



THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 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, Bruin Richardson, 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. Sunday School and Confirmation Class, *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*

10 a.m. Adult Forum: Close to My Father's Heart, *New Parish Hall*

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

12 p.m. Cake and Coffee, *Café*

5 p.m. Choral Evensong, *New St. Mary's*

Do you receive email from us?

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

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

I must admit that I am relatively new to Lent. Though I was baptized into the Episcopal Church as a young child, I suppose my family lacked staying power. My earliest memories of church are faint snapshots of the Sunday School classroom, argyle knee socks, and the uncomfortable pews that my family and I occupied with some regularity. As I grew older, church equated to Christmas Eve, and—by the time I was 8 years old or so—church had pretty much disappeared altogether. Easter, filled with bunnies and brunch, arrived each year with little thought dedicated to the 40 days preceding it.

It was not until I married my wife Ashley that I re-engaged with the Episcopal Church and acquainted myself with the observance of Lent in full earnest. At first, Lent made me feel uncomfortable. I felt unpracticed at the introspection and acknowledgment of sin the season requires. It was unnatural and, for me, Lent became a dark, cold chapter in an already dark, cold part of the year. All in all, Lent was a bit of a downer.

With the passage of time, however, my perspectives on Lent have evolved. I was surprised to learn that the old English meaning of Lent is “spring.” In many ways, that makes sense. Lent should spur growth. After all, Lent leads us to and helps us prepare for the glory and joy Easter brings.

I have come to view Lent as a period of enormous opportunity instead of an occasion for guilt. I am now drawn to Lent because it creates the space for a reset: the chance to pause, take stock of the areas in my life that have strayed from God, and do my best to repent, not necessarily as a form of remorse but as a commitment to turn or return to God and the path He has set out for us. As the Rev. Bob Hetherington often reminds us, we must acknowledge that the forces of evil within us and within our broader community are very real, requiring us to actively and purposefully “show up” and “lean in.” I see Lent as an occasion to do just that.

Alan Barlow

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.

WE'RE ALL IN!

CARITAS is one of the many ways that our parish leans in. Charmaine Trice recently discussed the impact that working with our CARITAS guests has had on her life and faith journey. **The support that we receive through the Annual Giving campaign directly supports this and other vital missions of St. Mary's.** However, when pledges are not received, the vestry cannot plan and difficult decisions must be made. We are currently at 62% participation in the 2018 campaign **on our way to our goal of 80% participation by Easter Sunday.**

During this season of Lent, **we are challenging you to lean all the way in.** If you have made a pledge to the 2018 campaign, thank you! You are directly supporting the work that we do. If you haven't yet made a pledge, **please know how much your commitment today can shape the year ahead for St. Mary's.** Thank you for making St. Mary's an important priority in your life. **Your joyful participation** on Sunday, throughout the week, and in our community programs **enriches our legacy to our community.**

You can **pledge today on our website** (www.stmarysgoochland.org/pledge) or by **calling the parish office** at (804) 784-5678. **Join us in saying "We're All In!"**

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Lenten resources available for all ages! Please stop by the Café and take a look at the wide variety of **Lenten daily devotionals, reflection journals, and books** for sale for all ages.

During Lent, we are focusing on how we relate to Jesus, particularly in the Gospel of John, and using some different approaches for our explorations. The way we are going to **explore Jesus in the Gospel of John is through armchair conversations** with a St. Mary's parishioner. This morning, **Bob Hetherington sits down with Bruin Richardson** to share his own personal story and how that relates to the larger story of St. Mary's community. **Join them at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall** for this engaging "armchair conversation" on this week's theme, "Close to the Father's Heart." "Meeting Jesus" is a six-week journey and reflection on the Gospel According to John; **pick up a beautiful prayer journal from SSJE in the Café area for \$5.**

The current session of the **men's spiritual practice group continues this Tuesday, March 6 through March 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Parish Hall.** Led by Bob Hetherington, the gathering is an opportunity to deepen faith and **is open to men of all ages.**

Lenten Speaker Series happens every Wednesday in Lent (March 7, 14, and 21), **begins at 6:15 p.m.** and focuses on some of the old and familiar parables. *The Stories He'd Tell: Exploring the Parables of Jesus* led by **Thom Blair** looks at ideas and implications in each parable that maybe haven't received too much attention. **This Wednesday, March 7, we'll look at "The woman with many tears," Luke 7:36-50.**

WORSHIP

Director of Music Ryan Tibbetts and the St. Mary's Choir present a **Service of Choral Evensong today at 5 p.m.** in New St. Mary's. **Enjoy the beautiful music** offered by St. Mary's Choir **in this spiritually renewing service** during this season of Lent.

