



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2017

Nursery

Our nursery is available for **infants through 4-year-olds** from 8:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer 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 Confirmation Class, *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
Adult Forum: Why Holy Eucharist? *New Parish Hall*
The Gifts of Imperfection Book Study, *Library*
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cake and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
4:15 p.m. Middle School Youth Group, *Thunderbolt Indoor Karting*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

I am a cradle Episcopalian. When I was growing up I could not take communion until I was confirmed. I remember being told that the wafer was not to touch my teeth and was not to be chewed. I continue to take communion in this way. I like to savor the bread and then the wine washes it away. Each time is a new beginning.

I became a Lay Eucharist Minister (LEM) or chalice bearer at the suggestion of my EfM class. EfM stands for Education for Ministry. During this particular class we were discussing how we could take our EfM experience and translate it into ministry in the world. I had never considered being a LEM but I was intrigued by the opportunity. I said yes even though I was a little nervous about the prospect.

I immersed myself in the training so I would know exactly what to do. Then I volunteered as often as possible so I could practice what I had learned. I was focused on the mechanics – determined not to spill wine or knock someone in the teeth.

I made and continue to make mistakes – some obvious and some not so obvious. But thankfully it does not seem to matter. The other participants and the congregation extend grace to me every time. And eventually I realized it was not about me anyway. I often pray, God, help me to remember that it is not about me – it is about you.

Once I took myself out of the equation it made all the difference in my experience. I now feel such freedom, peace and love. I worry less about making a mistake. Instead I try to be open to God's presence. I am privileged to serve in this ministry, to share God's life, love, forgiveness and redemption with my fellow parishioners. To help feed God's people. Ironically, by feeding God's people I am fed in ways I cannot always explain. It reminds me of the prayer of St. Francis "For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Cabell Blair

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.

WELCOME ELIZABETH BAKER!

Please welcome Elizabeth Baker as St. Mary's new Administrative Assistant! She started this past Wednesday, March 1 as **the welcoming face when you stop by the office and the friendly voice who answers the phone.** Elizabeth is a graduate of Sweet Briar College and received her Masters in History and Museum Studies from University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has most recently been the Collections Manager at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, an art museum in Farmville, Virginia. Elizabeth is excited to be here at "such a welcoming, fun, collaborative work environment and to be part of an awesome community that shares a strong commitment to making a difference locally, nationally, and internationally." **We're delighted to welcome Elizabeth to St. Mary's.** Feel free to stop by the church office to extend a welcome, send her an email at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org, or call (804) 784-5678.

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

This month the Seniors Lunch is back to its regular schedule - the second Wednesday of the month. **This Wednesday, March 8, the Seniors Lunch is off-site at St. Paul's Episcopal Church** in Downtown Richmond for the **Community Lenten Series. A 30-minute service begins at 12:30 p.m.** with Bishop Will Willimon, a professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School and a retired United Methodist bishop, followed by a delicious Lenten lunch for \$8. **A carpool is leaving St. Mary's parking lot at 11:15 a.m. RSVP to Ashley Cameron at (804) 784-5678 or at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.** Also, please let Ashley know **if you can also volunteer as a driver.**

A delicious breakfast for all ages will be served next **Sunday, March 12 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** Service is rolling, so come anytime between **9:30 and 10:30 a.m.** Fortify yourself and your family for Adult Education, Confirmation, and Sunday School! **There is a suggested donation of \$4/person and maximum of \$15/family.**

Lenten Soup Suppers begin on Wednesday, March 15 at 5:45 p.m. Join your St. Mary's family for a simple supper every Wednesday throughout Lent. Serving begins at 5:45 p.m. with a children and youth program following at 6:15 p.m. and a speaker for adults at 6:30 p.m. This year's speaker series focuses on Christian Community beginning right here at St. Mary's and then looking outward into the larger Metropolitan Richmond area, the Diocese, and the wider Anglican Communion.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Let's Go Racing! The Middle School Youth Group is going go-karting this afternoon! We'll meet at Thunderbolt Indoor Karting (1365 Carmia Way, Richmond, VA 23235) **from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** The cost is \$20, but never let price stop you from attending! Contact Matt Rawls for more information at mrawls@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

Why is Holy Eucharist so important anyway? In today's Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall, we continue our series on the essentials of the Christian faith and the Anglican tradition. Rector Weezie Blanchard will explore the Eucharist and why it is central to our life and worship in general and to our observance of Lent and Easter in particular. Comments and questions are encouraged!

