

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter

April 23, 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 and Cassie Vestal 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. They also have 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*

10 a.m. Adult Forum: "I will with God's help", *New Parish Hall*

10 a.m. Inquirer's Class, *Library*

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

Noon St. Mary's Episcopal School Spring Carnival, *Churchyard*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ *"Where, O death, is your victory?"*

Where, O death, is your sting?"

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

One of my favorite parts of the Easter Service is the Flowering of the Cross. After the acolytes, choir, children's choir, lay Eucharistic ministers, and clergy process, the music continues as the children walk up to the cross in front of the altar. There, with the help of several patient parents, the children cover the cross with fresh blooming flowers.

At first glance, this is beautiful. Just plain beautiful. There are the kids, the flowers, the sunlight pouring in, and the general joy of Easter, particularly this year when the weather was so beautiful.

Beyond the surface, the flowering of the cross creates a picture of deep symbolic beauty. It is new life bursting forth out of death. That is what the celebration of Easter is all about. We celebrate the risen Christ conquering death and overcoming the power of the grave! And in my mind, there is no better picture of this than the flowers on the cross. The cross is an instrument of torture and death, but blooming flowers are new life in all its beauty.

This Easter Season, I'm going to meditate on the flowered cross; on life bursting forth out of death; on light bursting forth out of darkness; on love bursting forth out of hate.

Because that is the focus of the Resurrection and the Easter season.

Matt Rawls

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.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To use Dwight's own words, it is a "mixture of joy and sadness" to **announce Organist and Choirmaster Dwight Graham's retirement**. Dwight has **faithfully served St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 1999**. He has grown our magnificent choir, expanded our musical horizons, and most recently invited us to participate in spiritual Choral Evensongs. As Dwight wrote to the choir, "I am truly grateful for my association with all of you and feel as though I've been enriched through that association. Together we have explored much Anglican choral literature that I may never have experienced had I not come to St. Mary's. You've definitely won me over to the Episcopal Church!" Dwight's **last day is Sunday, June 25**, the last Sunday of the choir season. We gratefully thank Dwight for everything he's brought to St. Mary's and wish him many lazy Sundays as he's been playing the organ on Sunday mornings for the last 48 years!

NAMETAGS

As we welcome newcomers and visitors throughout the year, **don't forget to wear your nametag!** Find your **nametag in the narthex of Little or New St. Mary's** hanging on blue ribbons. If you do not have a nametag, please make a temporary one on the tables in the back of the church and add your name to the list to have one made for you. We thank you all for helping us get to know one another and **making St. Mary's a warm, welcoming place**.

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Want to know more **about what it means to be an Episcopalian?** Do you think that you might **want to be confirmed on May 21?** Do you have burning questions about the history of Christianity? Join Andrew Moore and Bob Hetherington for an Inquirer's Class meeting in the **Library at 10:10 a.m. today, April 30, and May 7 and 14**. Whether you desire to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church, are new to the Episcopal Church and just want to know more, this is the class for you!

"Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" Each time we have a baptism or confirmation in the church, we renew the promises of the baptismal covenant together. Join Weezie Blanchard in the **Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m.** this morning, next Sunday, April 30, and Sundays, May 7 and 14 as we **explore just what these promises mean** and how they **inform the ways we live our faith in the world**.

Rector (and long ago VMFA docent) **Weezie Blanchard continues her seasonal series** of looking for the holy in the outstanding collections of the VMFA. **We'll focus on Easter and how it is represented in the VMFA collections including the Fabergé Eggs**. Please meet in the lobby this **Thursday, April 27 at 10 a.m.**, and an optional lunch at the VMFA restaurant Amuse will follow our tour. To sign up, please contact Elizabeth Baker via **email at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org** or call (804)784-5678.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

