayer.forwardmovement.org>.

Episcopal Visit by the Rt. Rev. Susan Ellyn Goff

Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

The Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10 May 2015

Confirmed Youth:

*Emily (Emma) McMahon Ahearn
Melissa Caperton Boxley Beirne
Alexander Cobourn Brown
Grace (Gracie) Elizabeth Burress
Jack Stefan Deutsch
Gabrielle Léonie Franta*

*James Grayson Gunter
Edmund Randolph McElroy
Cecelia (Celia) Taylor Phillips
Thomas Harrison Rhodes
Ann Cameron Zehmer*

Received :

*Thomas Michael Blanks, Jr.
David Peter Rose
Kerri Coby White*



A Letter From Eleanor

Dear St. Mary's Community,

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve with you as Associate Rector for the past eight years. You have helped to form me into the person I am today and I will cherish the many ways I have seen the Holy Spirit at work among you. As so many of you know, my favorite expression is "Timing is Everything" and it is time for me to travel a path that will take me away from the buildings of St. Mary's Church but not from her heart. I will take with me the memories of our shared lives together - the times of joy that we celebrated and the times of sorrow that we mourned.

I especially want to thank John, your beloved Parson, for giving me the opportunity to be a priest among you and for allowing me to benefit from his wisdom and to grow and spread my wings here. It has been a joy to work beside him, beside Dwight, Lori, Gina, Paul and Gersain - who have all been much more to me than mere colleagues. More recently, it has been a joy to watch Kris exceed all expectations as your Minister of Children and Youth and to realize how Weezie's many gifts for ministry will help to shape the future of this parish.

After I leave St. Mary's, I will be continuing my journey of learning about Pastoral Counseling in my classwork and in my training at VIP-Care. I will begin seeing clients at Roslyn where the staff will allow me the privacy of the Library of the Registration Building which is known as Powers Hall. If you know of anyone in need of care, please know how much I would be honored to meet with them there.

Carry on the Spirit-filled work that enlivens this parish and embrace all the opportunities that transitions bring with them!

May God be with you and bless you richly!

Eleanor

St. Mary's to Bid Farewell and Godspeed to our Associate Rector, The Rev. Eleanor Lee Wellford

The Reverend Eleanor L. Wellford, Associate Rector of St. Mary's Church since 2007, will officially conclude her ministry here on Sunday, June 14, at the 10 a.m. service of Morning Prayer in New St. Mary's.

Beginning last September, Eleanor began working on a half-time schedule as she studied to become a certified pastoral counselor. Her program at the Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care has been a rigorous blend of academic and practical training, including an internship as a counselor at Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. To complete this curriculum and obtain a certificate in pastoral counseling Eleanor discerned that her new vocational focus would necessitate leaving parish ministry.

With the blessing of Rector John E. Miller and the St. Mary's Vestry, St. Mary's received Eleanor's resignation with a mixture of sadness at her departure and enthusiasm for her new adventure in ministry as a pastoral counselor.

Following the service on June 14, there will be a reception honoring Eleanor and in gratitude for her faithful service, as a priest of this parish. Members and friends are cordially invited to enjoy a festive picnic and express their thanksgiving for Eleanor's ministry among us.



Summer Picnic Honoring Eleanor Wellford

When: Sunday, June 14 at 12 Noon

Where: Parish Hall/Patio

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell to Eleanor, celebrating her many wonderful years at St. Mary's and wishing her well in her next endeavor!

Prepared and hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

Contact Dede Andrews at aalden7@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer.

Menu:

*Fried Chicken
Homemade Potato Salad
Homemade Cole Slaw
Deviled Eggs
Pickles
Rolls
Fruit Platter
Sheet Cake
Tea and Lemonade*

Community of Faith

A Sermon for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year B—03 May 2015

Eleanor Lee Wellford
Associate Rector

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

-John 15:1-8

Angus moved his family from Zambia to South Africa when racial tensions became unbearable. He was a farmer originally from Scotland and he and his wife, Jill, who was pregnant with their fourth child, were excited to start over in a new country. When they found a plot of land big enough to put down roots, Angus began the slow process of scratching out a life for him and his family out of nothing. He was a hard worker but he had trouble meeting the challenges of farming in his new environment with anything but anger and frustration.

