

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 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.

Sermons available

Find past sermons available on St. Mary's website at 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.

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. Music Rehearsal, *Block Room*

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

Noon Cookies and Coffee, *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 both a perfectionist and a procrastinator. Christmas has always intimidated me. My perfectionist side wants to find the perfect gift, make the perfect holiday dish, and have the perfect holiday card. My procrastinating side waits until Christmas Eve for the gifts, the day before the holiday party for the delicious and unique holiday dish and paying for express shipping so people get the cards before Christmas is over. I am my own WORST enemy.

Three years ago, I was on the verge of my due date with baby number one. Being pregnant in Advent was a bit of a priority check. It forced me to not procrastinate AND to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. The things previously mentioned are nice, however, they are not what the season is about.

Upon reflection, most of the things I had focused on before seemed so trivial. Looking at it again, I realized that many of the people that I cherish the most are born in and around the season of Advent. I realized that Advent is a quiet time to show the people you love how much they mean to you.

I find myself here again, three years later. I am eagerly awaiting the arrival of not one baby, but two. I sympathize with poor Mary. I can't imagine riding a donkey many miles while being 9 months pregnant. I am thankful that I do not have to, especially with twins.

I think that I was meant to have children around this time. I needed to be forced to slow down, cherish the calm, and focus on the important things. I'm thankful for all the blessings in my life; my amazing husband, my sweet little boy, my loving and supportive family, my warm home, my wonderful job, my church and my faith, just to mention a few.

Advent will forever bring so much warmth to my heart. It is the time that I was forced to patiently wait for the greatest blessings of my life, my children. It is a time for me to reflect on my life, the people in it, and also the changes that are coming. The wonderful, wonderful changes.

Caroline Moomaw

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.

GUEST SPEAKER FOR ADULT FORUM IN THE NEW YEAR!

A special guest speaker will lead us into Epiphany during the Adult Forums for three weeks! St. Mary's is excited to welcome **Ben Sparks, a retired Presbyterian pastor** who has served churches in Scotland, Jacksonville, and Nashville, before being called to **Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond**. He retired in 2007 after 25 years and he and his wife, Annette, who was Music Director at Union Seminary for 20 years, are still active at Second Church, and attend the Celtic Evensong Eucharist at St. Stephen's. In addition to **leadership in ecumenical and advocacy ministries** for the homeless in downtown Richmond, Mr. Sparks has been active in denominational affairs, and was a founding member of the boards of Richmond Hill and *Journal for Preachers*.

He will lead us in a **three-part series** called, "Teach me about the Bible" on **Sundays, January 6, 13, and 20** at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Beginning with the origins and character of scripture, Ben will ask, what is Holy Scripture and how did it come to be. We hope you will join us and Ben as **he opens our minds about the Bible**, its interpretations and usefulness in our own faith journeys.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

Men's Spiritual Practice resumes in 2019 on **Tuesday, January 8** at 7:30 a.m. Bob Hetherington invites men of all ages to participate in a spiritual practice. This offering is a **one-hour time of silence, reflection, sharing, and prayer** that focuses on the Gospel reading for the following Sunday.

Lectionary Bible Study returns in 2019. Everyone is welcome! Each Bible study session is led by University of Richmond Professor Frank Eakin and focuses on the Lectionary readings assigned for the following Sunday. The next gathering is **Wednesday, January 9** at **10 a.m. in the Library**.

FELLOWSHIP

Save the date for an enjoyable time at the **Seniors Lunch on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 12 p.m.** Adults of all ages are invited to a **homemade, delicious lunch** and an engaging program! **This month's speaker** is St. Mary's own David May as he speaks about "my life away from the round collar." **Suggested donation is \$5**; please call Elizabeth Baker at (804) 784-5678 to RSVP.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children's Lessons and Carols is tomorrow, **December 24 at 4 p.m.** Please **come at 3:30 p.m.** for costuming. Again this year, a **Birthday Party for Jesus will follow the service** in the Parish Hall. There will be mini cupcakes for all!

