

THE ANNUNCIATION

visit www.stmarysgoochland.org



The congregation sent the Rev. John Maher off with our love and blessing.



In three years of delivering Christmas wreaths to clients at Gateway Homes in Chesterfield,

2023's visit was the best yet. I would like to share some of Carol's and my impressions of the experience to give you some insight into our relationship with Gateway and to help you envision how the fruits of our creative efforts were received there.

Our St. Mary's outreach partner Gateway Homes provides a transitional residential treatment program for individuals with mental illness who are striving for independence. The 25 wreaths we delivered went to each of the 17

apartments on the campus and to one group home on that property, as well as their group home in Manakin Sabot, and two new youth homes.

Three staff members, Matt, Lisa, and Julie greeted us and helped us hang the wreaths in the gazebo. As clients left the activities building, the staffers encouraged them to "shop" for a wreath. All of them did so with enthusiasm, and each expressed appreciation for the church's kind gesture, and especially for the fact that church members had handmade the wreaths. It was clear that each person was choosing something meaningful to them. They don't have much, and gifts like these are rare in their lives.

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

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

10 a.m. Sunday School the Block Room

10 a.m. Youth missions meeting in the Education Building

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

12 p.m. Birthday cake and coffee in the Parish Hall

Matt and Julie were especially helpful in taking us to the apartments of residents who had not already picked up a wreath. After we were introduced, we offered wreaths that were gladly accepted and immediately hung on their doors. We had not had such complete access to at-home residents on prior visits, so this was welcome growth in our relationship with Gateway Homes.

We also gave each client a Christmas card hand-drawn by our youth. When we explained that these were from the children of our church, each man and woman radiated pleasure and were clearly touched by the gift. Several women responded to the children's efforts with an appreciative "aww!"

The highlight was the reaction of one client to one of Ann Steele's wreaths. Most clients there are in their 20s and 30s. This man looked to be in his 60s with white hair down to his shoulders. It was apparent that he'd had a hard life, possibly homeless at some point. He shuffled around the gazebo considering each wreath and eventually decided he wanted one of the woven grapevine wreaths. When I asked him how he had made his decision, he said "It makes me think of Jesus's crown of thorns."

Wow! Reflect on that for a while. What an example of the impact we can and do make in these peoples' lives!

Jim Evans



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

Next weekend is the second Sunday, which means it is and 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. on Sunday, Jan. 14.

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR HARRISON

Deacon Associate Harrison Higgins will serve his last Sunday next week on Jan. 14, having reached (or passed) the mandatory canonical age for retirement for Episcopal clergy. Harrison joined our staff in 2021 with a focus on the hope of racial reconciliation and healing, and ministry with those in grief. He also joined the teaching and preaching ranks, where his conversations with the Holy Spirit were unparalleled.

Please plan to join us next Sunday, January 14, so that we can all say a proper Thank you, God, for Harrison! He will preach at both services and there will be a cake cutting and small presentation following the 11 a.m. service.



PARISH BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, Jan. 14, 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

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. Expect some eggy deliciousness along with fruits and breads, all freshly homemade!

PARISH DINNER JANUARY 17

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Our monthly third-Wednesday parish supper resumes on Jan. 21. 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!

LUNCH & LEARN RETURNS JANUARY 18

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. Ms. Moss teaches popular OSHER classes at the University of Richmond on legacy and obituary writing. A former Community Outreach Liaison for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Victim Compensation Program, she now serves as Director of Community Outreach at Bliley's Funeral Home. Join us!

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>.

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.





This Week at St. Mary's

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., *Block Room*

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*

Tuesday, January 9

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 10

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 11

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

Pastoral Care Team #2, 5 p.m., *Library*

Sacred Ground, 5:30 p.m., *Education Building*

Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Friday, January 12

Parish Office closed

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

Saturday, January 13

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

Sunday, January 14

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

Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*

Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Education Building*

Morning Prayer, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*

Cake and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*

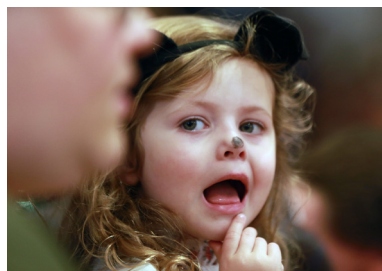


Contact Us

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...



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!



facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland



[@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