

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

First Sunday after the Epiphany

January 7, 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

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

11 a.m. Reception in Honor of Weezie, *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

I am terrible at saying goodbye. In fact, I'm writing this at noon on Friday because I had a total mental block that I had even agreed to write this, which was meant to be my written goodbye reflection. And as the staff is laughing and shaking their heads outside my door, I'm wondering why that is...

Perhaps one reason is that I don't feel like I'm really saying goodbye. Yes, we are moving to Denver. Yes, I will no longer be the rector of St. Mary's. But at the same time, you all have become so much a part of my life that you are now part of who I am, no matter what the future holds for me.

You all welcomed me warmly from the time that I started here in January 2015, and we have been on a wonderful – if not always easy – trajectory ever since. Through John Miller's retirement, through the discernment process, through the "longest job interview ever," as Al Rider describes the time leading up to when I became rector, and especially through the last 16 months when I have been honored to serve as the third full-time rector of St. Mary's, we have worked together to figure out how to be the Body of Christ at St. Mary's and the world. What a blessing!

I believe that St. Mary's is something that has been entrusted to each of us. It is both a holy and a happy place, and I love that those two things are not mutually exclusive. God's presence is so strong in the affection and respect that we have for the history of St. Mary's, our pride in its mission church sensibility, and the commitment to a common life in the Body of Christ that is so essential to a healthy, striving church. Never have I known a church where those attributes were so integral to its DNA.

And it has been a delight and privilege to see the evidence of God's presence become an ever-increasing part of our life together. That is a tribute to you all – parishioners and staff. You all make the love of Christ come alive here and in the wider world. I carry that with me with the deepest gratitude, humility, respect, and love. Thank you all.

Weezie Blanchard

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.

ACCIDENTAL SAINTS WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

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 beginning this Thursday, January 11 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.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Sunday School and Confirmation Class **return next Sunday, January 14 at 10 a.m.** In addition, a weekly Sunday School class for **High School students** begins next week.

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 pool table room of the Education Building 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. **On January 21, 2018, the entire youth group (middle and high school) will gather to deliver the present** and end with a pizza party at the church.

Save the date to learn about youth summer mission opportunities! Is your child interested in volunteer and service opportunities this summer? **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 during the 10 a.m. hour on Sunday, January 21 in the Library** to learn more.

FELLOWSHIP

St. Mary's seniors (well, adults of all ages) are welcomed to the **first Seniors Lunch of 2018.** Join parishioners of all ages for a delicious lunch and engaging program **this Tuesday, January 9 at 12 p.m. in the New Parish Hall.** This month, we **welcome the local non-profit, Cord of 3 Strands.** This ministry is a catalyst for hope and encouragement to people with cancer. **Come out to hear** the story behind its formation and **the role it has taken in the battle against cancer.** Please RSVP to Elizabeth Baker at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org.

Save the date for a special dinner and a movie next Wednesday, January 17! Join us for a family-friendly parish supper **beginning at 5:30 p.m.** Service is rolling so come at anytime! This month stay for a **showing of a cherished feature film *The Sandlot* beginning at 6:30 p.m.** Suggested donation is \$8 per person or \$25 per family. All ages are welcome! Please RSVP to Elizabeth Baker at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Spiritual practice for men resumes. Join Bob Hetherington for one hour to deepen your faith in the Old Parish Hall beginning this **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30 a.m., this opportunity continues until Easter.**

As we begin a new year and 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 on Sunday, January 14 and 21 at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall** as we look at the stories from Exodus. Read chapter 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.**

The **weekly Lectionary Bible Study** led by parishioner and University of Richmond Professor Frank Eakin continues **this Wednesday, January 10 at 10 a.m. in the Library.** Each Bible study session focuses on the Lectionary readings assigned for the succeeding Sunday. **Anyone who is interested is invited** to attend and participate in this vibrant discussion.

OUTREACH

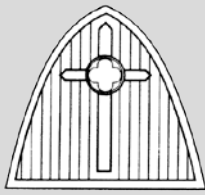
St. Mary's Church is part of a community-wide coalition of faith communities **who take turns providing emergency shelter for a week** at a time for homeless men, women, and children in our area organized by CARITAS. This year, **our week is February 10-17**, and our guests will be families. **Volunteers 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. **Be on the lookout for sign-up boards for volunteers**, as well as food and supply donations, over the next couple of weeks. **For further information, or any questions**, please contact Seth Schaeffer at sethschaeffer@gmail.com or Charmaine Trice at nesting7800@yahoo.com.

St. Mary's is hosting its first ever **Outreach Gala on Friday, April 13, 2018.** The event will **honor Isabel Souder Correll to 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!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Consider nominating someone for Vestry. Each year at our Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January, **four members of the Vestry complete their three-year terms of service** on the 12-member Vestry, and four new Vestry members are elected. At St. Mary's, **the Vestry Nominating Committee**, which is appointed by the Vestry and includes the four outgoing Vestry members (Betsy Rawles, Bruin Richardson, David Rose, and Charmaine Trice) and four at-large members (Michael Blanks, Jesse McCoy, Peggy Talman, and Molly Snow), meets to consider and propose qualified nominees. **If you would like to nominate someone**, please contact Betsy Rawles at betsy.rawles@gmail.com. The eligibility requirement for election to the Vestry is as follows: *Canon 11, Section 4. Only lay persons, who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of the church, as defined in General Convention Canon 1.17, shall be eligible for election as Vestry members of such church. However, regardless of eligibility of a person for election, no person shall be elected at duly convened congregational meetings to consecutive full terms on a congregation's Vestry or Vestry Committee.*

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mary's Church, Dover Parish, will convene at **10 a.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2017** 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 Treasurer, Finance Committee, the Associate Rector, the Senior Warden, and other leaders of the congregation.



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*
Louise Browner Blanchard, *Rector*
wblanchard@stmarysgoochland.org
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*
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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*
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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 7, Rector Weezie Blanchard's Last Sunday

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

Reception in Honor of Weezie, 11 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Monday, January 8

Pastoral Care Team 2, 5 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, January 9

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

Seniors Lunch, 12 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, January 10

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

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

Thursday, January 11

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

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

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14, Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

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

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

Morning Prayer Rite One, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

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

Coming Up

Monday, January 15

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 16

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

Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, January 17

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

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

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

Parish Movie: *The Sandlot*, 6:30 p.m., *Dover Lounge*

Thursday, January 18

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

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

Sunday, January 21, Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Adult Education, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings and New Parish Hall*

Youth Mission Informational Meeting, 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 Soon

Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Morning Prayer Rite One and the Annual Congregational Meeting, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*