

# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**The First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 31, 2017**

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## 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 9 a.m.** for Eucharist or 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, 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 is 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 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](mailto: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.

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*Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at [acameron@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:acameron@stmarysgoochland.org)*

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## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

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

**11 a.m.** Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New St. Mary's*

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*Do you receive email from us?*

Visit [stmarysgoochland.org/communications](http://stmarysgoochland.org/communications) to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

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## A WEEKLY REFLECTION

"In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God." It is time to put Christmas in its largest perspective. We move from looking at angels and shepherds to a focus on God's purpose for the human family – "the word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." This baby that was born in the manger was the full revelation of God.

The next time we see Jesus, he is a full adult. To be a full human being all we have to do is look at Jesus. He is the model of how we are meant to live. We are called to live lives of love and compassion. We are called to be generous people. We are called to give our lives away on behalf of others.

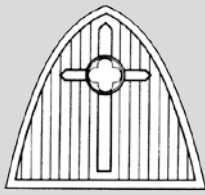
We live in a world which hungers for people who can live this way. The world is full of pain and brokenness. Through witnessing to our faith we become God's arms and legs working in the world for healing and reconciliation. We do this through:

1. Prayer – offering our lives to God, making ourselves available for the work of reconciliation.
2. Worship – gathering together to offer our prayers and praises to God as a community – gaining the focus that we are God's people being renewed in God's spirit.
3. Building Community – ministry beings by offering support and encouragement to each other. We need this grounding in each other so we can better meet the challenges of our lives.
4. Mission – going forth to serve the needs of the world. The more we give our lives away the richer the experience of living becomes: "he who would save his life will lose it and he who loses his life for my sake will save it."

Christmas marks the beginning of God's journey with us as a human being. God leaves God's realm of glory and joins the human family. We gain new energy and purpose. Now there is work to be done, a new year to be embraced.

What does God have in store for St. Mary's Church in 2018?

*Bob Hetherington*



**ST. MARY'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238  
(804) 784-5678  
[www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://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**

**WORSHIP**

Save the date for **Rector Weezie Blanchard's last Sunday on January 7, 2018**. Join us for a **service of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist Rite Two at 10 a.m.** in New St. Mary's. Following the service, **come celebrate Weezie's ministry** and help send her off **with a reception in the New Parish Hall**.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION**

Rector (and long ago VMFA docent) **Weezie Blanchard completes her seasonal series** of looking for the holy in the outstanding **collections of the VMFA. This Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 10 a.m.** we'll focus on Epiphany and how it is represented. **An optional lunch at the VMFA restaurant Amuse** will follow our tour. To sign up, please contact Elizabeth Baker at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org) or call (804) 784-5678.

**Spiritual practice for men resumes in 2018.** Join Bob Hetherington for one hour to deepen your faith in the Old Parish Hall beginning **Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. and continuing through Lent.**

**This Week at St. Mary's**

**Sunday, December 31**

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Cookies and Coffee, 11 a.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

**Monday, January 1**

*Church Office Closed*

**Tuesday, January 2**

Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*  
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

**Wednesday, January 3**

St. Peter's Bible Study and Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m., *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

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

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

**Thursday, January 4**

Epiphany at the VMFA, 10 a.m., *Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*

**Saturday, January 6**

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

**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*

**Coming Up**

**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*