

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2016

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

FROM THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY,
PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

These words of Isaiah are often seen as words that foretell and foreshadow the coming of Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary. The truth is, these words befit Him because this child changed the world. This child changes lives. This child changes us.

I remember when our oldest daughter was a baby. My wife and I were young. We were footloose and fancy-free. It was just the two of us newlyweds, so if we wanted to go out to eat dinner, we went out to eat dinner. If we decided to go to a movie at the last minute, we just went. We actually felt like we had money back then. And we did have a little bit of discretionary income. We could pretty much do what we wanted to do, within reason, and we didn't have to think too much about the consequences or impact of a spontaneous decision and what we had to do to make that happen.

And then, all of a sudden, this little, innocent human being, a little child, came into our lives, and literally gained control over our entire world. Before we could do anything else we had to think about, "Who's going to keep the baby?" or "Is this a good time for us to go without the baby?" We soon learned that we were not in control of our lives anymore. Even our sleeping patterns became very different. We would stay awake when the baby was awake and we went to sleep when the baby went to sleep. Literally this child began to control our lives and the child didn't even know she was doing it. And then we had a second one she did the exact same thing. And I've since learned that that's what babies do. When they arrive they take over! And their parents begin to develop their lives around this child. To mold their entire lives around this precious needy baby.

Isaiah wrote, "*Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given . . . and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*" This child who was born of Mary changes everything. This child born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes changes how we live. This child born to the sound of angels singing Gloria in excelsis Deo — this child to whom the wise ones came from afar bearing gifts — this child, changed the way the entire world works.

And this Jesus, born into a world torn by strife and hatred and division and pain and poverty, this child is born anew wherever men and women say, "I'll follow Him. I'll follow Him as my Savior. I'll follow Him as my Lord."

When this child grew up, He said His reason for coming, again quoting Isaiah, from the 61st chapter, he said, *The spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty all those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.*

This child, when He grew up, came to show us the way to live lives of love, lives of compassion, lives of goodness, lives of kindness, lives of justice. This child came to show us how to change the world. So this Christmas, make room for him to change us. This Christmas help us change the world. And make a new commitment, to go out from this day, to let this Christmas Day, be the first day of a new world.

God bless you. God keep you. Have a blessed Christmas. A Happy New Year. And go on out and change the world!

From Isaiah Chapter 9:

For unto us a child is born,

unto us a Son is given;

and the government shall be upon His shoulder;

and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

WELCOME! Whether it is your first time 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 clergy member, and consider filling out an information form. St. Mary's Episcopal Church is a community of faith where people come from different backgrounds and many different places to worship God in one of the most peaceful settings one can imagine. St. Mary's is vibrant and growing. It is a great time to be a part of this wonderful community! Throughout the week, our buildings and grounds hum with people of all ages who are here to worship, to learn, and to simply be together. Please read on to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

WORSHIP

Worship is at the heart of our common life. We invite you to join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or at 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.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SERVICE:

- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Choirs
- Intercessors
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Readers
- Ushers & Greeters



FELLOWSHIP

St. Mary's by definition is a large parish, but we still have the "small church" feel that comes from strong fellowship and personal connections. Through monthly Sunday breakfasts, Wednesday suppers, seniors lunches, teas at Westminster Canterbury and Cedarfield, and many more events, parishioners strengthen and deepen personal relationships with each other, our Parish, and, ultimately, God.

JOIN US FOR:

- Parish Breakfasts & Suppers
- Seniors Lunches
- Special Events & Celebrations



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

St. Mary's has a dynamic program for children and youth. Children of all ages are invited to worship at all our services. We also offer nursery for infants – 4 year olds during our 9 and 11 a.m. worship and, also, during the 10 a.m. education hour. There are engaging formation classes for children ages 3 years old – grade 12 during the school year. Sixth – 12th graders are invited to join our youth groups, which meet regularly for fellowship, food, fun, and outreach. In addition, St. Mary's is home to St. Mary's Episcopal School, a thriving preschool for children ages two-JK.



Spiritual formation and education are ever-increasing and influential aspects of life at St. Mary's. From young children to adults of all ages, we seek to offer opportunities to listen, discuss, wrestle, and grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge. Adults participate

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & EDUCATION

in offerings ranging from Bible studies, classes, forums, book studies, and special offerings throughout the year. While some offerings stay constant, new groups, new leaders, and new topics give elasticity to the available experience.

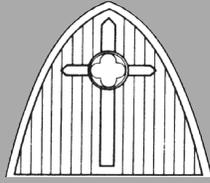


PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is, quite simply, how we care for one another at St. Mary's. Parishioners who are homebound or otherwise in need of a special touch receive visits, notes, birthday cards, prayer shawls, and communion from their fellow parishioners. Pastoral Care Teams and the Prayer Shawl Ministry group meet regularly to coordinate care and make sure that we are aware of each other's needs. Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are unable to receive it in church on Sunday.

OUTREACH

Did you know that St. Mary's was founded as an outreach mission to local coal miners and farmers? There is a rich history of outreach here, both in giving and receiving. You may know that St. Mary's members were instrumental in founding the agencies that now make up one of our current outreach partners, Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services. St. Mary's is continually exploring ways to do God's work in the world through outreach.



ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA
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804.784.5678
www.stmarysgoochland.org

| Growing in Faith |
| Building Community |
| Giving Joyfully |

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Gersain Agudelo, Assistant Sexton
Gina Alexander, Parish Administrator
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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**

COMING UP IN 2017

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Monday, January 2

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 8, First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord

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

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

On the second Sunday of every month from October through May, the St. Mary's Fellowship Committee prepares a hearty breakfast to be enjoyed by all.

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

Spiritual formation and education offerings for children, youth, and adults are located throughout St. Mary's between Sunday services.

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

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

Come enjoy a hot cup of coffee, cookies, and fellowship on Sunday morning.

High School Youth Group

Youth grades 9-12 meet the second Sunday afternoon and the fourth Sunday morning of every month for fun, learning, and fellowship.

Tuesday, January 10

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

Join the Rev. Bob Hetherington in the Old Parish Hall for five weeks for an opportunity to deepen faith. Open to all men.

Wednesday, January 11

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

Dr. Frank Eakin, St. Mary's parishioner and Weinstein-Rosenthal Professor of Jewish and Christian Studies at the University of Richmond, leads the Bible Study, which meets every week.

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

Join us midweek for a quiet, centering service in Little St. Mary's.

Thursday, January 12

Women's Book Study, 7 p.m., *Library*

Come join a group of women for six weeks as they read "Present Over Perfect" by Shauna Niequist.

Wednesday, January 18

Seniors Lunch, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Once a month, St. Mary's (self-identified) seniors are invited for lunch and a special speaker. Do not let the name dissuade you: all ages are welcome to attend!

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

On the third Wednesday of every month from October through May (every Wednesday during Lent), everyone of all ages are invited to a delicious supper. Following supper, there are activities for young children and youth, grades 6-12, and time simply to talk and be together for adults.

Saturday, January 21

Middle School Youth Group Ski Trip, *Wintergreen*

Special one-time event for middle school youth, grades 6-8. Regularly, middle school youth group meets on the first and third Sunday of every month for food, fun, and fellowship.

Sunday, January 22

Youth Mission Information Session, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

There are several youth mission opportunities this summer. Join Matt Rawls as he shares details and answers questions about these trips.

Sunday, January 29

Annual Meeting, *New St. Mary's*

February 4-11

CARITAS, *Dover Lounge and New Parish Hall*

In partnership with CARITAS, the largest provider of services to the homeless in the Richmond area, St. Mary's will host a group of temporarily homeless families.