The January 2019 schedule is now available for **Acolytes**. St. Mary's hopes you will volunteer for a Sunday service in the New Year. Please sign up via Sign Up Genius or email Elizabeth Baker at ebaker@stmarysgoochland.org.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Each year at our Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in January, **four members of the Vestry complete their three-year terms of ministry on the 12-member Vestry, and four new Vestry members are elected.** At St. Mary's, the Vestry Nominating Committee, includes the four outgoing Vestry members (Fay Lohr, Tracey Ragsdale, Al Rider and Tom Slater) and, this year, two at-large members (Michelle Lewis and Carrie Schaeffer), meets to prayerfully consider and propose qualified nominees. **Parishioners who are 'qualified' and eligible to stand for election are "adult (16 years of age or older) confirmed communicants in good standing".** This year's annual meeting will take place on January 27, 2019. **If you would like to nominate someone,** please pray about it first and then contact Michelle Lewis at michelledlewis315@gmail.com.

YEAR-END GIVING

What an amazing year at St. Mary's! We are so grateful that each and every one of you is part of this community, and we celebrate all that took place during this exciting year in the life of St. Mary's. **But St. Mary's cannot continue the ministries that sustain this faithful place without the financial support of its members.** Please consider making a year-end gift to the Operating Fund of St. Mary's. **There are many ways to give! Cash or check gifts** can simply be dropped in the offering plate during one of our services or mail it to the Parish Office. Please be sure it is postmarked by Monday, December 31. **To make a gift of stock,** please contact Mike Koschak at mkoschak@stmarysgoochland.org. For parishioners 70 ½ or older, **the charitable IRA rollover** is another way to give. **And thank you to everyone for your generosity throughout the year!**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Mary's is excited to announce that Emily Bruch has been hired as the new Director of Youth Ministries! We are excited to welcome her to staff on Wednesday, January 2. **Emily is a graduate of Douglas Freeman High School,** class of 2012, and the University of Mary Washington, class of 2016, where she earned a B.A. in Religious Studies. After graduating, **Emily served at Easter Shore Chapel Episcopal Church** in Virginia Beach as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry. This new role for Emily answers both a desire to come home and to focus exclusively on youth ministries. David wrote, "I experienced Emily in our interviews as deeply grounded in prayer and a living faith. **She has – among many other gifts – a quiet clarity of mind and a deeply soul-full presence.** She is centered, strong, and has (in her words) a 'goofy' kind of personality!" **We will welcome Emily with a commissioning for her new ministry on Sunday, January 6,** the Feast of the Epiphany, at the 11 a.m. service.

There are a few upcoming Parish Office closures. **Please note in honor of Christmas, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 24 through Wednesday, December 26.** Regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. resume on Thursday, December 27. And then in honor of the New Year, **the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1.** Regular office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will again resume on Wednesday, January 2.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



CHRISTMAS EVE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's

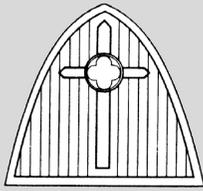
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two in New St. Mary's, *Choral Prelude begins at 6:30 p.m.*

11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One in Little St. Mary's



CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two in Little St. Mary's



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

Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
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Duke Fowler, *Sexton*

Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*

Mike Koschak, *Executive Director, Church Operations*
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David H. May, *Rector*

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Amelia McDaniel, *Director of Children's Ministries*
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Paul Pace, *Sexton*

Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
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Deedi Trabosh, *Accountant*
dtrabosh@stmarysgoochland.org

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, *Registrier*

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, December 23, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Music Rehearsal, 10 a.m., *Block Room*

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

Cookies and Coffee, 10 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Children's Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Choral Prelude, 6:30 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 7 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 11 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day

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

Monday, December 24 – Wednesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 29

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

Sunday, December 30

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

Cookies and Coffee, 11 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

Monday, December 31 – Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Coming Up

Wednesday, January 2

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

Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Friday, January 4

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

Sunday, January 6

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*

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

Cake and Coffee, 10 a.m., *Café and Parish Hall*

Tuesday, January 8

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

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

Wednesday, January 9

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

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.
- ❖ **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**