



THE ANNUNCIATION

Second Sunday after Pentecost

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 29, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

Today's Gospel reading from Luke reminds me of the rarest among us—the one who will talk to anyone—friend, stranger or otherwise. In the passage, Jesus is asked by a centurion to heal his slave who is sick. On the surface, Jesus has every reason to not associate with the centurion. After all, the centurion might just as well represent Rome's iron fist that oppresses the people of Israel—on the same order of those who will order Jesus' crucifixion.

Instead, Jesus heads toward the house to heal the servant. Jesus' way is one of grace and healing that knows no social circle that we oftentimes arbitrarily define today. Interestingly enough, Jesus and the Roman soldier never actually meet, acting through intermediaries instead. The soldier even declares that he is unworthy of hosting Jesus—quite an admission of humility for a person of his stature in those days.

Today, it's so much for convenient, it seems, for us to see another person's weaknesses and judge rather than talking and learning GOD wants us to get out of our comfort zone and share the Good News with others. GOD wants to hear from us through our prayer, reflection and even in silent time.

St. Mary's has an abundance of ministries that affect the community. The church's involvement with CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) makes me especially proud. Many in the CARITAS ministry are facing a transitional housing situation. During my initial touchpoint with CARITAS in another setting, I admit it: I was scared to get to know the guests. We served them dinner and they spent the night at the church. For a time, I stayed in the kitchen, hoping I wouldn't have to go out to the dining area and actually interact with our visitors—certainly contrary to Jesus' example as shown in the Luke passage.

Continued on page 4

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 the 10 a.m. service. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Our nursery leader, Meg Zehmer, and Melissa Alicea 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

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

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.

Congratulations to our newest confirmed members!

We were delighted to celebrate **George Bertram Ahearn, William Murray Bellamy IV, John Armistead Bowers, Kathryn Grace Ellis, George Freeman, Joseph Addison Hagan V, Stewart Campbell Hagan, Abigail Elizabeth Hanson, Charles MacLemore Hester, Harrison Barr Homes, Audrey Elizabeth Lowe, Gwen Linfield Lynch, Edan James McDonald, Madeleine Claire Miller, James Ward Nelson, Caroline Carter Elmore Payne, Mills Jordan Piland, Jr., Matthew Christopher Rawls, Herbert Reynolds Short III, Robert Bolling Steele, Jr., Ann Bedford Stephens, Ian Winslow Street, Chelsea Ann Kidd Tickle, and Richmond Alexander Welk** with Bishop Shannon Johnston last Sunday. They dedicated a great deal of time to prayerful discernment, study, and participation in the life of St. Mary's over the course of the past year. Commend them on their great work next time you see them!

SUMMER FUN FOR FAMILIES

Calling all Acolytes! Serving as an acolyte is a great way to be a part of the church community, and is open to anyone who has completed the confirmation process. It also looks good on college applications! During the summer at St. Mary's we only have one worship service each Sunday, but we still need an acolyte for that service. If you (or your child) would like to **be a part of the St. Mary's community this summer by serving as an acolyte**, please email Matt Rawls 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.



Take Flat Jesus with you this summer! Grab a copy of Flat Jesus here at church or download one from our website. Bring Him along with you to the park, the beach, summer camp, wherever you may go this summer. Snap a picture and send it to us. We will be sharing Flat Jesus's journeys on Facebook throughout the summer. Send pics to amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

You don't have to go far to do what matters... 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. 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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Did you know that you can give online? Electronic giving is an easy and convenient way to make your gifts to St. Mary's. Schedule your giving to suit your needs and get all of the benefits you may receive from using your **credit card**, or you can set up an **automatic draft** from your checking account. Each month, you will receive an email reminder that your gift has been made. You can do a **monthly gift**, or a **one-time gift**, whatever suits your giving pattern.

Some of the benefits of e-giving are:

- ❖ Make one time donations or easily set up recurring gifts based on your schedule.
- ❖ Unable to attend services? You can now donate anytime, anywhere.
- ❖ Access your giving history anytime, and have it available at tax time without waiting for us to mail it to you.
- ❖ All of your banking data is 100% secure and no banking information is stored by the church.

Simply go to stmarysgoochland.org/give. Should you have questions, or want assistance in setting up your account, please contact Gina Alexander at 804-784-5678 or e-mail to galexander@stmarysgoochland.org. Credit card giving or checking account drafts make giving easy for you and assures that we can meet our expenses throughout the summer!

SERVE

Summer is a time for relaxing, a time for playing...and a time for training!

- ❖ **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 Bob Newman and Weezie Blanchard at wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org. A **training session** will be held on **Thursday, June 23 at 5 p.m.**

WHERE IS GOD CALLING ST. MARY'S?

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.

Continued from page 1

Finally, one evening, I decided to just do it and share a meal with a male visitor who was helping to coordinate the ministry as a part of the CARITAS staff. I spoke with some of the guests. We had great discussions, full of laughs and by the end, my emotions would stay stored away no longer. As the evening wrapped up, I circled back to the man.

"I can't believe that some of these people are homeless," I said. "They're not all that different from me."

He smiled. "Well, would you believe that I was once in the program?" he asked.

I couldn't believe it. Thereafter, the tears came fast and almost uncontrollably. Rather than viewing the guests as outcasts from society, I learned that the faith of some are on a different trajectory than that of others. In the Luke passage, Jesus acknowledges that the centurion's faith is deeper than some of GOD's chosen people.

Truth be told, some of the CARITAS guests knew a whole lot more about the Bible than me. When they had every reason to believe otherwise, their trust in GOD's plan resonated deeply. Like the unlikely candidate in the centurion, they see hope in Jesus.

GOD's love, peace and mercy knows no bounds, friends, and in GOD's kingdom, everyone is eligible for discipleship.

Andrew Blair

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, May 29, Second Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Schedule begins

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

Monday, May 30

Church office closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

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

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

Wednesday, June 1

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

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

Thursday, June 2

Chalice bearer training, 5:30 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Saturday, June 4

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

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

Coming Up

June 23-24, 2016

Youth Group Homegrown Mission Trip

July 11-15, 2016

Vacation Bible School: Come to the Table!

August

See more at stmarysgoochland.org/events