



THE ANNUNCIATION

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

April 24, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

About two months ago I was asked to attend a meeting to start the planning of our Discernment Process and found myself wondering what in the world I was doing in a room with the leaders of the church. As I am sure many of you do, I often see myself as just one of God's sheep following the crowd to the safety of a Sunday service led by the clergy or attending an event coordinated by other people from the church. It's difficult for me to look at myself in the mirror and realize that I too am called to step up and take on bigger things in our Parish Community.

Life is full of commitments—the family and work life balancing act we all do each week—while church often falls to the background of our minds. St. Mary's is something that I feel is always going to be there for me when I need it and not something I feel personally responsible for taking care of. This Discernment Process has opened my eyes to the fact that we all must come together to make sure this parish community is taken care of so that our future will be what we hope and pray for it to be.

Stewardship is so much more than just money—however, we often don't worry about that aspect and assume the church will keep running along and providing the services and experiences we all enjoy. We volunteer our time in the activities of the church and we spread our talents around the parish and we feel that our support has been given. For this period of discernment we are looking inside of our hearts at our faith in God and asking him to guide us to what we will do for the years to come to take care of our parish so that it not only survives but THRIVES!

Please ask yourself: What can I do to make a difference for the future of St. Mary's? What can we all do to be more involved in the emergence of our new identity? What calls us to come to this place and give of ourselves and of our fortune? As I think about my calendar and how I spend my time, I also think about my abundance and what I feel is important to share with this church. St. Mary's has given so much to me and my children and my family. I am emotionally tied to this place, and I hope that my family will grow up and old within these walls. If you feel the same way, then I know you will take this time to pray on how stewardship can be more of a focus in your life so that we can become (continued on page 4)

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 packet** from one of our ushers.

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*

10 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class, *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

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

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

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

12:15 p.m. Inquirer's Class, *New Parish Hall*

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

6 p.m., Middle School Youth Group, *Education Building*

WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your four 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. **Little St. Mary's** is also **open every day** between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection. 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?

Upon the announcement last summer of John Miller's retirement as Rector of St. Mary's, the Vestry called for a period of discernment and self-study during the transition from John's leadership. In consultation with our Diocese, that **period of prayerful discerning** has begun—appropriately, during the Easter season, which seems a natural time for reflection, introspection and clarification of our mission and purpose to determine "Where is God calling St. Mary's?" At the request of the Vestry, Parishioner Tim O'Shea is organizing and leading the discernment process, which is divided into five focus areas: **Fellowship, Outreach, Spiritual Formation and Education, Stewardship, and Worship**, each with a committee that will seek input from all interested parishioners. Priest Associate Bob Hetherington serves as chaplain to the discernment process. 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. For comments, information, and questions, email discernment@stmarysgoochland.org.

Scheduled meetings of the committees are listed on the calendar. The committees consist of the following parishioners. Please feel free to contact any of them:

Fellowship: Chair: Kristie Inge, Andy Howlett, Katie Howlett, Margaret Lundvall, Caroline Moomaw, Duane Ragsdale, Frances White, Vestry representative: Bruin Richardson, clergy/staff representative: Emily Rowell Brown; **Outreach:** Chair: Marshall Bowden, Wallace Inge, Richard Lundvall, Margaret Mickel, Liz Rider, Jen Wilkins, Vestry representatives: Tracey Ragsdale and Charmaine Trice, clergy/staff representative: Bob Hetherington; **Spiritual Formation and Education:** Co-Chairs: Mary Lou Bean and Owen Conway, Chris Cotropia, Betty Johannessen, Cabell Jones, Doug Monroe, Sydna Street, Marilynn Ware, Angelique Wilhelm, Dan Williams, Vestry representative: Brantley Holmes, clergy/staff representatives: Amelia McDaniel and Matt Rawls; **Stewardship:** Co-Chairs: Jane duFrane and Wally Stettinius, Mercer Ferguson, Eddie Goode, Wallace Inge, Tracey Ragsdale, Jane Spilman, Ben Weimer, Vestry representative: Fay Lohr, clergy/staff representative: Weezie Blanchard; **Worship:** Chair: Peggy Talman, Rebecca Johnson, Ben Lewis, Robin Lind, Burke McCormick, Susie Patton, Martha Rhodes, Sue Thompson, Kemper Wharton, Russell Wyatt, Vestry representative: Betsy Rawles, clergy/staff representatives: Weezie Blanchard, Dwight Graham.

