



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19) September 11, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

This week I went to my old familiar salon to get my hair cut, and as I emerged from the shampoo chair, a lady walked up to me and spoke in a very quiet voice. I stared at her, wondering if or how I knew her. Suddenly, I realized that she was a person with whom I had played tennis for years and even shared a short time together in a book club. She was very thin, her hair was totally gray, and she had the saddest, almost desperate expression on her face. It was impossible not to address the fact that she had something to tell me, so I instinctively asked her what was wrong.

She was close to tears and she said she didn't want to bore me, but I insisted she talk to me. She told me she had an illness from an unknown origin and as far as she knew there was no cure for it. It is called Sjogren's Syndrome and is marked by extreme dryness of all mucous membranes. The immune system destroys the exocrine glands such as the tear and salivary mucous functions. It seems to be a lifelong condition causing great discomfort primarily in the mouth and throat area, making swallowing and even talking very difficult.

Her life has been totally changed by her condition, and I am sure she has become reclusive because I have not seen her in so long.

How many people do we know who are fighting personal battles which are so overwhelmingly life changing? Some know how to find comfort better than others.

At St Mary's, our Pastoral Care Teams meet every first Monday of the month and, with Weezie's help, we try to seek out those in the congregation who are sick, dying, lonely, grieving or who have not been to church for a while and may need a call, a note or a visit. Our clergy are the first responders and the Pastoral Care Teams follow up if needed.

If you would like to join a team or if you know someone who needs attention, please call the church and let us know. Sometimes the greatest comfort we can provide is to listen.

Peggy Talman

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 Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

10 a.m. Kickoff Sunday Celebration and Open House, *New Parish Hall*

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

Noon Parish Picnic, *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 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.

CALLING OUR RECTOR

At last Sunday's service, I had the joyful duty of announcing our new Rector. I had barely started my remarks before I was vigorously interrupted by a standing ovation, my news not unexpected! Our sanctuary was overwhelmed by the Spirit and a love for our newly called Rector. Looking at Weezie, it was obvious that love was deeply shared.

It was a privilege to make that announcement; one that had not been given in over 32 years at St. Mary's. Weezie is only the fourth permanent Rector of St. Mary's Church, Dover Parish in its 138-year history.

The decision to call Weezie, while not planned, became a natural outcome of our Self Study. During that Discernment, those actively involved (and there were many) recognized how Weezie's ministry was aligned with our desires and intentions for St. Mary's. A momentum towards her permanence was visibly growing. That strength of support was displayed in the unanimous vote by the Vestry earlier this summer to offer Weezie as our nominee for Rector to Bishop Shannon Johnston, in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Virginia.

In late August we received the Bishop's response. In his letter to the Vestry the Bishop confirms his blessing of the Vestry's action, "... I have every confidence in Weezie's abilities, and I certainly believe this call will be a very fortunate one for the people and the ministries of St. Mary's.....I am eager to look forward- with all of you- to what I am certain is a very bright future for a remarkable parish." With God's help, may it be so.

Al Rider
Senior Warden

KICKOFF SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE

Stop by the Open House today! In between the two services in the Dover Lounge and the New Parish Hall, find out about the many opportunities to participate in the vibrant life of St. Mary's at our Kickoff Sunday **Open House**. Here you can learn about how to **become involved in the following ministries:**

- ❖ Acolytes
- ❖ Altar Guild
- ❖ Buildings and Grounds
- ❖ CARITAS
- ❖ Children's Choir
- ❖ Children's Ministries Committee
- ❖ The Dovers
- ❖ Fellowship Committee
- ❖ Hospitality and Greeters Committee
- ❖ Outreach Committee
- ❖ Pastoral Care Teams
- ❖ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ❖ The Seniors
- ❖ St. Mary's Choir
- ❖ St. Mary's Episcopal School
- ❖ Ushers and Funeral Ushers
- ❖ Wednesday Bible Study
- ❖ Worship (Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Prayer Leaders, and Readers)
- ❖ Youth Ministries Committee

During this time, 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, September 18. After today's 11 a.m. service, we'll celebrate the new year with a **parish picnic**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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.

