



THE ANNUNCIATION

Trinity Sunday

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 22, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

This year I had the privilege of going through the confirmation process with the confirmation class. The confirmation process is wonderful, but it is also a bit intense. The class met almost every week this year beginning early September and just wrapped up this Sunday. Each student has been required to make it to at least 70% of the classes, as well as participate in various service projects, serve multiple times as acolytes, and regularly attend worship services.

The material we covered in the class was broad. We did a survey of scripture, spending a lot of time going through the Old Testament as well as the Gospels. We worked our way through the Society of St. John the Evangelist's spiritual disciplines guide, *Growing a Rule of Life*, during Lent, and we wrapped up by spending time learning about many of the things that make the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion unique.

There are many wonderful things that we all learned. We discussed the three-legged foundation of the Episcopal tradition – scripture, reason and tradition. We learned about the beauty and significance of the liturgy, especially how it centers on the Eucharist. And we discussed the unique history of the Anglican Communion and its role of *via media* between the Catholic Church and the Protestant traditions.

But most importantly we learned a little of what it means to be part of a church community and discovered in new ways how deep is God's love for us.

Being a part of a church community is not always easy. There are different and often conflicting personalities. Showing up to church regularly is often difficult. And faith so often is quite tricky. But there is joy in journey. There is joy in the community and joy in the disciplines. And most importantly, we learn from our church community how much God loves us. The church community is just a small reflection of God's love for us, but when done right, it points all to deeper understanding of God's unconditional, redeeming love for us through Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we all prepare to formally join this church community today, that is what I will be taking away with me.

Matt Rawls
Director of Youth Ministries

Would you like to write for us? Contact Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

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 news and updates.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 9 a.m.** Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
10 a.m. Sunday School, *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
No Adult Forum today
11 a.m. Rite of Conformation and Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
12 p.m. Reception, *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401st, 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 10 a.m. for Eucharist and Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday Prayer** at 12 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.

FEATURED MINISTRY: OUTREACH

"And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

Book of Common Prayer, page 366

One of the primary ways that we as Christians love and serve God as faithful witnesses of Christ is by outreach, or, in other words, **doing God's work in the world**. St. Mary's Church has a **rich history of outreach**, both in giving and receiving. ❖ You may know that St. Mary's members were instrumental in founding what are now our current outreach partners **Elk Hill** and **Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services**. But did you know that St. Mary's was **founded as an outreach mission to local coal miners and farmers**? Or that a **feeding ministry** served St. Mary's members during the Depression? ❖ Today, St. Mary's is actively involved in outreach in a number of ways. The **Outreach Committee (Co-Chairs Bob Gorrell and Margaret Mickel, Nancy Bell, Ralph Fisher, Meredith Flippin, Valerie Haskins, Pat Hughes, Linda Hyslop, Nancy Kristofak, Joanne Miller, and Sarah Jane Wyatt)**, a Vestry committee, researches and recommends financial grants to the Vestry. *The amount of money available for outreach grants depends on the annual giving participation of all St. Mary's parishioners.* ❖ The Outreach Committee also helps organize hands-on participation in **Rebuilding Richmond Together, Habitat for Humanity Goochland, and CARITAS**. ❖ This year, the Outreach Committee instituted a **grant application process**, which seeks to provide more **accountability** from our outreach partners, and, more importantly seeks to strengthen **relationships** between St. Mary's and our outreach partners, as well as among St. Mary's parishioners who are involved in outreach at St. Mary's. For example, this spring, 15 St. Mary's parishioners have signed up to serve as volunteers at **St. Andrew's School**. The Outreach Committee looks forward to instituting similar opportunities in cooperation with other outreach partners. ❖ The **children and youth of St. Mary's** are also strong participants in outreach. This year, St. Mary's children donated money that they had given throughout the year in their Sunday School classes to CARITAS. Our youth have participated in the Diocesan service day at Shalom Farms and have their own homegrown mission trip this summer at Shalom Farms and Grace and Holy Trinity Church's soup kitchen. They are excited about planning future mission trips farther afield. ❖ Outreach is **one of the five focus areas** of our process of discerning **"Where is God calling St. Mary's?"** so stay tuned. Meanwhile, if you'd like to become involved or learn more, contact Bob Gorrell, Margaret Mickel, or Weezie Blanchard at wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School Teachers needed! We are already working on Fall 2016 for our children's programming. We are looking for people interested in teacher or volunteering to help with the children's formation programming in another way. We need lots of hands to guide our children. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities to work with our Children's Ministries program, please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Amazing things happen right here at home. This summer the youth are invited to participate in a **local, home-grown mission trip**. This is open to anyone grades 6-12. We will spend **Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24** volunteering at **Shalom Farms** and then at the **soup kitchen** at Grace and Holy Trinity. Additionally, on Thursday night we will gather back at St. Mary's for food, games and fellowship! Please email Matt Rawls for more information at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

HUNGRY? Come to the Table VBS 2016 July 11-15 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.

FELLOWSHIP

Is there anything better than a cool glass of lemonade in the summer? Beginning **June 5**, the first Sundays of each summer month are **Lemonade on the Lawn Sundays!** After the 10 a.m. service, enjoy conversation and a cold beverage on the terrace with St. Mary's friends.

Ministry happens over coffee too. One of the greatest gifts of a church is the **Christian community** that we create together. Making newcomers and long-timers alike feel welcome and included happens both during and outside of worship. If you would like to be involved in the conversation about **hospitality at St. Mary's**, and particularly how we might encourage **fellowship after the Sunday services** (over good coffee of course!), please contact Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.

STEWARDSHIP

Yesterday, May 21, Vestry Junior Warden Jane duFrane, Vestry member Fay Lohr, and Parish Administrator Gina Alexander attended the Diocese of Virginia stewardship workshop on annual giving, proportional giving, social media strategies, telling our story, planned giving, stewardship with families, and much, much more. We look forward to hearing from them how what they learned is vital to the difference that St. Mary's Church makes in people's lives every day. ❖ If you haven't already done so, please consider making a financial pledge for 2016. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. **Annual pledges strengthen our ministries and ensure that St. Mary's remains a source of hope and encouragement for people in Goochland, the metropolitan Richmond area, and beyond.** You can pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org, or call 784-5678. **It's SO easy to do and it feels SO good to do it!**

WORSHIP

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place! We are delighted to have **Bishop Shannon Johnston** with us this morning to celebrate the newest members of St. Mary's and our confirmands who are affirming their faith. Please join us for a **reception** in honor of Bishop Shannon and the confirmands, which will follow the 11 a.m. service.

We can't do it without you...

- ❖ **Chalice bearer trainings are coming up.** Current chalice bearers and those interested in participating in this ministry are invited to a **training session on Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m.** in New St. Mary's. **RSVP** and direct questions to Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.
- ❖ **Serve as an usher during funerals.** During a time of grief and loss, you can be a **helpful, comforting presence.** We depend on our funeral ushers to **welcome and guide** many people who set foot into St. Mary's for the first time. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org.

DON'T come to church at 9 or 11 a.m. next week! Our summer Sunday service schedule begins next Sunday, **May 29** and continues through **September 4**. We will hold one service at **10 a.m.** in **New St. Mary's**. Each month, on the **first, third, and fifth Sundays**, we will celebrate **Holy Eucharist**, and on the **second and fourth Sundays**, we will hold a **Morning Prayer** service followed by an optional opportunity to receive Holy Communion. **We will suspend our Wednesday Evening Prayer service at 5:45 p.m. for the summer months beginning the first week of June.** Wednesday Noonday Prayer at noon will continue.

WHERE IS GOD CALLING ST. MARY'S? –Update!

Over the past 75 days, hundreds of **St. Mary's parishioners, staff, and clergy** met with and listened to each other to **prayerfully discern** "Where is God calling St. Mary's?" Led by Tim O'Shea as Chair and guided by Bob Hetherington as Chaplain, we specifically focused on **five areas of our common life** (Fellowship, Outreach, Spiritual Formation and Education, Stewardship, and Worship). We worked together to identify **strengths**, aspects we could **improve** upon, **opportunities** for growth and improvement, and **threats** to our future. We **listened** to each other in **committee meetings, Adult Forums, Parish Breakfasts and Suppers, Seniors Luncheons, and gatherings of the Dovers** (our 20's, 30's, and 40's group), **formal interviews, informal conversations and by email and letters.** The **Discernment Process Steering Committee**, which consists of **Tim O'Shea, Bob Hetherington, Vestry wardens Al Rider and Jane duFrane, Wally Stettinius, and focus area committee chairs Mary Lou Bean, Marshall Bowden, Owen Conway, Kristie Inge, and Peggy**

Talman, met this past Wednesday, May 18 to review a draft of Tim's report on the discernment process. A **final report** will be presented to the Vestry at its next meeting on Tuesday, May 31. The Vestry will make recommendations to the parish based on the report, all of which will be **shared with the parish**. Meanwhile, we continue to prayerfully consider **where God is calling us to be** as a beacon of God's kingdom in the world, with an emphasis on **listening to one another**. *If you would still like to make your voice heard*, please contact Tim or email discernment@stmarysgoochland.org. To find out more, go to www.stmarysgoochland.org/discernment.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

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**. **St. Mary's members (or their referrals) will receive \$250 off tuition.** 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.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, May 22, Trinity Sunday

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

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

Reception for Bishop and Confirmands, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

Middle School Youth Group, 3:45 p.m., *at Escape Room RVA, 7025 Three Chopt Road.*

Monday, May 23

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

Tuesday, May 24

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, May 25

Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Education Building Library*

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

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

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

Thursday, May 26

Finance Committee, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Saturday, May 28

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

Sunday, May 29, Second Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Schedule begins

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Coming Up

Monday, May 30

Church office closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

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

Saturday, June 4-Sunday, June 5

Rising Strong Young Adult Conference, *at Roslyn Retreat Center*

Sunday, June 5

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Lemonade on the Lawn, 11 a.m., *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

See more at stmarysgoochland.org/events

St. Mary's Episcopal Church ❖ 12291 River Road ❖ Richmond, Virginia

stmarysgoochland.org ❖ 804-784-5678