



May 15

**ST. MARY'S
FISHERMAN
April – May 2016**

**St. Mary's Episcopal
Church-Fleeton**

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St. Mary's: where the road begins...



This Sunrise of Wonder

“But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened (Luke 24:12)

Since the change in time, I have been getting up what seems earlier. With daylight savings I am never really sure what the real time is. But I have been getting up early enough to enjoy the sunrise. Whether or not I am up to see it, it happens, regularly, daily. It is never quite the same but always amazing. It is a wonder.

It seems strange to me that we humans count the “Wonders of the World” as human accomplishment; the Taj Mahal, the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Many of the Ancient wonders don't even exist today. And what about the modern wonders? All man-made. The Panama Canal, The Netherlands North Sea Protection Works, The Empire State Building, The Golden Gate Bridge, The Tunnel under the Channel between Great Brittan and France; how long will they last?

Only the achievements of God go on forever, the sunrise, springtime, the sound of the waves coming ashore, the beautiful Virginia Blue Heron that visited the pond behind my cottage yesterday and the love, kindness, and compassion we share with one another. These are the truer wonders of the world and their impact on the world is ever more powerful and transformative.

As we enter the Easter Season, let us be about bringing to light the wonder of God and his kingdom into the Northern Neck, into Virginia, and into the world. Like Peter, be amazed at the God who has overcome death, the last enemy, so that we may live, fully and wholly in this world and the next.

Looking to the health and well-being of the St. Mary's family, the vestry has called for a Town Hall Gathering after church on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th, to share with everyone our goals and strategies for attaining these goals in the coming year. Please plan to attend. We are given much by God and, as stewards of God's good news, we can rejoice in the work and purpose God has given us to share this, the worlds greatest and eternal wonder, with the world.

May the joy of Easter and the power of the risen Christ be yours today and all through your lives.

Sandi+



St. Mary's Leadership:

Priest-In-Charge:

Rev. Sandi Mizirl

Vestry:

- Michael DeGroot, Sr. Warden*
- Bud Bolger, Jr. Warden*
- Beverley Biddlecomb*
- Jan Boyd*
- Betty Gasper*
- Lee Harrison*
- Bill Henderson*

Treasurers:

- Judith DeGroot*
- Betty Gasper*

Registrar:

Lee Harrison

Parish Administrator:

Christine Nagle

Minister of Music:

Carina Harrison

Council Delegate:

Kathy Corsa

ECW President:

Marcia Adams

Thrift Shop Manager:

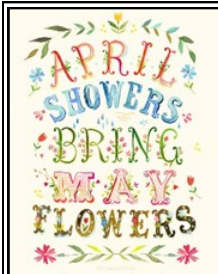
Joy Bolger

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**** WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY — APRIL 6 — 9:30 AM ****

**** BLESSING OF THE FLEET — MAY 1 — 4 PM ****

**** TOWN HALL MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCH — MAY 15 ****

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Please ask God to grant comfort and strength to: Zachary Tucker, Jean and Bill Hudnall, Winifred Delano, Tris Hyde, John Collins, Alene Robinson, Gerrie Burke, Patricia Hoppe, Martha and Aubrey Henry, Ada Williams, Rachel Elliott, Roy Lange, Lee Haynie, Becky Thrift and Lois Hett.

Also, please remember in your prayers the following, whose conditions are not currently acute, but who are still in need of our continued prayers: Ron Andrews, Madelyn Davis, Al & Lee Dean, Robert Hamilton, Joan Oliver, Morty & Jeff Paulis, Grace Rice, Carol Wiley, and Alice Virginia Sparks (granddaughter).

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 3, 2016

The members agreed to continue to follow the suggestions and practices outlined in Chapter III of the Vestry Resource Guide.

It was decided that all vestry reports would be emailed to members in advance of meeting dates – by the first of the month; and that the date and time of the monthly meetings would be changed to the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm, to allow a current report from the Treasurer and to allow an opportunity for all members to attend all meetings in a timely fashion.

The members approved a request from Rev. Mizirl to shift her salary to increase her housing allowance to \$20,000.00.

The members went over categories of the Mutual Ministry Review; and added, combined and deleted topics under the categories as needed. The members were asked to rate categories and comment on topics where they see attention needed, by March 1.

Beverly Biddlecomb agreed to write a list of positive ways we conduct our Vestry Meetings which will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Jan Boyd agreed to call VDOT about the feasibility of erecting a directional sign for St. Mary's at the intersection of Fleeton Road and Rt. 360 in Reedville.

Beverly Biddlecomb agreed to ask Marguerite Slaughter to write an article about Bishop Susan Goff's visitation for the local papers.

March 9, 2016

The Mutual Ministry Review was collated by Betty Gasper and Bud Bolger. The members discussed the findings and asked Betty and Bud to do the final write-up to complete Session I. The members were asked to prepare for Session II for the April meeting, in order to stay on track for the May 15 Town Hall Meeting.

It was reported that the Town Hall Meeting will be May 15 after the church service, to share and discuss our Mutual Ministry Review.

Rev. Sandi Mizirl said that she will talk to Joy Bolger about interviewing people for a news article about St Mary's Thrift Shop, and that she will ask Marguerite about writing the article for the newspaper.

Beverly Biddlecomb volunteered to develop welcome packets for newcomers to the community and anyone interested in attending St. Mary's. She said she will ask Janet Lewis to be on a committee which will include Rev. Sandi.

The members agreed to lend our tent to Hughlett's Tavern for their Kentucky Derby fundraiser.

Bill Henderson brought up Box Tops for Education. He said he will ask Mary Lynn Slaughter to write an article on the subject for the newsletter.

Michael DeGroot volunteered to serve as Sr Warden. The members unanimously elected him to that position.

(Continued on next page)

Vestry Highlights (continued)

The members agreed that the carpets in the parish hall, the Treasurer's office and the nursery need to be cleaned; and that the Movie Committee and the pancake supper organizers will be asked for money to help defray the cost.

The members agreed to loan the Catechesis of the Good Shepard materials to Light of Christ Anglican Church, with the stipulation that they provide a timeline and commitment date for the return.

It was reported that the DuPont Foundation will conduct a workshop on March 22 regarding a new electronic grant applications and reports submission process.

It was reported that the Diocese of Virginia will conduct a Refugee Settlement Networking Day on April 9; and that Rev. Mizirl and Linda Jamison will be attending.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 46TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

A St. Mary's committee is planning for the 46th annual Blessing of the Fleet. The committee, comprised of Beverley Biddlecomb, Janet Lewis, Paul Sparks, and Bud Bolger, has already made great strides in laying the ground work for this annual event.

The fleet blessing marks the beginning of the fishing season at Omega Protein. At the event, several choirs, including St. Mary's, Bethany Methodist, and the Reedville Festival Hall Chorale will present a number of hymns and other music related to fishing and maritime life; and a number of clergy from our area will read Bible passages relating to an abundant fishing season, the safety and protection of the fishermen at sea, and a blessing for those lost at sea. The primary speaker will be our good friend, Rev. Jim Godwin, and the Harbor Master will be our own Ray Rogers.

The event will take place on Sunday, May 1st, at Omega's site off of Fleeton Road, at 4:00 PM. The parade of boats will begin at 3:30 PM. We are hoping for a good turnout this year, so please plan to attend. Although some seating is provided, you may want to bring your own lawn chair just in case.

~ Bud Bolger



MEALS ON WHEELS DATES

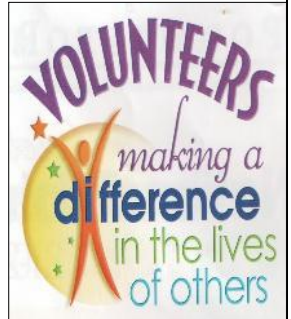
St. Mary's is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels on the following dates in April and May: **Monday, April 25, Wednesday, April 27, Friday, April 29; Monday, May 23; Wednesday, May 25; and Friday, May 27.**

PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS NAGLE IF YOU CAN DELIVER MEALS ON WHEELS IN APRIL OR MAY



THRIFT SHOP HELP NEEDED

Despite all our pleas for additional volunteers to work at St. Mary's Thrift Shop, we are still badly understaffed. **We have recurring vacancies on three Saturdays and one Tuesday every month.** We have substitute volunteers who are willing to fill in if they are available, but there are not enough of them to fill *all* the vacancies. Month after month, some regularly-scheduled volunteers have to work extra shifts to keep the shop covered.



It should come as no surprise that Saturday is the biggest sales day of the week. This is the day we earn the most money – **money that supports our church and our outreach activities.** On Saturday, March 19th, the shop had to be closed due to a lack of volunteers. Closing the shop on any Saturday results in the loss of an average of about \$250 in revenue; and we often earn significantly more than that on Saturdays during the Spring and Summer months.

The thrift shop currently provides support in the amount of \$20,000 a year to St. Mary's Church; and a good deal of this money is earned on Saturdays. If we have to continue closing the shop on Saturdays, it could negatively impact the amount of support we are able to provide the church.

The thrift shop itself is an important outreach mission that fulfills a need in our community. It provides a low-cost shopping alternative to those who cannot afford high retail prices. It is rewarding and dignified work.

Women *and men* of St. Mary's, if you do not already do so, please think about volunteering at the shop. Just a few hours a week of your time would be a big help. Substitute volunteers, please carefully consider taking on a regular weekly shift.

Thank you. ~ Joy Bolger

THE CHOIR IS RECOGNIZED



February 14 was Choir Appreciation Day at St. Mary's. During the service that morning, each member received a certificate of appreciation "In Recognition for Making Beautiful Music to the Glory of God and the delight of all." After the service the members were treated to a special coffee hour, featuring a cake decorated with an image of a singing choir and the words "Hitting Lovely Notes."

The choir members would now like to express *their* appreciation to the St. Mary's parishioners for this lovely occasion. THANK YOU!

~ Joy Bolger

APRIL - MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

13 Kelda Jamison
18 Cary Jones
26 Bill Slaughter

April Anniversaries

27 Paige and Charlie Biddlecomb

May Birthdays

1 Erin Corsa
2 Ann Haynie
3 Dave Henderson
8 Dawn Biddlecomb
11 Phyllis Neal
14 Beverley Biddlecomb
26 Ada Williams
28 Jim Adams

May Anniversaries

24 Sarah and Cary Jones
26 Dawn and Joseph Biddlecomb



BISHOP GOFF VISITS ST. MARY'S

On Sunday, February 21st, we were honored by a visit from the Right Reverend Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia, who led our 11am worship service. A pot-luck luncheon in her honor was served in the parish hall following the service, before she had to leave for St. Stephen's to lead a 2pm service there. Our wonderful cooks and bakers outdid themselves, and it was more like a feast than a luncheon. Many thanks to all who contributed!



BOXTOPS AND CAMPBELLS' SOUP LABELS

Students, teachers, and friends of the community have collected Box tops for Education and Campbells' Soup Labels for the Northumberland Elementary School for several years. This is a very worthwhile project and so easy to do. Simply cut out the box tops from many different packaged foods and soup labels, put them in an envelope, and bring them to me at church once a year!!!! Or more often.

The school receives ten cents for each box top. A yearly check is sent to our Parent Faculty Organization, and then teachers select items needed for classrooms. Usually we allow the physical education teacher and the music teacher to pick what they want. We have received numerous musical instruments, kick balls, volleyballs and nets, hula hoops, a mobile cart for storage, and lots more. Campbells does the same thing, but each classroom teacher gets a wish list to select items for the classroom. I have received numerous markers, incentive stickers, whiteboard markers, and lots more. This saves the individual teacher from using his/her money to purchase items for the class.

Please start saving your box tops and labels and help support Northumberland Elementary School. A special thank-you to Gus who has done this for us for many years!!!! We do appreciate it.

~ Mary Lynn Slaughter



April 22



May 8



May 30

EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDATION VITAL PRACTICES



ECF Vital Practices offers church members resources and tools to respond to the changing needs of the church. Vital Practices explores new ways of supporting congregations by building online communities of Episcopalians who share their stories, experiences, and best practices, who learn from one another. It includes articles by experts and peers, blogs for sharing ideas about faith and leadership, stories about real life lessons of change and leadership, tools for stewardship, communications, and opportunities to share your stories and examples.

You can subscribe to ECF Vital Practices for articles, tools, and resources by going to www.ecfvp.org. with a subscription you'll receive 12 issues of Vestry Papers, notification of new Vital Posts blogs, as well as the monthly Vital Practices Digest delivered to your inbox, all for free. Subscribers can also make comments on the site and make submissions to the user-generated resources in the Your Turn section of ECF Vital Practices.

~ Bud Bolger

2016 PANCAKE SUPPER REPORT

This year's results were an improvement over last year's, probably because it was held on the proper day. We had 68 paying customers and eight gift contributions. Sandi supplied fruit and bacon which made the plates look like a dinner meal.



In addition, our 20 servers were fed. We had pancake flour left over from last year, so the men's group expenses were less than last year; and the pancake flour that I purchased this year will be saved for next year.

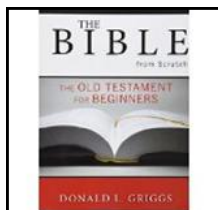
We expect to present a gift of \$700 to the vestry to use as they please. We were able to get to this total with two of the servers purchasing the left-over sausages.

My thanks to all the men and boys who performed their assigned tasks with great spirit and speed. With this kind of help we could run a fine restaurant.

Finally, thank you members and guests who are the ones who make our gift possible..

~ Randy & Paul

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN



Hear and discuss the stories of the Old Testament. The study will begin Wednesday, April 6th at 9:30am in the Library at St. Mary's, Fleeton. The group will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. *The Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament for Beginners* by Donald L. Griggs will be used as supplemental material and can be ordered on-line through Amazon.com. If you do not have internet and would like to have the book, contact Rev. Sandi and she will order it for you. The books range from \$7 to \$15 depending on from whom you order the book. Anyone needing financial assistance should speak to Rev. Sandi. The readings from the Bible to be read for the gathering on April 6th include:

Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4b & 2:4b-25

First Sin: Genesis 3:1-24

Cain murders Able: Genesis 4:1-16

Human wickedness: Genesis 6:1-4

Noah: Genesis 6:9-9:28

Tower of Babel: 11:1-9

Bring your questions and comments about the stories to the first gathering for discussion. All are welcome

APRIL MOVIE LINEUP

Admission free. Doors Open at 7:00 PM; movie Starts at 7:30. Popcorn and Soft Drinks at a Nominal Charge.

April 1 — **What We Did On Our Holiday** — 2015 (PG-13)

Rosamund Pike, David Tennant and Billy Connolly star in this hilarious and up-lifting comedy for the whole family. Doug and Abi take their kids on a family vacation. Surrounded by relatives, the kids innocently reveal the ins and outs of their family life and many intimate details about their parents. It's soon clear that when it comes to keeping a big secret under wraps from the rest of the family, their children are their biggest liability. ~ Amazon

April 8 — **Bridge of Spies** — 2015 (PG-13)

James Donovan (Tom Hanks) is a Brooklyn lawyer who finds himself thrust into the center of the Cold War when the CIA sends him on a nearly impossible mission to negotiate the release of a captured American U-2 pilot. High stakes and suspense power a story that captures the essence of a man who risked everything, vividly bringing his personal journey to life. ~ Amazon

April 15 — **Mission Impossible, Rogue Nation** — 2015 (PG-13)

Ethan and team take on their most impossible mission yet, eradicating the Syndicate - an International rogue organization as highly skilled as they are, committed to destroying the IMF. ~ Amazon

April 22 — **Suffragette**— 2015 (PG-13)

Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter, and Meryl Streep star in this powerful drama, inspired by true events, about the women willing to lose everything in their fight for equality in early-20th-century Britain. ~ Amazon

April 29 — **Big Stone Gap**— 2000 (PG)

It's 1978 and the ever-ordinary Ave Maria Mulligan leads a simple life. She lives with her mother, runs the pharmacy, directs The Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama, and hopes that her best friend will take their platonic friendship in a romantic direction. A long-buried family secret throws her quiet life spectacularly off course. Big Stone Gap is a love letter to small-town life, working people and the triumph of love. ~ Amazon

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 9:30 AM
ST. MARY'S LIBRARY

VESTRY MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 6 PM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 6 PM

MOVIE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 11 AM
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 11 AM

LUNCH BUNCH
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 NOON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 NOON



46 TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 4 PM
(BOAT PARADE - 3:30 PM)



ST. MARY'S TOWN HALL MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCH
SUNDAY, MAY 15, FOLLOWING THE SERVICE