



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2018

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 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 are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

Rector Search Committee

The Rector Search Committee (Chair Tracey Ragsdale, Brantley Holmes, Andy Howlett, Michelle Lewis, Kim O'Shea, Nancy Reed, Al Rider, Susie Salsitz, Carrie Schaeffer, Armistead Talman, Joan Wilkins, and Russell Wyatt) invites you to share comments, concerns, recommendations and questions. Please email stms.rectorsearch@gmail.com.

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

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

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

10 a.m. Youth Mission Informational Meeting, *Little St. Mary's*

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

12 p.m. 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

Please, Dear God, no more snow. Please.

Snow is interesting. It is simultaneously dreadful and dreadfully exciting. When we see the snowflake in the forecast, we have a primitive reaction – developed from our days in elementary school – of unbridled excitement. Even as adults, when it starts snowing we peer out the window, amazed by the sight, hoping for a glimpse of that mythical creature: a Snow Day.

We wake up late the next morning to celebrate the Snow Day. We cook a great big breakfast and then put on our snow clothes. We go on a nice long walk, watching the dog jump up and down with excitement as we merrily tromp through the winter wonderland.

By lunch time we're bored out of our minds. By day two, we start going crazy. By day three all we can think about is how much we hate the winter. And I don't even have children... But no matter how annoying and cold the snow can be, there is one objective truth: it is beautiful! Fresh snow covers the ground and flattens all the jagged edges. And as the light reflects off it, the world seems brighter. So bright, in fact, that the ground seems brighter than the sky. But that is an optical illusion. There is a section in Annie Dillard's book, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, about this illusion. She discusses an experiment where she places a mirror on the snow, facing up to the sky. With the comparative reflections, it becomes readily apparent that the sky is *obviously* brighter than snow which is reflecting the sky.

The illuminated can never be brighter than the Illuminator. This is true in physics, and it is true in our spiritual lives as well. The light we have to share with the world is a reflection of the Light of our Illuminator. Our Illuminator is the Light that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Our job as followers of Jesus is to reflect that light to the world around us. To paraphrase the prophet Isaiah, even though our human condition and sin makes us less reflective that we should be, through Christ we become white as snow. Through Christ we become more reflective, so that we can reflect better the Light of Christ to the world.

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, 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mary's Church, Dover Parish, will convene at **10 a.m. next Sunday, January 28, 2018** beginning with a brief 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 Associate Rector, the Search Committee, the Senior Warden, the Treasurer, and other leaders of the congregation. **Sunday School for children ages 4 - 5th grade will continue as normal** during the 10 a.m. hour. **Youth in grades 6-12** are invited to join Matt Rawls in the **Pool Room for fellowship and food**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This morning during the 10 a.m. hour come learn about youth summer mission opportunities! Is your child interested in volunteer and service experiences? **This summer, the youth at St. Mary's have a number of opportunities to serve.** High School students are going to California for service projects and a pilgrimage, the confirmation class is going to New York City for a service trip, and the middle school students are going to Appalachia in Virginia. **Join Matt Rawls at 10 a.m. in Little St. Mary's** to learn more.

St. Mary's youth are participating in an Epiphany Giving Tree this month that will **raise money to purchase an X-Box for the Elk Hill Residential Treatment Home**. The tree is located in the Dover Lounge and is decorated with envelopes labeled \$5, \$10, \$15, and \$20. **To give, just take an envelope off the tree, put in the corresponding dollar amount,** and drop the envelope in the lock-box beside the tree. **In February, the entire youth group (middle and high school) will gather to deliver the present** and end with a pizza party at the church.

Middle School Youth Group is back **today from 4:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m.** in the education building. We'll gather for food, fun, and fellowship. **Please bring \$5 for pizza!** Open to all students, grades 6-8. For more information, contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

High School Youth Group will gather **this afternoon at the Escape Room** (7025 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226) from **6:30-7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person** (but please don't ever let price stop you from participating!). For more information, contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org.

