

THE ANNUNCIATION

visit www.stmarysgoochland.org



Welcome!

One of the treasures of St. Mary's Church is the grounds of this sacred place. I walk around the grounds sometimes, and everywhere I look there's a story. So I asked Sue Thompson and Kitty Williams if they'd be willing to write some reflections to share some of those stories. Thankfully, they said yes! I hope you'll enjoy their reflections about this beautiful place God has given unto our care.

—David May

From St. Mary's dedication in 1877 until today, our church buildings and the grounds surrounding them reach out to all with warmth. There is a true connection between the people and the spaces. The spirituality of buildings rising skyward, a quiet churchyard, gravestones old and new welcome our children, their parents, visitors, clergy, and staff.

In 1991 the vestry approved a large expansion plan of the St. Mary's cemetery. Isabel Souder, Rector Holt's Souder's beloved wife, chaired

the vestry's Cemetery and Grounds Committee and played an important role in this process. She envisioned expanding the cemetery to St. Mary's western boundary by clearing parts of the forested area, replanting it with well-placed trees and shrubs, and planting daffodils -- thousands of daffodils -- to make this sacred space even more beautiful. Thus began the revisioning of St. Mary's Cemetery, one that retained the old cemetery's character even as New St. Mary's was being constructed. The committee hoped to have the cemetery and blooming berms ready for the dedication.

Ennion Williams, a congregant and owner of Dover Nurseries, was instrumental in the landscaping of the new cemetery addition. Grading, moving tons of earth, seeding, planting -- all were completed with his nurseryman's skill. Parson John Miller not only helped oversee and guide the process with his wisdom and great love of St. Mary's

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!



Coming Up at St. Mary's

Sunday, August 27

Morning Prayer, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies & Coffee, 11 a.m., *Parish Hall*
Parents' meeting, 11:15 a.m., *Education Building*

Monday, August 28

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

Tuesday, August 29

Staff meeting, 10 a.m., *Parish Office*
BBQ & Brews meeting, 4 p.m., *Parish Office*
Vestry meeting, 5 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, August 30

Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing,
12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*

Thursday, August 31

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

Friday, September 1

Church Office Closes at Noon

Saturday, September 2

New Beginnings AA, 8:30 a.m., *Education Building*

Sunday, September 3

Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Birthday Cake & Coffee, 11 a.m., *Parish Hall*

CLERGY AND STAFF

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*
Maggi Tinsley, *Director of Communications*
Jacob Warren, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Tyrell Wilkins, *Assistant Sexton*

VESTRY

Ashley Barlow, *Sr. Warden*; Jeff Allende, *Jr. Warden*;
Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Bill Gooch, *Register*; Sam Bruce,
Ros Bowers, Owen Conway, Henly Deutsch, Linda
Hyslop, Jesse McCoy, Sandy McDonald, Geoff Simril,
Celeste Stallings, 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...

but also was completely involved in the process. John recalled that when he and Holt removed large branches from the site, the next morning they discovered that hundreds of chiggers had also been involved in the effort!

As the site revealed itself, Isabel designed berms that would surround the cemetery grounds. These raised beds were formed with topsoil suitable for the planting of daffodils which would be followed by day lilies whose foliage would cover the dying daffodil foliage and continue a bloom. Joe Stettinius, a daffodil expert and twin of parishioner Wally Stettinius, was instrumental in helping with this project as were Gloucester daffodil farmers Brent and Becky Heath.

Thirty years have passed since the 1992 dedication of New St. Mary's. Today's congregation is strong, filled with new faces and energy. We also miss the many whom we now visit in the sacred grounds of the cemetery.

Before Isabel died, she talked to David May about... daffodils! Her vision and wishes remained steady: "We need more daffodils!" Under David's leadership, we will honor Isabel's desire and commitment with a parish-wide daffodil-planting event on Saturday, November 11. Please watch for a calendar announcement and plan to join our fun-filled workday. Whether you experienced those digging days 30 years ago or you want your children to plant for the future or you simply enjoy a gardening day outdoors, please don't miss this upcoming celebration!

Sue Thompson

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

St. Mary's is helping refugee families by restocking high-demand items in the Shady Grove YMCA/Woodman West Food Pantry. Please bring these regular-sized items to the church office or narthex by Friday, Sept. 15:

- sugar/salt/flour/vegetable oil
- cereal/oatmeal
- crackers/saltines
- mashed potatoes
- garbanzo beans
- meat soups
- canned corn, peas, and mixed vegetables (please avoid commercial-use items)

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

The St. Mary's Choir will be starting up soon, and we're looking for interested singers! The Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., beginning on Sept. 7 and continuing through May, and sings at the 11 a.m. service beginning on Sept. 10 through early June. Additional services include Christmas Eve, Holy Week, Choral Evensong, and Advent Lessons and Carols. Some previous choral or other musical experience is required. To learn more or schedule an interview, please contact Ryan Tibbetts at rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org.

NEW TO ST. MARY'S?



We're so glad you're here!
Scan the code or visit stmarysgoochland.org/welcome to let us know you're here and help us stay in touch!

FOLLOW ST. MARY'S

/stmarysgoochland



Online Offering
Scan QR code to
make on online offering.

