

# THE ANNUNCIATION

visit [www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org)



Youth enjoying a game of Knock Out after family worship & potluck



My dad has seven siblings, which made for large, fun family gatherings during my childhood. I remember Christmases at my grandparents' home where there was barely room to sit, countless cousin sleepovers, and *very competitive* Easter egg hunts. Even though political viewpoints ranged from evangelical Christian to liberal, conflicts were more likely to arise from our UVA/Virginia Tech rivalry than anything else.

That's changed.

Over the last 10 years, our familial bonds have become

secondary to the bonds that some family members have formed with their political tribe. Resentment and distrust have displaced love and fun. Cliques formed. Gatherings became awkward (at best). Social media posts became grounds for estrangement. It breaks my heart to consider all that we have lost - and my own contribution to it. As the same patterns play out in families and friend groups across the country, it is no wonder that it sometimes seems that America's fractures can never be mended.

Thankfully, we know that with God anything is possible. God's answer to nearly all our troubles is more love. When Jesus commands us to love

*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 in  
Little St. Mary's

10 a.m. Adult  
Forum in the  
Parish Hall

10 a.m. Sunday  
School in the  
Block Room

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

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

2:30 p.m. Confirmation  
session IV in the  
Education Building

4 p.m. Chamber  
music concert in New  
St. Mary's

our neighbors, he's not talking about those among us who are easy to love. He wants us to love people that don't look like us, don't think like us, don't pray like us, and don't live like us. He even wants us to love people that actively *dislike* us! He wants more love in the face of bitterness, distrust, and fear. More love, always.

If you're like me, this "more love" concept seems a little nebulous. I'd prefer a list of tangible actions that I can undertake to make things better. (Despite my fervent wishes) God has not given us a checklist, but He is pretty clear in asking each of us to consider the things we've done - or left undone - that have kept us divided. Maybe you have never argued (out loud) with someone of a different political persuasion, but how often have you meaningfully engaged with people whose politics are different than yours? Have you reached out to form new relationships? Have you given people reason to reconsider their preconceived ideas about conservatives or liberals? "More love" means that we don't passively wait for someone else to take the first step. It is our calling as followers of Jesus to actively work to heal divisions, create new relationships, and foster trust. We are expected to show up and do the work.

One Small Step is an effort to remind the country of the humanity in all of us, even those with whom we disagree. This is your opportunity to show up and take one hour out of one day to live out Jesus' call to love your neighbor. Mending our divisions will be difficult, messy, and uncomfortable. One 40-minute conversation might seem tiny compared to the enormity of what we have to accomplish, but this is how we begin: one on one, neighborhood by neighborhood, city by city. Now, let's get started.

Allison Dunaway

## ONE SMALL STEP NOW REGISTERING

St. Mary's and StoryCorps invite you to participate in a 40-minute facilitated conversation with a stranger who holds different political views. The purpose of the One Small Step conversation is not to debate politics, but to share experiences, learn more about who we are as people and recognize our common humanity. It is an opportunity to live out Jesus's call to love our neighbors and begin to heal our nation's divisions. St. Mary's is proud to be one of the first faith communities in Richmond to host a One Small Step event, which will be open to parishioners and the surrounding community. Please take five minutes to complete your registration by scanning the QR code below. Your registration must be completed by Sunday, March 24. StoryCorps staff will match you with a conversation partner and will contact you to schedule your conversation during a convenient time on April 25, 26, or 27. The conversations are recorded, and if both participants agree, the material will be archived at the Library of Congress. Contact Allison Dunaway at [allison.dunaway@gmail.com](mailto:allison.dunaway@gmail.com) with questions.



## Ministry Highlight

One way our children's ministry celebrates Easter Sunday is with an egg hunt on our beautiful campus after the 11 a.m. service. We need your help to make this happen!

Please bring in a bag of individually wrapped candies (but NO NUTS) by Sunday, March 10. We will be stuffing the eggs in the parish hall that morning during Parish Breakfast. You can bring the candy to the church office during the week or drop it in the appointed box in the Dover Lounge. Thank you!



