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Both cover photo and photo this page by Sue Cromer

Epiphany Feast of Lights

Saturday, January 6, 5:00 pm

St. Mary's Youth and St. Mary's Choir will lead this joyful conclusion to the Christmas season. The drama of the Epiphany will be re-enacted through readings, carols and with the colorful costuming of the Three Kings in procession. A reception will follow.

Hymn for Epiphany

Hymn No. 124, What star is this

This hymn was originally written in Latin by Charles Coffin as an evening hymn for the Epiphany (January 6). Our English translation was first published in 1827. The 15th century tune was paired with the text in the Episcopal Hymnal 1940 and has enjoyed wide use and acceptance since then. The hymn paraphrases the story of the journey made by the Magi to visit the infant Jesus by a guiding star, using the star and light as metaphors for God's guidance, Old Testament messianic prophecy, and the first two persons of the Trinity, God the Father and Christ the Son.

Pastor, Priest & Prophet

by Reverend Andrew T.P. Merrow, Rector

Dear Friends,

Pastor, Priest and Prophet:

These 3 identities are descriptive not only of the ordained clergy but of all followers of Jesus Christ. Some of us find that one of those roles resonates more than another, but all are important.

The pastoral ministry is the care that we choose to provide one another. It isn't limited to hospital visits or counseling in times of distress, but rather, encompasses the totality of who we collectively are. Being greeted outside on Christmas Eve makes incarnate the welcome that all may expect once inside the church. Have you noticed our new -"All are welcome"- signs that have been added on both sides of the church? Perhaps we could have greeters out on the sidewalks every Sunday so that smiles and greetings would inform every person who joined for worship. If enough people signed up, maybe only once or twice a year would you have to come a little early to church. Meals that Heal is a powerful witness that we care and notice especially at times of stress in the lives of individuals and families. We have had small fellowship dinners in the past hosted in different parishioners' homes. Shall we continue those in 2024? You may have other ideas how we can strengthen our care for one another. Please don't be shy about sharing your ideas and leadership in making



them a reality.

"The Letter of First Peter makes a powerful witness that not only clergy but all of the baptized comprise the true priesthood."

The Letter of First Peter makes a powerful witness that not only clergy but all of the baptized comprise the true priesthood. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." (2:9-10)

The work of the church is the work of the baptized. We gather week by week not out of a sense of obligation but the recognition that we are being shaped over a lifetime more and more into the image of Christ. Human beings are beings of ritual. To participate on a regular basis in the great drama of our salvation, to be nourished in God's Word and Sacrament and the fellowship of God's people, is to be re-formed into the full stature of Christ. The celebrant presides over worship but we are the leaders of worship through our prayers and hymns of praise. The Book of Common Prayer is in and of itself one of our greatest treasures. Its riches reward exploration many times over.

Finally the prophetic witness of the Church is an essential aspect of our identity and our health. We are clear that every human being is a beloved child of God regardless of the things that some think should exclude them. There is no "other" in the eyes of the Church. We try hard to address not only immediate occasions of suffering but also the systemic problems that afflict us, both near and far. We try to take seriously that "when one suffers, we all suffer". Ours is the generation that must grapple with so much happening so quickly that we can lose our grounding, our center, our rootedness in our crucified and risen Savior. We have lifesaving news to share with a world that is in danger of destroying itself. God counts on us to do the work entrusted to us as the Church, the Body of Christ, to make known to the world the love of God perfectly revealed in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to save the world, whether it knows it or not. May we embrace the Year of Our Lord 2024 with a renewed commitment to be credible and effective priests, prophets and pastors.

"There is no 'other' in the eyes of the Church."

May the Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Andrew+

Welcome to St. Mary's

Reverend Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart

by *The Rev. Janettarose Greene*



As we pause to celebrate Black history during the month of February, we should be mindful about recognizing and acknowledging the achievements, contributions, and struggles of African Americans throughout history. While St. Mary's is committed to breaking down barriers and fostering understanding we can only do this by experiencing different perspectives. Learning from others only strengthens our sense of unity; enabling us to be more intentional about promoting a spirit of love, acceptance, and mutual support as we strive to have a more inclusive future.

