



THE ANNUNCIATION

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 24, 2016

A Weekly Reflection: My daughter is growing into leadership – as an acolyte

We arrive early, when no one is in the nave save for a few choir members lost in song, and she heads back into the little room filled with robes, crucifixes and all manner of sacred objects.

In the beginning she needed my help doing up all the buttons on her cassock, the long black robe that snap from the throat to down past her knees. But repetition has made it easier for her; and getting prepared to acolyte with the older kids, the deacon and the priest makes her feel grown up and important. I've decided my best place is to watch.

My daughter started acolyting in our church during Holy Week this year. Another child was sick and we happened to be around as a last minute replacement. I remember my daughter was nervous and shy—"everyone will be looking at me," she fretted.

"Don't worry, they aren't," the priest assured her. "Besides, everyone will be cheering you on! There's no one here who doesn't know and love you."

And a funny thing happened between the procession and the recession; the nervous little girls who participated in their first service became more confident as the liturgy went on—exchanging glances and smiles under candles, reciting The Lord's Prayer with a sudden seriousness—and by the end of it they were walking a lot taller and with much more confidence.

It's been my personal experience that people develop a more meaningful faith when they are free to explore it on their own. I feel that my job as a mother is to bring my children to a faith I find beautiful and meaningful, but I know it will be their task to explore and hopefully, fall in love. There's no true faith that can be forced.

And along that same vein, letting go of my child's hand to let her take part in the liturgy apart from me is a little nerve-racking, but also so beautiful to see. Her experience as part of the liturgy is worth more than I could ever say or explain to her. And it gives her a feeling of real belonging and real importance to step forward in her own reverent role; to kneel right before the altar as the priest breaks the bread, to light the candles that illuminate the holy space, to participate in the liturgy not only as a child in the congregation, but as a child of God leading others in worship.

Watching her from a few pews away, I am so proud of her. I sneak glances at her just as another face in the crowd, see her serious expression and realize with pleasant surprise that she has been memorizing these prayers and responses when I thought she was just coloring beside me waiting for children's chapel.

Continued on last page

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.

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

11 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship, *New Parish Hall*

11:15 a.m. Hospitality Meeting, *Old Parish Hall*

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

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** Monday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 12 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.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

For Children:

Check out the latest journeys of Flat Jesus on our Facebook page. He's made it across the border with Bob Hetherington to Canada! If you haven't already there are copies of Flat Jesus in the narthex. Grab a copy, take him on a trip with you and send us a picture of Flat Jesus. The trip can be just to your backyard or far afield. Send pictures to Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniela@stmarysgoochland.org.

VBS 2016. We have been busy tidying up and sorting through VBS stuff this week. One of the things we discovered was that **Perrin Gilman** was left off the volunteer thank you list from last week. We are so sorry, Perrin! If we have missed someone else, please accept our apologies and please let Amelia McDaniel know. Again, many, many thanks to **ALL the volunteers** who made it such a special week!

For Youth: We have **three** remaining events for the youth this summer:

Do unto others: The Youth Group will be serving at the **Soup Kitchen** at **Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** downtown **this Friday, July 29** from 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To find out more, join us, or chaperone, contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Have some fun: After the soup kitchen **this Friday, July 29**, we will return to the church for **slip n' slide** and a party. This event is **free** for those who participate in the Soup Kitchen and **\$15** for all others. The party will last from **3-7 p.m.**, and **dinner** will be provided. It is open to all youth (rising 6th – 12th grades). Please let Matt Rawls know if you will be attending at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Back-to-School Bash: To celebrate the end of summer, the St. Mary's youth group will be going **Busch Gardens** on **Sunday, August 28th, 2016!** We will meet in the Church Parking lot after the 10:00 a.m. Church Service and will caravan down to down to Bush Gardens for a day for rides and fun. This event is open to all youth (rising 6th grade – rising 12th grade). We need chaperons! If you would like to join, or help chaperon, please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

FELLOWSHIP

Have a cookie with your coffee. We're adding **cookies** to our rotation this week! Enjoy a good cup of coffee, a sweet treat, and fellowship **after this morning's service** in the New Parish Hall!

Lemonade on the Lawn returns **August 7**. If you can bring a baked good to share at the next gathering, please contact Jane at janehawley@msn.com.

HOSPITALITY

Become a greeter! The **first faces** visitors see when coming to St. Mary's are often some of the most important. We are establishing **teams of greeters** who will be intentional about **welcoming people on Sunday mornings**. If you would like to be involved in this hospitality ministry, please contact Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org and join us in the Old Parish Hall following **today's service**.

