



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 2017

Nursery

Our nursery is 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. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer and Nursery Assistant 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 in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

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 and Adult Education, *Sunday School and Education Buildings and New Parish Hall*
10 a.m. Youth Mission Trips Informational Meeting, *Library*
10 a.m. Usher Training, *Narthex of New St. Mary's*
11 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite One, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

Before I was asked to write a reflection about rotating off the Vestry, I had not thought about putting my experience into words. Since then, I've reflected a lot about serving on the Vestry. I now realize how special these years of service were not just to St. Mary's, but to me - and how much I received.

When I was asked to serve three years ago, my original thought was that I was not qualified. I am not in management. I do not know much about finance. I do not have any experience serving in an administration, which is what I thought the Vestry was. I said no. But the Senior Warden called me back and encouraged me to take on the responsibility and honor of serving. After much thought and prayer, I accepted and nervously entered unknown territory.

Looking back, I'm thankful that I was asked to be a part. Serving on the Vestry has been not just a responsibility and an honor, but also a privilege. St. Mary's asked me to serve not because of any management, financial, or administrative skills I had, but because I am deeply involved in the children and youth ministries. The children and youth ministries have as much importance as the finance committee, the building and grounds committee, and the stewardship committee, to name a few. The children and youth are significant to St. Mary's. It has been a privilege to represent them.

In the beginning, I was a little fearful that serving would make St. Mary's feel like a business. I did not want my church to feel like a business to me. However, after beginning my commitment, I realized that the Vestry is made up of people who represent certain populations and needs of our church and who are committed to ensuring that St. Mary's is everyone's church. I took the thoughts, ideas, and concerns of parents and passed them on. I learned so much about other matters that are vital to a healthy parish like ours.

Over the past three years, a lot of great stuff happened around that table. Serving on the Vestry is not like a business. It consists of sitting around the table sharing updates, ideas, and desires with friends who all share the same love for our church. By serving, I received warmth, connectivity, appreciation, love, and peace. I am grateful to all of you for the opportunity.

*In God's love,
Brantley Holmes*

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 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. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

MORNING PRAYER RETURNS

The service of **Morning Prayer Rite One**, a beloved tradition at St. Mary's, returns this morning and **each second and fourth Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. in New St. Mary's until Lent**. Along with Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline, **Morning Prayer is one of four "Daily Offices"** in the Book of Common Prayer, each of which can be observed daily, with or without clergy – and indeed with or without other people. On the other hand, the principal Sunday service of **Holy Eucharist gathers us together as a community**, reminds us of the story of our faith and our baptismal vows, and includes the sacrament of Holy Communion. It includes the specific charge to take what we have received out into the world to love and serve God. Because of its centrality to our faith, we will usually have optional Holy Communion following a service of Morning Prayer. **We will also return to weekly Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. during the seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas.** *Please note that we have Noonday Prayer every Wednesday at noon and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during Advent and Lent in Little St. Mary's. We are also exploring the option of Morning Prayer during the week.*

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mary's Church, Dover Parish, will convene at **10 a.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2017** beginning with an abbreviated Morning Prayer service. At that time, the people of St. Mary's Church will elect four new members of the Vestry and hear reports from the Finance Committee, the Rector, the Senior Warden, and other leaders of the congregation. **Sunday School for children ages 3 - 5th grade will continue as normal** during the 10 a.m. hour. **Youth in Grades 6-12th** are invited to join Matt Rawls in the **Pool Room for fellowship and food**.

CARITAS

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up! St. Mary's Church is part of a community-wide coalition of faith communities **who take turns providing emergency shelter for a week at a time** for homeless men, women, and children in our area. **This year, our week is February 4-11**, and our guests will be families. **Volunteers are still needed** to set-up prior to arrival, tear down at the end of the week, pack lunches, and prepare and serve dinner each night. **Sign-up boards for volunteers, as well as food and supply donations, are located in the Dover Lounge.** For further information, or any questions, please contact Jan Betts at mfbjensen@verizon.net or Seth Schaeffer at sethschaeffer@gmail.com.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Exciting things continue to happen at St. Mary's, and the wheels keep turning, but we are currently understaffed. During this time of transition, **St. Mary's staff could use support from parishioner volunteers.** Roles include answering the phone, proofreading and stuffing bulletins, updating the database, creating nametags, and tracking upcoming baptisms and weddings, to name a few. **We'd love for you to take any shift of one, two, or three hours** during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please contact Ashley Cameron at (804) 784-5678 or acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Is your child interested in volunteer and service opportunities this summer? Matt Rawls will share details and answer questions about youth summer mission opportunities at an **informational meeting today** at 10 a.m. in the Library. If you have any questions, or for further information, contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Volunteering for CARITAS involves all ages! A number of items are needed for the families who will be our guests at St. Mary's from February 4-11. The Children's Ministries' Committee asks that our **children, as part of their offering, bring in new crayons, markers, or coloring books** to share with our youngest guests. We also **ask our families to bring in gently used books** to help us set up a little library. For more information, contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Save the date for Vacation Bible School - July 10-14, 2017, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day. We're currently putting together a great week of fun and learning for 3 year-olds to rising 5th graders! Mark your calendars now. Registration opens around Easter. Want to volunteer? Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