The Gifts of Imperfection. Beginning this morning at 10 a.m., parishioner Tracy Harvey will lead a four-week Lenten study of *The Gifts of Imperfection* by best-selling author Brené Brown. Brown says, "We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honor the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection." The book study will meet at 10 a.m. in the Library each Sunday in March.

Bob Hetherington invites men of all ages to participate in a Lenten discipline on Tuesday mornings beginning this Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall. This five-week offering is a one-hour time of silence, reflection, sharing and prayer that focuses on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

The Bible: What is it, how was it given to us, and how should we read it? Women of all ages are invited to join parishioner Brantley Holmes on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Library beginning this week on March 9 to explore how we can read the Bible as part of everyday life and listen to what God is saying. Each session combines a simple prayer, Bible reflection, an article by a modern writer, and time for questions and reflections.

Lenten resources available for all ages! Please stop by the Café and take a look at the wide variety of Lenten daily devotionals, guides, and music for sale for all ages.

WORSHIP

Notice anything different in our worship today? There are a number of changes to our service through the season of Lent. We begin our service with the Penitential Order, including the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) and the Confession of Sin. We recite the psalm in unison, we have different service music and during this important season we celebrate the Eucharist every week. You are invited to explore how you can use these changes to worship in a new and different way.

Join us in Little St. Mary's for a reflective, mid-week service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent (March 8, 15, 29, and April 5) prior to Lenten Suppers. And don't forget...Noonday Prayer takes place in Little St. Mary's every Wednesday at 12 p.m. Let us all grow in our prayer life during this time of self-examination, discernment, and individual and collective spiritual renewal.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. in New St. Mary's. Following in the footsteps of the successful spring and fall Evensongs, and last year's Lessons and Carols, St. Mary's Choir will bless us with beautiful music during this season of Lent.

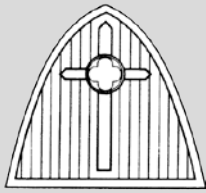
Don't show up to church late next week! Daylight Saving Time (spring forward) is at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

St. Mary's Episcopal School is currently enrolling children for the fall of 2017. Class offerings include, two 2-year-old classes (a Monday/Wednesday and a Tuesday/Thursday), a three day 3-year-old class, and a three- or four-day option for 3 ½ to 4 year olds, a pre-kindergarten and a junior kindergarten. This fall we will also introduce a class for toddlers beginning at 16 months. This class is scheduled to meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. They offer an incentive to parishioners who bring new students to St. Mary's Preschool of a \$250.00 donation to the church or \$250.00 off of your child's tuition.

THANK YOU!

A big thanks to all the cooks and helpers, including Christy and Elliblué Gurkin, Robert Holmes, Jeb Hunter, Grace Inge, Wyly Johnson, Molly, Ethan, Jack, and Reagan Snow, and Annie Stephens, for their time preparing and serving a delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! What a wonderful way to wrap up Epiphany before the start of Lent. All proceeds go towards youth summer mission trips, so thank you to everyone who donated.



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

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Elizabeth Baker, *Administrative Assistant*

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Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

Vestry Members:

Al Rider, *Senior Warden*

Tracey Ragsdale, *Junior Warden*

Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*

Charmaine Trice, *Register*

Karen Huennekens, Fay Lohr, Kim O'Shea,

Doug Pera, Betsy Rawles, Bruin Richardson,

David Rose, Tom Slater, and Russell Wyatt

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, March 5, First Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

Adult Forum: Why Holy Eucharist? 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

The Gifts of Imperfection Book Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

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

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

Monday, March 6

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, March 7

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

Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

CARITAS Committee, 6:30 p.m., *Dover Lounge*

Wednesday, March 8

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

Seniors Lunch, 11:15 a.m., *leaving from St. Mary's parking lot*

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

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

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, March 9

Outreach Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Tea with the Clergy, 3 p.m. *at Westminster Canterbury*

Women's Bible Study, 7:15 p.m., *Library*

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

Saturday, March 11

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

Sunday, March 12, Second Sunday in Lent, Daylight Saving Time

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

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

Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

Adult Forum: What is CEEP? 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

The Gifts of Imperfection Book Study, 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*

Coming Up

Tuesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 15

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Lenten Supper and Program, 5:45 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Thursday, March 16

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

Women's Bible Study, 7:15 p.m., *Library*

Sunday, March 19, Third Sunday in Lent

Adult Forum: Essentials of Prayer, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

The Gifts of Imperfection Book Study, 10 a.m., *Library*

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