**Announcements**

**Happy new year!** A wonderful **Advent** has been followed by a merry **Christmas** at St. Mary’s, and we are delighted that you are here as we begin 2016. Attendance at our regularly scheduled services from Advent through Christmas Day was up over 22% this year from last year. **Wednesday Evening Prayer** in Little St. Mary’s at 5:45 p.m. was warmly received and will continue in the new year. **Lessons and Carols** on December 20 and the **Festival Holy Eucharist** with the **St. Mary’s Choir** on Christmas Eve were exquisite, and Christmas Eve with the **Children’s Lessons and Carols** brought the Christmas story beautifully alive. All ages gathered in Little St. Mary’s to celebrate Christmas Day, and hundreds were here last Sunday for a joyous yet bittersweet **celebration of John Miller**’s 38 years of service to St. Mary’s. We can only imagine the blessings in store for St. Mary’s in the new year. Thank you for being a part of them!

**Please remember your name tag**. Name tags really do help us greet one another better, whether someone is new to St. Mary’s, prone to forgetting names, or just hasn’t had enough coffee! If you recently signed up for a name tag, please pick it up in the narthex at the back of New St. Mary’s. If you want a name tag, please sign up in the narthex at the back of New St. Mary’s.

**Wow, it’s Wednesday** at St. Mary’s! Here are some of the things happening on Wednesdays in January at St. Mary’s, **beginning January 6**:

* Dr. Frank Eakin, St. Mary’s parishioner and Weinstein-Rosenthal Professor of Jewish and Christian Studies at the University of Richmond, assumes the lead of the **Bible Study,** which meets **every Wednesday at 10 a.m.** in the Library in the Education Building.
* Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown turns her attention to **the Other Mary**, Mary Magdalene, at **5 p.m. on January 6 and 13** in the Old Parish Hall.
* **Evening Prayer**, one of the principal Daily Offices,takes place every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. in Little St. Mary’s.
* **Children’s Choir practice**, led by Adam Bailey,resumes this Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Choir Suite. The Children’s Choir, which includes children in kindergarten through grade 5, sings approximately once each month in our 11 a.m. service and at other times throughout the year.
* The first **Parish Supper** of 2016 is served on **January 20** from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. and promises to be delicious. **Small Saints** (kindergarten-grade 3), **Junior Youth Group** (grades 4 and 5), and **Middle School Youth Group** (grades 6-8) meet from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

***To participate or find out more about any of these activities, please contact Lori Smiley in the church office at 784-5678 or*** ***lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org******, and she’ll put you in touch with the right person.***

**CARITAS is coming!** In partnership with CARITAS, the largest provider of services to the homeless in the Richmond area, St. Mary's will host a group of temporarily homeless men from **January 30 to February 6**. Sign up boards for **volunteers** to help in the kitchen and do laundry go up outside the Café in the New Parish Hall this Wednesday, January 6. You can also contribute quarters for laundry to the [CARITAS](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001V5etWxmtHnKuLthi5wehLJZlK75lVhXjf6vL6adXY7Q4tfRBlchIDVexXcqWZimXM5DMP_RyKamsa9loadxuBDcWOxdSm9hR_yVXUzUPzDY=) jar in the Café. Please consider giving some of your time to help make our guests' stay comfortable and welcoming.

**Your pledge makes a difference.** Thanks to all you who have paid or continue to faithfully pay your pledges. If you have not yet paid your **2015** pledge, please help us close the books on 2015. If you have not made your **2016 pledge,** please consider doing so as soon as possible. Every pledge makes a difference in the support and growth of the many ministries of St. Mary's.  To [**pledge online**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001V5etWxmtHnKuLthi5wehLJZlK75lVhXjf6vL6adXY7Q4tfRBlchIDVexXcqWZimXM5DMP_RyKanmCHmIMGMIUuUglxZqyKBwYkj5iXmUgovyYOu8SapNkwD4iVjZ8A5d), go to [www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org) and click “Donate” or contact Gina Alexander, our parish administrator, at 784-5678 or galexander@stmarysgoochland.org. Thank you for contributing to the life of St. Mary's.

**Thank yous**. To the **Altar Guild** and other volunteers for the breathtaking greening of the church with greens, poinsettias, and candlelight…to the **Adult Choir**, led by choirmaster and organist **Dwight Graham**, for the exquisite Lessons and Carols on December 20 at 11 a.m. and the Festival Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve at 11 p.m…. to **the children of St. Mary’s**, who made Christmas come to life before our very eyes at their Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. Special thanks to Children’s Choirmaster **Adam Bailey,** co-leaders **Kelly Cox** and **Tracy Sears Harvey,** music director **Meriwether Roberts,** and **Ashley Barlow, Owen Conway, Jane duFrane, Meredith Flippin, Brantley Holmes, Rebecca Johnson, Molly Parker, Susanna Payne, Shawna Schmidt, Molly Snow, Rachel Staab, Charmaine Trice, Kerri White, and Jennifer Whitlock…**to **Dede Andrews, Bev Beck, Eddie Goode, Rich Lundvall, Sarah Richardson, Chris Spencer, Armistead Talman, Peggy Talman, Sue Thompson, Joan Wilkins, Ennion Williams** and more who made the celebration of John Miller’s ministry such a special occasion…and to all of you, who remind us that St. Mary’s is a vital part of God’s kingdom on earth.