



# THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 23, 2018**

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## 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.

## Sermons available

Find past sermons available on St. Mary's website at [stmarysgoochland.org/sermons](http://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.

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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

**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: Stewardship Kickoff, *New Parish Hall*

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

**Noon** Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*

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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

Being blessed can mean many things to many people, taking on distinct forms and manifesting in ways both obvious and subtle. This ranges from good fortune you can point to as a concrete boon to the intangible feeling of wellbeing on the first day of spring as the first warming rays of sunshine after a long winter envelop you. How do you count your blessings?

We are feeling blessed to have just celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary. We, like many of you, can't believe where the time has gone; years of carpool pickup and summer camps fading into a new normal as empty nesters living in an all too quiet house. We are talking about our next steps, future plans, and retirement - all things that seemed scary and foreboding at one time, but that we now take as evidence of our good fortune - the manifestation of all our blessings, small and large, and the days that seemed never ending among years that passed quicker than we could ever have imagined.

But through all of these conversations, we always reflect on how blessed our lives have been. God has been abundantly present in our lives and helped us along the way, whether it was evident at the time or not. Through the good and the bad, we have found ourselves giving thanks for the life we have led - not every minute, not every day, but always in the end, whether it be through the reminder of a sermon or in the beauty of a rainbow after a summer storm.

As we count our blessings, we are reminded of the 'pay it forward' movement that transpired some years ago; the charge of realizing a blessing and taking action to share it with someone else. Tithing is a bit like paying it forward. It is recognizing your blessings and responding by making a gift to allow God's work to continue.

St. Mary's has given us the blessings of community, faith, tradition, and spiritual growth. When we were asked to chair the 2019 stewardship effort, we reflected on our blessings and desire to use this opportunity to be our own way of saying "thanks be to God." Like you, we want to see our church prosper in ministries and outreach in our community. If all participated, imagine the potential that lies ahead for St. Mary's, bringing all into God's light and leaving none in the shadows. As we enter this next phase for St. Mary's, let's work together to strengthen the pillars our predecessors created. We celebrate God's work at St. Mary's and hope you will join us by making a pledge by Sunday, November 18. Together we can witness the blessing of God in our lives. As Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

*Karen and Mike Huennekens,  
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs*

**WELCOME!** Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401<sup>st</sup>, 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.

### STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF IS TODAY!

Join us this morning at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall, as we kick off our Annual Giving Campaign. Members of the Stewardship Committee will share how we can all give our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to grow ministries at St. Mary's and out in the world. Also, David continues his three-part series entitled, 'How do I DO Theology?' This week he focuses on his theology of gratitude and giving. Please join us to learn about the campaign and to ask any questions. Can't get there right at 10 a.m.? Don't worry! Just grab a cup of coffee and come on in!

Also, please pick up your pledge packet, which includes the Narrative Budget and a pledge card, at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall or after the 11 a.m. service in the Narthex. This is an eight-week campaign ending on November 18, 2018. The Stewardship Committee's goal is 100% participation. Please turn in your pledge cards by mail or by placing it in the offertory plate. You can also pledge online at [stmarysgoochland.org/pledge](http://stmarysgoochland.org/pledge). If you have any questions about giving, please contact Mike Koschak, Executive Director, Church Operations, at (804) 784-5678 or [mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org).

### SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

The men's spiritual practice group meets weekly continuing this Tuesday, September 25 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.

The third and final part to David May's three-part series entitled, 'How do I DO Theology?' concludes next Sunday, September 30 at 10 a.m. in the New Parish Hall. The last part focuses on ethics and moral decision-making. Please join us for a lively conversation and learning! Can't get there right at 10 a.m.? Don't worry! Just grab a cup of coffee and come on in!

Women of all ages are invited to a once-a-month book club in September and October. Each month they discuss a different book and how it relates to their own spirituality and day-to-day lives. Join them this Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Parish Hall to rediscover old, familiar Bible stories with this summer's reading, *Inspired by Rachel Held Evans*. You can pick up a copy in the Café for \$15. And save the date for Thursday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. and join them on Tracey Ragsdale's porch for a lively discussion of *The Turquoise Table*.

### NAMETAGS

Nametags have a new home in the back of New St. Mary's! Two new, white louvre doors hold all the nametags in alphabetical order. No need to look through the hanging ribbons or on the back table. Please go find your nametag to wear during the service and then return it to door before leaving. If you do not have a nametag, please contact Elizabeth Baker via email at [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org) or add your first and last names to the list in the back of New St. Mary's to have one made for you. We thank you all for helping us get to know one another and making St. Mary's a warm, welcoming place.

## WORSHIP

**Blessing of the Animals is in two weeks on Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m.!** We are not saying it will make your animals better or more well-behaved...but it can't hurt. **Bring your animals** (dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens, lizards, birds, stuffed animals, etc...) to the Church Yard in front of New St. Mary's to be blessed. Stay for treats—for yourselves and your animals—on the Terrace afterward (in case of rain, we'll gather in New St. Mary's for the blessing and the New Parish Hall for treats). **Please be sure to secure your pet safely**, on a leash or in a proper carrying case.