He hired a local farmhand to help him when he finally realized that he couldn't manage farming by himself. Unfortunately, Angus barked out commands in a language that his farmhand couldn't understand which strained their relationship from the beginning. He not only alienated his farmhand but most of the Zulu locals, too. He was known as a hothead and a loner with a chip on his shoulder the size of South Africa. His marriage was strained, too, as his wife, Jill, found it increasingly hard to be around someone so angry and overworked.

Angus was literally a community of one, trying to do it all himself and thinking that with enough hard work, he *could* do it all himself - until the time came when he couldn't.

One day when Angus and his farmhand were doing some routine pruning and burning, there was enough breeze in the area that the fires got out of control and threatened to burn his entire crop. Angus was forced to call on his neighbors

for help - the same neighbors, whom up to this point, he had had little time or interest in getting to know. They reluctantly came to help out but it was a rainstorm that came out of nowhere that miraculously saved his crops.

Angus' wife, Jill, saw the hand of God in that rainstorm since it happened in the midst of the country's dry season. Wanting to give thanks to God for what she believed she witnessed, she asked Angus to join her in church the Sunday after the fire. Angus did, but only after putting up a huge fight. It was the first time Angus and Jill had been in church since their move to South Africa. As the minister there began to preach, Angus had a spiritual awakening that caught him completely off guard and forever changed him.

He soon made it his life's work to evangelize other hard-working and exhausted men like himself into understanding that work *alone* would not save them, nor would *working alone* save them, either. He realized the hard way how much he needed and depended on the people in his small community for his existence.

Angus' story is told in his autobiography called *Faith like Potatoes* (by Angus Buchan, Monarch Books, 2006). The title is not as strange as it sounds because of the nature of potatoes. After they are planted, they grow below the ground and out of sight. It isn't until the farmer digs them up that he'll know what kind of crop he has. The point is that it's hard to have faith in something we can't see.

The seeds of Angus' faith had been planted when he was still a child living in Scotland; but it took almost losing everything he had before those seeds finally sprouted and he became engaged in his community in such a way as to help transform it into a community of faith.

In the language of the gospel we heard this morning, Angus was grafted onto the true vine when he had his spiritual awakening. Jesus said: "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).

The people to whom Jesus was talking were his disciples and this was part of what is known as his farewell discourse. Jesus was trying to help his disciples understand the importance of living together in community especially when he would no longer be with them and it would be easy for them to lose their faith.

He used the imagery of the vine, vineyard and vine grower to make his point. Each branch of the vine was part of something bigger than itself and "needed to recognize its part in the whole and to do its part (which is the production of fruit) "to benefit not just the branch but the whole vine. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, *Feasting on the Word* Year B Volume 2, p. 472).

And since Jesus' analogies always have layers of meaning to them, the deeper truth of his analogy might well be that the fruit of the vine is part of Nature which belongs to God. God, then, is the vine grower, Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches.

The lesson that we all need to hear and which Angus finally got is that, as branches, we can do little if anything on our own. We need the nourishment of the vine - of Jesus who is at the heart of any Christian community, any church or anywhere that two or three people are gathered together in his name.

I'm not at all sure what the disciples actually took away from this part of Jesus' farewell discourse. I doubt if they realized that his departure from them would be imminent and maybe weren't paying as close enough attention as they could have had they known. They may have heard the part about bearing fruit without really knowing what that meant.

What does it mean for us to hear this command to bear fruit? As branches of a vine, what kind of fruit do we produce and how is it measured? Is it measured by our financial wealth or by the possessions we have? Is it measured by our good deeds or the number and quality of our accomplishments or even our children's accomplishments? Or is it measured by how often we witness to the vine and the vine grower?

I think Angus used to measure his fruit literally, by the condition of his crops and figuratively, by how tired he

dropped into bed every night. He was trying so hard to work apart from the vine that he almost didn't survive. He nearly lost his crops to a fire and his soul to self sufficiency which actually prepared the soil of his soul. His wife, Jill, was witness to what happened, and by suggesting that he go to church, she and the minister's message provided the nourishment that his soul needed so that the seeds of faith, which were planted so long ago, could grow.

In his book called *Being Mortal* (New York: Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt & Co., 2014), Atul Gawande writes: "Living completely independently is a common battle cry...but something will happen in our lives that will leave us in need of assistance...Our lives are inherently dependent on others and subject to forces and circumstances well beyond our control. The amount of independence that we have in our lives is not the measure of the worth of our lives and is ultimately a self-defeating goal to live for" (p. 140).

