

THE ANNUNCIATION

visit www.stmarysgoochland.org



Welcome!

Join the Centering Prayer group each Thursday morning at 11 a.m. for a 20 to 30 minute silent meditation time.



Do you ever ask God, “why?” Why did this bad thing happen to this good person? Why is there so much evil and suffering in a world made by a good and loving God?

It is a big question that deserves a serious and honest response. I have tried to give serious and honest responses to this question, both to myself and to others, sometimes even in sermons. Inevitably these answers are abstract and theoretical. They may even be correct. God created us free which means we are allowed to choose evil. To control us so we don't do stupid stuff means that the good we do would not be us doing good but God. We would be puppets on a string and our life would not have much meaning.

This reasoning works when the “why” question is theoretical. There have been a few times in my life when it wasn't theoretical. The first was when a

friend in his mid-twenties got sick from liver cancer. He was part of the group getting Young Life started in Richmond and he had a bright future in Christian ministry. Many groups and churches were praying and even fasting for his healing. We had faith. Then he died. We had done everything right. It didn't make sense; God didn't make sense. Why God? At some point in the weeks that followed I realized that Jesus had asked the same question I was asking from the cross. That turned my doubt into trust.

Years later, the question returned with terrible force following the death of my son and a friend in a car accident on the way to a Bible Study. In the months that followed the “why” question was a shadow that followed me, especially to the altar rail each Sunday at St. Andrew's Church. There I received the bread and wine. And ever so slowly I became aware that God had experienced what I was going through –

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!

Weekly reflection continues...

**TODAY'S
SCHEDULE**

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

11 a.m. Cookies and Lemonade
in the Parish Hall



Coming Up at St. Mary's

Sunday, August 21

Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Lemonade, 11 a.m., *Terrace*

Monday, August 22

Pastoral Care Team 4, 9 a.m., *Library*

Tuesday, August 23

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via ZOOM*
Staff Meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Offices*
Grief Group, 1:30 p.m., *Library*

Wednesday, August 24

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

Thursday, August 25

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex*

Friday, August 26

Church Office closes at noon.

Sunday, August 28

Morning Prayer, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Lemonade, 11 a.m., *Terrace*

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, *Associate Rector*

Elizabeth Starling, *Executive Director, Church Operations*

Ryan Tibbetts, *Director of Music*

Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Missy Roberts, *Senior Warden*; Wayne Dementi, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Fran Jones, *Register*;

Jeff Allende, Jill Aveson, Ashley Barlow, Sam Bruce,

Ros Bowers, Owen Conway, Linda Hyslop, Robin

Lind, Jesse McCoy, and Barbara Tavenner.



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...

this pain, He knew – and I was able to trust Him again.

Recently, I lost a friend in a freak bike accident and the question has returned. To be honest, I have been angry at God. But what I can describe only as a thought that came to me out of the silence was this question, “where does love come from?” What I realize in all these instances of asking “why,” what made this question urgent, necessary, and supremely important was love. If love had not been part of these stories the “why” question would not have been asked.

I think Jesus answers the “what” questions; the Holy Spirit answers the “how” questions; and God the Father answers the “why” question. And the answer for it all will be love.

Harrison Higgins

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ALTAR GUILD?

Dear members of St. Mary's, the Altar Guild is looking for new people to join us in this fun and rewarding ministry. Our teams set up for the weekly services, keep the linens clean and in good shape, and arrange the flowers in Little and New St. Mary's. We have six altar guild teams who each take responsibility for two months in the calendar year. There are plenty of experienced people to work with new members, and it is a wonderful way to meet and get to know others in this special place we all love. Want to learn more? Please email Dianne Dementi at diannedementi@yahoo.com or Carol Evans at evanscarol75@gmail.com.

DO YOU PLAY THE GUITAR?

Searching for a player to help start Sunday School time each Sunday.

Amelia McDaniel is looking for guitar players to come help start off Sunday School time each week at 10 a.m. with some music. The songs are simple and we have low expectations! The children of St. Mary's just love having music be a part of their Sunday School. Please email Amelia McDaniel at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org if you are interested or would like more information.

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Collecting school supplies for the next few weeks!

It's “back to school” time of year so, let's help St. Andrew's School start the school year off *write!* For the next few weeks, we are collecting school supplies for St. Andrew's School. Please bring in any of the following: glue sticks, tissues, dry erase markers, colored pencils, batteries (all kinds), construction paper, two pocket folders (solid colors), markers, and spiral notebooks. You can drop them in the grocery cart in the back of the Narthex of New St. Mary's on Sunday mornings or outside the Parish Office during the week. St. Andrew's School is one of St. Mary's outreach partners and grant recipients. They believe “every child deserves an education that equips them to thrive.”

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL KICKOFF

Sunday, September 11, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services with Parish Picnic at 12 p.m.

St. Mary's wants to welcome you back this fall with a big kickoff! Join us on Sunday, September 11 as we return to two services at 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum begins at 10 a.m. And following the 11 a.m. service, we will have a big picnic complete with hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie options. And the Kona Ice truck will be here!



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ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road | Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-5678 | www.stmarysgoochland.org