



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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 Nursery Assistant 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

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: Exploring Islam, *New Parish Hall*
10 a.m. *Rising Strong* Book Study, *Library*
11 a.m. Morning Prayer Rite One, *New St. Mary's*
Noon Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*
4:30 p.m. 8th Grade Youth Group, *G-Force Karts*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

St. Mary's was my old church but now it is our new church. Danny and I are delighted to be back. What took us so long? We raised our young family in another Episcopal church closer to our home. When they became adults they chose to go to other churches. Our daughter and her family chose St. Mary's. Two nieces, two nephews and their families plus Danny's sister and brother-in-law are here, too. We come to church on Sundays and see family. And it is a happy place to worship with them and old friends.

My father, mother, sister, brother and I were members here in the 50's. I met Danny at a St. Mary's Young Peoples' Service League progressive dinner. Nine years later we were married by Rector Stanley Ashton in 1961. My father's and mother's funerals were conducted here by the Rev. Holt Souder and the Rev. John Miller respectively. And our daughter was baptized here. You get the idea....we have come home again.

This is a bright, sunny, friendly, happy place. We love it. I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with the parishioners, and joining the altar guild and a pastoral care team.

To continue to be a vital place, churches must ask their congregations for funds. It should be all of our pleasure to give to a place that means so much to so many.

Danny and I aim to tithe. We came to this conclusion some years ago and continue to strive to tithe. It is not a burden but a genuine honor to help keep this place functioning to the standards to which we are all accustomed. We all know that we will be asked to give once a year. Do it joyfully from your heart.

I urge you to see this as an opportunity to prove to yourself that you have done your best to support this special place, St. Mary's.

*Blessings to you all,
Georga Smith Williams*

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, an usher, or one of our clergy, and **consider filling out a welcome card**. 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** and **New St. Mary's** are 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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As Rector Weezie Blanchard wrote in her letter to the congregation, "Through a string of events that we would never have anticipated, my husband **Buck has been offered a position doing mission and outreach work for the Episcopal Church in Colorado. This has been a difficult decision for us.** After much prayer and discernment, he has accepted, and **we will move to Denver.** I have been captivated by you and by this place since I first came to St. Mary's almost three years ago. You have welcomed me into your lives, and I have been humbled by your confidence in me in times of joy and sorrow and everyday life. I have been amazed by your willingness to discern where God is calling St. Mary's and the energy and enthusiasm with which you are embracing the ensuing possibilities. I am inspired by your faithfulness...Finally, **I wish that I could adequately convey my gratitude and love.** St. Mary's is enriched immeasurably by each and every one of you, and **I will cherish the time that we have left together."**

This news is shocking and saddening, but as **Senior Warden Al Rider** wrote, "While I am deeply saddened by this turn of events, I understand and accept their rationale and wish them God speed...**Weezie, in her gracious way, has offered to do anything reasonable in her power to help us move forward and smoothly transition** into new leadership. She will remain our Rector through the year end and into the New Year, if necessary, until we know our path forward. We will **begin the search process immediately.** I, along with the entire Vestry, thank you for your continued support. We will try our best to communicate regularly with our progress."

This Wednesday October 25, you are invited to a **brown bag lunch at 12:15 p.m.** in the New Parish Hall or a **meeting with the Rector at 5 p.m.** in the New Parish Hall. Also, join Weezie in the **Adult Forum on Sunday, November 12 at 10 a.m.** in the New Parish Hall **to ask questions and learn more about this transition. Copies of the full letters** from the Rector and Senior Warden are **available in the back of the church** and the front office. In the meantime, **please feel free to call or email** Weezie at (804) 784-5678 or wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org or Al at arider3@gmail.com or (804) 784-4388.

"BEYOND BRIDGES" EXHIBIT

Until November 12, **St. Mary's is honored to host "Beyond Bridges," a traveling exhibition** featuring 21 works of premier Christian, Muslim, and Jewish contemporary artists. The exhibition is organized by CARAVAN, a peacebuilding arts nonprofit led by The Reverend Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler. **Rector Weezie Blanchard will lead tours of the exhibit this Thursday, October 26 at 10 a.m. and during the Adult Forum on Sunday, November 5. St. Mary's invites individuals and groups to tour the exhibition Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** To schedule a weekday visit, contact Elizabeth Baker at (804)784-5678, or ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org.

