



February 2023

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!*

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

LENT



The kingdom of God is at hand.

Mark 1:15

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**, lasting for 40 days (not including Sundays), representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. The imposition of ashes is often a central part of Ash Wednesday worship. Ashes have a long history in biblical and church traditions. In scripture, ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Gen. 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jonah. 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash to be a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for the beginning of Lent. In Christ's passion, we see God's judgment on evil. In our penitence, we express sorrow and repentance for our sins. In our rededication, we show that we are purified and renewed. The ashes we use at St. Mary's on Ash Wednesday are made by burning previous years' palms from Palm Sunday. Worshippers at the Ash Wednesday liturgy are invited to come forward to have the clergy make the sign of the cross on his or her forehead, saying:

*“Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return.”*

Ash Wednesday is one of only two fast days for all Episcopalians on the church calendar, and the Prayer Book calls it a Day of Obligation for the faithful to make a proper beginning of Lent by attending an Ash Wednesday liturgy. The following liturgies including the Imposition of Ashes and celebration of the Holy Eucharist on **Wednesday, February 22nd** are available to all:

7:00 a.m. - St. Mary's - All Saints' Chapel

12:00 noon - St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 707 E. Lenoir Ave., Kinston

7:00 p.m. - St. Mary's Church (This service is also livestreamed at www.youtube.com/stmaryskinston)

From the Rector

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”


The cover to this month's BellRinger draws our attention towards the pivotal words of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. I hope that you will all participate in one of the liturgies that day as part of your observance of this significant day of devotion. I assure you that a full and intentional observance of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week will only magnify the joy for you come Easter Sunday.

Recently, I read Comfort Crisis, a NY Times Bestseller by Michael Easter. In short, it describes modern western culture's constant efforts towards greater levels of physical and emotional comfort as having reached, not only, a point of diminishing returns, but even a point of detriment to its own overall well-being. It is certainly a thought-provoking book.

The part of the book that comes to mind as I write today is the perspective that the author shared of a Bhutanese monk. Despite being ranked the 134th most developed nation on earth, some Japanese researchers have concluded that Bhutan is among the world's 20 happiest countries. And as counter-intuitive as it may seem to some, a factor for this is that their culture is quite *comfortable* with the concept of death. The topic of our human mortality is not avoided. Death is not tucked away or to be avoided. Mourning is accepted to be a lengthy process deserving of proper attention, rather than to be avoided by keeping busy. The Bhutanese are encouraged to consider their own mortality several times a day!

Interestingly, Christians that follow the life of prayer that is outlined in the Book of Common Prayer, also consider their own death multiple times each day through the Daily Office services. Our creeds mention death. Our prayers lift up those who are sick and those who mourn. And it is a matter of ultimate comfort that, for the followers of Jesus, we see death as the gate to eternal life. We understand death to be the moment at which life changes, not its end. The Gospel entails an acknowledgment of death... but death does not have the final word. Thanks be to God!

One of the roles of the rector of Episcopal churches is to direct the attention of the faithful towards our own mortality. And because death is something that we ought to expect to experience (unless Jesus' return comes first), Episcopalians are entreated to make plans for the handling of their affairs well in advance of a time of illness or crisis. At St. Mary's, there is a helpful Funeral Planning Guide that is available at the church office or online at our website's [Helpful Links/Resources](#) page. Please know that I would be humbled to speak and pray with you about these things if it would be helpful to you. The season of Lent is quite a fitting time for us all to prayerfully consider, and reconsider, these matters.

Yours in the living hope of the resurrection, 

Vestry Meeting Highlights

The vestry met for its annual retreat on Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 14. Friday's gathering included time of fellowship and trust while throwing axes at IronClad Axe Throwing Co, sharing a Sabbath-eve supper, and prayerful conversation about the joys and hopes of St. Mary's Church. On Saturday, the Rev. Canon Mollie Roberts joined the vestry as a guest speaker. Because the coming summer will be a time of clergy sabbatical, Canon Roberts led a conversation about the significance that this time is meant to have, not only for the clergy, but also for the parish family. The vestry continued discussion about its plans for worship and programming during that time. In the official vestry meeting, the vestry adopted a balanced budget for 2023 and discerned leadership roles for the various committees and commissions of the church (see pg. 5).

The Episcopal Church

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In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

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In the United States

A community of 1.9 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

www.episcopalchurch.org

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In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 70 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!