## Outreach Highlight

Coming up next Sunday, March 10, is our monthly clothes-closet sorting at GoochlandCares. Meet at 12:30 p.m. at the rear door of the building. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a hands-on connection with one of our outreach partners for a couple hours on a Sunday afternoon. Let Dick Thomas know you're coming at [nvvserv@icloud.com](mailto:nvvserv@icloud.com) or 804-432-4158.

**GOOCHLAND  
CARES**  
Free Clinic and Family Services





ADULT FORUM LOOKS AT PRAYER

10 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Our Lenten Adult Forum series on prayer continues today in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. with Elnora Allen, dean of the Ruah School of Spiritual Direction at Richmond Hill. When we invited Elnora to come join us for these two Sunday Forum gatherings and she asked about the topic, we said, "Elnora, please just come and talk with us about prayer." She said, "I can do that!" As a person deeply involved in individual and community healing, she knows those things are only possible through prayer. We hope you will plan to join us and welcome Elnora!

TODAY! CMSCVA PRESENTS "ILLUMINATION"

The magical qualities of light formed the inspiration for this Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia program. Haydn's famous "Sunrise" quartet and Ravel's impressionist "Introduction and Allegro" pair with Gilad Cohen's "Firefly Elegy" – a musical portrait of the life of a lightning bug – and a premiere by Zachary Wadsworth. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Discounted \$10 tickets for this 4 p.m. concert are available to the St Mary's community (students attend free of charge). To access this discount, visit the event page at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/illumination-tickets-622788847207>. Click "Get Tickets," enter the promo code "StMarys" and click apply.

SUPPER SERIES: WHAT DOES GOD MEAN BY JUSTICE?

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Old Testament scholar Dr. Melissa Jackson leads our Lenten suppers, offering teachings on *What does God mean by justice?* The series continues for two more Wednesdays and March 6 & 13. We meet in the Parish Hall at 5:30 p.m. for supper together followed by Melissa's program. The evening concludes by 7 p.m. with Compline, and there is children's programming.

PURCHASE WATER FILTERS FOR KENYA

In conjunction with the St. Mary's children who are collecting money in their mite boxes for water filters to support Hope to Others, we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to help the community of Motoseit outside of Kitale, Kenya. When Education=Hope students and their families have clean water via home filters, they can attend school without their education being interrupted by water-borne illnesses such as dysentery, cholera, and typhoid.

One water filter costs \$50 and will last at least three years. Go to <https://bit.ly/3UXrXeR> or mail a check to the church office to ensure a family has clean water in their home, a luxury we are able to take for granted. Money collected from our Lenten supper and speaker series is also designated for this good work. Thank you!

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](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org) for updates.

Do you receive email from us?

Visit [stmarysgoochland.org/communications](http://stmarysgoochland.org/communications) to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.





## This Week at St. Mary's

### Sunday, March 3

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Adult Forum, 10 a.m., *Parish Hall*  
 Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Block Room*  
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
 Birthday cake and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*  
 Confirmation session IV, 2 p.m., *Education Building*  
 Chamber Music Society of Virginia concert, 4 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

### Tuesday, March 5

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

### Wednesday, March 6

Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*  
 Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Lenten Supper and Speaker Series, 5:30 p.m., *Parish Hall*

### Thursday, March 7

Centering Prayer, 11 a.m., *Narthex*  
 Sacred Ground, 5:30 p.m., *Education Building*  
 Choir rehearsal, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

### Friday, March 8

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

### Saturday, March 9

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

### Sunday, March 10

Holy Eucharist, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*  
 Parish Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., *Parish Hall*  
 Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Block Room*  
 Holy Eucharist, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*  
 Cookies and coffee, 12 p.m., *Parish Hall*  
 High School Lunch, 12:30 p.m., *Education Building*  
 Youth Group, 5 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](http://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](http://stmarysgoochland.org/welcome)  
 to let us know you're here and help us stay in touch!



[facebook.com/St.MarysGoochland](https://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*  
 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

Jeff Allende, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Tavenner, *Junior Warden*; Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*; Bill Gooch, *Register*;  
 Ros Bowers, *Henly Deutsch*, Andy Howlett, Linda Hyslop, Mary-Taliaferro Keeney, Sandy McDonald,  
 Meriwether Roberts, Geoff Simril, Celeste Stallings, and Frank Trice.



**ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

12291 River Road | Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-5678 | [www.stmarysgoochland.org](http://www.stmarysgoochland.org)