STEWARDSHIP

Using God's gifts. This is an **exciting and momentous time** in the life of **our church** as we begin to live into the answers that we discerned to the question "Where is God calling St. Mary's?" One of our five main focuses during discernment was stewardship, or **how we use the gifts that God gives us to do the work God calls us to do**. We are extremely fortunate to have **Jane duFrane, Fay Lohr, and Tom Slater** to lead us on that quest as **co-chairs of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign**. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, **thank you** to everyone who has contributed to our 2016 Stewardship Campaign. We are still short of our goal, so please help us if you can, either by making a **new pledge** or **supplementing** your existing pledge. *You can pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org or call 784-5678. Thank you!*

SERVE

If you have time during the evenings or weekends to **make phone calls** to help us update our contact lists, we would love your help! Contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org or 804.784.5678 to learn more. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to volunteer and need flexible hours.

WORSHIP

Pray, then stay. Morning Prayer is a beautiful way to begin the morning. Pray with us, then **stay to receive communion following the service**. We will gather in the left transept and signal the beginning of a brief service (found on the back of your bulletin) with a singing bell. What better way to celebrate Christ's love for us than joining together around the table?

What's that song? Do you ever wonder about the beautiful musical arrangements our organist Dwight Graham plays for us before and after the service? If you would like to see information about the compositions, visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to see the previous week's bulletin. We upload our bulletins with updated information including what Dwight played on Sunday!

OUTREACH

CARITAS will be here before you know it! Mark your calendar for **February 4-11, 2017**, when our CARITAS guests will be at St. Mary's. Through host congregations like St. Mary's, CARITAS provides emergency shelter for **temporarily homeless** people until they can find permanent housing. This year our guests will be **mothers and children**. **Jan Betts** and **Seth Schaeffer** will serve as **co-chairs**, and there will be plenty of opportunity for **parishioners of all ages** to be involved.

Granted. In 2016, the **Outreach Committee** moved to a **grant application process** for our **current and prospective outreach partners**. The grant application process provides us with more complete information about our outreach partners from partners and through **site visits** by Outreach Committee members, which in turn enables us to better **match our resources with our partners' needs**, as well as helps identify **volunteer opportunities** for parishioners through St. Mary's. The Outreach Committee, co-chaired by **Bob Gorrell** and **Margaret Mickel**, met this week and hopes to make its recommendations to the Vestry by September.

ELECTION OF OUR PERMANENT RECTOR

From Al Rider, Senior Warden: Canon 12 of the Canons of the Diocese of Virginia states: "The Rector of a Church shall be elected by its Vestry, with the advice of the Bishop and in compliance with General Convention III.9.3(a)." On behalf of the Vestry, I am delighted to report that at the Vestry meeting held this past Tuesday, June 28, the Vestry voted unanimously and enthusiastically to forward to Bishop Shannon Johnston the nomination of Weezie Blanchard as our next Rector of St. Mary's Church. This vote is the first step required under the Canon III.9.3 of the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for the election of a Rector. Bishop Shannon has up to 60 days to communicate with the Vestry, following which the Vestry will hold a meeting to "consider" his communication and may then elect our permanent Rector. Based on conversations with Bishop Shannon, the Vestry expects to receive a favorable endorsement of Weezie. Indeed, the Bishop has relayed to us informally that he believes Weezie is an excellent fit for St. Mary's; a comment that parallels the view of the Discernment Steering Committee and Vestry.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, July 24, 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)

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

Coffee and Cookies, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Hospitality Meeting, 11 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Monday, July 25

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Education Building Library*

Tuesday, July 26

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

Wednesday, July 27

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

Friday, July 29

Youth Group Soup Kitchen Service Trip, 9:45 a.m. –

2:30 p.m., *Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church*

Youth Group Slip n' Side Party, 3-7 p.m., *Church Yard*

Parish Office closes at 12 p.m. on Fridays through
August 12

Saturday, July 30

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

Sunday, July 31, 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)

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

Coming Soon

Monday, August 22-Thursday, August 25

Children's Choir Camp

Sunday, August 28

Youth Group Back-to-School Bash, *Busch Gardens*

A Weekly Reflection *continued from first page*

It's an experience for her and me that we both wouldn't have had if I hadn't let go and let her step out on her own. It's my prayer that it's the first step in a very meaningful faith journey for her—a journey I can watch and guide from the sidelines, but ultimately is hers to explore. I'm so thankful that she has this opportunity at such a young age to participate in this way.

And that it doesn't matter that she's young or that she's a girl. All that matters is that she is a child of God.

Heather Sleighton

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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*

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Emily Rowell Brown, *Associate Rector*

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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*

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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

INFORMATION, PLEASE

Help us help you. A foundational piece of serving you well is having up to date information about you and your family. Over the summer, we will be **updating our data bases to reflect the most current information** about our St. Mary's community. Please fill out the **enclosed information sheet**, which you can drop off in designated boxes in the narthex (the entry hall on the way into the church), the Café in the New Parish Hall adjoining the church, or the church office in the Old Parish Hall. Or you can email the information to [**info@stmarysgoochland.org**](mailto:info@stmarysgoochland.org). The information is solely for St. Mary's and will not be shared with any unrelated organization.