



THE ANNUNCIATION

Third Sunday after Pentecost

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

June 5, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

From a Christian perspective life is a gift from God. We do not earn it. We do not do anything to deserve it. It is simply a gift from God. The question is how do I use this gift. In a vast and confusing world this gives us a lot to think about. It is important to discern how God wants each of us to use this gift of life.

How we live our lives is a stewardship issue. The choices we make matter. How do we use our time, talent, energy and money to create a more just and compassionate world? How do we live in the best way with our family, friends, in the neighborhood, at work and in the larger community?

As we keep our focus on Jesus we see His compassion and generosity. He gave and gave and never counted the cost. Eventually, He gave His life away. God put an exclamation point on the life of Jesus. God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is our model for fully human living.

We are meant to lean into life – to be compassionate, generous, especially to extend ourselves so others may have better lives. When we keep our eyes on Jesus, it makes us better stewards of the gifts and talents we have personally and as a church family.

The spiritual battle goes on every day whether we will live for ourselves or for building the Kingdom of God. There is a perversity in our spirits which keeps us from being the generous and compassionate people God intends us to be. We need to accept God's forgiveness and blessing so we can live on the side of the angels.

The church is an equipping place. It is a place where we can stay close to the story of Jesus. It is also a place where we can practice building community. It is a place where we can get the inspiration and guidance we need to get on with our lives in the best way. The church exists to help us become the best people we can be out there at work in the world. We need spiritual strength because the forces of darkness are strong.

At our spiritual best we are generous and compassionate people. We are good stewards of the gifts and talents God has given us. Support this ministry with your time, talent and money because it will help you fulfill the vocation which God calls each of us to live out.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

11 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn, *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

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.

Stewardship is about all that we do with all that we have. How is God calling you to exercise your stewardship?

Robert G. Hetherington

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.

SPECIAL SUMMER HAPPENINGS

For Children:

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.

For Youth:

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! 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.

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

- ❖ **For those recently confirmed:** Don't forget to pick up your confirmation certificates, mission voucher and book from Matt Rawls. Included is a \$200 voucher from the Diocese which can be used toward a mission trip anytime before you turn 19. This will be useful as we start planning a **not so close to home trip for next summer!**

For Young Adults:

Are you home for the summer? If you have been away at school for the year and have returned, our Associate Rector, Emily Rowell Brown, would love to **grab a cup of coffee** and hear about your year. We still consider you a part of the St. Mary's family and invite you to think of us as your "*church home away from home!*" Contact Emily at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

For Adults:

A fun Friday with friends! Join the Dovers on **Friday, June 10**, for food, fun and fellowship! We'll be gathering at **Buskey Cider** beginning around **6 p.m.** (or as soon as you can make it). Buskey Cider is a new establishment located in Scott's Addition at 2910 W Leigh St, Richmond, VA 23230. Feel free to invite your friends! Contact Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org with questions.

Cuppa Job. Join Emily Rowell Brown for a cup of coffee and a pop-up study of Job on **June 15, June 22, and June 29** at **11 a.m.** in the **Old Parish Hall**. We will explore the richness of this beloved but also disturbing text—and why it is included in our canon of scripture. Contact Emily at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org to sign up or with questions.

“WHAT’S THE BUSINESS WITH THE BOOK?”

Inquiring minds want to know... why we sometimes carry the Gospel Book into the congregation when we read the **Gospel** on Sunday. The service of Holy Eucharist is divided into two parts: the Word of God and the Holy Communion. The **Ministry of the Word** focuses on hearing the God’s word through prayers, the readings, and the sermon, and then responding to it with the Nicene Creed, prayers, confession, and the peace. Because the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection are central to our faith, the Gospel is often read from **amidst the people** to emphasize its availability and importance to our worship and our lives.

FELLOWSHIP

Is there anything better than a cool glass of lemonade in the summer? This Sunday (and the first Sunday of each summer month) is **Lemonade on the Lawn Sunday!** 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—especially on June 26! 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**, please join us for a meeting on **Sunday, June 26** at **9 a.m.** (with coffee and breakfast treats!) and contact Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.

STEWARDSHIP

We depend on each other. St. Mary’s operating budget depends on the **financial pledge** that each of us makes to support the ministries of St. Mary’s. Although the average pledge amount for 2016 has increased by 1%, we have received 6% fewer pledges (and \$33,000 less) than in 2015. If you haven’t already done so, please consider making a financial pledge for 2016. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. You can pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org or call 784-5678. Thank you.

SERVE

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 or 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?” This past Tuesday, May 31, the **Discernment Process Steering Committee** Chair Tim O’Shea and focus area committee chairs Mary Lou Bean, Marshall Bowden, Owen Conway, Kristie Inge, and Peggy Talman presented a summary of their report to the Vestry. The Vestry received written copies of the report, which they will review over the next two weeks and meet again on Tuesday, June 14 to make recommendations to the parish based on the report. **The parish** will then receive a report from the Vestry on Sunday, June 19, after which copies of the report will be made available to everyone in the parish. There will be a **special Adult Forum** following the 10 a.m. service on **Sunday, June 26** to hear from the Discernment Process Steering Committee and the Vestry and to ask questions.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Accepting 2016-2017 applications. Congratulations to St. Mary's Episcopal School on being voted Best of 2016 Preschools/Childcare in Richmond, Virginia second to Primrose School, a full day multi-site childcare center. St. Mary's 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, June 5, Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Lemonade on the Lawn, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall and Patio*

Children's Ministries Committee Luncheon, 11:15 a.m., *Education Building Library*

Youth Ministries Committee Meeting, 11:15 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Monday, June 6

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, June 7

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

Wednesday, June 8

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

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

Thursday, June 9

Outreach Committee Meeting, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Saturday, June 11

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

Sunday, June 12

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Coming Up

Thursday, June 23-Friday, June 24, 2016

Youth Group Homegrown Mission Trip

Sunday, June 26

Hospitality Meeting, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Discernment Process Report, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Monday, July 11-Friday, June 15, 2016

Vacation Bible School: Come to the Table!

Monday, August 22-Thursday, August 25, 2016

Children's Choir Camp

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