



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)

August 28, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

Like many of you, our family has a summer vacation tradition. For us, it is two weeks at the beach that I have visited since I was a child and that Buck, our children, and I have visited for the past 21 summers. We rent the same house year after year, so it always feels like going home. Each summer has its own traditions, but there are always constants: lots of time on the beach, books to read, and naps in the hammock. Peel-and-eat shrimp on a table spread with newspapers and barbecue from a place aptly named Hog Heaven. A jigsaw puzzle and, every four years, the summer Olympics. Some years, long runs or many hours in a kayak. This year, a daily bike ride from one end of the island to the other. All of it is framed by a breathtaking awareness of the beauty of this God-given world and an aching appreciation of God's presence in every aspect of our lives. It is so hard to leave.

But for us, those two weeks are what launch us into the rest of the year. We know that those blessed two weeks would not be nearly so special if we simply tried to hang onto them until next year. We have been renewed, restored, and strengthened by what matters most, and the fulfillment of those gifts lies in how they guide us in the rest of our lives and the wider world.

Such is our journey as a community of faith, as well. Here, we gather week after week in this beautiful place to be renewed, restored, and strengthened by our traditions and filled with gratitude for God's gifts in our lives. But the full measure of those gifts is how they shape and sustain our lives the rest of the week.

May this morning at St. Mary's shape and sustain your life in the week to come.

Weezie Blanchard

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 Cookies, *New Parish Hall*
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 Friday 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.

WELCOME, ASHLEY!

On September 1, we will welcome **Ashley Cameron** as the **Director of Communications and Parish Life** at St. Mary's. Her role will include **(1) overseeing and expanding our communications efforts, (2) working with the Outreach Committee and our outreach partners to grow and improve our outreach relationships and opportunities, and (3) facilitating involvement of St. Mary's parishioners in other ministries and aspects of our common life.** Ashley is a graduate of University of Mary Washington and a lifelong Episcopalian. She has most recently been the Communications Associate at the Diocese of Virginia, where she previously worked in the Mission and Outreach Department. She also served for a year in the Philippines in the Episcopal Church's Young Adult Service Corps. We are delighted to welcome someone of Ashley's caliber and experience to St. Mary's.

CHILDREN

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

Back to School Prayers – Have you seen the **updated blackboard** in the Café? Please stop by and **write your prayer** or prayers for the teachers and students who are getting ready to head back to school in the coming days.

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 Busch 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

Give a warm welcome. Please **join us for a meeting this morning following the service** if you would like to become involved with our **hospitality and greeter ministry.** We are establishing **teams of greeters** who will be intentional about **welcoming people on Sunday mornings.** Contact Associate Rector Emily Rowell Brown at ebrown@stmarysgoochland.org if you would like to learn more.

FELLOWSHIP

The last days of summer. We love **Lemonade on the Lawn** Sundays, and **next Sunday** will be our last until next summer. Come out on the Terrace following the final 10 a.m. summer service on September 4 for conversation, refreshments, and treats. If you would like to bring a baked good to share, contact Jane Fawley at janehawley@msn.com.

Let's celebrate! We know that some of the best fellowship happens over food. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Parish Breakfasts and Parish Suppers resume in October!** These meals are fun and delicious for all ages. Parish Breakfasts are on the **second Sundays** of each month **beginning at 9:30 a.m.**, and Parish Suppers are on the **third Wednesdays** of the month from 5:30-7 p.m. **If you would like to help cook or serve, please contact Joan Wilkins at jwilkins738@me.com.**

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 804-784-5678. Thank you!

DON'T MISS 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 **Open House**. 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**.

PARISH REGISTER

Transfers Out:

Jean Littleton Knight to St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

Weddings:

Nicholas Paul Leonardelli and Sarah Logan Hyslop
Nathan Robert Knight and Cary Chambers Campbell

This Week at St. Mary's

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

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Hospitality and Greeter Ministry Meeting, 11 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

Tuesday, August 30

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

Vestry, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, August 24

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

Saturday, September 3

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

**Sunday, September 4, 16th Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 18)**

Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Blessing of the

Backpacks, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Lemonade on the Lawn, 11 a.m., *Patio*

Coming Up

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

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Kickoff Sunday Celebration and Open House, 10 a.m.,
New Parish Hall

Morning Prayer Rite One, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Parish Picnic, noon, *New Parish Hall and Patio*

Coming Soon

**Sunday, September 18, 18th Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 20)**

Instructed Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

**Sunday, October 2, 20th Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 22)**

Blessing of the Animals, 3 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

**Sunday, October 23, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 25)**

St. Mary's Episcopal School Sunday

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 have been **updating our data bases to reflect the most current information** about our St. Mary's community. If you have not already done so, 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.