



THE ANNUNCIATION

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 31, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

The Diocese of Virginia and its parishes have developed broad and deep relationships with the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan...I had several conference calls last week discussing how to respond to the latest crisis in South Sudan. If you don't know, fighting broke out again recently, initially between troops loyal to the two rival political factions, who also represent the two largest ethnic tribes in the country. As in the past, that fighting spread beyond the regular armies to other combatants. Hundreds of civilians were killed – some directly because of their ethnicities or by being caught in the cross-fire.

It's not an unfamiliar story and it's easy to be discouraged. But what I heard last week were also stories of hope – specifically in the ways the Church is responding. The cathedral compound in Juba has given refuge to several hundreds of internally displaced people. Many are there because their homes have been looted or destroyed. Bishops, other clergy and church members are ministering directly to these displaced people and collecting data concerning who they are and what they need. The South Sudan Council of Churches has written a letter to the powers-that-be to insist on peace. Episcopal Church leaders are advocating to government officials for an end to the fighting. Currently there is a cease fire which appears to be holding.

In addition to responding to the immediate needs, the Episcopal Church in South Sudan is working on mid and long-term solutions. SUDRA, the development arm of the church, has submitted a plan to feed and care for displaced people not only in Juba but across the country. The Joint Peace and Reconciliation Committee is developing long-term peace and reconciliation training, including taking the ministry of reconciliation to towns large and small.

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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?

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
11 a.m. Coffee and Cookies, *New Parish Hall*

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:

Sing, choirs of angels. Children ages 5 and up are invited to join Assistant Choirmaster Adam Bailey for singing and playing instruments and games at **Choir Camp** from **Monday, August 22 through Thursday, August 25** from 9 a.m. to noon and a short concert on Thursday, August 25 at 7 p.m. It's **fun and free!** To register, email Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org. St. Mary's Children's Choir practices resume Wednesday, September 14.

Flat Jesus has just about a month left to travel with you! Where will we find him next? Send pictures to Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniela@stmarysgoochland.org.

Sunday School 2016-17.... We are still looking for several Sunday School **teachers** for the upcoming year. There is much excitement and enthusiasm about what we are planning for our youngest parishioners this academic year, but we need leaders to **help make those plans come to life**. We are specifically looking to fill spots in our 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade and our newly formed 5th grade class. Interested? Contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniela@stmarysgoochland.org.

For Youth:

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

FELLOWSHIP

Because cookies make everything better. You may have noticed that we added **cookies** to our coffee hour last week, and we will continue to offer them every Sunday! 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 next Sunday, **August 7**. If you can bring a baked good to share, please contact Jane Fawley at jfawley@msn.com.

HOSPITALITY

Saying hello makes all the difference. 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 and greeter ministry, please contact Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Walk in love. Jane duFrane, Fay Lohr, and Tom Slater are the co-chairs of “Walk in Love,” our stewardship focus for 2017. Meanwhile, **thank you** to everyone who has contributed to our 2016 stewardship campaign. If you would like to help us finish up 2016 strong, 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!

WORSHIP

We love our cantors! You may have noticed that our voices during the summer services sound louder and stronger than usual, which is partly in thanks to our cantors, **Malcolm Hines** and **Philip Tickle**. They support the congregation from the choir loft while the St. Mary’s Choir is enjoying a summer recess. Next time you see them, say hello and thank you!

COMMUNITY

Did you know? Richmond ranks 92nd among the top 100 metropolitan areas for **public transportation**. It is time to do better! This summer construction will begin for the **rapid bus route** on Broad Street from Rockett’s Landing in the east to Willow Lawn in the west. This is a first step in building a **metropolitan wide system of public transportation**. GRTC, the bus company for the Richmond area, is convening a series of public meetings to gather **citizen input** about where the new bus routes should go. Between July 26 and August 24, there will be eight **community meetings** with an open house and presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Issues for consideration include:

- When will regular bus transportation go from Richmond to Short Pump?
- How far should bus routes be extended from Richmond into the surrounding counties?
- How can we change the Richmond mindset so we think of public transportation first when we travel?
- What network of bus routes will work best for metropolitan Richmond?

You can obtain further details at www.richmondtransitnetwork.com or on Facebook at Richmond Transit Network Plan.

Bob Hetherington

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.

A Weekly Reflection *continued from the first page*

For me the church’s work in South Sudan is inspiring. It can also be instructive to the church here. Because let’s face it, it’s not as though we don’t have similar issues. In South Sudan they call it tribe or ethnicity. Here we call it race. But the upshot is the same – fear, distrust and even hatred when faced with “The Other.” But our job as Christians, as Episcopalians, as human beings, is to counter that fear and hatred with communications, understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation. To love “The Other.” That takes more than a sermon. It takes action. We cannot be the hands and feet of Christ unless we leave our offices and get in the mix. We need to take risks. We can’t just hold a mirror up to a place like South Sudan and say shame on you. We have to turn that mirror back on us too.

Buck Blanchard

Director of Mission and Outreach, Diocese of Virginia

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, July 31, 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Coffee and Cookies, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Monday, August 1

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Education Building Library*

Tuesday, August 2

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

Wednesday, August 3

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

Friday, August 5

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

Saturday, August 6

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

Sunday, August 7, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

(Proper 14)

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Lemonade on the Lawn, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall and Patio*

Coming Soon

Monday, August 22-Thursday, August 25

Children's Choir Camp

Sunday, August 28

Hospitality and Greeter Ministry Meeting, 11 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Gersain Agudelo, *Assistant Sexton*

Gina Alexander, *Parish Administrator*
galexander@stmarysgoochland.org

Melissa Alicea, *Nursery Assistant*

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

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.

PARISH REGISTER

Transfers Out:

George Ross Scott to St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church, Morehead City, NC

Burials:

Elizabeth Hicks Wagner
Miriam Kirksey Wallerstein
Julie Ann Somers