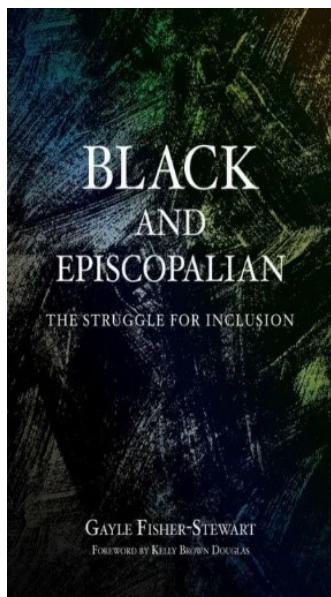
Please join me in giving a hearty St. Mary's welcome to Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart who will be both our 9:00AM Adult Forum speaker and 10:00AM Holy Eucharist service homilist on Sunday, February 4th. Before entering ordained ministry, Rev. Dr. Fisher-Stewart worked as a police officer for 20 years in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department retiring as a police chief in 1992. Rev. Dr. Fisher-Stewart earned her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Maryland. She was ordained in 2015 after earning her MDiv from Wesley Theological Seminary. While serving as associate rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., Fisher-Stewart founded the Center for the Study of Faith in Justice. Prior to retirement in 2023, she served as the interim priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Washington. She is the president of the Washington, D.C. chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and serves as the chaplain for the Takoma Park Police Department in Maryland.



She was the 2015 recipient of the Director's Award from the Episcopal Evangelism Society. In 2017, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Colgate University. She has written on race, policing, and The Episcopal Church. "*To Serve and Protect: Race, the Police and the Episcopal Church in the Black Lives Matter Era*" was published in the Summer (2017) edition of the Anglican Theological Review. Her book, *Preaching Black Lives Matter* (2020) asks and answers the question, what would the church look like if black lives mattered? Her newest book, *Black and Episcopalian: The Struggle for Inclusion* (2022) asks the question—can she be both Black and Episcopalian?

Plan to stay for a few minutes after the 10AM service for coffee and a book signing. We will have copies of Rev. Dr. Fisher-Stewart's books available for purchase in the Church office or you can use the Amazon links contained herein.

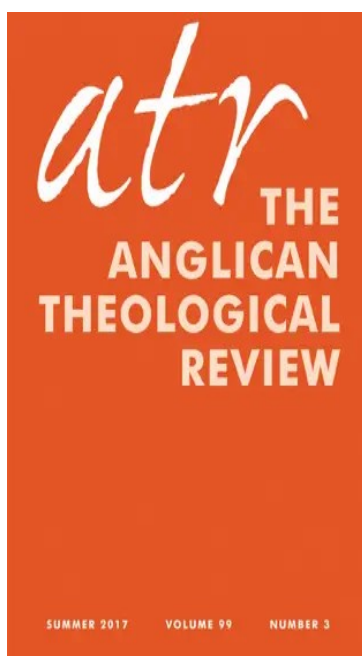
About the Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart's books and article . . .



Historically, to be Episcopal/Anglican, as it was to be American, was to be white. Assimilation to whiteness has been a measure of success and acceptance, yet, assimilation requires that people of color give up something of themselves and deny parts of their heritage including religious practices that sustained their ancestors. Even though Blackness is on display during Black History Month for example, and Black/African heritage is given primacy in the liturgy, music, and preaching during that time, at other times this doesn't seem to be the case. The author argues that whiteness is embedded in every aspect of religious life, from seminary to Christian education to last rites. Is it possible to be Black and Episcopalian and not feel alien, she asks. From her words we learn that inclusivity, above all, must be authentic.

<https://www.amazon.com/Black-Episcopalian-Inclusion-Gayle-Fisher-Stewart/dp/164065478X>

There's a saying in the Black church, "If it isn't preached from the pulpit, it isn't important." This collection of reflections is an incisive look into that future today. It explains why preaching about race is important in the elimination of racism in the church and society, and how preaching can transform hearts. While programs, protests, conferences, and laws are all important and necessary, less frequently discussed is the role of the church, specifically the Anglican Church and Episcopal Church, in ending systems of injustice. The ability to preach from the pulpit is mandatory for every person, clergy or lay, regardless of race, who has the responsibility to spread the gospel.



