



THE ANNUNCIATION

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 3, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

Last weekend my family and I went to New York for a few days for a cousin's wedding. As expected, we all had a wonderful time with at the wedding and wandering around the city. But unexpectedly, I also learned a about the role seasons play in my spiritual life.

In the church's liturgical calendar, we spend a lot of time focusing on seasons. Advent is a season for of expectation and longing for the coming of the Christ child; Christmas is the celebration; Lent is a time for penitence and preparation for Easter; and Holy Week is a time to walk through the passion of Christ. During Easter, we celebrate the resurrection. After Easter we have the long Ordinary days of summer. Summer is a time for travel, playing outside, and taking vacation. Sometimes we also think of it as time for a "vacation" from church and from our spiritual lives. If we get too caught in that mindset, though, we miss some things God has for us.

While walking around New York last weekend, I realized a couple things. The first was that vacation is good. As humans we need times of rest and relaxation to recharge our batteries – physical, emotional, *and* spiritual. Second, I was reminded that there are many different ways we can learn about God and God's love for us. This realization hit me as I was standing in the Metropolitan Museum of Art experiencing an exhibit on Ancient Near-East cultures. I realized I was in a place to worship. The Mesopotamian art I was observing was made thousands of years ago, but it was made by another human who was made in the image of God. That connection was enlightening and refreshing. Art draws us to the joy and pain of our shared human experiences. Worship reminds us that God reaches out, through the happiness and through the mess, to touch us and bring us true life.

So I've returned from my vacation spiritually refreshed and recharged. My worship in church this summer will be enhanced because of my time relaxing and perceiving the world – and God – from a different perspective. I believe that is what the summer season is for. It is not a time to take a break from worship, but a time to take a break for worship and to worship.

Matt Rawls

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.

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*

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.

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.

FELLOWSHIP

Stay for lemonade! Enjoy Lemonade on the Lawn **after the 10 a.m. service today** and take some time for a cool beverage, refreshments, and fellowship with St. Mary's friends. Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Lemonade on the Lawn on **August 7**.

STEWARDSHIP

From Al Rider, Senior Warden: These are exciting times at St. Mary's. While we are in a year of transition, our spiritual community continues to grow and strengthen thanks to the support of our parishioners and dedicated work of our clergy and staff. There is heightened enthusiasm and involvement as we look to the future and the calling of our permanent Rector. We need your support. It is crucial that in this "gap year" we don't lose momentum. Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign is \$90,000 short of its goal. If you have not yet done so, we respectfully and urgently request that you make your pledge. *You can pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org or call 784-5678. Thanks!*

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. The information is solely for St. Mary's and will not be shared with any unrelated organization.

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.

SPECIAL SUMMER HAPPENINGS

For Children:



The countdown has begun! Vacation Bible School week is one week away! We are geared up for a great week. There is always a need for extra adult hands to “shepherd” our youngest parishioners throughout the week. Even if you only have a few hours to share we would love your help! The volunteer day runs from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Ready to sign up? Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.



Parents Seminar During VBS: During Vacation Bible School, Matt Rawls will host a round table discussion for parents. The discussion will focus on navigating the challenges of kids and phones. It will be specifically geared toward parents of teenagers, but all are welcome! If you are interested, please email Matt at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Flat Jesus made it all the way to Burundi! Really! You can follow Flat Jesus’ travels on our Facebook page. Where are you going to take Flat Jesus? The backyard for a picnic? The pool? The River? The Beach? Burundi? 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.

For Adults:

Summer at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. As long as there has been art, artists have evoked the presence of the holy through their work. Following up on the popular Advent at the Museum and Lent at the Museum offerings, join Interim Rector (and long ago VMFA docent) Weezie Blanchard as we **look for the holy** in the outstanding collections of the VMFA in "Summer at the VMFA." We'll **meet in the lobby** on Thursday, July 21 **at 10 a.m.**, and **an optional lunch at the VMFA restaurant Amuse** will follow our tour. To sign up, please contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org or 784-5678.

SPACE UPDATES

A new space for the nursery. The Nursery will be moving across the hall in the next few weeks to a freshened and updated space. It’s sunny and bright, and we are very pleased to offer the space to our new parents and our youngest parishioners. Even if you don’t have a little one, peek in and see the new look.

“Dover Lounge.” You may have noticed that the area between the Sunday School and St. Mary’s Episcopal School, on one side, and the Café and New Parish Hall, on the other side, is undergoing a transformation. What used to be a mostly empty (and noisy!) space has become an **inviting place** to sit and chat with a colleague or friend, enjoy a cup of coffee, have a meeting, read a book, or simply catch your breath. With the advice of the Dover Parish Community Group (our mostly 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s adults), we’re adding more places to sit and more places **to feel welcome at St. Mary’s** in time for the fall. All costs will be covered by gifts to St. Mary’s and do not affect our operating budget. Enjoy!

Making every nook and cranny welcoming. We are blessed with a beautiful, expansive campus, and we want to be sure that we are **using every inch to the fullest potential**. Stay tuned for information about updates to the **Library** and **meeting spaces** in the Parish Office. If you have ideas about how we could arrange these spaces and would like to lend a hand (or an extra set of eyes), please contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, July 3, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Lemonade on the Lawn, *New Parish Hall and Terrace*

Monday, July 4

Office closed

Tuesday, July 5

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

Wednesday, July 6

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

Friday, July 8

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

Saturday, July 9

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

Sunday, July 10, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coming Up

Monday, July 11-Friday, June 15

Vacation Bible School: Come to the Table!

Coming Soon

Thursday, July 21

Summer at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 10 a.m.,
at the VMFA

Sunday, July 24

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

Monday, August 22-Thursday, August 25

Children's Choir Camp

See more at stmarysgoochland.org/events

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*

ismiley@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

PARISH REGISTER 2016

Update

Burials

James Edward Covington, Jr. January 28, 2016

The Parish Register (a record of baptisms, burials, member transfers, and weddings) for the first six months of 2016 was published last Sunday, June 26. Updates to the Parish Register will be published regularly in the Annunciation that runs on the last Sunday of each month, unless corrections and omissions warrant additional updates.