

OUTREACH

Did you know that St. Mary's was founded as an outreach mission to local coal miners and farmers? Or that a feeding ministry served St. Mary's members during the Depression? There is a rich history of outreach here, both in giving and receiving. You may know that St. Mary's members were instrumental in founding what are now our current outreach partners, Elk Hill and Goochland Free Clinic & Family Services. Outreach, or in other words, doing God's work in the world, is one of the primary ways that we as Christians love and serve God as faithful witnesses.

Today, St. Mary's is actively involved in outreach in a number of ways. This year, the Outreach Committee instituted a grant application process, which seeks to provide more accountability from our outreach partners. The Outreach Committee, a Vestry committee, researches and recommends financial grants to the Vestry. The amount of grant money available depends on the annual giving participation of all St. Mary's parishioners. More importantly, this process seeks to strengthen relationships between St. Mary's and our outreach partners, as well as, among St. Mary's parishioners who are involved in outreach at St. Mary's. For example, this past spring, in addition to granting \$5,000 to St. Andrew's School, 15 St. Mary's parishioners signed up to serve as volunteers there. The hiring of Ashley Cameron, our new Director of Communications & Parish Life, will enable us to grow and facilitate volunteer opportunities with other outreach partners and help organize hands-on participation.

The children and youth of St. Mary's are also strong participants in outreach. This year, St. Mary's children raised money in their Sunday School classes throughout the year and donated it to CARITAS. Our youth have participated in the Diocesan service day at Shalom Farms and have their own homegrown mission trip this summer at Shalom Farms and Grace and Holy Trinity Church's soup kitchen. They are excited about planning future mission trips farther afield.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

-BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, PAGE 366

Some of St. Mary's outreach partners include:

- CARITAS
- CrossOver Healthcare Ministry
- Elk Hill
- Gateway Homes, Inc
- Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services
- Peter Paul Development Center
- St. Andrew's School