To serve and protect. We see the slogan emblazoned on the sides of police cars, recruits and officers hear it from their instructors at the academy. It is also a mandate of the church. Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth and proclaims his mission is to serve and protect the vulnerable, the oppressed (Luke 4:16-21). As we embrace Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's call to be part of the Jesus Movement, we are called to eliminate all barriers that keep God's people from being what God calls them to be. One of those barriers is the fractured relationship black Americans have long had with the law and those who enforce it; from laws that kept them indentured and then enslaved to laws that codified the belief that black Americans were only three-fifths of a human being, to laws that denied them basic human rights and encouraged mass incarceration and annihilation. These laws continue to have their impact on the life chances of black Americans to this day.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/to-serve-and-to-protect-atr-gayle-fisher-stewart.pdf>

New Year, New Chapter!

by Jackie Ly

Youth and Family Formation Minister



Happy New Year, St. Mary's friends! January begins a NEW Chapter in the growing and thriving life of our children and youth ministry, and it is one that I look forward to writing with you all as co-authors and co-laborers. I have always said that it takes a village to raise a child, to launch them into each new phase of life with confidence, perseverance and assurance that they are loved, cherished and essential members of this local and global community. This is how I would continue writing our story, and I look forward to discovering our shared ministry together!

There once was a church family who knew what to do.
They were leaders, and helpers and youth mentors too.
They united to model how to be of service,
and helped our kids see that every opportunity has purpose.

Maybe they pondered becoming a mission trip chaperone! (we are returning to New Bern, NC to help hurricane victims June 16-22, 2024- the deadline for youth registrations is JANUARY 21ST and chaperones are essential!)

Maybe they considered becoming a Confirmation Mentor to our next class of candidates! (The program for current 8th graders and older begins in March.

Maybe they wanted to lend a hand with our youngest members in Children's Chapel, or help bring snack to Sunday School!

Maybe they wanted to help with community outreach projects, or hold youth events at their home or in their backyard!

Maybe they wanted to attend listening sessions with staff to offer their hopes and dreams for our young people at St. Mary's! Join Clergy and Staff for an opportunity to share your hopes and dreams for our Youth Ministry at St. Mary's!

LISTENING SESSIONS

For Sr. High Youth: Wed., Jan. 10, 7-8:30pm, Paca Hall, and
Sunday, Jan. 21, 11:15 am-12:15pm in the Sr. High Classroom.

For Parents of Teens: Sunday, Jan. 14, 9-9:45am, Vestry Room.
Thursday, Feb. 1st, 6:30-8pm, Paca Hall.

For All Interested Parishioners: Monday, Feb. 5th, 6:30-8pm, Paca Hall.

Your RSVP is requested! Click on the Sign Up Genius link below:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B45A4AA23A1FB6-47065426-youth>

This church family that knew what to do, found ways to be helpers, and you can be one too!

Join us in ministry this year!

Contact Jackie Ly at Jackie.ly@stmarysarlington.org or

The Rev. Janettarose Greene at Janettarose.greene@stmarysarlington.org

if you would like to get involved!

ADULT FORUMS, 2024

9:00-9:45AM, SUNDAYS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE
WWW.STMARYSARLINGTON.ORG

1

1/7: Highlights coming up in 2024, discussion with Fr. Merrow
1/14: Parents of Children Group and Parents of Teens Group downstairs with Clergy. Coffee Hour Upstairs
1/21: Background on our Beloved Hymns with Dr. Gregory Hooker
1/28: Bishop's Visit, Coffee Hour at 9am, Reception at 11:15am

2

2/4: Black Womanist Theology with the Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart
2/11: Parents of Children Group and Parents of Teens Group downstairs. What is Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Tennebrae and Maundy Thursday with Fr. Merrow upstairs
2/18: Christian Preparation for the End of this Life with Fr. Merrow
2/25: Why is Good Friday called Good, and what is the Easter Vigil?

3

3/3: Peggy Parker and The Art of Holy Week
3/10: Parents of Children Group and Parents of Teens Group downstairs. Vestry Reflections on the Vestry and Staff Retreat in February upstairs
3/17: Merrow Fellow, the Very Rev. Dr. Gloria Lita D. Mapangdol- What can we learn from the Church of the Philippines
3/24: Coffee Hour for Palm Sunday
3/31: Easter services at 5:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am

4

4/7: How does Systemic Poverty Happen? Forum with AFAC CEO Charlie Meng
4/14: Parents of Children Group and Parents of Teens Group downstairs. Lectionary Bible Study upstairs
4/21: Care of Creation Ministry Presentation
4/28: Panel with our Past Sr. Wardens

