



FEBRUARY 2026

MESSENGER



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ST. MARY'S
ARLINGTON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Main Phone # 703.527.6800
office@stmarysarlington.org
www.stmarysarlington.org

The Rev. Meg Ingalls
Interim Rector

meg@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 306

The Very Rev. Janettarose L. Greene

Senior Associate to the Rector
janettarose@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 316

The Rev. Nicole Lambelet

Associate to the Rector
nicole@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 308

The Rev. Dr. Kate Sonderegger, Priest Associate
ksonderegger@vts.edu

Zach Ferguson, VTS Seminarian

zach@stmarysarlington.org

Dr. Gregory Hooker, Music Minister

gregory@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 314

Gariné Adams, Wilderness Worship Leader

garineadams@gmail.com

Dr. Matt Gabay, Volunteer Associate Organist

mgabay75@gmail.com

Jackie Vigil, Youth and Family Formation Minister

jackie@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 319

Derek Greten-Harrison

Parish Administrator & Communications Director
derek@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 315

Prosper Daziorlor, Facilities Manager

prosper@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 322

Kelly Marcellus, Finance Manager

kelly@stmarysarlington.org
703.527.6800, ext. 307

John Bednar, IT Support and Live Stream

john@stmarysarlington.org

Deborah Gandy, Volunteer Treasurer

THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson
Bishop of Virginia

The Right Reverend Gayle Elizabeth Harris
Assistant Bishop of Virginia

The Right Reverend Mark Bourlakas
Assistant Bishop of Virginia

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

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Chris Jennings (2026) *Jr. Warden*

Melissa Wiley (2026) *Register*

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A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MEG

Aloha Friends,

Brad and I enjoyed the time in Hawaii. We got up for a sunrise snorkel trip, toured the island, and spent time on the beach and at the pool. It was a time of rest and relaxation. Thank you. Now we are back in time for the winter storm, the vestry retreat, the kick off of the 100th anniversary celebration on February 1, and Confirmation and the Chili Cook-off on February 8.

We also pick up *The Story* class at 7pm on Mondays beginning the 1st Monday in February. If you want to join up or re-join, please do! We will pick up where we left off. And, as always, there is no obligation to be there every week. Be there as you have time.

We are moving forward with appointing a Discernment Committee to search for a new rector. Stay tuned for further developments.

Blessings all,

Meg +



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LOVE IN ACTION

by Colleen Mason

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, joyfully prepares to commemorate 100 years of faithful worship, service, and community. This centennial marks not a single day, but a sacred journey that began in 1926 and unfolded over more than a year. With grateful hearts, we remember our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with hope to the future God is calling us to build together.

Our story began on February 4, 1926, when the first worship service of what would become St. Mary's was held in the Carne School Building, now St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In that humble setting, a small group of faithful Episcopalians gathered in prayer, laying the spiritual foundation for a parish rooted in worship, fellowship, and service.

Later that year, the congregation took bold steps of faith. On June 5, 1926, the groundbreaking for the church building was held, attended by 100 parishioners, a powerful sign of shared commitment and vision. On August 15, 1926, the cornerstone was laid using George Washington's shovel and trowel, linking the life of the parish to a broader historical story and to the enduring hopes placed in this sacred space.

The journey reached another milestone on April 3, 1927, when the first service was held in the newly completed church building. From the first worship service to gathering in a permanent home more than a year later, St. Mary's grew in faith and resilience, shaped by perseverance, prayer, and trust in God's guidance.

Because the founding of St. Mary's unfolded over a full year, the parish will commemorate its 100th Anniversary beginning in February 2026 and continuing through the season of Easter 2027. This extended celebration allows us to honor each milestone thoughtfully and to reflect deeply on the

faithfulness of those who built and sustained this parish across generations. The centennial year will culminate in a fun and final celebration bringing our year of remembrance, gratitude, and hope to a festive close.

Throughout the year our worship will reflect and connect to pieces of our history. During our kick off worship on February 1 at the 10 service we will draw from the Book of Common Prayer ratified in 1926 and include hymns from The Hymnal (1916/1918) Our worship on May 3 will honor our continuing relationship within the Anglican Communion. We will celebrate our stewardship of Mother Earth through observances such as Rogation Sunday and the Season of Creation. Under the leadership of Dr. Gregory Hooker, our choir will perform hymns that celebrate Saint Mary as well as hymns composed specifically for St. Mary's in years past.

As part of the centennial observance, St. Mary's will host four art shows designed to help us reflect on who we have been, who we are, and who God is calling us to be. The first three exhibits will explore our past and present, highlighting memorial gifts, mission work, and the saints—known and unknown—whose faith and dedication shaped the life of this parish.

The final art show will turn our attention toward the future, focusing on creation care as an expression of Christian hope, responsibility, and faithful stewardship. Through this forward-looking theme, we will consider how St. Mary's is called to care for God's creation as part of our witness in the world today and for generations to come.

The centennial year will also include four potluck dinners with guest speakers, offering opportunities for learning, conversation, and fellowship. Topics will include the history of our architecture,

renovations, and commitment to universal access; the story of St. Mary's music ministry, where it has been and where it is going; our long-standing relationship with the Virginia Theological Seminary; and reflections on race, gender, and class in Arlington and at St. Mary's over the past century.

Going forward, please continue to look for articles in the Messenger that highlight our shared history, drawn from our archives and written by Pam Frick and Gordon Mantler. We will also feature reflections written by parishioners who share their previous experiences in mission and outreach, offering personal insights into how this work has shaped both our community and their own faith journeys.

Celebrating our 100th Anniversary is not only about remembering history—it is an opportunity

for welcome and renewal. This year invites us to welcome those who are new to St. Mary's, to connect longtime parishioners with newer members, and to strengthen the bonds of our parish community. It is also an opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience the life of our parish and to discover a spiritual home here.