STEWARDSHIP

Annual Giving Campaign is in full swing! If you haven't picked up a pledge card or a Narrative Budget, both are available at the back of the church, or by the bulletin board in the Café. **If you have any questions,** there is a

"Pledging Frequently Asked Questions" information sheet by the bulletin board and on the website. Turn in your pledge cards by mail or by placing in the offertory **by November 13**. You can also pledge online at stmarysgoochland.org/pledge, email Mike Koschak at mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org, or call (804) 784-5678. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Join us for a special Adult Forum titled "Exploring Islam: Faith and Practice" this morning with guest speakers, Zeyneb and Salih Sayilgan. Zeyneb Sayilgan is Visiting Assistant Professor of Islamic Theology and Religious Pluralism at Virginia Theological Seminary. Salih Sayilgan is pursuing his doctorate in Religion and Culture at the Catholic University of America in D.C. He was the first Muslim exchange student at Virginia Theological Seminary from 2008-2009. **At 10 a.m. this morning, Zeyneb and Salih will provide a basic introduction to the essentials of Islam** by explaining the six foundational beliefs and the five basic rituals as outlined in the Qur'an - Islam's Holy Scripture. They will **focus on the role, themes and significance of the Qur'an for Muslims and its difference to the Bible.**

Faith and Film series: Join Andrew Moore this **Wednesday evening October 25 at 6:30 p.m.** for a movie and discussion. **In this final installment of the series, we'll watch *Groundhog Day*.** Have you ever felt stuck in a rut? In this classic comedy, weatherman Phil Connors finds himself inexplicably reliving the same day over and over. **Join us as we use the lens of his hilarious struggles to break free of his never ending cycle** to better understand ourselves and our relationship with God. Popcorn will be provided.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Calling all seamstresses or really just anyone with a sewing machine! It may be a little early to start thinking about Christmas, but we are **working on sprucing up some of our Christmas Lessons and Carols costumes.** Also, we would love to add some characters to our menagerie. If you are willing to pull out your sewing machine to help us construct some simple tunics and costumes this fall, **please call Amelia McDaniel** at (804) 784-5678 or email at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

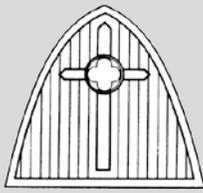
Last week, the 6th & 7th graders and the high schoolers got to go. But now, it's time for the **8th Grade Youth Group to go GO-KARTING!** We'll meet at G-Fore Karts (4245 Carolina Ave, Richmond, VA 23222) **from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** The cost is \$30 per person, but don't let that stop you! We can subsidize whatever needs to be subsidized. **Please email Matt Rawls** at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org **if your student plans to attend.**

The **PYM Senior High Shrine Mont Retreat** is coming up the first weekend in November! **November 3-5, all high school students are invited to head up to the Shrine Mont Retreat Center.** The weekend retreat is put on by the Parish Youth Ministry Committee - a group of 9th-12th grade students from around the diocese. The **cost is \$200 per student** (\$150 fee + \$50 for transportation/chaperones). **The deadline to sign up is tomorrow, October 23.** For more information, please contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

PARISH LIFE

Church Directory photos! There are two more opportunities to **come and get a picture taken of you, you and your spouse, or you and your family** before the directory is published in November. **Stop by between the 9 and 11 a.m. services or after the 11 a.m. service in the Dover Lounge this Sunday, October 22 or next Sunday, October 29.** Please help us update our records. No need to formally sign-up, it will only take a few minutes! If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

We invite you to give altar flowers in honor of or in memory of a family member, friend, or someone special. Not only can you make a gift of poinsettias at Christmas or lilies at Easter, **you can remember your loved ones with a flower memorial on any Sunday.** Please contact Elizabeth Baker via email at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org or call the church office at (804) 784-5678 to make a gift (**contributions start at \$50**) or to learn more. Checks may be made payable to *St. Mary's Altar Guild*.



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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Clarence Dixon, *Assistant Sexton*

Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*

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Deedi Trabosh, *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**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, October 22, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

Adult Forum: Exploring Islam: Faith and Practice, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Rising Strong Book Study, 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*

8th Grade Youth Group, 4:30 p.m., *Education Building*

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

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

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

Brown Bag Lunch with the Rector, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

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

Meeting with the Rector, 5 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Faith & Film: Groundhog Day, 6:30 p.m., *Dover Lounge*

Thursday, October 26

Finance Committee, 8 a.m., *Rector's Study*

"Beyond Bridges" Exhibit Tour, 10 a.m., *Dover Lounge*

Outreach Gala Committee, 12 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

Saturday, October 28

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

Sunday, October 29, Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday School and Youth Fellowship, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*

Adult Forum: *The Path: Jacob & Joseph*, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Rising Strong 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, October 31

Vestry, 5 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*

Wednesday, November 1, All Saints' Day

Ecuador Mission Team Departs

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*

Friday, November 3 – Sunday, November 5

PYM Senior High Weekend, *Shrine Mont Retreat Center*

Sunday, November 5, All Saints' Sunday

"Beyond Bridges" Exhibit Tour, 10 a.m., *Dover Lounge*

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