5

5/5: Annual Meeting
5/12: Youth Sunday and Mother's Day: Final Parents of Children Group and Parents of Teens Group downstairs. Coffee Hour upstairs
5/19: Help us celebrate the Final Sunday School/ Youth Forums of the program year, Music Ministry Sunday AND Pentecost with a festive coffee hour
5/26: Coffee Hour

6

6/2: Coffee Hour
6/9: Coffee Hour (Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont)
6/16: Coffee Hour
6/23: Coffee Hour
6/30: Coffee Hour

Friday, January 19, 2024

8:00 pm

DR. JOHN J. MITCHELL
Organ Recital

St. Mary Episcopal Church
Arlington, Virginia
Lively-Fulcher Organ



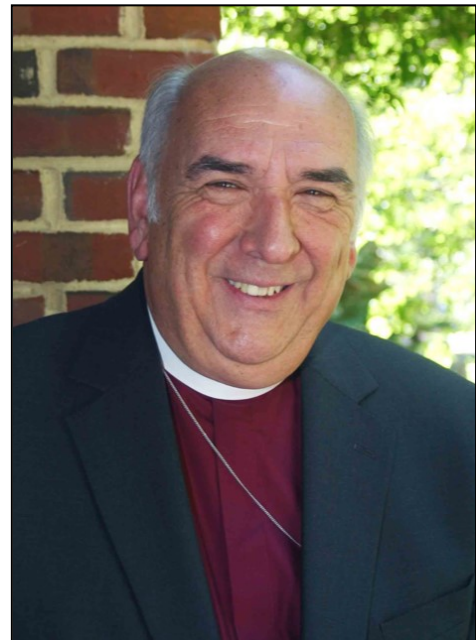
Program includes music by:

- Louis Marchand
- Francisco Correa de Arauxo
- Johann Sebastian Bach
- Maurice Duruflé
- Ethel Smyth
- Rachel Laurin
- William Grant Still
- Naji Hakim

<https://jjmitchellorganist.com>

<https://www.stmarysarlington.org>

Rt. Rev. Bishop James J. Shand
visits St. Mary's Jan. 28th



The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson appointed the Rt. Rev'd James Joseph "Bud" Shand as a Visiting Bishop in the Diocese of Virginia. He will serve in the Diocese from January through May of this year and will be based in Northern Virginia. Bishop Shand will visit St. Mary's on Sunday, January 28 and preside over our 10:00 am Holy Eucharist service, Confirmation and Reception of new members. Bishop Shand is the retired Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Easton (Maryland), where he served from 2003 to 2014.

Choral Evensong
Sunday, February 4, 5:00 pm

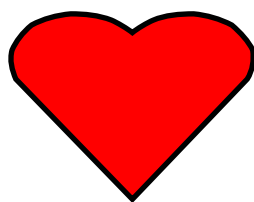
Join the St. Mary's Choir for this contemplative service of

Evening Prayer
as we prepare for our pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral in England
July 29-August 4, 2024



*December saw many events at St. Mary's including
Advent Mart...Chili cook off.....Advent Wreath
making...Youth Parties....Saying goodbye to Mother Sara
and to Sue Cromer....Advent Clean up day with St.
Joseph's Ministry....Father Andrew's birthday... the quiet
beauty of the greening of the church...Christmas Choral
Music....Christmas Eve Services that served 1000
people...Children's Christmas Pageant*

**St. Mary's Welcomes 2024 with
a Heart for all**



we serve!



Chili Cook Off at St. Mary's on December 3rd



Many thanks to Parks Shackelford, Chris Devine, Jackson Devine, Grayson Groeneveld, Christine Hahn, Jim Hahn, Sophie Deegan, Sarah Kinzer, Caroline Mason, Mike Devine, Matt McCracken, Jack Ackerman and Abe Palmer who prepared three excellent batches of chili for the Youth Mission Trip Chili Cook Off Fundraiser on December 3rd! The event raised over \$1,000 to help cover the cost of the mission trip to New Bern, NC in June, 2024. Families made beautiful Advent wreaths at the event and it was a great way to begin the Advent season as a church family.



Advent Clean Up Day, December 9th

Over 35 hearty volunteers, all skill levels gathered on Dec. 9 to prepare the church for Christmas. Many tasks were completed; cleaning all the pews, general cleaning, polishing furniture, multiple repairs, raking all around the outside of the church and set-up for the Giftmart, etc. Thanks to all those who gave their time!