As we mark this centennial, every parishioner is invited to deepen their relationship with St. Mary's—through worship, learning, service, and fellowship. Rooted in the Episcopal tradition and open to all, St. Mary's Episcopal Church remains committed to living the Gospel with faith, hope, and love. May this 100th Anniversary renew our spirits and inspire us to continue Christ's work in this place for generations to come.

CELEBRATE ST. MARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

OUR CENTENNIAL ONLINE STOREFRONT IS NOW LIVE!



FEBRUARY SUNDAY FORUMS

Feb. 1: St. Mary's Outreach: *Looking Toward the Future*

Outreach is a large part of St. Mary's identity and mission. Please join Outreach Committee Members to hear what Outreach does, where we direct our funds/volunteering and to share your ideas on Outreach and how to shape it in the future.

Feb. 8: Confirmation and Chili Cook-Off with the Bishop after the 10am service

Email the Rev. Nicole (nicole@stmarysarlington.org) to sign up to make a chili, or to serve on one of our volunteer set-up/clean-up teams before the event at 9 am or directly after at 12 pm.

Feb. 15: Coffee and Fellowship

Feb. 22: Lenten Series Kick Off: Love Your Neighbor with Mercy

Jesus' commandment to love neighbors serves as grounding for a congregation's work in its wider neighborhood and community. In fact, having mercy on people we encounter in ordinary life can ground a new way of seeing Christianity and public life. The Rev. Dr. Ross Kane will kick off our 2026 Lenten Forum Series on February 22nd. Join us every Sunday, in Lent to be a part of this important conversation.



Ross Kane is a pastor and professor who writes and teaches about the intersections between congregational life, theology, and culture. After serving as a parish priest in the Diocese of Virginia—he was ordained a deacon at Saint Mary's!—he now teaches at Virginia Theological Seminary and hosts the podcast *Love Your Neighbor*.

A TASTE OF TANZANIA

Join us on February 22 at 6 pm (following the 5 pm service) for a Taste of Tanzania! We will be celebrating with a feast of typical Tanzania food and beverages, Tanzanian music, and a little bit of Tanzanian culture. All funds raised from the dinner will be used towards a gift for our Ndebwe family. Sign up via the QR code below to reserve your seat!



THE LENTEN SEASON

by The Very Rev. Janettarose L. Greene

Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and the Sacred Triduum confront us with the truth we would rather avoid we are dust, and the world is aching because of what we have done and left undone. Marked with ashes, we stand exposed before God not as spectators, but as participants in systems that wound, exclude, and destroy. This season will not let us hide behind our piety or polite faith. Prayer must disturb us. Fasting must loosen our grip on privilege and excess. Repentance must move our feet toward repair. As we enter Ash Wednesday, may we have the courage to draw near to God by standing with the poor, the forgotten, and the oppressed, and by committing ourselves to the costly, necessary work of justice, truth-telling, and the healing of God's broken creation.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and marks the final day before the season of Lent begins. Its name comes from the word *shriving*, which refers to the ancient Christian practice of confession, repentance, and receiving God's absolution. The Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday are collectively called Shrovetide, a time set aside for spiritual preparation before the Lenten fast begins.

In keeping with longstanding Christian customs, many Episcopal churches, including St. Mary's, observe Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper. Historically, this meal allowed households to use up rich foods such as eggs, butter, and fat before Lent. More importantly, Shrove Tuesday invites us to examine our lives, seek reconciliation with God and neighbor, and prepare our hearts for the discipline of Lent, setting aside the alleluias until they return with joy at the Easter Vigil.

Ash Wednesday opens the forty days of Lent by placing the truth of our lives quite literally on our bodies. In the ancient act of receiving ashes pressed into the sign of the cross and accompanied by words of mortal honesty, the Church refuses denial and sentimentality. We are named for who we are: finite, fragile, and in need of mercy. These

ashes are not marks of shame but of truth, calling us to repentance that is more than regret and faith that is more than words. This union of spoken judgment and embodied grace inaugurates Lent as a season that strips away illusion, confronts sin, and summons us to live differently in the light of God's redeeming love (BCP, 264–265).

From its earliest days, the Church has observed **Lent** as a season of penitence and fasting in preparation for the Paschal feast or Pascha. The word *Lent* comes from an Old English term meaning *spring*, signaling not only restraint but renewal, the hard work of repentance that makes new life possible. In the Western Church, the forty days of Lent stretch from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, with Sundays deliberately excluded. The Church refuses to fast on Sundays because each Sunday is a feast day, a "little Easter," a weekly proclamation that even in the midst of discipline and self-denial, the joy of resurrection cannot be silenced.

As we enter the **Sacred Triduum**, we are drawn into the very heart of God's daring and costly love. On **Maundy Thursday**, we hear Jesus' command at the Last Supper: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you" (John 13:34), and we witness that love made visible and humble in the washing of feet. On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the cross, reading the Passion (John 18–19), facing the raw power of suffering, sin, and death, yet also encountering mercy poured out for the world. On **Holy Saturday**, we wait in the stillness of the tomb, holding grief and hope together, until the Great Vigil of Easter erupts in flame and song, declaring resurrection (Romans 6:4), calling us to rise with Christ, to follow him without fear, and to live boldly in the impassioned light of God's love.



ST. MARY'S OUTREACH: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK

by John Burnham

At St. Mary's, Outreach is central to who we are. We define Outreach as answering God's call to love and serve our neighbors, especially those in need. Our parish commits 25 percent of incoming funds to Outreach (11 percent to the Diocese and 14 percent distributed by St. Mary's). We believe time, talent, and treasure all proclaim the good news of Jesus.

