



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14)

August 7, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

Conversations with Kids

*Children say the most profound and amazing things!
Here is another submission in this recurring feature.*

[This conversation took place during Chapel Time with the children at our own St. Mary's Episcopal School. It was just after Easter and we were talking about believing in things that you could not see.]

Me: Can you name some things that you KNOW are there but you cannot see?

Children's Responses: Germs, Air, Mommy's love, Jesus (Just a note. Whenever you ask a question, any question, to preschool kids SOMEBODY is going to say Jesus as the answer!)

Me: Those are all great answers.

Four Year-Old Girl: I cannot see my face but I know it is there. And I can't see my eyes.

Me: Wow. That is a great answer! You can see your face and eyes in a mirror though, right?

Four Year-Old Girl: Yes, but that is only a reflection. I still can't SEE my face or my eyes.

Me: Please give your brain a kiss for that BIG thinking. (To myself. How is it that I have made it all these years without ever once really thinking about the fact I have never really seen my own face?)

Amelia McDaniel
Director of Children's Ministries

Do you have your own conversation with kids? 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. Lemonade on the Lawn, *Patio*

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.

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 Two, 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.

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.

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 amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

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.

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 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

It's time for lemonade! Lemonade on the Lawn returns this Sunday, so join us on the patio following the service for a refreshing beverage and a sweet treat. But fellowship after the service does not happen only once a month! We have begun offering **cookies** and **coffee** every Sunday after the 10 a.m. 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.

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.

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

Pass the peace, just like the first Christians did. When we pass the peace each Sunday, we recall a similar practice of early Christians. Jesus himself encouraged **reconciliation** between neighbors in the Sermon on the Mount, and the liturgies of the early church urged Christians to **confess their sins and make peace with one another** before coming to the table together to receive communion. So whether it is through a handshake, a hug, or (in the case of some of our youngest members), a flashing of the "peace sign," celebrate this point in the service as an opportunity to overcome division and embrace our unity in Jesus Christ.

Pray all the day long. Many of us pray first thing in the morning and right before bed, but did you know that our prayer book provides liturgies for services that we can observe throughout the day? St. Mary's observes one of these services, **Noonday Prayer**, each **Wednesday at noon** in Little St. Mary's. Join us for this brief but moving service as a moment of respite and reflection in an otherwise busy day.

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.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

With flying colors. This past Wednesday, our devoted and beloved Assistant Sexton **Gersain Agudelo**, who has been at St. Mary's since 2002, passed the test to become a United States citizen. Gersain, who came to this country from Colombia in 1987, will be sworn in as a United States citizen next month in Norfolk. Congratulations, Gersain!

This Week at St. Mary's

**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*

Monday, August 8

Pastoral Care Team 2, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, August 9

Outreach Meeting, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

Wednesday, August 10

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

Friday, August 12

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

Saturday, August 13

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

**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.*

Coming Soon

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*

**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

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.