He continues that there's a difference between liking time alone and being a loner. As introverted as some of us are, being alone is important in replenishing our resources. I know that from experience. But the risk of staying alone and feeding the pride of our independent natures is that we become disconnected branches subject to pruning and eventual burning. We give up the life that God the vine grower meant for us to live - a life of bearing fruit in a community with deep reserves of faith because Jesus, the vine is at the heart of it.

Whether it's a powerful spiritual awakening that Angus had or a flutter we feel in the depths of our being, Jesus finds a way to come to us and to nourish us and give us life. And that's when we realize that we are never alone - and most importantly, that we should never want to be.

SCHEDULE FOR LAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS					
10:00 a.m. Service—New St. Mary's—June 2015					
Date	Service	Ushers	LEM	Lay Reader	Prayer Leader
May 31	Morning Prayer	Liz & Al Rider, Bill Gooch & Ralph Fisher		Susie Salsitz	Liz Rider
June 7	Holy Eucharist	Martin & Jan Betts Marshall Bowden	Marilyn Ware	Marshall Bowden	Liza Bance
June 14	Morning Prayer	Joe & Margaret Currence		Susie Salsitz	Betsy Rawles
June 21	Holy Eucharist			Elizabeth Baskin	
June 28	Morning Prayer	Linda & John Hyslop		Pam Loree	

Choosing Happiness¹

A Sermon for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Year B—17 May 2015

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

*Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel
of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!*

*Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on his law day and night.*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not
wither; everything they do shall prosper.*

*It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.*

*Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when
judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.*

*For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.*

(Psalm 1)

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable to you,*

O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

(Psalm 19:4)

iPhone or Samsung? Sweet Frog or Cold Stone? Snapchat or Instagram? Our children and youth will be the first to tell you that life is full of important choices.

Some of life's important choices can be difficult. Picking which college to attend, when to start a family, or what to do to plan for retirement are all difficult but vital decisions we have to make. We can wrestle and agonize over choices like these. Difficult choices have no easy answers and require careful reflection.

Other important choices are easy to make. Simple but significant choices face us every day. Regardless of the situation, we can all probably agree that it is important to choose

to use "please" and "thank you" with everyone you meet, never talk with your mouth full, and most importantly, when in Maryland always order the crab cakes. These choices are important but easy to make.

However, in our lives filled endless choices and options, some easy and some difficult, there is one choice that isn't much of a choice at all. Do you want to be happy? It seems like a ridiculous question. No one wants to be miserable. No one wants to be upset. Of course, we all want to be happy.² For the brief time in which we have the gift of life, we want to enjoy every last second of it. Happiness is a common desire that we all share.

While the question "do you want to be happy?" doesn't come across as a choice, our scripture reading this morning from Psalm 1 frames this question as a choice with options of night-and-day, black-and-white opposites.³ We are invited to choose between being doomed, which doesn't sound like a very pleasant option at all, or being happy. While doom or happiness doesn't sound like much of a difficult choice, this Psalm has something hidden up its sleeve. The bite of this Psalm is found in where it suggests the source of happiness lies. Our scripture reading this morning invites us to see the "law of the Lord" as the root of all happiness.

If we are honest, law is not necessarily something that we connect with happiness. Law just sounds boring not happy. If law were interesting, we would all gather around at work and talk about what we watched last night on C-SPAN. And when we think of laws in connection to God, we often default to thinking about the biblical thou-shalts and thou-shalt-nots. Or we tend to think of the laws that have seemingly no connection to our modern lives: don't wear clothing with mixed fabrics,

None of that is the kind of law that Psalm 1 wants to bring to mind. When it speaks of the "law of the Lord," it wants you to imagine all of instruction and guidance given from God to humanity, specifically within the sacred texts that God has shared with his people. These scriptures that compose Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament, this communication between God and humanity is the law, the instruction, that God has chosen to share with us.⁴

But notice that the happy person is not one who just knows God's instruction. The happy person doesn't have it bound and dusty on a bookshelf. Nor does he or she only

hear it read once week and proclaim “Thanks be to God.” Psalm 1 tells us that happiness springs from “delighting” and “meditating” on this law and instruction from God that we receive in our scriptures. Delighting and meditating? We could rephrase this as gladly studying God’s instruction.