St. Mary's Outreach supports partners locally, nationally, and globally, touching many lives. This article provides an update on Outreach as we enter an important year for our parish, in which we celebrate our 100th anniversary and also begin the search for a new rector. We invite your feedback on future plans.

What group coordinates Outreach efforts and who serves on it?

St. Mary's Outreach Committee coordinates most Outreach activities, especially funding decisions. The Committee includes about a dozen parishioners, one clergy member, and one Vestry member. Members are invited to serve by clergy for three-year terms, and represent all stages of life, including teenagers. The Committee aligns its work with St. Mary's three priorities: care for each other, care of creation, and racial reconciliation.

What is the process for disbursing funds?

Outreach funds are distributed through a formal application process. Applicants describe their mission and how funds would be used. The Outreach Committee reviews applications, evaluates them collectively, and recommends funding levels. The Vestry makes final decisions. Grants are generally issued once or twice a year, with occasional as-needed exceptions. The Committee also tracks how funds are used over time.

Which kinds of groups receive funds from St. Mary's?

In 2025, the parish distributed \$272,000 in Outreach funding to 27 organizations. About 77% supported local organizations, 16% supported national organizations, and 7% supported international partners.

What other ways does our parish conduct Outreach?

Outreach includes more than financial support. Parishioners volunteer with partners, such as Santa Maria in Falls Church, Rebuilding Together, Culmore Clinic, and projects in Tanzania. Our strongest partnerships combine funding with hands-on service. Indeed, a primary consideration when considering a grant application is whether the organization has a relationship with parishioners. Some parishioners serve regularly, while others help as needed for specific projects.

How can I become more engaged?

The beauty of Outreach is that if you are a St. Mary's parishioner, you already contribute in some way. That's because 25% off the top of our pledge and plate income goes to Outreach. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in Outreach, not only through giving but also through service. As we celebrate our 100th year, we hope everyone will share their gifts in service to others. Opportunities are posted on the St. Mary's website, often with sign-up links and advertised in our regular communications, such as the blast and weekly bulletin.

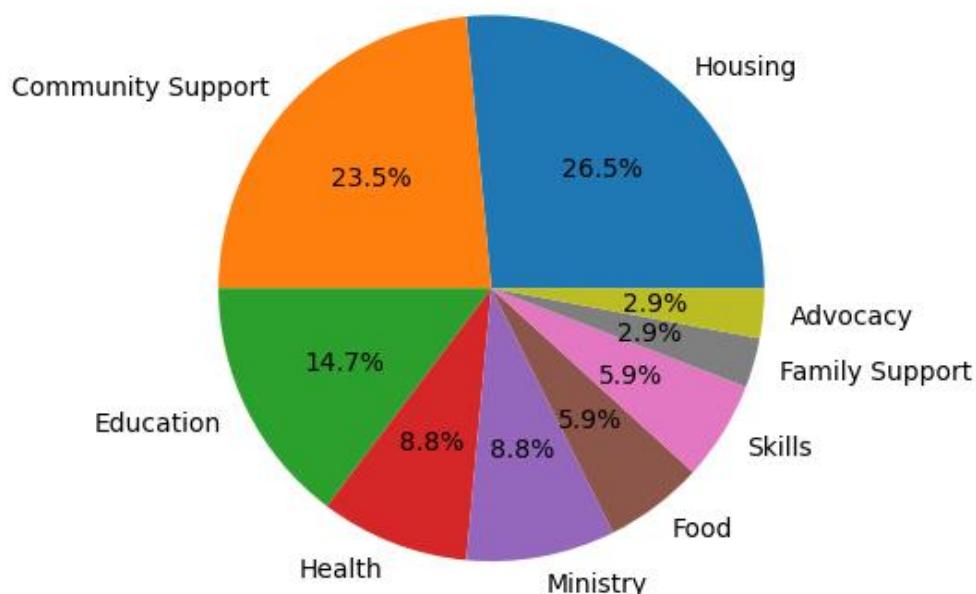
What input is the Outreach Committee seeking now?

The Outreach Committee seeks parish-wide feedback, especially on these questions:

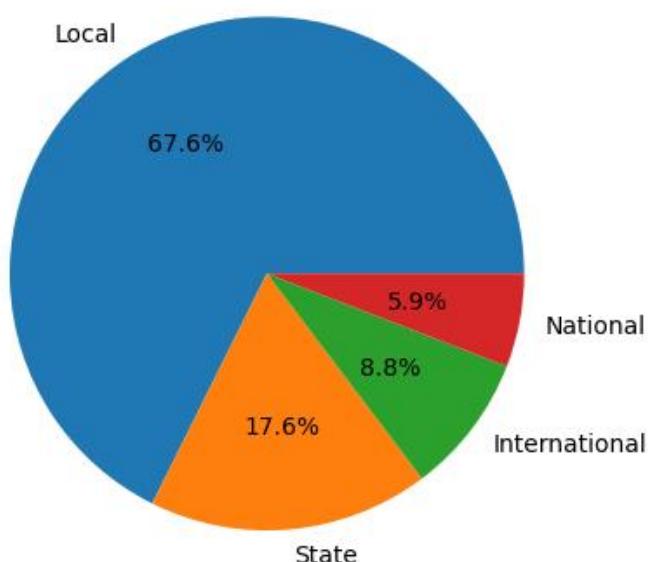
- What are your views on current Outreach activities, including recipients, geographies, and alignment with parish priorities?
- Are there groups or needs not currently supported that should be?
- If the parish had an extra \$50,000 to give, where should it go and why?

A forum will be held February 1 at 9 am in Paca Hall to begin these conversations about Outreach in 2026.

