

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MINISTRIES *Guide*

MINISTRIES *at St. Mary's*



At St. Mary's, ministries help us grow in faith, build relationships, and share God's love.

Whether you feel called to serve during worship, deepen your faith through learning, care for and support fellow members, reach out to neighbors in the wider community, or simply enjoy time together, there is a place for you here.

Our ministries offer opportunities for people of all ages and interests to connect, serve, learn, and grow. Through these shared experiences, we strengthen our community and live out our faith together.

We invite you to explore these opportunities and discover where God may be calling you to serve.

For the latest ministry offerings, contact information, and next steps for getting involved, visit StMarysGoochland.org or scan the QR code. You are always welcome to contact the Parish Office for assistance in connecting with a ministry as well.



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WORSHIP *Ministries*



Altar Guild

Altar Guild members prepare the altar for worship and special services, care for linens and sacred vessels, and create beautiful floral arrangements that reflect the natural surroundings of St. Mary's. Serving in rotating teams, members share fellowship and reverence while quietly supporting our worship life throughout the year.



Acolytes

Beginning in 4th grade, parishioners are invited to serve as acolytes—assisting clergy and participating in nearly every part of the service. From lighting candles to leading the processional and helping prepare the altar for Holy Communion, acolytes play a meaningful role in worship and grow in faith through active service.



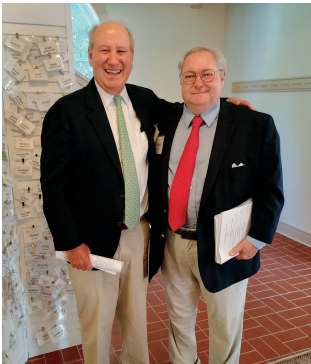
Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) are trained members who assist the clergy at the altar and help distribute Holy Communion. Their steady presence and faithful service are a vital part of our worship, offering the chalice and helping ensure that all who come forward may receive the sacrament with care and grace.

WORSHIP *Ministries*

Intercessors & Readers

Lay intercessors and readers help lead worship by proclaiming Scripture, leading the psalm, and offering the prayers of the people. This meaningful ministry invites parishioners to use their voices in service, guiding the congregation in prayer and reflection each week.



Ushers & Greeters

Ushers and greeters offer hospitality from the moment worshipers arrive—greeting them at the door, sharing bulletins, collecting the offering, and guiding Communion. They also bring forward the bread and wine, assist as needed, and help create a welcoming, orderly experience.

Funeral Volunteers

Funeral volunteers offer compassion and hospitality during memorial services. They welcome guests, provide bulletins, assist with seating, and help guide visitors unfamiliar with St. Mary's—ensuring families and friends feel supported and cared for during funeral services.



WORSHIP *Ministries*



Wedding Ministry

The Wedding Ministry supports couples and families as they prepare for their special day at St. Mary's. Members attend rehearsals and weddings, ensuring every detail reflects warmth, beauty, and hospitality so the celebration is seamless and joyful for all involved.

Photo courtesy of Hadley Miller.



Parking Ministry

The Parking Ministry helps parishioners and guests safely navigate our campus during special liturgies and events. Volunteers provide directions, assist with traffic flow, and offer a warm welcome, helping everyone arrive with confidence and ease.

MUSIC *Ministries*

Adult Choir

The St. Mary's Adult Choir leads worship at the 11 a.m. service from September through late spring, offering music in the Anglican tradition—from Byrd and Bach to modern composers. Rehearsing weekly, the choir welcomes new volunteer singers from high school onward with prior musical experience to join this vibrant ministry.



Handbell Choirs

Handbell choirs at St. Mary's are open to all ages—children, youth, and adults—and no prior musical experience is needed. With regular rehearsals, ringers worship through music and contribute to services and special events, sharing joy and praise through this fun, musical ministry.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:4-5

FORMATION *Ministries*

ADULT OFFERINGS



Lectionary Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study meets weekly to explore the Scripture readings appointed for the coming Sunday. Together, they ask questions, share insights, and discuss God's Word in a welcoming space.



Book Groups

Our Book Groups gather for short-term studies throughout the year, reading a variety of fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, and theological works. These groups offer thoughtful conversation and fellowship.



Men's Spiritual Practice

Men of all ages gather virtually for an hour of silence, reflection, sharing, and prayer. Centered on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading, this weekly practice offers space for spiritual growth and connection.



Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground is The Episcopal Church's dialogue series on race and American history. Through films, readings, reflection, and conversation, participants explore these topics through a faith-based lens.

FORMATION *Ministries*

CHILDREN & YOUTH OFFERINGS

Children's Ministry

St. Mary's Children's Ministry aims to create a community for infants through 5th graders where they are known, loved, and belong. Through worship, learning, and fun, there are a variety of opportunities for families to grow in faith together.



Sunday School: Weekly faith formation & activities for children.

Children's Chapel: Exploration of the Sunday readings during the sermon.

Potluck Church: Monthly family-friendly worship service and dinner.

Nursery: Care and playtime offered during the Sunday services.

Vacation Bible School & On-The-Go Camp: A week of fellowship, fun, and faith formation for children ages 4 through rising 5th graders.



Youth Ministry

St. Mary's Youth Ministry provides a loving community that accompanies and supports youth grades 6-12 as they grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and discover ways to share Christ's love with the world and with one another.

Youth Group: Monthly faith-formation activities offering food & fellowship.

Youth Bible Study: Monthly exploration of Scripture on a variety of themes.

Confirmation: Annual course for 8th graders and above to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Social & Service Events: Various seasonal opportunities to connect, serve, and grow in community.

PASTORAL CARE *Ministries*



Pastoral Care Teams

Pastoral Care Teams support parishioners in times of joy and sorrow through cards, visits, meals, prayer, and care. They offer a compassionate presence and practical support as an extension of Christ's love.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry gathers monthly to knit, crochet, or weave shawls while praying for those in need. Each shawl is a tangible sign of care from the St. Mary's community. All skill levels are welcome.



Men's Meal Ministry

The Men's Meal Ministry meets regularly to prepare and freeze meals for parishioners in need. They help extend care beyond Sunday by providing these ready-to-deliver meals for the Pastoral Care Teams.



Weed On! Ministry

The Weed On! team gathers occasionally to care for our church grounds—planting, pruning, and tidying garden beds. Volunteers enjoy fellowship as they help keep our campus beautiful.

OUTREACH *Ministries*

Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Ministry builds partnerships in the greater Goochland and Richmond communities, offering opportunities for the whole parish to serve. From food drives and meal preparation to financial grants and hands-on volunteering, they work together to support neighbors in need with compassion and commitment.



Service Trips

St. Mary's participates in domestic and international mission partnerships for youth and adults, traveling to places such as Ecuador and Kenya to walk alongside our neighbors in Christ. Through shared worship, service, and relationship-building, we deepen connections and seek to live out our call to be disciples in the world.

BBQ & Brews Ministry

BBQ & Brews is an annual fundraiser supporting St. Mary's Outreach Ministry through an adults-only evening of food, music, raffles, and fellowship. Volunteers help bring the event to life through a variety of fun and flexible roles, including planning, ticket sales, sponsorships, day-of support, and more.



PARISH LIFE

Ministries



Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry nourishes our parish through food, fellowship, and hospitality, organizing monthly breakfasts and suppers and supporting special events. With opportunities for all skill levels, members cook, serve, and decorate, helping build connections and community around the table.



Welcomers Ministry

The Welcomers Ministry helps make St. Mary's a place where everyone feels at home. By connecting with visitors and new members, serving as monthly contacts, and meeting regularly to strengthen hospitality, this team fosters belonging and invites newcomers into the life of our church.



Eldergarten

Eldergarten was lovingly created by senior parishioners who wondered, "If there is Kindergarten for children, why not Eldergarten for elders?" This ministry offers programs, fellowship, and learning opportunities designed especially for older adults, fostering connection, enrichment, and joyful community.

LEADERSHIP & *Standing Committees*

Vestry

Elected parish leaders who work with the rector to discern vision, guide ministry, and oversee the governance and well-being of St. Mary's over a three-year term.

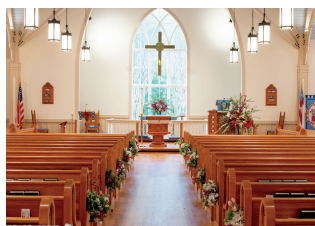


Buildings & Grounds Committees

Steward and maintain St. Mary's buildings, grounds, and facilities with the Executive Director, helping ensure the campus remains safe and operational.

Finance Committee

Supports St. Mary's financial health through budgeting, planning, and fiscal oversight alongside the Executive Director, rector, vestry, and Treasurer.



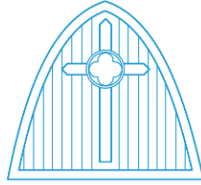
Stewardship Committee

Leads the annual giving campaign by creating themes and materials, and encourages faithful generosity to support St. Mary's mission and ministries.

Children & Youth Planning Committees

Partner with staff to plan, support, and strengthen programs, events, and faith formation opportunities for children, youth, and families.





ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connect With Us!

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