St. Mary's Episcopal School's 2nd Annual Spring Carnival is today! **Gather your friends and family after the 11 a.m. service this afternoon** and join in on the fun of bounce houses, kid-friendly carnival games, face painting, and more! Hamburgers and hot dogs and a gluten-free food truck will be available (cash or check only). **Entry to the carnival is free.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Vacation Bible School registration is now available! Come gather for a fun week of "camping out" and learning about how no matter where we are, Jesus is with us. The week, July 10-14, is **open to all children ages 3 to rising 5th grade**. Rising 6th-Senior High School **students are invited to volunteer**. We also **need lots of adult volunteers** to make the week run smoothly. Fill out **your registration form** and **return to St. Mary's by May 21**. Please contact **Amelia McDaniel** at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

Spring cleaning? St. Mary's youth are hosting a **Yard Sale on May 6**, and **all proceeds will go toward high school and middle school summer mission trips to South Dakota and West Virginia**. We will accept donations beginning Monday, May 1. We will also need volunteers to help with sorting and pricing. Please contact **Matt Rawls** at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

Help us **show our appreciation for our amazing children and youth members** who will be leading a majority of the worship service on Sunday May 7 at 11 a.m. We will recognize the 5th graders and graduating seniors **as well as the committee members and Sunday School teachers** who are vital to our programming and ministries. For more information or questions, please contact **Amelia McDaniel** at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

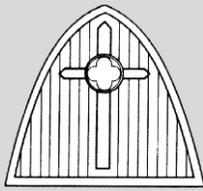
The Richmond Regional Committee of the Order of St. John invites you to come together, for a **Choral Evensong Service of Rededication** and a reception to benefit **St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group on Sunday, April 30 at 5 p.m. in New St. Mary's**. Inspired by Christian ideals, the hospital treats mostly Muslim patients with the help of many Jewish physicians who assist in training. For many years, the hospital group has battled eye diseases such as congenital cataracts, glaucoma, and traumatic injuries to the eyes. **The evensong is free to attend, but donations are graciously accepted.**

BISHOP'S VISITATION AND RECEPTION

Save the date for the Bishop's visitation. **Join us in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick**, Assistant Bishop, as we gladly receive the newly baptized and those who are committing and confirming their faith on **Sunday, May 21 at 11 a.m.** All are **welcome at the reception** following the service. The menu looks scrumptious!

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Are you good at remembering faces but can never remember people's names? Or do you say to yourself, "what is Sally's husband's name again"? **St. Mary's is updating its ACS directory with new family photos!** For the next three **Sundays, April 30, May 7 and 14, and at Parish Supper on Wednesday, May 17**, come and get your picture taken between the 9 and 11 a.m. services or after the 11 a.m. service for a photo of you, you and your spouse, or you and your family. No need to formally sign-up, it will only take a few minutes! **More details to come.** If you're interested in volunteering to assist, please contact Ashley Cameron at acmaeron@stmarysgoochland.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*
Elizabeth Baker, *Administrative Assistant*
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Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*
Louise Browner Blanchard, *Rector*
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Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
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W. Dwight Graham, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*
Mike Koschak, *Interim Executive Director, Church Operations*
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Amelia McDaniel, *Director of Children's Ministries*
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Andrew Y. Moore, *Associate Rector*
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Paul Pace, *Sexton*
Matt Rawls, *Director of Youth Ministries*
mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org
Deedi Trabosh, *Interim Accountant*
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, April 23, Second Sunday of Easter

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: "I will with God's help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
St. Mary's Episcopal School Spring Carnival, 12 p.m., *Churchyard*

Monday, April 24

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

Tuesday, April 25

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*
Vestry, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, April 26

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Children's Choir, 5 p.m., *Choir Room*

Thursday, April 27

Easter at the VMFA, 10 a.m., *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, April 29

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

Sunday, April 30, Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
Adult Forum: "I will with God's help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Inquirer's Class, 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*
Order of St. John Service of Rededication, 5 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Coming Up

Saturday, May 6

Youth Mission Fundraiser: Yard Sale, *New Parish Hall*
A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, May 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter

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: "I will with God's help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, Children and Youth Sunday, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cake and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Soon

Wednesday, May 17

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

Sunday, May 21, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Holy Baptism and Confirmation, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Bishop's Reception, 12:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*