Oblation Bearers bring up the gifts of the bread and wine at the beginning of the offertory on the Sundays that we celebrate the Eucharist. In addition, we need two children to collect the children's offering each week. During the offertory hymn, they stand in the front of the church while the children come forward to bring up their offering. Both of these roles during the service are a great way for **families and children to participate**. Please consider **signing up your family** to help at an upcoming **11 a.m. service**. For more information, contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

As we explore how we at St. Mary's tell our story, a series of Adult Forums this winter will continue to go back to the bedrock of our faith. **Using the book *The Path*, we'll delve into the earliest stories from the Old Testament.** What have we forgotten from Sunday School? How can a nuanced understanding inform our faith journeys? **Join Andrew Moore this morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall** as we look at the stories from Exodus. **Read chapters 6 and 7 of *The Path* in preparation or just join us for lively conversation. Pick up a copy of *The Path* for \$15 in the Café.**

Women of all ages are invited to join Amelia McDaniel for five weeks on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Parish Hall continuing this Thursday, January 25 until Thursday, February 8 for a book study on *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran pastor whose unconventional approach to church life and faith helps us **open up to new ways of seeing God in our daily lives** and in the lives of others. Come gather for lively conversation followed by compline in Little St. Mary's. **Copies of the book are available for purchase in the Café.**

FELLOWSHIP

Come join us for an early **Mardi Gras celebration!** Due to CARITAS, the **Youth Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is moved to Wednesday, February 7 at 5:30 p.m.** The youth will prepare and serve up hot pancakes. There will be King Cake and some fun Mardi Gras activities for the kids too. **All proceeds and donations will support youth summer mission trips. Save the date and stay tuned** for more information about volunteering from Matt Rawls.

CARITAS

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 organized by CARITAS. This year, **our week is February 10-17**, and our guests will be families. **Volunteers are needed** to set up prior to arrival, tear down at the end of the week, pack lunches, and prepare and serve dinner each night. **Check out the sign-up boards in the Dover Lounge for volunteer opportunities**, as well as food and supply donations. **For further information, or any questions**, please contact Seth Schaeffer at sethschaeffer@gmail.com or Charmaine Trice at nesting7800@yahoo.com.

OUTREACH GALA

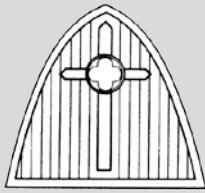
St. Mary's is hosting its first ever **Outreach Gala on Friday, April 13, 2018.** The event will **honor Isabel Souder Correll and benefit the mission and outreach programs of St. Mary's.** Currently, a steering committee is hard at work planning the event. **Please put the date on your calendar** because it will be here before you know it!

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." **St. Mary's Andrew Moore will lead a "talkback" on Sunday, February 25 after the 2 p.m.** performance of *The Christians* at Cadence Theater. **For the schedule and latest information on the 2017 Acts of Faith Festival, visit www.theactsofffaith.org.**

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Rector Search Committee (Chair Tracey Ragsdale, Brantley Holmes, Andy Howlett, Michelle Lewis, Kim O'Shea, Nancy Reed, Al Rider, Susie Salsitz, Carrie Schaeffer, Armistead Talman, Joan Wilkins, and Russell Wyatt) **has begun its work in earnest.** After posting the St. Mary's Rector job description and appropriate narrative required by the Diocese on the national database, **the committee is now able to accept résumés and applications.** As stated before, **the committee is also pursuing potential candidates. Please feel free to submit any suggestions** to the committee via email at stms.rectorsearch@gmail.com. As always, please keep your hearts and minds open during this process and keep this committee in your prayers as they continue this important work.



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*
ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org
Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*
Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
acameron@stmarysgoochland.org
Clarence Dixon, *Assistant Sexton*
Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*
Mike Koschak, *Executive Director, Church Operations*
mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org
Amelia McDaniel, *Director of Children's Ministries*
amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org
Andrew Y. Moore, *Associate Rector*
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Paul Pace, *Sexton*
Matt Rawls, *Director of Youth Ministries*
mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org
Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org
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, January 21, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Adult Forum: *The Path*, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Sunday School for 4 yrs. – 5th grade, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Buildings*
Youth Mission Informational Meeting, 10 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*
Middle School Youth Group, 4:30 p.m., *Education Building*
High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m., *The Escape Room*

Monday, January 22

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

Tuesday, January 23

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

Accidental Saints Book Study, 7:30 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Morning Prayer Rite One and the Annual Congregational Meeting, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Sunday School for 4 yrs. – 5th grade, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Buildings*
Youth Fellowship, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

Coming Up

Tuesday, January 30

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

Accidental Saints Book Study, 7:30 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Sunday, February 4

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Adult Forum: *The Path*, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cake and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*