Advent Giftmart Booths were on display both upstairs and downstairs on December 10th.



(above) The well organized Advent Mart under outgoing Outreach Ministry leader, Lynn Fueschel's direction had a wonderful turn out on this rainy Sunday.



(left) Making an Advent Wreath after the Advent Lessons and Carols service.

The Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 4 pm

(below) The pageant had 45 children participate in the live narration of the birth of Christ. Headed up by Jackie Ly, with a host of volunteers, this pageant was the largest in many years.



Happy Birthday Father Andrew!



*We wished
Father Andrew
a Happy Birthday on
December 21!*



**Thank you for your Ministry
at St. Mary's,
Mother Sara & Sue!!**



*We wished
Mother Sara Palmer,
Sr. Associate to the Rector
& Sue Cromer, Youth Minister
a special Good-Bye and God Speed
on December 17th as we celebrated
both their ministries at Coffee hour.*



A Case for Love from Grace-Based Films



Save the date of Jan. 23rd for a film screening of “A Case for Love,” inspired by the teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry. In the documentary, the film team travels across the US, interviewing everyday people from various walks of life and ethnicities, striving to live their lives selflessly. These stories are interwoven with hundreds of person-on-the-street interviews while well-known figures including Pete Buttigieg, Al Roker, Sam Waterston, John Meacham, Jim Clyburn and others weigh in on the subject. In the end, Bishop Michael Curry places what we’ve seen into context. VTS is a supporting partner of the film. The film will be shown in well over 1,000 movie theaters around the country on January 23. For more info. on the movie go to www.acaseforlovemovie.com.



Spotlight on Parishioner Susan Cunningham

December 15, 2023 St Mary's parishioner Susan Cunningham was sworn in as the 75th Arlington County Board member. She was introduced by her mother Trudy Cunningham and her daughter Ruth Cunningham. Her husband Philip Elliot stood with her and held the bible upon which she placed her hand when sworn in by Paul Ferguson, the Clerk of the Court. Parishioners, Maria Dipasquantonio, Paul Douthit along with Mother Janettarose Green attended the ceremony.

Cunningham's speech after being sworn in was inspired by Francis Perkins, the first woman to be Secretary of Labor and to be a Cabinet Secretary and very influential in establishing policies and laws under President Roosevelt's New Deal. She talked about Perkin's embodiment of leadership in five principals and how she would emulate them during her term on the County Board.



Arlington's 2024 MLK Tribute Stones of Hope

Don't miss [Arlington's annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.](#) The program will be held on **Sun., Jan. 14 from 5-6:30 p.m.** at [Wakefield High School](#). Join us as we honor the life and legacy of MLK through the fourteen quotes inscribed at the Stones of Hope memorial in Washington D.C. Learn more about this event here and tell us you're coming on [Facebook!](#)”



Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

2609 N. Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22207

stmarysarlington.org | 703-527-6800

The Diocese and The Vestry

The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson Bishop of Virginia
The Right Reverend Gayle Elizabeth Harris Assistant Bishop of Virginia

Gordon Thomas (2024) *Senior Warden* Gretel Lynch (2024) *Junior Warden*
Colleen Mason (2025) *Register* Dennis Carter-Chand (2024)
Jim Bicksel (2025) David Smith (2025)
Alec Hicks (2026) Melissa Wiley (2026) Chris Jennings (2026)

Full-Time and Volunteer Staff

Phone: 703-527-6800

The Reverend Andrew T.P. Mellow (ext. 306) Rector
The Reverend Janettarose Greene (ext. 316) Associate to the Rector
The Reverend Kate Sonderegger Priest Associate
Greg Williams VTS Seminarian
Jared Moore VTS Seminarian
Dr. Gregory Hooker (ext. 314) Music Minister
Matt Gabay Volunteer Associate Organist
Holly Zarazinski (ext. 307) Finance Manager
Andrea Meier (ext. 315) Parish Admin. & Communications
Jackie Ly (ext. 319) Youth & Family Formation Minister
Jane Shafran (ext. 310) Facilities Manager
Prosper Daziorlor (ext. 322) Assistant Facilities Manager
Deborah Gandy Volunteer Treasurer
Dennis Carter-Chand Part-time Outreach Coordinator



St. Mary's Arlington

Worship · Outreach · Family · Care

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Make your commitment online:

www.stmarysarlington.org/pledge