Now if law sounds contradictory to happiness, I know that every person, especially our children and youth, cringe at the idea of gladly studying anything. But before you give up on the idea of happiness because you think who can gladly study these scriptures, hold on for just a minute. Psalm 1 is not suggesting that we need to all obtain advanced degrees in our biblical literature. Something much different is meant to be conveyed.

You see, when Tiffany and I first began dating in high school, we did what every teenager in puppy love did back then – we passed notes between classes. I know that to my youth this probably makes me sound ancient. We didn’t text, or snapchat, or instagram, or even send facebook messages. Instead of having multitudes of social media options at our disposal, we scribbled down little love letters to one another, folded them up, and then ever so slyly passed them to each other in the hall between classes.

Now if you’ve ever been the recipient to one of these notes or received a real, genuine love letter, then you have a much better understanding of the glad studying that Psalm 1 suggests. When you opened a love letter like that, you read it – not once, not twice, but multiple times, paying close attention to the slightest detail, hanging on every word, all while eagerly awaiting the next note you might receive. We took delight in and meditated on these words that we shared together. If this type of study accompanies the Divine Love Letters that are our sacred scriptures, Psalm 1 dares us to believe that happiness will follow.

For the last two years, this simple idea has been the driving force behind my work with our children and youth here at St. Mary’s. We tell stories, sing songs, play games, draw prayers, and watch videos – all with the intent of making the Bible come alive to our young ones so that they can gladly study its wisdom. I want it to become a part of who they are and how they think, all because I truly believe that their connection to these scriptures will help connect them to God and

eventually result in a happiness that will stand firm as they grow and mature into adults of faith.

Yet even this glad studying requires effort. It requires commitment, participation, and sacrifice. If the glad study of the God’s instruction found in the scriptures leads to happiness, it is certainly not a cheap or easy happiness. For families it means getting up early, struggling to get everyone out the door on time, and refusing to let the myriad of conflicting demands dictate what is important on Sunday mornings. But this is the undertaking that cannot be ignored in the pursuit of happiness according to Psalm 1.

As we close out our current church-school year and look forward to the fall, this text takes on special meaning for us here at St. Mary’s. We are looking at expanding our efforts of Christian Education across the board for young and old alike. New programs and offerings are on the horizon, though many of the details are still taking shape. But these new programs and offerings themselves are a means to end, not the goal itself.

Our goal is the happiness suggested in Psalm 1, a happiness that stems from the glad study of God’s instruction and incorporating this instruction into our lives. This is something that we can only accomplish together as a community of faith who not only worships together but learns and grows together as well. It may seem like a difficult choice to some. It may seem like an easy choice to others. Either way, this choice is important. May we all choose the happiness described in Psalm 1 and commit to simple worship and glad study for the future of our faith together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

¹For an excellent description on the theme of happiness in the Psalms, see *Preaching the Psalms* by J. Clinton McCann, Jr. and James C. Howell, pages 89-92, and James Howell’s “Commentary on Psalm 1” at *The Working Preacher* for May 17, 2015, http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2452.

²James Howell, *The Working Preacher*, “Commentary on Psalm 1,” May 24, 2009, http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=312

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

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

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

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

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 24	<i>No Sunday School</i>
Sunday, May 31	<i>No Sunday School</i>
Sunday, June 7	Summer Sunday School Begins Children & Youth Committee Meeting (following service)
Thursday-Friday, June 18-19	Youth Homegrown Mission Trip (Grades 6-12)
Sunday, July 5	<i>No Sunday School</i>
Monday-Friday, July 13-17	Vacation Bible School (Age 3-Grade 5)
Sunday, August 30	Children & Youth Committee Meeting (following service)
Sunday, September 6	<i>No Sunday School</i>
Sunday, September 13	Fall Sunday School Begins

BISHOP'S VISIT & CONFIRMATION

Our bishop's visit and confirmation was a wonderful time for all of the children and youth involved. The Rt. Rev. Susan Goff did an excellent job presenting a children's lesson that captivated our little ones, and her sermon offered a great challenge to our confirmands. She reminded us all that Christ has "tagged" us to be his representatives to the world. The Children & Youth Committee wants to express its sincere appreciation to all who helped with the reception as it was a great time for our children, youth, and families to celebrate with our confirmands and fellowship together following the service.



"Tag! You're it!"

NEW PLAYGROUND

We are proud to announce that our new playground is ready for your little ones! Thanks to the quick response by a group of our parishioners, we were able to complete the finishing touches needed to get the playground complete by our Children & Youth Sunday. Even a few of our pre-school classes from St. Mary's School joined us to help in the mulch spreading process. Please make sure your little ones have a chance to visit our new playground soon!



