



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 28, 2017

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 a welcome card.** We invite you to join us on future **Sundays at 10 a.m.** for Eucharist or Morning Prayer, on **Wednesdays for Noonday Prayer at 12 p.m.** in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary's, 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. Flip the page over to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

Nursery

Our nursery is available for **infants through 4-year-olds** from 9:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.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 card** from one of our ushers or in the back of a pew.

Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

11 a.m. Cookies and Lemonade, *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

This past Thursday was Ascension Day when we celebrate the resurrected Jesus ascending into heaven. When I was little I always pictured Jesus as a rocket, flames bursting from his feet as he shot up into the sky. Like an ancient Buzz Lightyear with one arm pointing to the sky, he would declare "To infinity and beyond," as slack-jawed disciples looked on in wonder. As fun as that image might be, somehow I don't think that's how it happened.

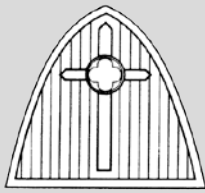
But I also have a hard time picturing it as a serene event. In the book of Acts, Luke says that "as the disciples were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." Surely Jesus didn't step onto a cloud and slowly and gracefully float up into heaven. And he didn't just disappear either, the disciples watched him going. Was there a giant pair of hands that reached down and scooped him up?

I think that I ponder the imagery of the Ascension, the mechanism of it, because I just don't like the idea of Jesus leaving. I don't like to think of him going away, of watching his human self floating off. And if I feel that way, how much more painful would it have been for the disciples, his close friends, to watch him go? How must they have yearned for just one more hour, one more day, one more conversation with him.

In the chapel of the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham there is a statue installed above the altar. A round hole in the ceiling is sculpted to look like clouds, and out of those clouds hang two feet with red marks on the insteps, the wounded feet of Jesus. In this statue, Jesus is permanently enshrined mid-flight. He is no longer fully here but he is not fully gone either. It's a powerful symbol. It reminds us that though Jesus may no longer be present in human form, walking alongside us, he is present in spirit, accompanying us at each step of our earthly journey. We don't have to reach far to find him.

I find that comforting. Jesus ascending into heaven wasn't a permanent exit. It was a transition to a different kind of relationship with each of us. Whether he shot up, floated off, or got his feet stuck in the clouds, Jesus is still here, still heaping God's abundant love upon us, still inviting us to follow him.

Andrew Moore



ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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| 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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Paul Pace, *Sexton*
Matt Rawls, *Director of Youth Ministries*
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Deedi Trabosh, *Interim Accountant*
Cassie Vestal, *Nursery Assistant*
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

SAVE THE DATE TO HONOR DWIGHT!

Save the date for a parish brunch in honor of Dwight Graham on Sunday, June 11 at 11 a.m. St. Mary's will host a parish-wide brunch in celebration of organist and choirmaster Dwight Graham. We will be serving the cinnamon rolls that are Dwight's favorite. Though rehearsals have prevented him from attending parish breakfasts, choir members have been hand-delivering the cinnamon rolls for years! **Dwight's last Sunday is June 25.**

REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration for Vacation Bible School has been extended. Don't miss out on the **best week of the summer, July 10-14**, at St. Mary's! VBS is open to **all children ages 3 to rising 5th grade**. We also need lots of volunteers – adults and teens – to make the week run smoothly. Please send in your registration form and return to St. Mary's ASAP. Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, May 28, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Lemonade, 11 a.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*
Monday, May 29, Memorial Day
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, May 30
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*
Vestry Meeting, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Wednesday, May 31
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Saturday, June 3
A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*
Sunday, June 4, Day of Pentecost
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cake and Lemonade, 11 a.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Monday, June 5
Stewardship Committee, 4 p.m., *Education Building*
Wednesday, June 7
St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m., *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday, June 11, First Sunday of Pentecost: Trinity Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Parish Brunch in Honor of Dwight Graham, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*