Join us in Little St. Mary's for a reflective, mid-week Evening Prayer service at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent (March 7, 14, and 21) prior to Lenten Suppers. And don't forget...**Noonday Prayer** takes place in Little St. Mary's **every Wednesday at 12 p.m.** **Let us all grow in our prayer life** during this time of self-examination, discernment, and individual and collective spiritual renewal.

FELLOWSHIP

Gather for a simple Lenten Soup Supper this Wednesday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. Come break bread and take a midweek break with your St. Mary's family every Wednesday throughout Lent. Serving begins at 5:30 p.m. and is **followed by programs for adults, children, and youth at 6:15 p.m.** Suggested donation is \$8 per person and \$22 per family.

A delicious breakfast for all ages is served next Sunday, March 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Service is rolling, so come anytime between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. **Suggested donation is \$4/person and maximum of \$15/family.**

Seniors Lunch returns to the second Tuesday of the month. St. Mary's seniors (well, adults of all ages) are invited to Seniors Lunch. Join parishioners of all ages for a **delicious lunch and engaging program on Tuesday, March 13 at 12 p.m. in the New Parish Hall.** This month, we welcome Mason Lecky, Head of School of St. Christopher's. Mason will speak on K-12 education in the greater Richmond area. **Suggested donation is \$5/person.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Middle School Youth Group is back today! Youth (grades 6-8) **join Matt Rawls at Laser Tag!** Get ready for a wild time. **Meet today at 4:30 p.m. at LASER QUEST** (889 Research Road, Midlothian, VA 23236).

High School Youth Group is meeting off-campus today! Youth (grades 9-12) gather **at Boyers Ice Cream (5808 Gove Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226) from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** Please bring money for ice cream. Contact Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org for information.

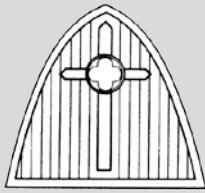
Stations of the Cross is **Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.** This shadow play, performed by the Children's Choir and the youth of St. Mary's, is a beautiful production and a moving meditation on the crucifixion of Christ. **Rehearsals for Stations of the Cross are on Wednesdays, March 7, 14, and 21.**

Save the date for Vacation Bible School: July 9-13, 2018, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day. We're currently putting together a great week of fun and learning for 4-year-olds to rising 5th graders! Mark your calendars now. Registration opens around Easter. Want to volunteer? Please contact Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org.

Join Matt Rawls and St. Mary's youth for an absolutely amazing retreat at Camp Chanco. Friday, March 16-Saturday, March 17 all youth (grades 6-12) will head down to the beautiful camp on the James River for fellowship, faith formation, ropes courses, and zip lines. **You don't want to miss this weekend!** Please email Matt Rawls at mrawls@stmarysgoochland.org for more information and to sign up.

DATE WITH THE DAFFODILS

St. Mary's is excited to announce the first annual Gala benefiting St. Mary's mission and outreach programs – **Date with the Daffodils!** The committee has been hard at work planning this event **in honor of Isabel Souder Correll.** They hope you will **join us for a lovely evening on Friday, April 13 at 6 p.m.** sponsored by the family of E. Carlton Wilton in loving memory of the Rev. W. Holt Souder and E. Carlton Wilton, Sr. **Invitations are in your mailboxes!** Please mail in the RSVP card or go online at www.stmarysgoochland.org/gala to purchase tickets. **It's going to be a wonderful evening with a live auction, delicious food, and dancing!**



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*

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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*

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:

Tracey Ragsdale, *Senior Warden*

Russell Wyatt, *Junior Warden*

Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*

Patsy Simril, *Register*

Karen Huennekens, **Fay Lohr**, **Anne McCoy**,

Kim O'Shea, **Doug Pera**, **Al Rider**, **Tom Slater**,

Seth Schaeffer and **Scott Stephens**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, March 4, Third Sunday in Lent

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

Adult Forum: Close to the Father's Heart, 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*

Choral Evensong, 5 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Monday, March 5

Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, March 6

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

Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

Wednesday, March 7

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*

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

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

Lenten Speaker Series, 6:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Thursday, March 8

Outreach Committee, 8 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*

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

Saturday, March 10

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

Sunday, March 11, Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *New Parish Hall*

Adult Forum: I Have Called You Friends, 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*

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

Coming Up

Tuesday, March 13

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

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

Wednesday, March 14

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

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

Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

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

Lenten Speaker Series, 6:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Friday, March 17 – Saturday, March 17

All Youth Retreat, *Camp Chanco*