Jesus First,

Others Second,

Yourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

www.stmaryskinston.com

Rector	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Sr. Warden	Mrs. Vicki Kennedy
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jim Purnell
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Family Ministry Coordinator	Mrs. Liz Hengst
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs. Sharon Veitch
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Burial

Duane Sousa

January 27, 2023

Baptisms

Marissa Howard, Edward Stark, & Warren Howard

January 8, 2023



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We hope you will join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper **on Tuesday, February 21st, from 5-7pm in Moseley Hall!** For any donation, the celebration will consist of a plate of pancakes, sausage, and fruit along with juice and tea. There will also be an option for to-go plates (not including drinks) that may be picked up inside Moseley Hall.

Proceeds from the dinner will be used for youth scholarships. Thank you to the EYC for hosting this event!! Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the beginning of Lent and is a day for great celebrations that use up cooking ingredients which many will forgo during Lenten fasts. Join us and invite a friend!



St. Mary's Blood Drive

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Monday, February 27th from 12-4pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org. Show your **LOVE** by giving the gift of **LIFE**.



Join Us! We're Hiring!

St. Mary's is receiving applications for several part-time Nursery Staff positions. The ideal applicant will have experience working with and caring for children, ages birth-5th grade. CPR certification is a plus, but training can be provided. Hours are 9:00am - noon on Sundays, Wednesdays 5:30-8pm, and occasional other hours for seasonal events. Interested applicants should contact Liz Hengst, Family Ministry Coordinator, at lhengst@stmaryskinston.com with your resume or letter of experience.

News at St. Mary's

ST. MARY'S CHILI & CORNBREAD COOK OFF!

February 12, 2023 - Super Bowl Sunday!

After the 10:30am Liturgy

A donation of any amount gives you a taste of all the chili & cornbread entries. The entry that receives the most \$\$ wins "Peoples' Choice." An expert panel will award Best in Show & Most Original!



CONTESTANTS:
Anyone can enter!
Please sign-up in
the Church Office!

This year's event is a fundraiser for the Souper Bowl of Caring where all proceeds will support Mary's Kitchen.



Congratulations are in order for our own DOCTOR Sharon Veitch, Organist & Choirmaster at St. Mary's Church! Sharon has been working very hard towards earning a doctoral degree in Sacred Music from the Graduate Theological Foundation. We are so proud of Sharon's accomplishment & pray God's blessings over her, her ministry, all who share in this joy.



A Fresh Page for the New Year

Looking for inspiration and a richer spiritual life? St. Mary's Book Store has selections focusing on the how, when, why, where of PRAYER. And many of our books are half price! Stop by the Vestry Room (right across from Fr. Tom's office) and browse our shelves. We also have bibles, prayer books, greeting cards, children's books, and gift items.

Open 11:30 to 12 Sundays. (Sales are cash or check only.) If you'd like to serve as a volunteer Book Store clerk, call or text Vicki Kennedy 252-560-5893.



The prayers of the church are requested for the 140th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina (February 10-11), the delegates from St. Mary's (Richard Crumbacker, Jo Parrott, & Morgan Wade with alternates Terah Archie & Barbara Crumbacker; and Madi Hengst as Youth Representative), and all the delegates throughout the Diocese. We give thanks for your ministry and keep you in our prayers!



Mark your calendars for the return of Mary's Kitchen Bingo Night on **Friday, March 17th from 6-9pm** at The Exchange (121 W. Gordon St.). For \$25/person, you will get 12 Bingo games, a hot dog dinner, and many chances to win additional prizes. **Since it is St. Patrick's Day, don your favorite green attire and get one extra Bingo game!** Come support the Mary's Kitchen ministry while enjoying a night of laughter and fun! **Space is limited!** Contact Jim Godfrey at 252-523-6146 or by email (maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com) to make reservations, for questions, or to make donations!



Cherished Members' February Luncheon
Thursday, February 2nd
11:30am in Moseley Hall
Call the parish office to RSVP!



SCHEDULE

- **February 5:** Jess Edwards' Team
- **February 12:** Mark Moore's Team
- **February 19:** Punk Grady's Team
- **February 26 (1st Sunday in Lent):** Mike Haddad's Team

Worship



New Leadership Commissioned

In January, St. Mary's celebrated a commissioning service as part of the Sunday morning liturgy during which the new Vestry members and officers, and ECW officers were commissioned. Here are our new officers and commission leaders for the coming year:

- **Senior Warden:** Vicki Kennedy
- **Junior Warden:** Jim Purnell
- **Treasurer:** Corey Fader
- **Clerk of the Vestry:** Audra Haddad
- **Christian Formation for Adults:** Pam Mazingo assisted by Anne Lindley
- **Christian Formation for Children/Youth:** Andrew Duppsstadt assisted by Ginny Wade
- **Pastoral Care:** Anne Lindley assisted by Pam Mazingo
- **Fellowship:** Ginny Wade assisted by Whitney Grady
- **Finance:** Jess Edwards assisted by Skip Greene
- **Worship:** Jo Parrott assisted by Clifton Carey
- **Outreach:** Audra Haddad assisted by Whitney Grady
- **Personnel:** Vicki Kennedy assisted by Audra Haddad
- **Long Range Planning:** Steve Mazingo (Chair), Vicki Kennedy (Sr. Warden), Jim Purnell (Jr. Warden), Andrew Duppsstadt, Jo Parrott, Stuart Stroud (most recent Sr. Warden), and Harry Wooten (most recent Jr. Warden)
- **Capital Campaign Committee:** Jess Edwards with Jim Purnell
- **ECW President:** Audra Haddad
- **ECW Vice President:** Ginny Wade
- **ECW Treasurer:** Cathy Beasley



Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th
5:00pm in the Parlor

Mid-Day Eucharists

February 2023
Noon in the All Saints' Chapel

Thursday, February 2

Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday (services at 7am & 7pm)
A noon Eucharist will be held at St. Augustine's
707 E Lenoir Ave, Kinston, NC 28501

Friday, February 24

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul



St. Mary's will be offering the Way of the Cross in the Nave of the Church on **Friday evenings at 5:45 p.m., beginning the Friday after Ash Wednesday.** Sometimes called the Stations of the

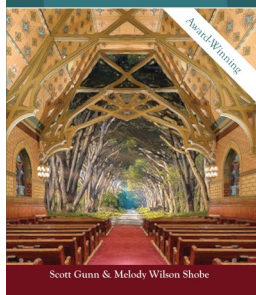
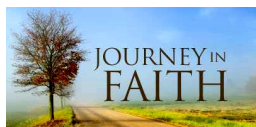
Cross, this short devotional experience, usually about 20 minutes, is both tactile and meditative. As we move to each of the fourteen markers throughout the church, a different event of Jesus' Passion is remembered. Please consider making a commitment to walk the Way of the Cross at least once this Lent.

ECW



Each Wednesday during Lent, there will be Lenten programming with a simple meal of Soup, Sandwiches, Salad or Fruit. Each week we will need: *two soups, one with meat and one without (a large pot or crock pot of each); two kinds of sandwiches, one with meat and one without (15 of each cut in halves); salad or fruit (either will be great); 2 people to set up; and 2 people to clean up.* Please consider signing up to help provide and/or prepare some of these meals. **You are welcome to turn in receipts to the church office for reimbursement.** Sign up in the Narthex or email Audra at 5haddad@suddenlink.net.

Adult Christian Formation



Journey in Faith: Christian Discipleship

Journey in Faith (JiF) is a short course that is open to all that explores the basics of the Christian Faith, Episcopal Church Anglican Tradition, and St. Mary's. It is especially appropriate for newcomers to St. Mary's and anyone considering baptism or confirmation when Bishop Skirving visits St. Mary's on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023. Journey in Faith meets each Sunday morning during the Christian

Formation Hour in the church's Parlor (unless noted otherwise). Our primary reference books throughout the course include: Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices, Scott Gunn & Melody Wilson Shobe; The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version; The Book of Common Prayer, 1979 American Edition; and The Hymnal, 1982. Copies of the Bible, Prayer Book, and Hymnal will always be available on Sundays, and some copies of Walk in Love will be available for purchase in the parish Book Store in the new year (if you're an e-reader, there is a Kindle version too). Sessions will follow a basic outline, but will be flexible enough to respond to emerging needs and spiritual prompts. If you're interested in joining JiF, please do! Contact Fr. Tom by email at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com for more information.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

On February 5th & 12th, we hope you will join Christian Formation for "Dig Deeper into God's Garden - Creation Care," with Vicki Kennedy, where we will explore our role as stewards of God's creation. We'll look to Scripture to learn the connection between our mission as Christ followers and our responsibility to tend the natural world created by Our Father. We'll see how simple steps of creation care can bring peace and joy into our daily lives. "This is My Father's World," as the hymn expresses.

Then on **Sunday, February 19th**, we will welcome guest speaker, Jane Rose, an ordained Presbyterian minister (retired) who is currently working with First Christian Church (DoC) Winterville to develop their church land into a "creation care" space.

Join these Adult Formation classes to reconnect with your role in the Garden as we "Dig Deeper Into God's Garden-Creation Care." Adult Christian Formation meets Sunday mornings at 9:30am, and all are welcome to join!

Coming Sunday mornings in Lent:

Who is Satan?



