



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

All Saints' Sunday

November 6, 2016

A Weekly Reflection

All Saints' Day has always been one of my favorite holy days. From the time I was a boy until more recently, I have been moved by the hymns, pageantry and message as we honor all the saints known and unknown. All Saints' Day inspires hope.

Two years ago, on this day, our son Caleb died tragically in a car accident. It was All Saints' Day 2014, an otherwise beautiful Sunday afternoon. This day and this time of year are now emotionally charged. They are also a constant reminder of our countless blessings and the demonstration of God's overwhelming love even in our darkest times.

Abbie, Conrad, Caleb, Libba and I joined St. Mary's in 1999. Like so many of you, we have made the rounds as a Sunday School teacher, pageant volunteer, vestry member and the like. We have grown up together, raised our children together and laughed and cried together. We are family, a community in Christ and we have been brought together for a reason. God has a plan and a purpose for bringing all of us together and one of these days we will see it all clearly.

Over the last 17 years as members of St. Mary's we have seen all the ebbs and flows of life but it was during our darkest time that we witnessed and felt God's presence and warm embrace as we celebrated Caleb's life in a service here on November 7, 2014. This little country parish has so many wonderfully loving members. We have so much to offer one another as well as our larger community. We, the Wharton family, are eternally grateful for the love and support our community in Christ has provided.

Every day we are learning and practicing how to "Walk in Love". We all go through ups and downs, celebrations and tragedies. These events strengthen and define us. We would not be who we are without these experiences. Challenges teach us that suffering is temporary, how to be patient, sensitive and more accepting of the fact that we are ultimately not in control.

The hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" says it as well. As you sit here reading, look around you. We have been brought together in God's love to glorify him now and for generations to come. Saints, known and unknown, are all around us. We all have gifts and talents which will propel Saint Mary's Episcopal Church to places we cannot even imagine if we have faith, so let us continue to "Walk in Love".

"They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds and thousands still, the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes or at sea, in church or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too" (Hymn 293, The Hymnal 1982).

Kemper Wharton

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*

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

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Holy Baptism and Children's Procession of Saints, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cake and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*

5 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, *SkyZone*

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

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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.

GRANT RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHT: GOOCHLAND FREE CLINIC AND FAMILY SERVICES

Many of you may know that **St. Mary's members were instrumental in founding** what is one of our outreach partners, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services (GFCFS). The mission of GFCFS is to **provide access to health care and basic human services for Goochland residents who need assistance**. The organization is founded on the belief that the path from poverty is best traveled through the creation of foundational stability for individuals and families, all while providing ongoing access to support resources as needed. ❖ The **\$11,000 grant** will support the **access to affordable dental services**. GFCFS has been providing free dental care which is a challenge for low-income, uninsured adults in Goochland County. ❖ In addition to the grant, **St. Mary's supports GFCFS by volunteering and holding drives at the church**. Currently, St. Mary's is holding a Thanksgiving Food Drive (more information on the next page) for their food pantry and in December will be having a clothing drive for their clothes closet. ❖ To learn more and hear powerful testimonies of the impactful work of GFCFS, **St. Mary's invites you to a special breakfast presentation on Wednesday, November 16 at 8:00 a.m.** Experience how you can take part in building Bridges of Hope for area families in need. St. Mary's would love to fill a table with eight to nine parishioners. Please email Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to **RSVP by tomorrow, Monday November 7.**

ADULT EDUCATION AND MORE

Come be challenged by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's book, *Crazy Christians* to follow in the footsteps of Jesus **today in the Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m.** Can't make it to Adult Forum? Read *Crazy Christians* anyway and start the conversation among yourselves!

Spiritual practice for men. Bob Hetherington's spiritual practice for men for **continues Tuesdays, November 8, 15, and 22 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Old Parish Hall. The one-hour time of **silence, reflection, sharing and prayer** focuses on the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. This spiritual practice is an opportunity to deepen faith and is **open to men of all ages**.