St Mary's Outreach: Focus Areas



St Mary's Outreach: Geography





FROM THE VESTRY

Suzanne Stroup, Senior Warden

100TH ANNIVERSARY: LOOKING BACK, AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This month, St. Mary's launches our year-long celebration of 100 years as an Episcopal parish in Arlington. What an incredible milestone for us to acknowledge today! So much of this celebration will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on who St. Mary's has been, what we've meant to the surrounding communities, and how we have evolved as a faith family through periods of calm, turbulence, peace and upheaval. Please mark your calendars now for our upcoming events and plan to attend as many as you can. Your active participation in learning our history helps us as we look forward to our next 100 years.

YOUR VESTRY, OUR TRANSITION WORK, AND YOUR INSIGHTS

Speaking of active participation, Vestry would like to thank you for sharing your thoughts through our St. Mary's vision and mission questions this past month. We received great feedback which we were able to use at our recent Vestry retreat, led by Rev Will Dickinson, our Diocesan Transition Minister. Your engagement helped us begin the work of affirming who we are as a church community and what God's mission is for us, in this time and in this place. Rev. Dickinson was so pleased to see the excitement that's apparent in all areas of St. Mary's and confirmed we are in a great spot as we look to our next chapter.

Thanks also for the many nominations of interested and engaged parishioners for the St. Mary's Discernment committee. This group of

dedicated parishioners will have the tremendous opportunity and responsibility to lead the search to identify St. Mary's next rector. While their work will not begin until May, Vestry will begin our work now to carefully to select the best candidates for this committee over the next few months. The goal will be to commission the Discernment committee at our Annual Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE: SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Please join us Tuesday, February 17th, at our annual Shrove Tuesday celebration: a fun night of pancakes, Mardi Gras beads, and fellowship in the Paca Hall. Vestry members will happily assist our resident chef, Matt McCracken, and then will serve pancakes, sausage, apples, and maybe even a little Louisiana Lagniappe: you'll have to be there to find out what it is! **Please register for the event on the Parish Hub** so that we know how much food to prepare.

As always, your Vestry is available to answer any questions, receive feedback you want to share, and help support the many ministries that make St. Mary's what it is: a loving, engaged, faithful, caring community, all walking together to spread the Word of God. Thank you for the chance to serve you and this amazing church family!

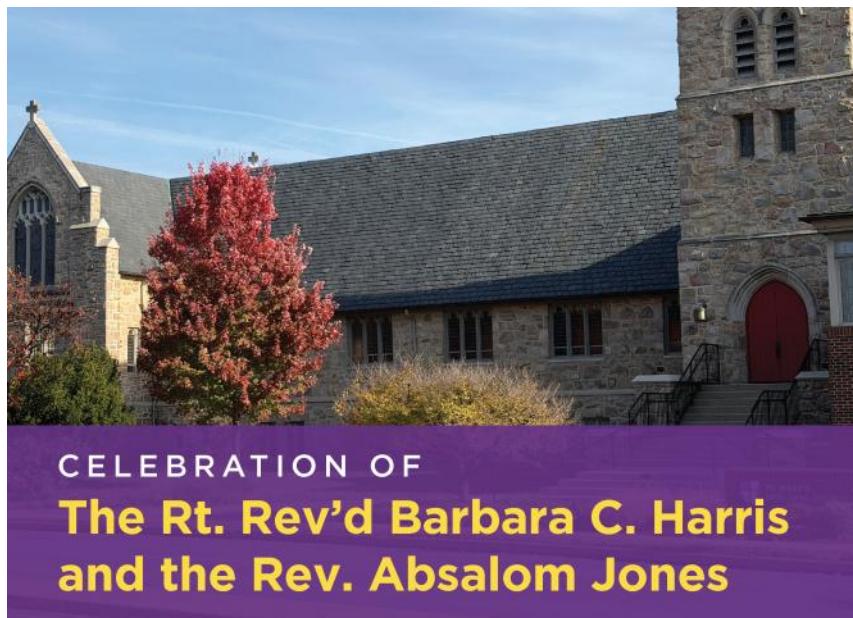
Faithfully,

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WITNESS OF BISHOP BARBARA CLEMENTINE HARRIS & THE REV. ABSOLOM JONES

by The Very Rev. Janettarose L. Greene

We are honored to host our Bishop and Diocese in celebrating Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris and the Rev. Absalom Jones. Both broke barriers, enabling the Church to better reflect God's inclusive love. The Rev. Jones, born into slavery, became the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church and founded a community of bold Black Christian leadership. Bishop Harris, the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion, stepped into leadership long denied to women, proclaiming justice, inclusion, and Christ's radical love. Their legacies call us at St. Mary's to welcome and empower all God's children, bear witness courageously, and serve faithfully in God's transforming work here in Arlington and beyond.

The evening begins with a welcome reception at 6:15 pm, followed by the Holy Eucharist Service at 7 pm, and concludes with a festive dessert reception. Vaughn Ambrose will serve as Minister of Music, and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will preside. You won't want to miss this joyful and spirit-filled celebration!



The Diocese of Virginia invites you to a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist commemorating the consecration of the Rt. Rev'd Barbara Clementine Harris, the first woman Bishop in the Anglican Communion, and celebrating the life and witness of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in The Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev'd Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, will preside and preach. Bishop Harris, Canon Ricardo Sheppard, and the Very Rev. Janettarose Greene will serve as concelebrants.



 **February 12, 2026**
6:30pm Reception
7pm Celebration of Holy Eucharist

 **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**
2609 N Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207



EPISCOPALVIRGINIA.ORG

WE NEED YOU...

Recipes that celebrate

100 YEARS OF LOVE IN ACTION

WE'VE MADE STEADY PROGRESS ON ENTERING RECIPES INTO THE PUBLISHER'S DATABASE FOR THE ST. MARY'S CENTENNIAL COOKBOOK. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A FAVORITE RECIPE INCLUDED, **NOW IS THE TIME** TO SUBMIT IT TO SUE LAGON AT LAGONS@GEORGETOWN.EDU.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORTHY PROJECT! MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO'VE ALREADY DONE SO.



