



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28) November 13, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

There has been no better time in our society than the present to reflect on our theme of the 2017 Stewardship Campaign, *Walk in Love*. These three words hold such powerful meaning. What a difference it would make in our communities, our world and within our lives, if everyone chose to *Walk in Love*.

As I reflect on our church and our call to action, I am reminded of what St. Mary's has meant to my family. As a couple searching for a church family, we stumbled upon St. Mary's on a drive through Goochland County many years ago. We were trying to find a church that aligned with my Baptist upbringing and with my husband's Catholic rearing - a middle-ground. St. Mary's was the answer. As young parents, we attended Sundays with our children. We became Sunday School teachers, chaperones for youth group trips, a vestry member, and ushers. Our children have been raised in this church from baptism to confirmation, serving as acolytes, participating in youth Sunday, attending mission trips, and maturing into young adults. I am comforted that they have a spiritual bank that is there for them when they need it.

Regretfully, my attendance at times has been more irregular than regular. I have let my daily life 'get in the way' of my spiritual life. I intend to right the course and hope that if you have also found yourself in my shoes, you will join me. I intend to be mindfully present and open to the message. I am excited to be a part of this church and the path it is taking. I want to strengthen my relationship with my fellow parishioners while supporting the mission and ministry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. This is an opportunity for personal growth as well as congregational growth. I hope that you will make a commitment to support St. Mary's Episcopal Church as our family has chosen to do with a pledge to *Walk in Love*. With God's grace, we can make a lasting footprint.

*Respectfully,
Karen Huennekens*

Little Children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Nursery

We have nursery available for **infants through 4-year-olds** from 8:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. 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 One, *Little St. Mary's*
9:30 a.m. Parish Breakfast, *New Parish Hall*
10 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult Education, *Sunday School and Education Buildings and New Parish Hall*
10 a.m. Advent Pop-Up Class, *Library*
11 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite One, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
4 p.m. High School Youth Group, *G-Force Karts*

Do you receive email from us?

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

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-5678 |
www.stmarysgoochland.org

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 a greeter, usher, or a clergy member, and consider filling out an information form. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or 11 a.m. for Eucharist or 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.

WALK IN LOVE UPDATE

Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2017! **Today is the day to prayerfully drop your pledge in the offertory** at either service. You can also go online to pledge at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, or email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org or call 784-5678. **Next Sunday, November 20**, the Stewardship Committee looks forward to **updating everyone on the progress** of the campaign during both services and in the **Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m.** in the New Parish Hall. There will also be time during the forum to share feedback and ask questions. *Let us walk in love as Christ loved us.*

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

St. Mary's will host a **Celebration of New Ministry** this **Wednesday, November 16** when the **Rev. Louise Browner Blanchard** is instituted and inducted as the fourth Rector of St. Mary's. **Everyone is invited** to a **child and adult friendly reception** that will begin at **5:30 p.m.** in the New Parish Hall, followed by the **7 p.m. service** with the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, as celebrant. The **festivities** will conclude with cake and bubbly beverages for all ages. **Please RSVP for the reception before the service on the website or by calling Lori Smiley at (804) 784-5678.**

ADULT EDUCATION AND MORE

Following in the footsteps of Jesus. Join us **today in the Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m.** in the New Parish Hall for the final discussion of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Crazy Christians*, and his challenge to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Spiritual practice for men. Bob Hetherington's spiritual practice for men is on **Tuesdays through November 22 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall. This spiritual practice is an opportunity to deepen faith and is **open to men of all ages.**

St. Mary's has 10 tickets for what is sure to be a fascinating conversation between **Rob Bell and John Philip Newell** **tomorrow, November 14 at 7 p.m.** at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rob Bell is a **leading voice in contemporary conversations** about modern spirituality and John Philip Newell is known for his teaching on Celtic spirituality. **How do you get a ticket?** Contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org. Suggested donation is \$25.

Advent Pop-Up Class today! Come join a discussion before the crazy starts in a pop-up class with Amelia McDaniel at **10 a.m. in the Library today, November 13, and next Sunday, November 20.** Set your family and you on a path toward a **lighter, brighter Advent** and Christmas towards Bethlehem.

OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who donated Thanksgiving pantry items to help our neighbors in Goochland County this Thanksgiving. We will be blessing the donations during this morning's 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Please keep an eye out in the next couple of weeks for information about the Advent Clothes Closet drive for Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Save the date! St. Mary's will **host a movie night** for children and youth (kindergarten through middle school ages) on **Saturday, December 3 from 4-6 p.m.** We'll show everybody's favorite, *Elf*. The **suggested donation is \$10/child**. **All proceeds go towards *Gifts for Life***, a program of Episcopal Relief and Development that gives people in need the chance to transform their lives. For further information or if you have questions, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

Today! The **High School Youth Group** meets at **G-Force Karts** from **4-5 p.m.** for an afternoon of go-karts and laser tag. Please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org if you have questions and to **get a waiver form to fill out beforehand**.