UPCOMING YOUTH & GRADUATING SENIORS

During our recent Children & Youth Service on Sunday, May 17, we recognized two groups of our children and youth: our rising sixth graders who will be transitioning from our children's to youth program and our graduating high school seniors. We are very excited that our rising sixth graders will be joining the ranks of our youth, sharing in their summer mission projects, and working towards their confirmation just a few years away. We are also very proud of our graduating high school seniors and the plans they have for the future, and we will certainly be praying for God's blessings upon you in all of your new endeavors. Congratulations!

Upcoming Youth

Pierce Atwill
Isabel Benson
Taylor Benson
Reece Cole
Dalton Cole
Davis Franta
Virginia Garner
Perrin Gilman
Ramsay Good
Kent Goode
Elizabeth Hagan
Tyler Hagan
Reynolds Hester
Robert Holmes

Jack Ireland
Lilly Jordan
Grant Miller
Will Pace
Freddy Preston
Cathryn Short
Ethan Snow
James Steele
Will Tunner
Joseph Weinstein
Jules White
Sammy Winoker
Lacey Word

Graduating Seniors

Sarah Ashman
John Ryan Aveson
Eliza Bellamy
Victoria Bolton
Gavin Brown
Gray Chambliss
Jack Cole
Reid Harris
Anne Morgan Hunter
Olivia Massie
Edmund McElroy
Frances Pace

Carrie Ragsdale
Andrew Reed
Faith Reed
Meriwether Roberts
Meg Sheehy
Strib Walker
Nash Wiley
Rowdy Williams
Riley Williams
Andrew Wyatt
Mike Zeevi



During the summer, Sunday School will be offered for children age 3 through grade 2 during the 10:00am service. Sunday School will include a morning scripture lesson, followed by fun activities and a snack. Our summer Sunday School schedule will last from Sunday, June 7 - Sunday, August 30. All children (age 3 - grade 5) will begin Sunday School in the 10:00am service with their families. Following the scripture readings, our children will be dismissed to the Block Room for the remainder of Sunday School.

Please note that there will be no Sunday School on the following Sundays: May 24, May 31, July 5, and September 6. On these Sundays, we would love for your children to join us for the 10:00am service. The nursery will be open every Sunday for our 10:00am service to care for newborns through age 2. Parents, please volunteer to help with our summer Sunday School program! Please use the link or QR code to access our online sign up!



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acaa29aafe3-summer1>



SERVING AS A ST. MARY'S ACOLYTE

The youth of St. Mary's play a special role in leading our worship each week as acolytes. At St. Mary's, acolytes assist in worship by lighting and extinguishing the candles on the altar, as well as leading the service's processions as a crucifer—one who carries the cross. Acolytes have served the Christian church for centuries, and serving as an acolyte gives St. Mary's youth the opportunity to continue this historic and important tradition in our worship services.

If you have been confirmed (or completed the eighth grade), please sign up to serve as an acolyte. Training sessions will be provided for all new acolytes. New and veteran acolytes should sign up for the dates on which they would like to serve using the links below.

SUMMER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acaa29aafe3-summer>





Thursday & Friday, June 18-19

St. Mary's Episcopal Church stands in the gap between rural Goochland and urban Richmond. This summer, our youth are invited to participate in a homegrown mission trip designed to help our youth serve both of these different communities. Our homegrown mission trip is open to all youth (those entering the sixth grade in the fall through high school seniors who just recently graduated), and friends and guests are welcome as well.

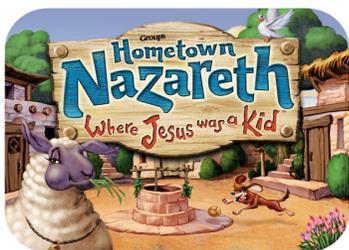
Our mission work will include restocking shelves at Goochland Family Services' Food Pantry, volunteering at Shalom Farms, and serving food at Grace and Holy Trinity's Soup Kitchen. We are also planning to have time set aside for fun and worship, including a cookout with a giant Slip 'N' Slide and a trip to SkyZone!

Youth will need to arrive at St. Mary's by 8:00am on Thursday, June 18, and be picked up at St. Mary's by 4:00pm on Friday, June 19. There is a cost of \$20 per youth who wishes to participate, and a detailed schedule of all our plans for these two days, along with items to bring, will be sent to all youth who sign up and their parents.

