

THE ANNUNCIATION

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Welcome!

Many new members were welcomed into the Body of Christ last Sunday.



Somewhere back when I was in my mid to late 20s, I was trying to make my way back to church. Like a lot of people, I stepped away from going to church when I left home for college. That time away from going to church was so important to me as I look back. I needed to find my own faith in God. Not my parents'. Not my grandparents'. Not anyone else's but my own.

One of the first things I did in 'going back to church' was to attend a weeknight Lenten teaching series. It was at Holy Comforter over on Monument. The presenter for those weeknights was Clay Matthews

who later became Bishop Suffragan. He spent all those Lenten sessions looking at Psalm 139, a portion of which is the psalm appointed for this Sunday. I knew I'd heard it before. But I'd never really *heard* it before. "Lord... you know my sitting down and my rising up; You trace my journeys and my resting place..."

When Clay read those words to us, I remember feeling like a great weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I believe that I thought beginnings were just clean breaks with the past probably because something had gone wrong. Similarly, I thought our endings were probably signs of failures. But God is in our beginnings and in our endings and

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 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

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

9:30 a.m. Parish
Breakfast in the
Parish Hall

9:30 a.m. Moms'
Coffee in the
Library

10 a.m. Sunday
School in the
Block Room

11 a.m. Morning
Prayer in New
St. Mary's

12 p.m. Cake
and coffee in the
Parish Hall

both are places meant for special blessings from God to be given and received. In this life things begin and things end, and God is in those places with us.

Harrison Higgins made a beginning here in the summer of 2021 as our Deacon Associate assigned for ministry by the bishop. We have been his ‘sitting down’ place for such a beautiful season in our lives. For me at least, Harrison and his life remind me of Jesus’s parables. They and he are signs of Jesus’s coming Kingdom just by the way they come alongside our lives and invite us to see things differently or make us want to see things differently. And like a parable, Harrison points us in the right direction: to God. It’s as simple and as profound as that.

When I was talking with Harrison about coming to serve at St. Mary’s, I said something like, “You just need to come be with us, and we just need to be with you. I want people to hear what the Bible sounds like coming out of you, and what working for God’s Kingdom looks like coming out of you.” Not exactly a proper job description but one that made sense to us both.

This Sunday is Harrison’s concluding Sunday with us as our Deacon Associate, a ‘rising up’ place for him for a new journey from here, and an ending place for us. And God is in this place of endings and new beginnings with blessings to give for what has been given and for what is to come. I hope you will take time this Sunday to hug his neck, remind him of what a gift he is, and send him forth with our love and God’s peace. And give thanks to God who gives blessings in all of our endings and beginnings.

The Rev. David May

OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE NOW UNDERWAY

St. Mary’s Outreach is collecting food items for two of our outreach partners: the Goochland YMCA needs snacks for their afterschool programs and the Woodman West food pantry needs food basics for their clients. Please drop off any items in the cart in the church office by Sunday, Feb. 9.

For the Goochland YMCA

Bagged single-serving chips

Non-refrigerated cheese & pepperoni sticks

Extra-cheddar Goldfish

Individual fruit snacks

Fruit roll-ups

Granola bars (with and without nuts)

Cereal (individual boxes/bags)

For Woodman West (please no Costco-sized items, which are hard to distribute)

Flour: 4-5 lb. bags

Sugar: 4-5 lb. bags

Vegetable oil (32-48 oz.)

Garbanzo beans

Tomato paste

White rice

Pasta of any kind



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.



Outreach Opportunity

Today is the second Sunday, which means it is once again time for volunteers from St. Mary’s to sort clothing donations at the “closet” at GoochlandCares. Please join us there at 12:30 p.m.

GOOCHLAND CARES

Free Clinic and Family Services



PARISH BREAKFAST IS TODAY
Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Before Adult Forum returns next Sunday, Jan. 21, we will enjoy our first Parish Breakfast of 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The menu will feature egg & hashbrown casseroles, blueberry & banana oatmeal bake, bacon, fruit salad, biscuits, and, of course, Bill's Cinnamon Buns.

PARISH DINNER RETURNS JANUARY 17
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Our monthly third-Wednesday parish supper resumes on Jan. 17. Special guest chef Woobie Mack returns to prepare a delicious dinner of Peruvian chicken, chorizo beans, macaroni salad, and green salad. And there will likely be dessert as well!

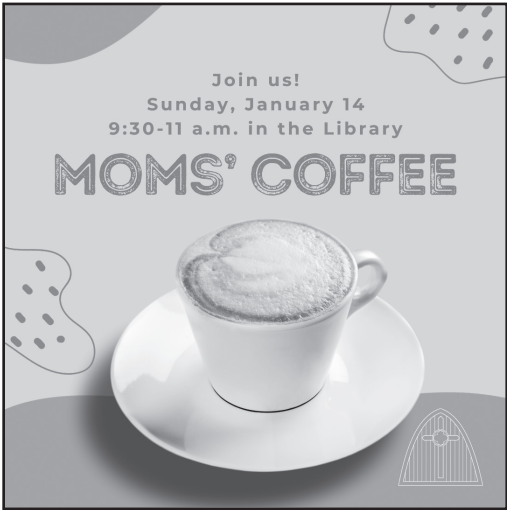
JOIN US FOR LUNCH & LEARN THURSDAY
Thursday, Jan. 18, 12 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Only you know the story of your life, and its noteworthy details. Many adult children have only vague ideas about their parents' career paths, community involvement, and other significant facts. After your departure, they will be overwhelmed by taking care of final arrangements; writing an appropriate obituary can be a daunting task.

The St. Mary's Eldergarten Committee has engaged a delightful speaker on the subject, Jennifer Moss, for our next Lunch & Learn on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 12 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We'll have sandwiches from Taste Unlimited (\$15 donation). Join us!

PARENTS: A SOCIAL FOR YOU ON JANUARY 19
Friday, January 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 9 Tapoan Drive

Join the parents of St. Mary's children and youth on Friday for an evening of fellowship at the home of parishioners Brent and Allison Spiller. BYOBeer; wine will be provided. Feel free to bring an appetizer to share. Because parking in the Spillers' neighborhood is limited, we suggest that you carpool or use Uber/Lyft. Please RSVP with the QR code at right.



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The Second Sunday after the Epiphany | January 14, 2024 | The Annunciation



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.



This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, January 14

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*
 Moms' Coffee, 9:30 a.m., *Library*
 Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Education Building*
 Morning Prayer, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
 Cake and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day: Parish Office closed

Tuesday, January 16

Men's Spiritual Practice, 8 a.m., *via Zoom*
 Staff meeting, 10 a.m., *Church Office*
 Book Group, 1:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

Wednesday, January 17

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
 Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing,
 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Parents' Brown-Bag Book Group, 12 p.m.,
Library

Thursday, January 18

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex*
 Lunch & Learn, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*
 Sacred Ground, 5:30 p.m., *Education Building*
 Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, January 19

Book Group, 10:30 a.m., *Library*

Saturday, January 20

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

Sunday, January 21

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
 Sunday School & Adult Forum, 10 a.m.,
Education Building
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
 Cookies and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*
 Confirmation Session III, 2:30 p.m., *Education Building*



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...



*St. Mary's owes a particular thanks to the adults who led our children to offer such a glorious Christmas pageant: musicians **Rochelle Jordan** and **Sam Bruce**, above left, and director **Meriwether Roberts**, above right. All three guided more than 100 young participants in learning their songs and parts to tell the story of Christ's birth.*



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!



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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

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