Advent books available in the Dover Lounge! Check out the table in the Dover Lounge to purchase a book relating to Advent for all ages. Prices range from \$10-20. **Please place cash or check** made out to "St. Mary's Episcopal Church" in the mason jar.

Christmas Lessons and Carols for Children will be held at **4 p.m.** (rather than 5 p.m. as in previous years) on **Saturday, December 24**. The children who are participating in the pageant will need to be here at 3:15 p.m. to prepare. **More information about the pageant will be coming shortly**, but we want to ensure you have the updated schedule as you make family celebration plans. Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org for further information.

The Giving Tree is going up soon! St. Mary's will once again **sponsor three families from Goochland Christmas Mother** as well as collect food and additional gifts to be distributed for Christmas. The Giving Tree will be up and ready on **Sunday, November 27** for you to take ornaments with the gift needs on them. **The gifts will be collected by Sunday, December 18.**

Advent wreaths are a wonderful tradition to incorporate into your family's celebration of the season. Each candle on the wreath represents one of the weeks of Advent. Families are encouraged to gather each week to light the candles and have a short prayer reminding us of the true meaning and importance of this waiting time before Christmas. **On Sunday, November 27 during the 10 a.m. education hour**, we will gather to **make wreaths together**. We will provide oasis rings and candles, as well as a simple prayer service bulletin for you to take home to use when lighting the candles. **We are asking for the congregation to bring in cut greens to share to complete the wreaths**. Children will also be able to make ornaments for children to help fill up our Giving Tree as the gift ornaments are taken down. There is a **suggested donation of \$15** for the materials.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawl blessings. Next Sunday, November 20, at 9 and 11 a.m. services, we will bless prayer shawls that have been prayerfully knit, woven, or crocheted by participants in the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, which meets every **third Thursday of the month** at 10 a.m. in the Library. Each shawl represents the loving witness of prayer offered by a community knit together by the Spirit of God. The end product is a lovely source of warmth, as well as a tangible means of comfort. If you are interested in taking part in this prayerful ministry, please contact Lori Smiley at lsmiley@stmarysgoochland.org.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Need a gift for a young child or grandchild? Stop by **St. Mary's Episcopal School's book fair** in the Dover Lounge on **Sunday, November 20**. A representative from the school will be available to take **cash or check payments**. If you cannot make it on Sunday, the **book fair will continue** during the school hours, 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21 and Tuesday, November 22.

This Week at St. Mary's

**Sunday, November 13, 26th Sunday after Pentecost
(Proper 28)**

Pledge Card Sunday

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

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult
Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education
Buildings and New Parish Hall*

Preparing for Advent, 10 a.m., *Library*

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

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

High School Youth Group, 4 p.m., *G-Force Karts*

Monday, November 14

Pastoral Care Team 2, 5 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Rob Bell and John Philip Newell, 7 p.m. at *St. Stephen's*

Tuesday, November 15

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

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

Wednesday, November 16

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

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

Parish Reception, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Celebration of New Ministry, 7 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Thursday, November 17

SMES Chapel, 9:30 a.m., *St. Mary's Episcopal School*

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

Finance Committee, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

CARITAS Committee, 7:30 p.m., *Café Area*

Saturday, November 19

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

Sunday, November 20, Last Sunday after Pentecost:

Christ the King

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

Sunday School, Confirmation Class and Adult
Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education
Buildings and New Parish Hall*

Preparing for Advent, 10 a.m., *Library*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Middle School Youth Group

Coming Up

Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day

Church Office Closed

Morning Prayer Rite One, 10 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Sunday, November 27, Advent I

Advent Wreath-Making, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

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*

wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org

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

ADVENT IS COMING

Sunday, November 27, is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new Church year. Advent, which is derived from the Latin word for "coming," is **the four-week season leading up to Christmas**. It is a time of anticipation, reflection, and wonder as we prepare for the mystery of the birth of the baby Jesus who is also God incarnate. At St. Mary's, **we invite you to fully enter into this expectant season**. Notice how our hymns, prayers, and liturgical colors change. Make an Advent wreath, attend Advent Quiet Day and Wednesday Evening Prayer, keep an Advent calendar, read an Advent book. Stay tuned for these and more ways to enrich your Advent season.