The Sessions

The Prayer Course is split into eight sessions:

- 1 Why Pray?
- 2 Adoration
- 3 Petition
- 4 Intercession
- 5 Unanswered Prayer
- 6 Contemplation
- 7 Listening
- 8 Spiritual Warfare

The Prayer Course with St. Mary's

Beginning February 1st and continuing through March 29th, make plans to join us **each Wednesday in Moseley Hall** for our Lenten Wednesday Night Programming, The Prayer Course. Similar to our previous Wednesday evening programs Alpha and Life Shared, **The Prayer Course will begin with a shared meal at 6pm, followed by the program and small groups at 6:30pm.** Enjoy friendship, fellowship, and a meal while exploring the Lord's Prayer and discussing matters of faith. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** We hope you will accept this invitation, and invite a friend, to a special season of meaningful spiritual growth and exploration this Spring with The Prayer Course at St. Mary's. (*Childcare will be provided.*)

Making Fellowship Tasty! - Would you like to be a part of the Wednesday Night Supper meal teams for the month of February? We are looking for help on the 3 Wednesdays before the ECW provides hospitality in Lent. Please contact the Fellowship Committee Chair, Ginny Wade, at wader@alumni.ecu.edu. God bless you!

Children, Youth, & Families @ St. Mary's



EYC Coffee

Thursdays in February ~ 4-5:30pm
Join us at Middle Grounds for discussion, fellowship, and goal setting.

Wednesday Dinner and Activities

(except Ash Wednesday, February 22nd)
All kids and EYC are invited to join us for supper and lessons/activities on "Acts of Service"

Parents Meeting at Mother Earth Brewing

Tuesday, February 7th ~ 6:30-8pm
All parents are invited to join us for discussions about curriculum, parenting, and our kids. Come for any or all of the meeting.

Chili Cook Off

Sunday, February 12th ~ 11:45am
Join us in Moseley Hall for the annual Chili and Cornbread Cookoff!

Family Jump Day at Sawyers Fun Park

Sunday, February 19th ~ 2~3pm
All are invited to join us for jumping and fun. All ages welcome. Register with Liz.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21st ~ 5-7pm
Join us for a pancake supper - any donation is welcomed. Donations will benefit St. Mary's EYC. (EYC students help cook, serve, and clean in two shifts 4-6 and 6-8.)

Family Hike Day at Cliffs of the Neuse

Saturday, February 25th ~ Time TBD
Join us for hiking and fellowship. Please contact Liz if you plan to attend.

Parent Lunch

Sunday, February 26th ~ Noon-1pm
All parents are invited to join us for discussion and getting to know the other parents here at church.
(Childcare provided.)

FROM THE DESK OF LIZ ~

Hi Families!

February has a lot of love in it.

⇒ How do you remember that God loves you?

⇒ How do you show love to others?

February also brings us the beginning of Lent. This Lent we will focus on Sabbath.

Also, don't forget to register for Happening!

IN PEACE, LIZ



**KEEP
CALM
AND
COME
TO
CHURCH
ON SUNDAYS**

**Sundays in February
9:30-10:15am**

Kids' Sunday School

Birth-5th Grade

EYC Formation

6th-12th Grade

Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation Students



Do you have off from school on **Friday February 17 or 24th**? Join us at Mary's Kitchen from **8:30-11:30am** to cook, serve, and clean! This counts towards service hours!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree Street
Kinston, NC 28501-3655



Yoga at St. Mary's

We are excited to offer Yoga on Thursday evenings at 8pm in Moseley Hall! Led by long-time St. Mary's member & certified yoga instructor, Lee Albritton, this class will help to clear our minds and strengthen our bodies through a series of stretches and poses. Bring your mats, your water, and your friends and join us every Thursday for **free** yoga, stretching, relaxation, and fellowship.



Camp Trinity Summer 2023

Camp Trinity continues to provide a residential Christian camping experience on the banks of the Bogue Sound and has announced its 2023 Summer Camp dates! Brochures and information are available from their website at <https://trinityctr.com/home/portfolio/camp-trinity-info>.

SUNDAYS

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel
 9:00 am - Breakfasts for all in Moseley Hall
 9:30 am - Christian Formation for all ages & JiF
 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church
 (livestreamed to [YouTube](#) and shared in [Facebook](#))

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

8:30 am - Morning Prayer in the All Saints' Chapel

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Breakfast in Moseley Hall
 6:00 pm - Wednesday Evening Meal & Program

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2023	2024	2025
Skip Greene	Clifton Carey	Andrew Duppstadt
Audra Haddad	Jess Edwards	Whitney Grady
Vicki Kennedy	Jo Parrott	Anne Lindley
Pam Mazingo	Ginny Wade	Jim Purnell
Senior Warden – Vicki Kennedy	Clerk – Audra Haddad	
Junior Warden – Jim Purnell	Treasurer – Corey Fader	