Soup and Soul Work

Discernment of spirits for these times

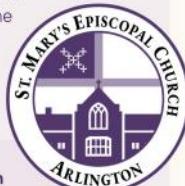


Lent is the 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and renewal leading up to Easter. This year, young adults at St. Mary's Arlington and St. George's Arlington are invited to observe the season together on the first four Monday nights in March (3/2; 3/9; 3/16; 3/23) from 6:30-8:00 pm.

This formation group will explore the practices of discernment according to the Ignatian tradition: building skills to recognize the ways God is active in the world and in the "movements of the soul." We'll gather at the home of the Rev. Nicole (St. Mary's) and Dr. Kyle Lambelet (Ethics Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary) in Alexandria. Address is provided upon registration.

Use the QR Code below to RSVP or email Becky Fulton (beckylfulton@gmail.com) or the Rev. Nicole Lambelet (nicole@stmarysarlinton.org) with questions.

We look forward to you joining us for soup and conversation during this important season in God's church!



FAMILY FORMATION

Monthly Saturday morning gatherings for the whole family

9:30 am - 11:00 am in Paca Hall

- ✓ **February 21:** Join Rachel A. Oakes, Ph.D for a timely conversation about teen mental health and wellness. Oakes is a clinical psychologist at Virginia Therapy and Wellness in Fairfax, VA. She will give a presentation for parents invested in deepening their support of the tweens and teens in their care.
- ✓ **March 14:** Rev. Nicole will offer a special workshop for families on the theology and practice of the Eucharist. This workshop is particularly designed for children and families. We especially welcome all children who would like to participate in communion for the first time at our Easter celebration in 2026.
- ✓ **April 25:** St. Mary's families with children who are too young to participate in our annual Rebuilding Together event are invited to St. Mary's to support this ministry and help prepare lunch for the Rebuilding Together volunteers.

*Children and youth attending the events will rotate through a variety of fun activities such as arts/crafts, music with Dr. H., and bread making!

Questions? Email: Nicole@stmarysarlinton.org

Support our Youth Mission Trip to New Bern, NC!

Chili COOK-OFF

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 08

11:45 AM IN PACA HALL

For Cooks:

- Entry is free—just bring your best pot of chili.
- Email nicole@stmarysarlinton.org to secure your sign up.
- Arrive early to set up and provide a brief label with your chili's name and any spice/allergy notes.

For Tasters:

- Tasting is open to everyone. Voting ends at 12:30.
- We'll be collecting donations for samples and bowls—give what you can!

Migration with Dignity Sunday

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia will recognize Migration with Dignity on Sunday, February 8, as announced by Bishop E. Mark Stevenson. This observance invites us not only to learn about Migration with Dignity, but is also an opportunity to teach and embody its principles that respond to the realities of global migration in faithful, humane, and lifegiving ways. Migration with Dignity affirms the inherent worth of every human being and aligns with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other international laws and agreements that uphold human dignity.

At the 81st General Convention in June 2024, the Episcopal Church formally committed itself to this vision by adopting a resolution calling for Migration with Dignity (see below). That resolution reflects our Church's conviction that how we respond to migrants and displaced people is not merely a political question, but a profoundly theological one rooted in scripture, tradition, and the life of Jesus himself.

In recent weeks, the clergy of St. Mary's have been asked by several congregants of this church and the larger diocese how we will plan to engage this moment in our country with our community. We are offering multiple opportunities to pray, discern, and dialogue with one another about the call of Christian discipleship during this time.

We are especially grateful that Bishop Bourlakas will be with us for our Service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation on February 8th. Because his visit corresponds with the Day for Migration with Dignity he has asked that we include a special prayer related in this service. We will do so. Additionally, about 20 people from St. Mary's are planning to attend the Mollegen Forum on "Have Mercy" at Virginia Theological Seminary on February 3rd. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ma-

riann Edgar Budde (VTS '89, '09), Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, will be the featured speaker. Grounded in Matthew 25, the evening will explore how faith leaders and institutions can meet the moment by centering the works of mercy in public life. Our upcoming Lenten Series at St. Mary's Forum Hour will be called "Love Your Neighbor with Mercy" and is modeled on the conversations being had at VTS. Our first Sunday discussion will be led by the Rev. Dr. Ross Kane. We also want you to know that we are excited about having been asked to host a regional training starting in March titled: "I Will With God's Help." This training is sponsored by the Office of the Canon for Racial Justice and Healing and more information about it will be coming out soon.

Finally, the Diocese has also asked us to host the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist Commemorating the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris and the Rev. Absalom Jones on Thursday, February 12 (6:30-9:30 pm). This gathering will root our present commitments in the holy witness of those who have gone before us.

Taken together, these opportunities invite us to tune our hearts and minds to one another and to God's ongoing work of love, mercy, and justice in the world.

We give thanks for a community that is listening, wondering, and praying with the Spirit about how to live more fully into the call of Jesus. We look forward to walking this path together, and we invite each of you to participate prayerfully in these offerings as the Spirit leads.

