

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Porcelain Christmas ornaments



A new calendar year is close at hand. These next few days will be filled with stories of the year past and

predictions of the year to come. My guess is that a lot of it will be pretty bleak. As I've said before, we humans could not honestly say that what is going on right now is our best effort as God's beloved creation. But time measured with God doesn't rely on our January to December settings. Time with God circles and spirals and folds in upon itself. Life in Christ is filled with grace upon grace, strength upon strength.

There are three women in this community who have recently

reminded me of this circular, spiraling, folding of time with Jesus. Their lives are signs to me of why we do not hope in vain. This November a team of people showed up to plant daffodil bulbs in honor of Isabel Souder Correl, the great matriarch of our parish, who grew up right here at St. Mary's and made this place her home. These flowers, a reminder of her faith and love, explode each spring, a riot of yellow and white along River Road.

On Christmas Eve, more than 120 children and youth gathered to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. They were fearlessly led by Meriwether Roberts. Meriwether also grew up here at St. Mary's, and then she went off to school in South Carolina

Weekly reflection continues...

Welcome!

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 provide 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

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

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

and London. And, by God's grace, she has come home to Richmond and has chosen to make St. Mary's her home as an adult. She sings in the choir; she volunteers with the children and youth.

Again, by God's grace, we are blessed to have many young children in our community. Georgia Hahn is seven years old. She is a regular in Sunday School, Children's Chapel, and VBS. Her mother shared a poem she wrote for school recently. It is filled with a sense of belonging to God, to her community, and to herself.

*... I'm a child of God a bright little star.
And even though I'm little I've got a big heart...*

I think Isabel would be thrilled to hear Georgia's words and I cannot help but imagine that one day when she is an adult, no matter where she lands, like Meriwether, she will find a place to share her beautiful faith.

As this new year comes, worrisome as it may be, I will hold on to hope because I have seen what God can do, in the lives of these women and so many others.

Amelia McDaniel

COMING IN JANUARY: SACRED GROUND

In January St. Mary's will begin a new Sacred Ground series, the Episcopal Church's film- and readings-based dialogue on race grounded in faith. More than a dozen of you have already signed up for this acclaimed, small-group experience that will begin on Thursday, Jan. 11, and continue for 11 consecutive weeks, concluding March 21.

Join your fellow parishioners on this walk through chapters of American's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The powerful curriculum of documentary films and readings focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love."

The sessions will meet weekly on Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the large meeting room located in the Education Building. Contact Harry Baldwin at hbaldwin1@comcast.net for more information.



Ministry Highlight

The St. Mary's fellowship team prepares and serves our monthly parish breakfasts and dinners. Members with and without food-service experience have fun together handling the various tasks, from setting up the serving area to making coffee to chopping vegetables, and more.

Perhaps your plans for 2024 could include joining this ministry! Second-Sunday breakfasts come together 8:30-11 a.m. and third-Wednesday dinners happen 4-7:30 p.m. Contact Jane Marlatt at jmarlatt528@gmail.com or 443-812-9136 to join or learn more.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JAN. 7

Children's Sunday School (ages 4 – 5th grade) will resume on Sunday, Jan. 7, at 10 a.m. We will be meeting in the Block Room, which is accessed from the Dover Lounge.

PARISH BREAKFAST JAN. 14

Before Adult Forum returns on Sunday, Jan. 21, we will enjoy our first Parish Breakfast of 2024 on Sunday, Jan. 14, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.



TRY A BOOK GROUP FOR THE NEW YEAR

Our book groups are each beginning new reads in the new year. Why not join them? If you're interested, it's helpful to let us know you may be coming by using the individual Sign-up Geniuses. Thanks!

On Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 9, you can dive into Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/tuesdayboox>.

On Wednesdays at noon, beginning Jan. 10, the parents' group will start *Are My Kids on Track?* by Sissy Goff, David Thomas, and Melissa Treveathan, a book offering perspective on how our children develop emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/parentsboox>.

The Friday group is starting Krista Tippett's *Speaking of Faith* on Jan. 12. They meet at 10:30 a.m. in the library. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/fridayboox>.

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JOHN MAHER!

Although it seems impossible to believe nearly three months have passed, this is the Rev. John Maher's concluding Sunday with us. John joined us in October to pitch in while our Associate, Kilpy Singer, has been away on maternity leave. (Kilpy's first Sunday back will be next Sunday, January 7!)

So, with thanksgiving to God, we send John forth with our gratitude and love and peace today. John has been a great support for our Pastoral Care Teams in particular but also in providing additional pastoral support as well as taking his turn in the worshipping life of our parish. We hope you will thank John for his gracious ministry to us!



SUNDAYS AT ST. MARY'S

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Little St. Mary's
10 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Forum
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer in New St. Mary's*

*We have first, third, and fifth Sunday Holy Eucharist at both services. Second and fourth Sundays will have Morning Prayer, except during Advent, Lent, and Easter.

NURSERY

Nursery is offered for infants to four-year-olds every Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. As a part of nursery time, the toddlers will hear a Bible story, sing, and play games.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for four-year-olds to 5th graders at 10 a.m. Each week the children learn the stories of the Bible through singing and storytelling. Sunday School for 6th-12th graders meets in the youth lounge at 10 a.m.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum gathers on Sundays in the Parish Hall during the 10 o'clock hour. All adults are welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 11 a.m. service, children (age four to 5th grade) are invited to come forward during the Gospel hymn and go to the Block Room together. There, they hear the Gospel story, talk about it, and sing together. They return to the service during the passing of the peace.

OCCURRING WEEKLY

MEN'S SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Tuesdays at 8 a.m. via Zoom

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Library and via Zoom

HOLY EUCHARIST WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Wednesdays at 12 p.m. in Little St. Mary's

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursdays at 11 a.m. in the Narthex

NEW BEGINNINGS

Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Education Building (open A.A. meeting)

*Events are subject to change. Please visit www.stmarysgoochland.org for updates.

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

The First Sunday after Christmas Day | December 31, 2023 | The Annunciation





This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, December 31

Holy Eucharist, 10 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and coffee, 11 a.m., *Parish Hall*

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day
Parish Office closed

Tuesday, January 2

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via Zoom*
Fellowship meeting, 9 a.m., *Library*
Staff meeting, 10 a.m., *Church Office*
Grief Group, 1:30 p.m., *Library*

Wednesday, January 3

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

Thursday, January 4

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex*
Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, January 5

Pastoral Care Team #1, 10 a.m., *Library*

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

First Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Education Building*
Youth Missions meeting, 10 a.m., *6th/7th grade classroom*
Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism, 11 a.m.,
New St. Mary's
Birthday cake and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*



Contact Us

New Here? Be sure to fill out a welcome card located in the pews and in the narthex. Place it in the offering plate or bring it to an usher or clergy to learn more about the life and ministry of St. Mary's.

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

A PART OF OUR STORY...



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!



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[@StMarysGoochland](https://www.instagram.com/StMarysGoochland)



Online Offering
Scan QR code to
make an online offering.

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.



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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