The link for our online signup is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acaa29aaf3-homegrown>. We hope you will plan to join us this summer as we minister to the needs around us from the farm to the city!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday-Friday, July 13-17, 9:00am-12:00pm



You will not want to miss out this summer on our summer Vacation Bible School where we will learn all about Jesus' life as a child! Everyone knows what it's like to hear their parents tell stories from their childhood. Can you imagine the kinds of stories Mary and Joseph could tell about Jesus? We will be journeying with your children back to Hometown Nazareth, where they'll learn more about their faith and that the child of Mary and Joseph is also the Son of God.

DOWNLOAD OUR VBS REGISTRATION FORM: <http://www.stmarysgoochland.org/?p=4617>

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.



St. Mary's Episcopal School

By Susan Rawls, Director

The playground has been installed and by now many of you have had a chance to see it and perhaps play on it.

The children of St. Mary's Preschool love it and have been playing on it non-stop since the mulch was spread. Speaking of the mulch, we greatly appreciate all of

the many volunteers who helped spread the enormous amount of mulch (two dump truck loads to be exact!)

It was a long day of spreading but thanks to all of our helpers and the children, too, we were able to get it all spread (code requires 6 inches deep of mulch!) It was definitely a community effort. I hope that both the children of the church and the school will enjoy playing on our playground for many years to come.

We had a wonderful school year and are looking forward to a two week camp in June. We are still taking applications for the upcoming fall. We particularly have room for two year olds. Please contact us at 784-2049 if you would like to schedule a tour this summer.

Have a great summer!



What is Foma?

The Vestry of St. Mary's cordially invites all adults to the fourth annual Feast of Mary Allen – also known as FoMA – a casually festive evening of live music, barbecue, beer, and wine on Friday, September 18 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. FoMA's namesake is Mary Allen, whose family lived at nearby Tuckahoe Plantation in the 19th century. Although Mary Allen died as a baby, her short life inspired her family to build a church in her memory and to name it for the saint who shared their daughter's name. Both Mary Allen and St. Mary remind us that even the briefest and youngest of lives are lived to the glory of God. They inspire us to more than we can imagine – a fitting way to celebrate the spirit of giving at St. Mary's as we kick off our fall annual giving campaign with Pledge Card Sunday on September 20.

This year's FoMA celebration will include an Art Silent Auction featuring the works of some of our talented parishioners. Proceeds of the Art Silent Auction will benefit the Building and Grounds Fund, a long-term initiative to maintain our beautiful and historic property.

Please plan to join us for an evening that celebrates the best of what St. Mary's is and will be. For more information, please contact info@stmarysgoochland.org.

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 AM Pastoral Care Team 1	2 3:30 PM EfM	3 10 AM Being Christian Study	4	5 4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal	6 10 AM A.A. 4:30 PM Wedding— New St. Mary's
7 10 AM Holy Eucharist II – New St. Mary's 11:00 a.m. Lemonade on the Patio 11:00 a.m. Children & Youth	8 5 PM Pastoral Care Team 2	9	10 10 AM Being Christian Study	11	12	13 10 AM A.A.
14 10 AM Morning Prayer 11 AM Reception for the Rev. Eleanor Wellford	15 10 AM Pastoral Care Team 3	16 11 AM Calendar Meeting	17 10 AM Being Christian Study	18 Youth Mission Trip	19 Youth Mission Trip	20 10 AM A.A.
21 10 AM Holy Eucharist I— New St. Mary's	22 9 AM Pastoral Care Team 4	23	24 10 AM Being Christian Study	25	26 5 PM Wedding Re- hearsal	27 10 AM A.A. 4:30 PM Wedding— New St. Mary's
28 Morning Prayer—New St. Mary's	29	30 5 PM Vestry				

PARISH • NEWS • IN • BRIEF

Welcome to St. Mary's!

