** The Annunciation St. Mary’s Episcopal Church**

 **Easter Sunday March 27, 2016**

Nursery

We have nursery available for infants through 4 year olds during both the 9:00 and 11:00 services as well as during the 10:00 Education Hour. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Our nursery leader, Meg Zehmer, will be happy to help you get your child settled into the nursery.

**Worship bags**

We provide worship bags that contain a coloring page based on the Gospel reading of the day. It also has a wonderful parent focused message on the back to help you talk about the day’s reading with your child. Worship bags are located in wood bins near the entrances to the church.

**Sermons available**

Find past sermons available in hard copy in the narthex of New St. Mary’s, or visit **stmarysgoochland.org/sermons** to hear audio and download print versions.

**Connect with us**

We would love to learn more about you! If you are a visitor, please pick up a **welcome bag** from one of our ushers and fill out an **information card** (available in the pews).

***Do you receive email from us?*** *Sign up at* ***stmarysgoochland.org/communications*** *to receive St. Mary’s weather updates and news.*

**A Weekly Reflection**

Where do you find God at St. Mary’s? Throughout Lent and Holy Week, we received the answer to that question from various members of our St. Mary’s family. Each reflection touched me deeply and made me evermore attuned to God’s presence at St. Mary’s. This Holy Week, I marveled at God’s presence in our Palm Sunday service, from the procession of the St. Mary’s Choir to the dramatic rendition of the Passion by excellent readers of all ages to the silent procession out of the church. I was awed by God’s presence in the institution of Holy Communion in Jesus’ last supper, which we commemorated in the Maundy Thursday liturgy. I witnessed the steadiness of God’s presence in the behind-the-scenes work of our loyal, hard-working and amazingly cheerful staff, Altar Guild and other parishioners who are devoted to St. Mary’s as an outpost of God’s kingdom.

But I have rarely been so moved by God’s presence at St. Mary’s as I was Thursday afternoon during the children’s presentation of the Stations of the Cross. Inspired by the lifelong effect of her participation as a 10 year-old in a similar offering, parishioner Kerri White was the driving force behind this strikingly simple shadow play production. For six weeks, over 20 children ages five to 14 diligently rehearsed their speaking, acting, and singing roles, and their commitment resulted in a remarkable reminder of what Jesus endured on our behalf during the last days of his life on earth. Nearly 60 people—parents, grandparents, friends of all ages, and plenty of parishioners who simply showed up—received their gift. Everyone was deeply moved by the power of the story and deeply touched by the beauty of the children’s presentation. Afterwards, old friends mingled with new, and we gathered for a simple soup supper on the terrace overlooking the churchyard. All of us were amazed at what we had just experienced together. As the children gravitated to the playground, the spring breeze and warm sun blessed us all, and I had no doubt—God is in this place.

We are so glad that you are celebrating the resurrection with us this Easter. May you find God at St. Mary’s today and always.

The Rev. Louise Browner Blanchard

*Interim Rector*

**Do you receive our weekly emails?**

Sign up to receive news and weather updates at **stmarysgoochland.org/communications**.

*See more at stmarysgoochland.org/events*

**Today’s Schedule**

**9 a.m.** Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, *New St. Mary’s*

**10:15 a.m.** Easter Egg Hunt, *Churchyard*

**11 a.m.** Holy Eucharist: Rite Two, *New St. Mary’s*

**Welcome!** Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary’s, or your one hundred and first, we’re glad that you’re with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to an usher or a clergy member and consider filling out an information form. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 or 11 a.m. for Eucharist and Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday** or **Evening Prayer** at 12 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary’s, for a **class** or **Bible study**, or for many of our other **fellowship** and **outreach** offerings. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary’s.

**WHERE IS GOD CALLING ST. MARY’S?**

The Easter season is a natural time for reflection, introspection and clarification of St. Mary’s mission and purpose.  As announced in recent weeks, our Vestry selected this season as the right time to initiate **a** **period of prayerful discernment**, seeking to answer “What is God’s calling for St. Mary’s?” We’ve been lining up committee leaders and planning to gather extensive input from parishioners over the next two months.  Our hope is to clearly hear God’s voice, enabling us to reestablish the mission and short-term priorities of the church, and ultimately to provide the basis to consider and call our permanent rector.  On behalf of the Vestry, Tim O’Shea is organizing and leading the discernment process.  We plan to announce our **committees** and formally kick off **group discussions** in **early April**. Feel free to contact Tim at ***timoshea7@gmail.com*** for more information.  And, as we move forward, please consider our future in your daily prayers…

**A Prayer for the Future of St. Mary’s Church**

**Dear God, we give thanks for the ways you have blessed the ministry of St. Mary’s Church in the past. Be with us now as we look toward the future. Show us the way forward. Help us plan a ministry which will reflect your glory, a ministry which will serve the needs of your people and which will be an important witness of your love for the world. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**ADULTS**

**Episco-who?** Join Interim Rector Weezie Blanchard and Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown for a four-session **Inquirers Class** on the basics of Christianity and the richness of the Anglican tradition. The class will meet on **April 10, 17, 24,** and **May 1** following the **11 a.m. service**. Whether you desire to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church or are new to the Episcopal Church and just want to know more, this class is for you. Many long-time Episcopalians find it an interesting and helpful refresher course, as well. A light lunch will be provided, so **please RSVP** to Lori Smiley at ***lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org***.

**Happy Friday.** Join the **Dover Parish Community Group** (formerly known as PAC) for a fun Friday night at the Lickinghole Creek Brewery on **April 8**. This group meets monthly and provides a great way to get plugged into the life of the parish, particularly for **20s, 30s, and 40s**. Invite a friend or bring your spouse and enjoy getting to know the St. Mary’s family better in a beautiful setting over a great beer. We will begin gathering at **5 p.m.**, but come when you can (the brewery closes at **9 p.m.**).  **Fresh oysters** will be available for sale, and we will provide light appetizers.

**CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

**Especially for children.** Each week from September through May we offer **Sunday School** classes for our children ages 3 – 5th grade as part of our Children’s Ministry program. The curriculum moves through Scripture engaging the children in the stories of our faith. There is a **Children’s Choir** directed by Adam Bailey. The children rehearse on Wednesday nights and perform periodically throughout the year. In addition to these weekly offerings there are many special programs for children and parents that take place throughout the year. For more information contact Amelia McDaniel at ***amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.***

**Especially for youth.** There is a lot going on for the youth at St. Mary’s! The **middle school youth group** meets the **2nd and 4th Sundays**, and **the 3rd Wednesday each month**. Our next event will be putt-putt on April 10th. There are two weekend trips to Shrine Mont coming up: 6-7th grade students will be going April 15th-17th, and the 8th grade weekend is May 13th-15th. This summer, the youth will have the opportunity to participate in a local mission trip as well as Vacation Bible School and regular service project opportunities. For more information about any of this, please contact Matt Rawls at ***mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org***.

**Especially for parents.** As Wendy Mogel says, **our children “are a precious loan, and each one has a unique path toward serving God.  Our job is to help them find out what it is.”**  Please join with other parents of St. Mary’s and Director of Children’s Ministries Amelia McDaniel on **Sundays in April** (April 3, 10, 17, and 24) at **10 a.m.** in the **Old Parish Hall** as we explore the common conundrum of how to parent.  Our guide will be Wendy Mogel’s book, ***The Blessing of the Skinned Knee***.  This is a short, concise and insightful book for parents. If you need copies of the book, we will have some on hand for $10.  For more information please contact Amelia McDaniel at ***amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.***

**Come to the Table! Vacation Bible School 2016** will be held on July 11-15, 2016 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Mark your calendars for a great week of fun and learning for St. Mary’s children ages 3 – 5th grade. We will be exploring **feeding stories** from Scripture and learning more about the **Eucharist**. Registration will be available soon. Interested in volunteering to help with the week? Please contact Amelia McDaniel at ***amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.***

**OUTREACH**

**Buddy up.** We are excited to announce a new **volunteer opportunity**.  **St. Andrew's**, an **Episcopal school** in Oregon Hill that provides quality education to children from families with limited financial resources, is one of St. Mary's outreach grant recipients.  We are partnering to match interested St. Mary's parishioners with St. Andrew's students through St. Andrew's **Lunch Buddies** and **After School programs**.  If you are interested in spending an hour each week getting to know one of the wonderful children of St. Andrew's, or would like to know more, please contact Lori Smiley at ***lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org***.

**Hunger hurts.** We will be collecting food to support Goochland’s Hunger Awareness Week (April 24-30, 2016). Our goal is to collect **30,000 pounds of food** which will help feed our neighbors in Goochland who are hungry. **Consider filling a bag** with canned items (meat, beans, vegetable, fruit, soup, peanut butter, and tomatoes) and dry goods (pasta, beans, rice, flour, baking mix, cereal, and toilet paper) and return it to the narthex of New St. Mary’s by **April 24**. Contact Pat Hughes at ***phughes316@gmail.com*** with questions.

**ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

St. Mary's Episcopal School is now enrolling students for **the 2016-2017 school year** and **2016 summer enrichment camps**.   We accept children who are between turning two by December 31, 2016 and turning six on or before December 2017. The school’s **play-based philosophy** empowers children to learn and grow according to their developmental ability.   To schedule a tour, please call **Susan Rawls** at **784-2049.** Registration forms are available in the narthex of New St. Mary’s.

**This Week at St. Mary’s**

**Clergy, Staff, and Vestry**

**Melissa Alicea,** *Nursery Assistant*

**Gersain Agudelo**, *Assistant Sexton*

**Gina Alexander**, *Parish Administrator*

galexander@stmarysgoochland.org

**Adam Bailey**, *Children’s Choir Director*

**Louise Browner Blanchard***, Interim Rector*

wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org

**Emily Rowell Brown**, *Associate Rector*

ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org

**Tammy Click,** *Accountant*

**W. Dwight Graham**, *Organist and Choirmaster*

**Robert G. Hetherington**, *Priest Associate*

**Amelia McDaniel**, *Director of Children’s Ministries*

amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org

**Paul Pace**, *Sexton*

**Matt Rawls**, *Director of Youth Ministries*

mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org

**Lori Smiley**, *Assistant to the Clergy*

lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org

**Meg Zehmer***, Nursery Director*

**Susan Rawls***, Director of St. Mary’s Episcopal School*

**Vestry Members:**

**Al Rider**, *Senior Warden*

**Jane duFrane**, *Junior Warden*

**Bill Gooch**, *Treasurer*

**Charmaine Trice**, *Register*

**Scott Barton, Steve Guza, Brantley Holmes, Fay Lohr, Tracey Ragsdale, Betsy Rawles, Bruin Richardson, David Rose,** and **Tom Slater**

**Sunday, March 27, Easter Day**

Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 9 a.m.,

*New St. Mary’s*

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:15 a.m., *St. Mary’s Churchyard*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

**Monday, March 28, Easter Monday**

Parish office closed

**Tuesday, March 29**

Staff meeting, 2 p.m., Old Parish Hall

Vestry meeting, 5 p.m.,Old Parish Hall

**Wednesday, March 30**

[Bible Study](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001I_CnSRjrebn7p45m3pTzxnwXWTtnZoD8Coi4YVsxKhq8_Lko4-bBa26pBXE5asGbjTMFEfweXC5fT74ywceIKaphqxVKHByWQALQY0lXA5vTs0g2rF6WsTZGIiewP1F0ZG68gsCitNYlZekgHBw_etPoDNA5BOp_XOZMxpWe5S3_ruLcP6mKsLfDVQgBcxe0FjYS24AXIkhwmdGVQugNNPjxJaGqj09m&c=U0_cSAwZwYLtV-ZTRYkT86gapwVlddKsr3oiC1gBIjumUkntN4C_lA==&ch=jjgYemNP3rQH7DZhMOhxdqt7O5ciSIDNYiKH56XXCZWnD2AXh4iCnQ==), 10 a.m., Education Building Library

[Noonday Prayer](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001I_CnSRjrebn7p45m3pTzxnwXWTtnZoD8Coi4YVsxKhq8_Lko4-bBa26pBXE5asGbeAHvmqaIp64As4oU3VvS4vhfB5DNN6qZnA9WmKMYYqPcPxxJ2juhdyLG3nGcbvNGej4SIgNDcP7hFkKCFE_LGad9pueavY1vgAa1HOKjLSq5o7XOXXyWeWL-c-8KU8rIQczEES0YhZXcy4OCHu6kDK7XJZVVnPcd&c=U0_cSAwZwYLtV-ZTRYkT86gapwVlddKsr3oiC1gBIjumUkntN4C_lA==&ch=jjgYemNP3rQH7DZhMOhxdqt7O5ciSIDNYiKH56XXCZWnD2AXh4iCnQ==), 12 p.m.,Little St. Mary's

[Evening Prayer](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001I_CnSRjrebn7p45m3pTzxnwXWTtnZoD8Coi4YVsxKhq8_Lko4-bBa0yK8bF3SXbkSqtYKOem-PAPvE4oAuxA4inwZxMRGoPFRjmRYxkJf9NNSgQmwYa5p49Sp84WQPUaJZBAv-eQzMVDeUPwMS1aX6OwsyoUnWtOVYHI-zp-CsO3gg0n35J5a3Ff9gymuAkOK3Pmkkn-4SzKd2-W5fC35NvqdXVx0xTC&c=U0_cSAwZwYLtV-ZTRYkT86gapwVlddKsr3oiC1gBIjumUkntN4C_lA==&ch=jjgYemNP3rQH7DZhMOhxdqt7O5ciSIDNYiKH56XXCZWnD2AXh4iCnQ==), 5:45 p.m.,Little St. Mary's

**Saturday, April 2**

A.A., 10 a.m., Education Building Classroom

**Sunday, April 3, Second Sunday of Easter**

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Building (age 3-grade 2) and Education Building (grades 3-8)*

Adult Forum, 10:10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

*Blessing of a Skinned Knee* Book Study, 10:10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

**Coming Up**

**Friday, April 8**

Lickinghole Creek Brewery Gathering, 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 10, Third Sunday of Easter**

Parish Breakfast, 9:30-10:15 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Inquirers Class begins, 12:15 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

St. Mary’s Episcopal School Carnival, 2-5 p.m., *New St. Mary’s*

**Coming Soon**

**Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 17**

6th and 7th grade Weekend at Shrine Mont

**Wednesday, April 20**

Parish Supper, 5:30-6:45 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

**Sunday, April 24, Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Choral Evensong, 5:30 p.m., *New St. Mary’s*

**Sunday, May 1, Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Children and Youth Sunday, Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

**Sunday, May 15, Day of Pentecost**

Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

Pentecost Picnic, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

**Sunday, May 22, Trinity Sunday,** **Bishop’s Visitation**

Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary’s*

Confirmation and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary’s*

Bishop’s Reception, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall and Terrace*