

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Welcome!

Did you know that sermons are posted weekly on St. Mary's website?



Ashley Cameron asked me to reflect on my three years on Vestry which have now come to an end. I hope I can speak for

Ann Ramsey, Christy Gurkin and Harry Baldwin, my vestry classmates. The highlights were the new friends I made and the old friendships that grew.

By just about any measure, St. Mary's is in better shape than it was in January of 2019. We have more members, more children, and more money than we had back then. I feel very privileged to have had a front row seat to witness the steady hand of David May as we made our way through a couple of world changing events.

The COVID-19 pandemic began to disrupt St. Mary's and churches everywhere in March of 2020. Fourteen vestry meetings through April of 2021 were held by Zoom. In person services were suspended. Every aspect of church

life was affected. Livestreaming, outside services, and masks are gradually helping us return to normal but we now must consider whether some of the changes might be with us from now on.

As a means to keep people connected, David came up with the innovative idea to assign each vestry member a mini congregation of 40 to 50 households. The idea was to communicate with them by e-mail every other month to bring them up to date with life at church as a supplement to the weekly eNunciation communications.

Then there was the racial reckoning brought on by the events at the end of May 2020 and the local unrest that followed. David asked each of us to compose a collect to help us seek God's will for ourselves and St. Mary's. This was a first for most of us and it led to very thoughtful discussions.

Weekly reflection continues...

Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church - we are so glad that you are here! Since the 1870s, God has gathered a beloved community of Jesus to worship and serve here, where all are welcomed. We are committed to providing a holy place for worship, Christian Formation for all ages that is compelling and life-giving, opportunities to reach out in love for those in need, and an enthusiastic hope that all who call St. Mary's their spiritual home can participate in every area of our common life in Christ. The spirit of St. Mary's is grounded in a deep sense of gratitude for God's goodness and love. We give thanks for you and for your life, and we are grateful to God for the opportunity to welcome you!

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's

10 a.m. Annual Parish Meeting in New St. Mary's

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist in New St. Mary's

4 p.m. Outdoor High School Youth Group



Coming Up at St. Mary's

Sunday, January 30

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Annual Parish Meeting, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
High School Youth Group, 4 p.m., *Outside*

Tuesday, February 1

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Library*
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*

Wednesday, February 2

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, February 3

Women's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Sunday, February 6

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

CLERGY AND STAFF

Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
Lauren Clay, *Office Administrator*
Harrison Higgins, *Deacon Associate*
David H. May, *Rector*
Amelia McDaniel, *Lay Associate for Christian Formation*
The Rev. John E. Miller, Ph.D., *Rector Emeritus*
Paul Pace, *Sexton*
Kilpy Singer, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Elizabeth Starling, *Executive Director, Church Operations*
Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*
Eleanor Wellford, *Priest Associate*
Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Harry Baldwin, *Senior Warden*; Missy Roberts, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*; Jill Aveson, Ashley Barlow, Sam Bruce, Owen Conway, Wayne Dementi, Christy Gurkin, Robin Lind, Jesse McCoy, Ann Ramsey, and Danny Williams.



Contact Us

Need to Reach Someone? Please call the Church Office at (804) 784-5678. Or visit www.stmarysgoochland.org/staff to find contact information.

Want to Learn More? Please visit St. Mary's website for the most up to date information: www.stmarysgoochland.org

Weekly reflection continued...

All of these issues are still with us but we are facing up to them thanks largely to the leadership of Harry Baldwin, our 2021 Senior Warden. He initiated a council of former Senior Wardens, he formed a task force to consider the long term effects of the pandemic, and has proposed an adult education course to foster racial harmony and reconciliation.

Thank you for giving me this wonderful experience.

Danny Williams, Jr.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THIS MORNING

Sunday, January 30 at 10 a.m. in New St. Mary's

The Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election of St. Mary's is this morning at 10 a.m. in New St. Mary's. This is a celebration of the mission and ministry of St. Mary's Church over this past year with a colorful printed report as we look ahead to the new year. In addition, we hear reports from the Senior Warden (Harry Baldwin), our Parish Treasurer (Joe Cheely) and the Rector. The Annual Parish Meeting requires a quorum of members to elect our new Vestry members. Your attendance is a crucial part of moving ahead in this new year.

INQUIRERS CLASS FOR INQUIRING PEOPLE

Are you interested? Please sign up soon.

David is inquiring about who would be interested in an Inquirers Class. This adult class offering is in anticipation of Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson's visit to St. Mary's on Sunday, May 8. An Inquirers Class is especially appropriate if...

...you are new to the Episcopal Church

...you are new to St. Mary's Church

...you are newly back to church after some time away

...you are new to attending church period

...you aren't new to the Episcopal Church, St. Mary's, or church in general but would love to have the opportunity to ask questions about the Christian faith in general and the Episcopal Church in particular in the company of other inquirers.

The class will meet six times during the late winter and spring. Day and time to be determined by those who are interested. If you would like to participate, please sign up with David May via dmay@stmarysgoochland.org or call the Church Office.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP THIS AFTERNOON

High School (9th-12th Graders) Small Group Youth Gathering is this Sunday, January 30 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Sport your warmest attire! We will be gathered outside the Education Building with a firepit, heaters, and warm drinks. If there is snow on the ground or it is literally freezing, we will gather inside and upstairs in the youth lounge with masks required. As always, friends are welcome!

YOUTH INVITED TO SIGN UP TO ACOLTYE

All youth (6th-12th Grades) are invited to be a St. Mary's Acolyte! Acolyting is an opportunity for youth to serve God and the church, and to develop leadership skills. And if you are new to acolyting, Somer Sentz and/or Kilpy Singer can meet with Acolytes before the service to walk them through the process. In a few months, there will be a training when it is safe to gather in larger groups. Please contact Kilpy Singer at ksinger@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more or to sign up.



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ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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