ADULTS

Discerning our way forward. Come discuss and reflect on your desires for **stewardship and worship** at St. Mary's today at the **Adult Forum** at 10:10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall with Bob Hetherington, Priest Associate and Chaplain to the parish-wide discernment process, and representatives from the Stewardship and Worship Discernment Focus Groups.

Episco-who? Join Interim Rector Weezie Blanchard and Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown for the latter half of a four-session **Inquirers Class** on the basics of Christianity and the richness of the Anglican tradition. Today we will consider **what Episcopalians think of the sacraments and scriptures**. The class will meet on **today** and next Sunday, **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.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Children and Youth Sunday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m. We hope that you will be able to join us as we **celebrate the children and youth of this parish and the adults who help guide them**. The rising 6th graders, graduating seniors, Children's Ministries and Youth Ministries Committees and Sunday School teachers will be recognized at this service. Our youth and children will serve as leaders in the service and Matt Rawls will deliver the sermon. Following the service there will be an **Ice Cream Social** set up for all to enjoy. Come join us for this special morning.

Especially for parents. We will be concluding our study of The Blessing of the Skinned Knee by Wendy Mogel this week. If you haven't had a chance to come before today, you are still welcome. There have been great discussions about the challenges of parenting in the last few weeks. We will spend part of our time discussing what new books and topics that we are interested in pursuing for the coming school year as well. Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org if you have ideas or suggestions about future parenting topics you are interested in.

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

Hunger hurts. You can help. 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.

Bring in a paper bag from home filled 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 **May 1**. Contact Pat Hughes at phughes316@gmail.com with questions.

WORSHIP

It takes a village. It takes many ages, skills, gifts, and talents to create the beautiful worship experience we enjoy at St. Mary's (fun fact: "Liturgy" literally means "**work of the people**"). Would you be interested in serving as a reader, usher, or chalice bearer? Or might your family be interested in bringing up the bread and wine forward for communion? Learn more about **participating** and **sign up** at stmarysgoochland.org/serve or by emailing Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.

Choral Evensong tonight. The St. Mary's Adult Choir will sing their first **Choral Evensong** service on **this evening, April 24**, at **5:30 p.m.** Set in New St. Mary's away from the noise and distractions of the world around us, Choral Evensong will offer a time of **contemplation, prayer, and music**. Please plan to join us for this new form of worship at St. Mary's.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Who doesn't love a good book? The St. Mary's Episcopal School Book Sale will be held this week, **April 25-29** from **9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** in the gathering area outside of the New Parish Hall and kitchen. Please come and browse our selection and help support our school library!

Accepting 2016-2017 applications. St. Mary's Episcopal School is currently accepting applications for children **ages 2-6 for two day, three day, four day, five day and Junior Kindergarten programs**. We offer a **play-based curriculum**, small intimate class sizes, and a fabulous outdoor classroom. Please call us at 784-2049 for more information and to set up your personal tour. Visit us on the web at www.saintmarysschool.net.

Summer fun. **Summer Enrichment Camp** will be held at St. Mary's from **June 6-10** and **June 13-17**. This camp is designed for children ages 3 to 6 and will include art, music, movement, and nature enrichment activities. For more information and to enroll in our program, call 784-2049.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, April 24, Fifth 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: Discernment Process, 10:10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Skinned Knee Book Study, 10:10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Inquirer's Class, 12:15 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Choral Evensong, 5:30 p.m., *New St. Mary's*
Middle School Youth Group, 6-7:30 p.m., *TBA*

Monday, April 25

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, April 26

Staff meeting, 2 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Vestry meeting, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, April 27

Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Education Building Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Discernment Stewardship Committee, 4 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Discernment Spiritual Formation and Education Committee,
4:30 p.m., *Education Building Library*
Discernment Fellowship Committee, 4:30 p.m., *Education
Building Classroom*

Children's Choir Rehearsal, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Evening Prayer, 5:45 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, April 28

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, April 30

Rebuilding Together Richmond Rebuilding Day, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, May 1, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Building* (age 3-grade 2)
and Education Building (grades 3-8)
Adult Forum: Discernment Process, 10:10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Children and Youth Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m.,
New St. Mary's
Ice Cream Social, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall Terrace*
Sunday School Teacher Luncheon, 12:15 p.m., *Library*
Inquirers Class, 12:15 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Friday, May 13-Sunday, May 15, 8th grade Weekend at Shrine
Mont

Sunday, May 15, Pentecost Sunday

Holy Eucharist: Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
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*

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, May 22, Trinity Sunday, Bishop's Visitation

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

A Weekly Reflection (*continued from page 1*)

what God intends our parish to become.

Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Jane M. duFrane

Discernment Stewardship Chair

janedufrane@verizon.net