Register today at 10 a.m. for Children's Sunday School! Parents are asked to take their children to their classrooms, meet the new teachers and fill out the registration forms. The teachers will have an activity for the students to work on and some treats to share this week. On **September 18 we will be in full swing** at the 10 a.m. hour.

We're back! Sunday School and Youth Group for high school and middle school students are back starting next Sunday, September 18th

- ❖ **Middle School:** Sunday School for 6-7th grade students will meet the first four Sundays every month. Middle School Youth Group (6-8th grade) will be meeting first and third Sundays as well as the third Wednesday of each month.
- ❖ **Confirmation:** Confirmation also starts next Sunday, September 18. Confirmation will meet the first three Sundays of each month.
- ❖ **High School:** High School Students will have meetings the second and fourth Sunday mornings of each month and will have youth group on the fourth Sunday evening of every month.

For more information, please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

ADULTS

The Wednesday Bible Study returns! Did you know that from September through May we hold a Bible study that looks at the upcoming Sunday's assigned lectionary readings? Esteemed University of Richmond Professor Frank Eakin leads a class each **Wednesday at 10 a.m.** in the Library, and meetings will resume on **September 14**. Feel free to come once or every week, whether you know the Bible inside and out or are beginning to dip your toes into the text. All voices enrich the discussion!

Start the fall with a Friday of fun and fellowship. On **Friday, September 16, at 6 p.m. (ish)** the **Dovers** (adults in their 20's, 30's, and 40's in actuality or spirit) will gather for a fun, **informal Fall Social** at the church. We will enjoy time on the beautiful terrace. Please bring a snack or sweet to share, and we will enjoy BYOB refreshments. We are also investigating our ability to provide **childcare** for this gathering, but to plan, **contact Philip Tickle** at philiptickle@gmail.com if you would like to use this resource. Anyone who would like to learn more about the Dover community is welcome.

OUTREACH

St. Mary's is continually exploring ways to **do God's work in the world** through outreach. This year, the Outreach Committee instituted a **grant application process**, which seeks to provide more accountability from our outreach partners, and more importantly **seeks to strengthen relationships** between St. Mary's and our outreach partners. Partners include CARITAS, Elk Hill, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services, Peter Paul Development Center, and St. Andrew's School. Stop by the outreach table at today's Open House to **learn more or become involved**. Or email Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Celebrate good times! 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 Carrie Schaeffer** at saintmarysfellowship@gmail.com.

This Week at St. Mary's

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 Terrace*

Monday, September 12

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

Tuesday, September 13

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

Stewardship Committee, 4 p.m., *Education Building
Library*

Wednesday, September 14

Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Education Building Library*

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

Children's Choir Practice, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Thursday, September 15

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m., *Education Building
Library*

St. Mary's Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, September 16

Dovers Fall Social, 6ish p.m., *Terrace*

Saturday, September 17

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

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

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Adult Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday
School Buildings and New Parish Hall*

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

Middle School Youth Group, 5 p.m., *Education Building*

THANK YOU!

We concluded a fantastic summer of Lemonade on the Lawns this past Sunday, thanks to the participation of many enthusiastic snackers and cooks! We are grateful for the dedication or organizational talents of **Jane Fawley**, who orchestrated these gatherings, and **Kay Lowe**, who made cookies and came early and stayed late to set up and clean up every Lemonade Sunday. Thanks also to those who made treats: **Louise Bates**, **Amelia McDaniel**, **Sarah and Bruin Richardson**, **Susie Salsitz**, **Marti Thomas**, **Lurline Wagner**, and **Joan Wilkins**. We relied on them all summer long, and they never let us down. (If we forgot anyone, please let us know so we can say thank you in next week's bulletin!)

Coming Up

Sunday, September 25, 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)

Reception in honor of the Rev. Emily Rowell Brown,
Noon, *New Parish Hall*

Coming Soon

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

Choir Appreciation, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

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

Sunday, October 16, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Choral Evensong, 5:30 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

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, *Rector*

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Emily Rowell Brown, *Associate Rector*

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Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*

acameron@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**