Blessings,
Mother Meg



C031 MIGRATION WITH DIGNITY

Final Original Documents Final Status: Concurred as Amended

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention, as people of faith who believe that all people are created in the image of God, advocate for Migration with Dignity, a statement of specific principles about migration that resonate with the teachings of Jesus and our baptismal promise to “respect the dignity of every human being”; and be it further

Resolved, That, acknowledging the increase of dehumanization of ethnic minorities, migrants and refugees in the midst of record migration across international borders, and that such dehumanization leads to grave and serious mistreatment of these persons, the 81st General Convention, consistent with previous resolutions of the General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, declare itself to be in support of Migration with Dignity for all migrants, including refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and those who cross borders in search of opportunity, including the following human rights within the Migration with Dignity framework:

- A universal right of movement, including freedom to leave and return to one's country of origin, freedom of movement within one's country of origin or country of settlement.
- The right to be secure: from sexual violence including rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery, forced labor and arbitrary and abusive detention.
- The right of equality, to include: 1) equal treatment with no discrimination under the law based on color, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin; and 2) equal opportunity for upward mobility.
- Rights to a basic quality of life, including employment rights, housing rights and food rights.
- The right to access services such as health care, education and legal representation.

Civil and political rights guaranteeing the right to identity, to use of one's language, and to freedom of speech and religion;

And be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention affirm Migration with Dignity as a framework to guide ministry with migrants, calling upon all Episcopalians, congregations, and dioceses to make urgent efforts through direct action to support arriving migrants' immediate needs for shelter, food, clothing, legal assistance, work permits, healthcare, transportation, etc. and to advocate for Migration with Dignity to local, state, national, and international governing bodies exhorting them to enforce existing laws and policies that uphold these principles on behalf of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and displaced persons, and by enacting new laws and policies guaranteeing their welcome, protection, and integration into our common human journey; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention call upon the Office of Government Relations and the church's UN Mission to affirm the Migration with Dignity framework as a tool to guide advocacy for incremental change toward a more humane and just immigration system, while continuing their efforts to support the Global Compact for Migration and other international frameworks, as well as previous General Convention resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to establish a Task Force on Migration with Dignity (MWD) to build on and expand migration ministries in The Episcopal Church and to develop a strategic plan for coordinated, global Episcopal ministry consistent with MWD principles for all migrating persons at all stages of migration. The task force will be instructed to:

- Inventory current assets and resources for serving and supporting migrants, church-wide
- Conduct a gap analysis to identify missing ele-

ments that could strengthen the church's response

- Recommend a coordinated whole-of-church strategy to strengthen our support for migrants, consistent with this resolution

Assist with information and resource sharing across the Church;

And be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force on Migration with Dignity consist of no more than 14 members who have direct experience with migration and/or are actively involved in migration-related ministry in The Episcopal Church, and who represent all Provinces, especially those with dioceses outside of the U.S. A minimum of three Bishops shall serve on the Task Force; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force report to Executive Council annually during the Triennium and to the 82nd General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct Episcopal Migration Ministries, in collaboration with this Task Force, the Episcopal Migration Response Network, and other ministry partners, to develop and launch a churchwide Migration with Dignity formation program to help all Episcopalians live out their baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, love neighbor as self, work for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention establish an annual Migration with Dignity Sunday for The Episcopal Church during the season of Epiphany.

UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS FOR ST. MARY'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. MARY'S HYMN FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 3, 5:00 pm

The month of May is a time that has been used traditionally to honor St. Mary's. Our hymn festival will celebrate the themes of the Church, Mary, and Welcoming the Stranger, and will be led by our parish musicians with our friends from Santa Maria. New music for this service is being commissioned by St. Mary's Music Fund, and the service is followed by a reception in Paca Parish Hall.

ORGAN REDEDICATION

Sunday, May 31, 10:00 am

At the 10:00 am Eucharist on Music Ministry Sunday, we will honor our parish musicians and rededicate the completed Lively-Fulcher organ with a brief program that includes an organ demonstration.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia, 1928 etching

PRE K-5TH LENTEN POTTERY PROJECT

Lent is the 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and renewal leading up to Easter.

Families! Join us this Lent for a community pottery project. Children and their families will receive clay and a corresponding devotional to begin their projects during the first weekend in Lent. Come to our monthly Family Formation on Saturday, 2/21 or Sunday School on 2/22.

St. Mary's Ash Wednesday Service for Families is 2/18 at 5:30 pm.



For more information email: nicole@stmarysarlinton.org

Return each Sunday to receive the next component for your Lenten Pot Project!

Supporting Teen & Tween Mental Wellness



Join Rachel A. Oakes, Ph.D. for a timely and insightful conversation on teen mental health and wellness. Dr. Oakes, practitioner at Virginia Therapy and Wellness in Fairfax, will share expert guidance designed for parents and guardians who want to better understand, connect with, and support the tweens and teens in their care.

Date: Saturday, February 21st

Time: 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Place: St. Mary's Arlington
2609 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22207
703.527.6800

Use QR code to register
Childcare is available



Questions: nicole@stmarysarlinton.org



LENTEN YOUTH POTTERY WORKSHOP

02.15.26

6:30-8:30 PM

5537 LANGSTON BLVD.,
ARLINGTON, VA 22207

DEADLINE TO RSVP IS 2/7. COST IS \$25 PER STUDENT. SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.



Register here



THIS VALENTINE'S
SERVE
20's/30's
IT UP

14 FEBRUARY
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

2708 S Nelson Street Arlington, VA 22206
Please wear closed toe shoes, hairnet, hat, or another head covering.

RSVP BELOW OR EMAIL
[NICOLE@STMARYSARLINTON.ORG](mailto:nicole@stmarysarlinton.org)



BOOK PREVIEW: *THE BOOTHEEL*

by Tricia Klintberg

St. Mary's parishioner Tricia Klintberg recently read The Bootheel, a novel by former St. Mary's parishioner Burleigh Leonard, and wanted to share some thoughts about the book with the parish.