As we move through Epiphany and Lent, **the 10 a.m. Adult Forum will focus on four essentials of being Christian** (Bible, Baptism, Eucharist, and Prayer). You are invited to discuss and really think through what it means to be Christian and how we live into it in our daily lives. This Sunday, we'll focus on **the Bible**. Grab a cup of coffee, and **join Bob Hetherington at 10:10 a.m. this morning** in the New Parish Hall to deepen your understanding of this essential aspect of being Christian.

The current five-week session of **men's spiritual practice group continues this Tuesday, January 24 through Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall.** Led by Bob Hetherington, the gathering is an opportunity to deepen faith and is **open to men of all ages.**

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Come celebrate Gina's ministry! Parish Administrator **Gina Alexander** is retiring on January 31 after serving St. Mary's for 22 years. We will celebrate her ministry following the Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 29.**

Lenten suppers will be here soon! Save the dates, **Wednesdays March 15, 22, 29, and April 5 at 5:45 p.m.** for a simple dinner followed by a speaker and youth program.

USHER TRAINING

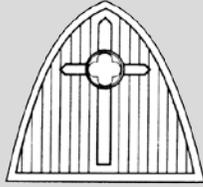
We are always looking for new ushers! All ages are welcome. Join Weezie Blanchard this morning for training at 10 a.m. in the Narthex of New St. Mary's. It's simple, straightforward, and a great way to be a part of Sunday services. If you are interested in ushering and cannot attend training, please contact Betsy Rawles at betsy.rawles@gmail.com.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Mary's parishioners are invited to **attend a community lunch** on Thursday, February 9 at 12 p.m. to learn more to about St. Peter's neighborhood mission, as well as efforts to make St. Peter's more handicap accessible. **St. Mary's and St. Peter's share similar stories** because of their long histories as mission churches, and both parishes are now in a time of growth and transition. We look forward to continuing conversation. Please contact Ashley Cameron at (804) 784-5678 or acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to RSVP and, for those who are interested, to carpool.

ACTS OF FAITH FESTIVAL

St. Mary's is delighted to **partner** with Second Presbyterian and other faith communities to sponsor the unique **13th Annual Acts of Faith Festival to the Richmond community.** One of the largest faith-based theater festivals in the United States, Acts of Faith will once more use live theater and post-show "talkback" discussions to examine the fundamentals of faith in action: personal courage, self-awareness, and the willingness to take chances in our precious, fleeting lives." **For the schedule and latest information on the 2017 Acts of Faith Festival, visit www.theactsoffaith.org.**



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238
(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*

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

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

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, January 22, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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*

Usher training, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's Narthex*

Youth Mission Informational Meeting, 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*

Monday, January 23

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, January 24

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

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

Wednesday, January 25

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

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

Thursday, January 26

Diocese of Virginia Annual Convention, *Reston, VA*

Present Over Perfect Book Study, 7 p.m., *Library*

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, January 27

Diocese of Virginia Annual Convention, *Reston, VA*

Saturday, January 28

Diocese of Virginia Annual Convention, *Reston, VA*

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

Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Morning Prayer Rite One and Annual Congregational Meeting, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Reception in honor of Gina Alexander, 11:30 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

High School Youth Group, 4:15 p.m., *The Escape Room*

Coming Up

Saturday, February 4 – Saturday, February 12

CARITAS, *New Parish Hall*

Sunday, February 5, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Coming Soon

Thursday, February 9

St. Peter's Community Lunch, 12 p.m., *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

Sunday, February 12, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Tuesday, February 14

The Rev. Andrew Y. Moore begins as Associate Rector

Friday, February 17

Vestry Retreat, 12-5 p.m., *New Parish Hall*