



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15)

August 14, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

Some of my earliest memories involve the Episcopal Church: rows of grown-ups sitting stiffly in uncharacteristic silence, cardboard fans (advertising a local funeral parlor) being slowly waved over my head, wasps lazily roaming among the rafters high above, the noise of an approaching truck on the nearby highway coming in the open windows on the one side and then receding on the other, the smell of dust in the still summer air from well-worn cushions on hard wooden pews and unraveling carpet tacked to thin kneelers, fidgeting cousins and siblings trying to maintain silence during an interminable sermon, hymns sung to the accompaniment of a faltering organ with sticking keys, by voices that could easily be distinguished from each other — though all presumably followed the same tune — pennies hot and sweaty from long holding (and the occasional sucking) deposited reverently in the wooden collection plate, brief moments of post-service freedom chasing, or being chased, among the cars parked under the shade trees as the grown-ups stood in small clusters outside and discussed whatever grown-ups discussed in church.

These memories all seem to run together into one long summer service of Morning Prayer in rural King George County though they must be an osmotic compilation of childhood. It may seem a poor way to introduce a child to God but it laid its own hold on me, creating a lifelong interest in the Episcopal Church in Virginia and the stories of people who sustained it through times of want and plenty.

Those childhood memories may serve as metaphor for the life of the Church or perhaps just my own experience of it. Certainly I seem to have heard the roar of trucks passing through our services in recent years, many of us have appeared to concentrate on the wasps in the rafters, rarely do we all sing the same tune, and occasionally the smell of dust is strong in our nostrils. Yet, through it all, the Diocese continues to grow and thrive; the presence of God is made manifest to us all in different ways, sometimes long after our first exposure.

Robin Lind

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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*

See more at stmarysgoochland.org

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.

THANK YOU!

A **big thank you** to the volunteers who made last Sunday's Lemonade on the Lawn possible – and delicious! We appreciate the work of **Jane Fawley** and **Kay Lowe**, who organized the fellowship gathering, and **Louise Bates**, **Sarah and Bruin Richardson**, **Susie Salsitz**, **Marti and Dick Thomas**, and **Lurline Wagner**, who all brought cookies.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks – September 4, 2016 at the 10:00 Service. Students and Teachers are invited to bring their back to school bags for a special blessing during our 10:00 service. We will be offering prayers for a year filled with learning and love for all of our St. Mary's learners and teachers.

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.

YOUTH

Back-to-School Bash: To celebrate the end of summer, **St. Mary's Youth Group** will be going to **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). The ticket price for Busch Gardens is \$77. **Please don't let cost be a deterrent!** We can always help cover the cost. **We also need chaperones!** If you would like to join, or to help chaperone, please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

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 and greeter ministry, please contact Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org.

FELLOWSHIP

Come for worship, stay for coffee. Fellowship after the service does not happen only once a month! We love Lemonade on the Lawn Sundays, but we have begun offering **cookies** and **coffee** every Sunday after the Service in the New Parish Hall and invite you to come for conversation.

Cause for celebration. Beginning the **first Sunday of October**, we will **celebrate birthdays** and **anniversaries following the 11 a.m. service**. Join us for **cake** to accompany the coffee and wish fellow parishioners a happy birthday or anniversary.

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 by **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

Give the gift of life. Below is a reflection from St. Mary's parishioner Katie Tyson, mother of Callen Tyson:

Callen once asked me, "Mom, do people die when they run out of blood?"

Just four years' old at the time, he had already received his first blood transfusion- and clearly understood the relationship between blood and life. That day I made a promise to him that he would never run out of blood, and our relationship with the American Red Cross was born.

Two years, 20 drives and 925 donated units of blood later, [so many supporters] have done [their] part to help me keep that promise to my son. But between red cell and platelet transfusions, and now weekly IVIG infusions, Callen's need for blood products has far outpaced those units donated in his honor. And he is but one of many in RVA who depend on your gift of life. Who have come to hope that when there is need, there is blood in the bank. Who depend on [others' lives] for theirs.

*I humbly ask you to join me for our **next blood drive at St. Mary's Hospital on August 23rd from 12-6pm.** St. Mary's is where Callen received his diagnosis of cancer, his first unit of blood, and- with your help- it is where we will collect the 1,000th unit donated in his honor. To sign up, please use this link redcrossblood.org/give/drive/driveSearchList.jsp?zipSponsor=TeamCallen or go to redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code TeamCallen.*

FALLING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

Kickoff Sunday. After a lovely summer at St. Mary's, we return to **our regular schedule on Sunday, September 11.** We'll have Holy Eucharist Rite One at 9 a.m. in Little St. Mary's and Morning Prayer Rite One, followed by optional Holy Communion, at 11 a.m. in New St. Mary's. In between the two services, find out about the many opportunities to participate in the vibrant life of St. Mary's at our Kickoff Sunday celebration. Children and youth will have the opportunity to meet their teachers for the year in preparation for the beginning of classes on the following Sunday. After the 11 a.m. service, we'll celebrate the new year with a parish picnic.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, August 14, 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15)

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

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

Monday, August 15

Pastoral Care Team 3, 10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, August 16

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

Wednesday, August 17

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

Saturday, August 19

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

Sunday, August 21, 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)

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

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

Coming Up

Monday, August 22-Thursday, August 25

Children's Choir Camp

Sunday, August 28, 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)

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

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

Coming Soon

Sunday, September 11, 17th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19)

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Kick-off Celebration, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Morning Prayer Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Parish Picnic, noon, *New Parish Hall and Patio*

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

INFORMATION, PLEASE!

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.