THE BOOTHEEL

A Novel

Burleigh C.W. Leonard

Some parishioners may remember Burleigh Leonard and his wife Jaime, who is now Mother Jaime at a small chapel in Montana. While they lived in Arlington, they were dedicated parishioners at St. Mary's. Like so many people we see in church every Sunday, we rarely take the time to learn more about each other. But Burleigh has opened the door with a mesmerizing story inspired by his life, which started in the Bootheel of Missouri. For those of you who do not know, the

Bootheel is in the southeast corner of the "Show Me" State and that piece of Missouri drips down into Arkansas territory. One story has it that an important resident of the area did not want the border to take his county into Arkansas because of "all the sickness, bears, panthers, and copperhead snakes." So, although laid atop Arkansas, the Bootheel is Missouri.

The book is set in this segregated, flat-as-a-pancake cotton country in the mid-1950's. The Reverend (a newly minted Priest) and his wife are assigned to the Sea of Galilee Church, an all-Black parish that had sought a graduate of a Seminary. The white part of the town of Bellicose has paved roads, adequate schools, and a pristine park where kids play baseball. The Black part of town also has all of these features, but the roads are not graded, the schools are devoid of books, and the park is filled with detritus from trees and people.

Ever hopeful, the Sea of Galilee Church is filled to the brim each Sunday. The challenge for the Reverend is to lead parishioners, who have never heard of Episcopalians let alone the Episcopal liturgy and sacraments. Instead, they were used to worshiping Jesus and giving thanks for his saving grace through hymns and hallelujahs and the waving of hands. As Miss Eddie Mae, the unofficial leader of these parishioners says to the Reverend, *"Dat's when we got de most to jump and shout about!"* To find out how the Reverend and Miss Eddie Mae merge their two worlds of worship and how he brings the first vestiges of hope and power to their situation you must read: *The Bootheel*, by Burleigh C.W. Leonard. It is remarkable, very well-written, and can be found at Amazon.

A LITTLE HISTORY FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Gordon Mantler

Newly independent from its original mission status, St. Mary's paralleled the county's rapid development during World War II. Over the next decade, the congregation more than quadrupled in size, the building saw its first major renovation, and the vestry called a young, dynamic rector who led congregants during a time of both growth and uncertainty shaped by the Baby Boom, the Cold War, and the Black freedom struggle.



In 1942, the Rev. George F. Tittman (*left*) became the third rector of St. Mary's. Just 27 years old, highly educated, and soon to be a father, the new rector and his young family reflected the changing demographics of the county. He became known for his erudition, a stellar tennis game at the country club, and opening St. Mary's to the community with a new Boy Scout troop, a Red Cross sewing unit to support the war, and regular Arlington League of Women Voters events.

A Washington Post profile described the Rev. Tittman as being adept at drawing the casual believer to church. "Every secularist already has convictions about what makes right or wrong, where he is headed and what the world is meant to be," he told a reporter, "a constellation of basic opinions about life which are religious to the core though they may not have stock in religious titles." The Episcopal Church, he argued, was well-positioned to bridge that outlook to Christianity. "It answers things he already thinks he has answered and hasn't thought of much, but answers them better."

The Rev. Tittman and his wife, Frances, had their first child before he took a leave of absence from the church in 1943 to serve as a Navy chaplain for three years. As a chaplain, he wrote incisively

about the horrors of war in the *Virginia Churchman*, the diocese's monthly magazine. "I personally feel a frustration about preaching morals – the whole background of existence out there is the colossally immoral organization to kill and destroy – so I want to go deeper," he wrote the bishop. "...It's the terrible darkness of war that throws me back on the authority of the church." Perhaps not surprisingly, the Rev. Tittman became known for his poetry, a hymn regularly sung at St. Mary's, and several books, including *Whisper from the Dust*, *What Manner of Love?*, and *Is Religion Enough?*

In 1946, he returned to a booming community and an even larger St. Mary's, prompting calls for more physical space. By the time he stepped down as rector ten years later, St. Mary's had grown to more than 1,600 members and nearly 500 children in the church school, becoming the second-largest Episcopal church in Arlington behind St. George's and amid the top ten in the Diocese. Bishops regularly visited, confirming or receiving dozens of people annually, including a peak of 48 people in 1950.

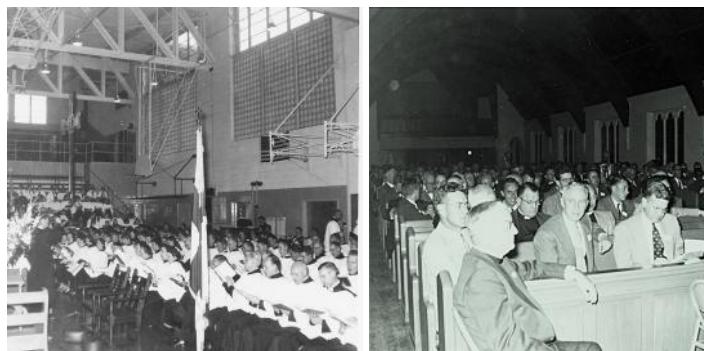


The Rev. Tittman serving at the altar pre-1950s renovation.

The church became debt-free in 1948. But its rapid growth prompted St. Mary's first major physical expansion soon after, finished in 1952 at the cost of about \$150,000. The renovation practically doubled the sanctuary's seating capacity, expanded the

parish hall, and added eight church school classrooms, a rector's study, and other spaces.

Meanwhile, Arlington and St. Mary's played a central role in the Diocese's growth and influence, including its response to the freedom struggle of the 1950s. Reflecting the church's rising prominence, the Rev. Tittman served on several diocesan committees, including chairing the Board of Christian Social Relations, which coordinated the diocese's social justice programming. Both the rector and lay leader Edmund Campbell also served on the Coordinating Committee in response to the diocese's survey on the state of the church, calling for greater evangelism, record-keeping, lay leadership, and racial integration.