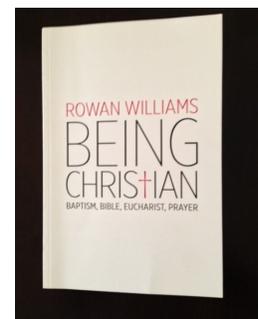
All of us know what a special community St. Mary's is, from our 19th century beginnings as a mission church to local coal mining and farming families to our 21st century presence between suburban Richmond and rural Goochland. Even as we begin a quieter summer season, a group of St. Mary's parishioners and staff members will be meeting and looking at ways that all of us together and each of us in our own way can convey what makes St. Mary's a unique expression of the Body of Christ – and how we can welcome people to be part of our worship, mission, and ministry. If you are interested in participating in this important discussion, please contact the Rev. Weezie Blanchard at 784-5678 or wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org

Assistant Rector Search Continues

At press time, our Rector, the Rev. John Miller, continues the search for an Assistant Rector who will focus on enriching and expanding St. Mary's ministries to young adults, including those who are single, married, with children, and without children. The Assistant Rector will also help the Rector, along with other staff members, with children and youth ministries, fellowship, liturgy, pastoral care, preaching, and outreach. An Assistant Rector Search Committee (Marshall Bowden, Wallace Inge, Eddie Goode, Rich Lundvall, Liz Rider, Molly Snow, Chris Spencer, Peggy Talman, Charmaine Trice, and the Rev. Weezie Blanchard,) is helping with the search and will advise the Rector in the making of his decision following a thorough process. Everyone agrees that finding the right person for St. Mary's is the foremost consideration.

Being Christian for Four Wednesdays in June

The number of Americans who identify themselves as Christians is declining, according to a recently released study by the Pew Research Center on Religion and Public Life. What does it mean to identify as a Christian? Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams sets forth one approach in his book *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*. Books are available at Amazon.com. Please join Associate Rector Weezie Blanchard in exploring how these four elements are essential to our faith on Wednesdays in June (June 3, 10, 17, and 24) at 10 a.m. in the Education Building Library. To sign up or for more information, please contact Weezie at 784-5678 or wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

This group of spirited knitters will resume meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 10 a.m. in the Associate Rector's Office and the third Thursday of each month throughout the 2015-16 program year. Their 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. All levels of knitters are invited to join in.

You can't cross that bridge when you come to it.



The River Road bridge over Tuckahoe Creek between Henrico and Goochland Counties is closed for replacement through October 24, 2015. The closest alternative route for people traveling west to St. Mary's is Patterson Avenue west to Blair Road, Blair Road south (left off Patterson), and River Road east (left off Blair) 1.6 miles to St. Mary's. For more information, go to <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/richmond/>

SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist) Retreat

From Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21, the Rev. Weezie Blanchard and four other women from St. Mary's will attend a weekend retreat at the monastery of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, a community of Episcopal monks in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The women on retreat will have the opportunity to attend daily services in the monastery chapel and will meet with one of the brothers several times throughout the weekend. There is no singular reason to go on retreat, but, as the SSJE brothers explain on their website:



Taking time away from the demands of everyday life, to be quiet, to pray, to worship, to read, rest, and relax, allows us to refocus our lives on what is most important to us. Some people come on retreat at moments of transition, when they feel the need for particular discernment. Others come on retreat simply to refresh and renew their spirit. Our relationship with God, like all relationships, needs attention and care to grow. Times of retreat allow us to turn our whole selves to the love of God, to listen and be attentive to the voice of God. Many people experience retreats as times when God seems particularly near.

Weezie, who has spent time with the brothers regularly over the past eight years, joins other St. Mary's clergy and parishioners who have long enjoyed the hospitality of the brothers of SSJE. The Rev. John Miller led several staff members on a retreat to SSJE several years ago, and the Rev. Eleanor Wellford has been on retreat there often, as have several parishioners. St. Mary's hopes to host one of the SSJE brothers here at St. Mary's during the 2015-16 year.

The brothers of SSJE also send daily email "Brother, Give Us a Word" reflections. To sign up and to learn more about SSJE, go to <http://ssje.org>, or contact John, Eleanor, or Weezie in the church office.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MID-YEAR REPORT

Background

The Finance Committee, which consists of roughly a dozen of your fellow Parishioners, as well as our Parish Staff Leadership, meets five to six times each year. Our primary responsibility is a fiduciary one. To safeguard your money and use these valuable and limited funds, which come exclusively from your generosity, prudently effect what we generally refer to as the "Three M's" – Mission, Ministry, and Maintenance. Our Mission includes multiple Outreach Programs. Ministry involves, among others, our weekly services, Adult Education, Children's Ministries, Music, etc. Finally, last but not least, from an ongoing cost perspective is Maintenance. The annual challenge to keep the entire campus of St. Mary's looking as beautiful as it does requires continuous financial support.

In addition, the Finance Committee is tasked with developing an Annual Budget for consideration by the Vestry and initiating an annual, written, outside independent Financial Audit of our Funds and Accounts, known as the Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures, as recommended by our Diocese.

Annual Report to the Congregation

At the conclusion of each calendar year (which coincides with our Financial Year), we report to you, the Congregation. Typically this occurs at a Sunday 11AM service in late January.

This past January, our Committee had the privilege of announcing that thanks to all of you, the 2014 year was our best ever in terms of Pledges and Donations. The Church's financial year ended with a modest surplus, roughly \$10,000 on a million dollar budget (or one percent).

The 2015 Budget was developed with a pledge level that is nearly identical to that actually received in 2014 (\$924,059 received vs. \$900,000 budgeted for 2015).

First Quarter Results

At the time of this writing, only the results of the first quarter 2015 are available. As such, we are pleased to report that our actual year-to-date Performance vs. Budget has us squarely on track. While it is early in the year, we expect that, save any unforeseen surprises in maintenance, the Finance Committee report to the Congregation next January should be equally positive.

Future Challenges

While the above is good news, it must be "tempered" by a few cautionary observations. They are, primarily, the following:

Each year, the Finance Committee looks forward to a level of new pledges and contributions from our new members and/or those members who did not previously pledge. Therefore, if you have not already filled out your 2015 Pledge Card, it is not too late to do so. We can use the money!

The Budget for 2016 will include several increases on the Expense side of the ledger, for which we have little or no control. These could include a Diocesan mandate requiring health insurance for spouses of key staff and clergy, among others.

The 2014 year-end result produced essentially "no margin for error". The 2015 Budget is balanced without any surplus dollars anticipated in the event of unforeseen surprises or investment in major capital replacements or repair. Once again, the good news is that our Church has several dedicated funds, including a Building Reserve and Operating Reserve Fund, respectively. However, these accounts are limited in their ability to provide ample funding to meet all of the identified Capital renewal and replacement projects identified by the Building and Grounds Committee. Therefore, it is the desire and goal of

the Finance Committee to recommend to the Vestry that a Depreciation Fund be established, beginning with the 2016 Budget of some amount to be determined that could, over time, allow us to enhance our ability to not only replace and renew areas of need on our physical plant, but also improve upon the overall campus.

Possible Next Steps

To affect the above recommendation will therefore take an increase in future Pledges. Thus, the Finance Committee will ask the Annual Giving Committee to consider another outreach to all of us in the hopes that the 2016 Budget and beyond will include a growing Pledge base from which to provide future financial stability.

The church will be sending out the 2016 pledge cards, which come out prior to the Annual Feast of Mary Allan (FoMA) celebration in September. All members will be receiving information about FoMA this summer.

No doubt all of us have marveled at the beauty of our new patio. Shortly, many of our youngest members of the Church will also enjoy the new playground. It is important to point out that both of these enhancements were a result of a Designated Gift(s), and as such, neither monies from our an-

nual giving, nor the Building Reserve Fund were used.

In closing, the Finance Committee thanks all of you for allowing us to carry on our mission. As such, please do not hesitate to contact any and all of us with a question(s), concern, and/or recommendation as to how we can be most effective to St. Mary's.

Sincerely,

The Finance Committee:

David Rose, Chair
Gina Alexander, Parish Administrator
Scott Barton, Annual Giving Chair
Bill Bellamy
Weezie Blanchard, Associate Rector
Tammy Click, Accountant
Howard Cobb, Treasurer
Bill Gooch
Cathy Keiger
Rich Lundvall, Senior Warden
The Reverend John Miller, Rector
Al Rider
Scott Stephens
Kemper Wharton

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Gina Alexander



Summer is upon us, and many of you will soon be heading off to summer homes or extended vacations. There is always so much to do before you can actually get away. Please remember to include your St. Mary's contributions in your planning. Bills continue to arrive, and we often have to borrow from reserved funds to make payroll during the summer months.

Why not consider going to our website and setting up an automatic draft from your checking account, or have your pledge charged to your favorite credit card so that we can count on your contribution over the summer. <http://www.stmarysgoochland.org/pledge/>

FOMA

THE
FEAST OF MARY ALLEN

Celebrating our Fabulous St. Mary's Community!

AGES TWENTY-ONE & UP
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
6 PM

09-18-2015

(For more information, see page 14)

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