The *How to Be Here* book study discussions are in **preparation for Rob Bell and John Philip Newell's visit to St. Stephen's on Monday, November 14.** St. Mary's has a **limited number of pre-purchased tickets available** for those who'd like to attend the event. Tickets are still available through St. Stephen's as well. You don't have to have been a part of the book study to go! **Suggested donation is \$25. Remember to join Matt Rawls on Wednesday, November 9 at 5:30 p.m.** to discuss Rob Bell's book, *How to be Here*. For more information contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Advent Pop-Up Class! By December 15, most of us have made a proclamation about *next Christmas being different*. Less stressed. Less stuff. More of what matters. **Come join a discussion** before the crazy starts in a pop-up class with Amelia McDaniel at **10 a.m. in the Library on Sunday, November 13 and Sunday, November 20.** Set your family and you on a path toward a **lighter, brighter Advent** and Christmas towards Bethlehem.

FELLOWSHIP

Parish Breakfast will be served next **Sunday, November 13 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** These meals are fun and delicious for all ages! Suggested donation of \$4/person, maximum of \$15/family. **If you would like to help cook or serve**, please contact Carrie Schaeffer at saintmarysfellowship@gmail.com.

Seniors Lunch this **Wednesday, November 9 in the New Parish Hall at 12:15 p.m.** You don't have to be a senior to join – everyone is welcome. This month, Charlie Bryan will be speaking on his battle with Parkinson's Disease.

WORSHIP

St. Mary's will hold a **special Noonday prayer on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8 at noon** in Little St. Mary's. As well as, there will be **Noonday prayer the day after the Election** on Wednesday, November 9 at noon. Please remember **Little St. Mary's is open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** for prayer and reflection.

STEWARDSHIP

Next week is the Pledge Ingathering! We ask you to please give and **"Walk in Love."** Please don't forget to turn in your pledge cards by mail or by placing it in the offertory **next Sunday, November 13.** You can also pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, or email Gina Alexander at galexander@stmarysgoochland.org or call 784-5678. Thank you!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Beginning this Tuesday, November 8, Anne Taylor Robertson and Ashley Cameron will be leading a **once-a-month-cooking class** for middle school girls. **Space is very limited so please sign-up quickly. Cost per student is \$50** (to cover food and necessary supplies). Please contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org if you have questions or to sign-up.

Jump around! Middle School youth group will **meet at SkyZone today at 5:00 p.m.** Plan to jump until 6:30 p.m. For more details, contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

OUTREACH

Grab a bag to fill with Thanksgiving pantry items to help our neighbors in Goochland County this Thanksgiving. The list of items needed is stapled to the bag. Please return to the New Parish Hall by **Sunday, November 13.** All bags go to **Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services'** food pantry. If you have any questions or would like to send a check instead of filling a bag, contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

St. Mary's will host a **Celebration of New Ministry** on 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.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

2016 Greenery Sale to benefit St. Mary's Episcopal School: Gorgeous holiday greenery, delivered directly from the farm to your car! Support the children and teachers at St. Mary's Episcopal School through their annual greenery sale, a holiday tradition and one of their largest fundraisers of the year! **Order for yourself, your family, friends and neighbors.** Find order forms in the Dover Lounge - the newly furnished space next to the Café and New Parish Hall. **Orders due Friday, November 11 and delivery is December 4-6.**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, November 6, All Saints' Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Adult Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings and New Parish Hall*
Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Education Building*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Holy Baptism and Children's Procession of Saints, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cake and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Monday, November 7

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tuesday, November 8, Election Day

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*
Stewardship Committee, 4 p.m., *Library*
Middle School Girls' Cooking Class, 4:30 p.m., *Kitchen*

Wednesday, November 9

Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Education Building Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Seniors Lunch, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*
Children's Choir Practice, 5 p.m., *Choir Suite*
How to Be Here Book Study, 5:30 p.m., *Library*

Thursday, November 10

Outreach Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
SMES Chapel, 9:30 a.m., *St. Mary's Episcopal School*
St. Mary's Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, November 12

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

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

Pledge Card Sunday
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*
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

Coming Up

Monday, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 16

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

Coming Soon

Sunday, November 20, Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

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

VOTE FAITHFULLY

Episcopalians can **live out our call to care** for our neighbors as ourselves by engaging in the public square. Official Episcopal policy **recognizes voting and political participation as acts of Christian stewardship**. A faithful commitment to political participation aligns with our Baptismal Covenant's promise to **"strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being."** As Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry said, "Indeed, we who follow in the Way of Jesus of Nazareth are summoned to participate actively as reflections of our faith in the civil process."