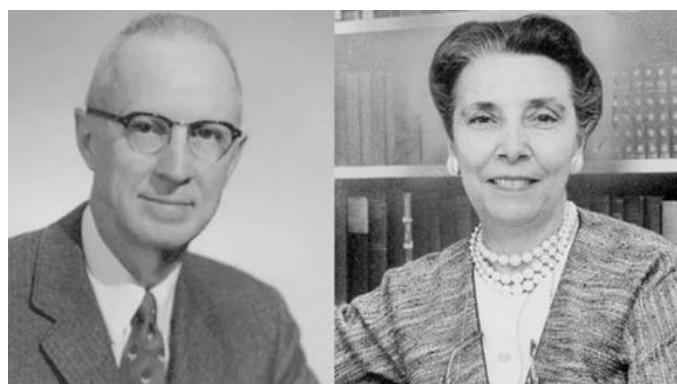


This influence culminated in 1954, when St. Mary's hosted the diocese's annual Council meeting, starting with an opening ceremony at Washington-Lee High School (*above left*), followed by several days of meetings at the recently renovated church (*above right*). Strikingly, the 1954 Council met at St. Mary's just weeks after the Supreme Court's initial *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which ruled that "separate but equal" schools were unconstitutional.

At the behest of the national church's General Convention, a short resolution called for "all of the members of the Church in this Diocese to do all within their power to provide such leadership so that the decrees of the court may be carried out with malice toward none and good will to all." The delegates also requested that the diocesan bishop appoint a special interracial commission on race relations "to confer and advise with the several departments and organizations of the Diocese on these problems."

These actions, however, proved a highwater mark for the Diocese rhetorically, which largely failed to challenge white supremacists' embrace of massive resistance against civil rights. In the years to follow, the bishop mostly counseled congregations to practice Christian love by accepting Black visitors to their churches.

For his part, the Rev. Tittman periodically weighed in on civil rights and democracy, suggesting Joe McCarthy-style anticommunism, including its assault on the Black freedom struggle and organized labor, was inconsistent with church doctrine and Christianity. He also sermonized against the Commonwealth's Gray Commission findings, which called for closing public schools to prevent desegregation. And the Rev. Tittman occasionally invited Black clergy and choirs to lead worship at St. Mary's – all bold stances at the time.



While such actions pleased some congregants including Edmund and Elizabeth Campbell (*above*), both prominent advocates of civil rights, others only grudgingly accepted desegregation. After all, St. Mary's was an all-white congregation in a community in which racial housing covenants were exceedingly common. But many also concluded that at least token desegregation was ultimately better than closing the schools, which most Virginia politicians outside of Arlington favored.

At the height of the desegregation debate, in June 1956, the Rev. Tittman accepted a call to an Illinois church – a departure that would significantly impact St. Mary's, as he was succeeded by a pastor with a far more strident view of the Gospel.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

OUR SERVICES

SUNDAY

8 am, The Holy Eucharist

8:30-11:30 am, Nursery (3 months-3 years)

9 am, Sunday School & Youth Forum
(PreK-12)

10 am, The Holy Eucharist, with music
Children's Chapel
(Fellowship following | [Livestream](#))

5 pm, The Holy Eucharist

*10:15 am, Wilderness Church
1st & 3rd Sundays in Zachary Taylor Park

TUESDAY

12 pm, Noonday Prayer
7:30 pm, Centering Prayer
(Hybrid in-person and Zoom)

WEDNESDAY

7 am, The Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY

11 am, Healing & The Holy Eucharist

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY

7 pm, *The Story* with Mother Meg

WEDNESDAY

Lunch and Letters begins Feb. 25

THURSDAY

6:30 pm, Youth Choir (Choir Room)
7:30 pm, Adult Choir (Choir Room)

DATES OF NOTE

Sat. Feb. 7, 5 pm Youth Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner

Sun. Feb. 8, 10 am Bishop Bourlakas Confirmation Visit & Chili Cook-Off

Tue. Feb. 12, 6:30 pm Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris & The Rev. Absolom Jones Celebration

Tue. Feb 17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
(5:45 pm/6:30 pm)

Wed. Feb. 18 Ash Wednesday services
(7 am, 12 pm, 5:30 p, & 7:30 pm)

Sun. Feb. 22, 6 pm A Taste of Tanzania Dinner

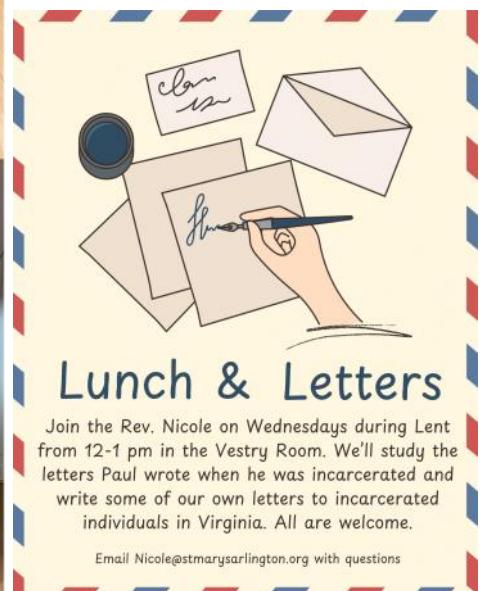
Wed. Feb. 25, 12 pm Lunch and Letters begins



JANUARY 2026 ORGAN PIPE INSTALLATION



YEARS OF LOVE IN ACTION



Join the Rev. Nicole on Wednesdays during Lent from 12-1 pm in the Vestry Room. We'll study the letters Paul wrote when he was incarcerated and write some of our own letters to incarcerated individuals in Virginia. All are welcome.

Email Nicole@stmarysarlinton.org with questions