Are you asking, **how do I designate a gift of flowers for the altar?** Would you like to **offer the altar flowers in thanksgiving for someone or something special**, a celebration of life or as a memorial remembrance for someone who has died? Pick a specific Sunday and service, 9 a.m. or 11 a.m., and for whom or what you would like to offer the flowers. Next, **please contact Elizabeth Baker at (804) 784-5678 or [ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org)**. **Then provide a gift of \$50 for Little St. Mary's altar and \$75 for New St. Mary's altar.** You can make a check payable to *St. Mary's Episcopal Church* and write 'altar flowers' in the memo line. (If this cost presents a hardship, please feel free to be in touch with David May or Bob Hetherington.)

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

St. Mary's has a very happy problem! **There are LOTS of babies in the nursery on Sunday mornings.** We are looking for **volunteers who can help anytime from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** for the next few weeks as we assess our needs and Meg Zehmer, our fantastic nursery director, has a chance to heal. **If you are interested**, please contact **Amelia McDaniel** at [amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org) for more information.

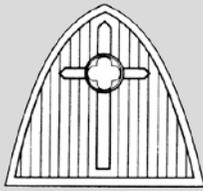
**Come join the St Mary's Children's Choir** as they start back for the fall. Rehearsals are **Wednesday evenings from 5 p.m.-6 p.m.** and consist of singing, games, and prizes! This is a great way for **children to serve St. Mary's by offering the gift of music** at about one Sunday per month and at other special services during the year. **All children in 1st-5th grade are welcome.** For more information, contact **Ryan Tibbetts** at [rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org).

**This morning**, we are **kicking off our Annual Giving Campaign.** St. Mary's **4 year-olds through 5th graders are participating in Stewardship in their own way!** This year, we are presenting the concept of stewardship using the wonderful children's book, **How Full is Your Bucket?** Stewardship is an **expression of saying 'thank you' to God through what we do in our lives.** This book outlines a great way to talk with kids about how their actions and deeds can impact others. You can pick up a copy in Café area. **Kids are also invited to fill out the cards found in the children's worship bags that say, "This week I was a bucket filler..."** They can write or illustrate a way they helped "fill someone's bucket" through their actions during the week. They can present this at the offertory to the children's ushers as their offering for the week.

**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 children to usher** to help at an upcoming 11 a.m. service by emailing Amelia McDaniel at [amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org](mailto:amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org).

## HURRICANE RELIEF

In the wake of Hurricane Florence, **the Diocese of East Carolina set up a resource page on their website (<http://www.ecdio.org/hurricane-florence-relief-recovery-how-to-help.html>).** It states, "We know that many of our friends from other dioceses and around the Episcopal Church are eager to help the people of our diocese as we begin the process of picking up the pieces and serving our communities. **In the initial phases of relief, the most efficient way to assist us is to donate money.** If you are searching for ways to help right now, monetary donations are what we need." You can donate directly to the Diocese through their website. Or **please send a check to "St. Mary's Episcopal Church" with "hurricane relief" written in the memo line.** We will hold onto the donations and send one lump sum of direct support once needs are made clearer.



**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*  
**Ashley Cameron**, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*  
acameron@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Duke Fowler**, *Sexton*  
**Robert G. Hetherington**, *Priest Associate*  
**Mike Koschak**, *Executive Director, Church Operations*  
mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org  
**David H. May**, *Rector*  
dmay@stmarysgoochland.org  
**Amelia McDaniel**, *Director of Children's Ministries*  
amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org  
**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, September 23**

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: Stewardship Kickoff, 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*

**Tuesday, September 25**

Men's Spiritual Practice, 7:30 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*  
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*  
Vestry, 5 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

**Wednesday, September 26**

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Rector's Study*  
Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*  
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

**Thursday, September 27**

Women's Book Study, 7:30 p.m., *Old Parish Hall*  
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

**Saturday, September 29**

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

**Sunday, September 30**

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School Classrooms and Education Building*  
Adult Forum: "Doing Theology" Part 3, 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*  
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

**Coming Up**

**Sunday, October 7**

Blessing of the Animals, 3 p.m., *Terrace*

**Sunday, October 14**

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

**CONNECT WITH US!**

- ❖ **New to St. Mary's?** First time or returning visitor? Please help us get to know you by filling out a **welcome card** found in the back of every pew.
- ❖ **Need a nametag?** Please **sign up for one** in the back of the church or make a temporary one. If you already have one, **please remember to wear it** to help make St. Mary's a warm, welcoming place.
- ❖ **Are you following us on Instagram?** We love sharing fun facts, behind the scenes, and our beautiful campus. Make sure to **follow us @stmarysgoochland**
- ❖ **Do you like our Facebook page?** You can find recent sermons, reflections, information about upcoming events, pictures from events, and more by liking us at **facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland**