

Announcements

Many of you have made annual giving pledges to support the ministries of St. Mary's in 2016. Thank you. If you have not turned in your annual giving pledge card for 2016, we need you. St. Mary's depends on the generous support of all of us.

What's Next for St. Mary's? This past June, after 38 years of service to St. Mary's (34 as rector) John Miller announced his retirement effective January 1, 2016. As Senior Warden Rich Lundvall informed the parish in a letter shortly after John's announcement, the Vestry voted unanimously to ask Bishop Shannon Johnston to appoint Associate Rector Weezie Blanchard as priest-in-charge effective upon John's retirement. To find out more details and what we can expect to happen after January 1, join John and Weezie in today's Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall.

Tag, you're it. The **6-7th Grade Youth Group** is playing laser tag this afternoon from 3:40-5 p.m. at **Laser Quest** in Midlothian. Please plan to spend \$16 for two games. Contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

Support our school. Beginning tomorrow, November 16, through next Sunday, November 22, **St. Mary's Episcopal School**, our resident preschool, will hold a **book sale** featuring holiday-themed, religious, and preschooler-appropriate books. Check out the selection in the Sunday School Building during the week and when you're here next Sunday. The preschool is also **selling greenery** to support its important work, so take care of your holiday to-do list by ordering wreaths, poinsettias, and other seasonal plants. Find order forms in the Café, the narthexes of Little St. Mary's and New St. Mary's, and the church office.

Faith. Food. Fun. The Fellowship Committee will delight us with a hearty fall supper this **Wednesday, November 18** from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Enjoy this monthly St. Mary's treat, then stay for a special program offering. There is something for every age! Suggested contribution is \$8 per person, with a maximum of \$25 per family. Here's the night's menu:

- ❖ 5:30-6:45 p.m.: **Supper**, New Parish Hall;
- ❖ 6:15-7 p.m.: **Small Saints** (Kindergarten-2nd grade), **Junior Youth Group** (3rd-5th grade), and **6th-7th Grade Youth Group**, Sunday School and Education Buildings;
- ❖ 7 p.m.: *Go Set a Watchman* Discussion with Henry Massie, Education Building Library.

Remember to say thank you. Before indulging in delicious Thanksgiving foods, come celebrate the day and opportunity to give thanks for all we have been given. St. Mary's will offer **Holy Eucharist: Rite One** at **9 a.m. in Little St. Mary's on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26.**

Speaking of thank you. Thank you to everyone who participated in providing bags of food and checks for hams and turkeys for **Thanksgiving meals for families served by our outreach partner Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.** St. Mary's, which contributed over half of the Thanksgiving meals needed, continues a strong tradition of support for Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, some of whose core services were begun as missions of St. Mary's...and thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the retreat last weekend with **Br. David Vryhof of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist** such a success, including **Bev Beck, Andrew Blair, Cabell Jones, Nancy Jones, Fay Lohr, Margaret Mickel, Susie Patton, Sydna Street, Armistead Talman, Peggy Talman, Charmaine Trice, and Joan Wilkins.**

Before Christmas trees come Advent wreaths. Advent wreaths, which symbolize the passage of Advent, are a **meaningful way for people to observe the Advent season.** Join with family and St. Mary's friends of all ages to make an Advent wreath for your home on **November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall.** St. Mary's will provide all materials (but please bring greenery if you can). Suggested contribution is \$10 per wreath.

'Tis the season. Outreach within St. Mary's, the surrounding community, and beyond is a testament to the vibrant life of our parish. Learn more about St. Mary's and some of our outreach partners by joining in one or more of the following opportunities:

- ❖ Give **presents:** To brighten the Christmas of children served by the Goochland Mother and Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, take an ornament from our Giving Tree and return presents listed on it by Sunday, December 13.
- ❖ Give **blood:** St. Mary's parishioners (age 16 and up) have the opportunity to donate blood at St. Mary's from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 13. St. Mary's youth volunteers may help with sign in and other support by calling contacting Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.
- ❖ Give **quarters:** We will provide clean laundry for our homeless guests from CARITAS while they are at St. Mary's from January 30-February 6. Please donate quarters for the laundry in the "Quarters for CARITAS" jar in the Café between the kitchen and the New Parish Hall.
- ❖ Thank you!

Vestry nominations are open. The **Nominating Committee of the Vestry** of St. Mary's Episcopal Church is receiving nominations for the 2019 class of the Vestry through **December 6, 2015.** The 12-member Vestry consists of three rotating classes of four St. Mary's members in good standing; each class is elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a three-year term. The next **Annual Meeting** of St. Mary's will be held **Sunday, January 31, 2016.**

- ❖ According to Canon 12, Section 13 of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Virginia, *"Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and a biblically-based standard of proportional giving. Each Vestry member shall also continually encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of the programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation."*
- ❖ The **Nominating Committee** is chaired by outgoing Vestry member and Senior Warden **Rich Lundvall.** Other members are outgoing Vestry members **Bill Gooch, Michelle Lewis, and Ben Weimer,** and at-large members **Eddie Goode, Susie Patton, Gray Stettinius, and Sue Thompson.**
- ❖ Please submit nominations to Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org.

We gather together. The **221st Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia** will taken place **January 21-23, 2016** in Reston, Virginia. Annual Council, attended by clergy and lay delegates, is the governance meeting of all Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Virginia. If you would like to learn more, including information about the opportunity to attend, please contact Weezie Blanchard at wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org.