



December 2023

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 24th

9:00am ~ Rite 2 in the Chapel

Staffed Nursery Available

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

5:00pm ~ Rite 2 in the Church

Live Nativity Pageant

Music from City Lights Jazz

Staffed Nursery Available

10:30pm ~ Special Music in the Church

11:00pm ~ Midnight Mass

Festal Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church

No Staffed Nursery

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

10:30am ~ Rite 2 in the Chapel

Pajamas welcome!

No Staffed Nursery



From the Rector

Dear Beloved in Christ Jesus,

What is it that you hope for? And to where do you turn as the source of the hopes that you have?

As followers of Jesus, December usually includes the beginning of the season in which we are drawn back to our most fundamental hopes: to be known by God and to live in God's presence forever. The season of Advent, which begins this year on Sunday, December 3 and lasts until Christmas Eve, is designed to help us orient our lives so that this hope (and its answer!) is front and center. When we gather for our Sunday liturgies this Advent, you'll notice many things that are unique to the season... wreath, nativity scene, Marian blue colors. Another will be our singing of a few verses each week of the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" as our processional hymn. It is certainly among the most familiar songs of the season. A little bit of musical trivia: the beginnings of each verse are called the "O Antiphons" because each one begins with the word "O" before describing a distinct characteristic or name of God: Wisdom, Lord of might, Branch of Jesse's tree, Key of David, Dayspring from on high, Desire of nations. And, as is the case with so many hymns, this one is also a prayer. So as we sing, we join in prayer with countless others throughout history who yearn and wait for the coming of Christ. We wait, on the one hand, for the coming of our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and also for His coming again in glory and great power to reign as our "King of Peace."

Friends, as we wait, may we take to heart the gifts that our Advent Scripture readings bear. They point us towards repentance and renewal, trust and hope in God's promises, and ultimately joy in knowing that God truly is with us, no matter what each day or season holds. May we hold these things front and center as we share this Advent and Christmas time together!

Get ready for Boar's Head 2024!

Join us for the **32nd Annual Boar's Head & Pule Log Festival** on Sunday, January 7th at the traditional 3p.m. and 5p.m. times. There is no cost to attend the festival itself. A ticketed banquet follows the 5pm performance. Tickets for the banquet are \$45 per person and are on sale now! Tickets may be purchased in the church office or online at www.stmaryskinston.com. Be sure to include your telephone number and email address for any online purchase.



Choir Rehearsals:

Sunday, December 3rd, 2:00-3:30pm
 Sunday, December 10th, 2:00-3:30pm
 Sunday, December 17th, 2:00-3:30pm
 Tuesday, January 3rd, 6:30-8:00pm

Costume Fittings:

Sunday, December 3rd, 11:45am-3pm
 Sunday, December 17th, 1-3:30pm

Dress Rehearsal:

Saturday, January 6th, 9am
 Dress Rehearsal for everyone (except the animals!)

Performances:

Sunday, January 7th, at 3pm & 5pm

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

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| Interim Organist & Choirmaster | Ms. Sylvia Wall |
| Communications Director | Mrs. Sherry Tanner |
| Mary's Kitchen Executive Director | Mr. Jim Godfrey |

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Weddings:

Abby (Sargeant) and Scott Conklin
November 4th, 2023

Burials:

The Rev. Deacon Barbara Houston
November 25th, 2023



CHERISHED MEMBERS' LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2023
11:30AM IN MOSELEY HALL

PLACE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IN
THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Annual Volunteer & Donor Holiday Gathering



You and a guest are invited to attend the Mary's Kitchen Volunteer and Donor Holiday Gathering **on Sunday, December 10th, at 3pm in Moseley Hall.** Join us as we celebrate this ministry and all the wonderful people who so selflessly give of their time, resources, and selves.

Refreshments will be served, and door prizes will be awarded! Donations for door prizes are welcome and may be dropped off to the parish office. For questions or more information or to RSVP (*by December 8th*), please email Jim Godfrey at maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com.



Change of Address

Nancy and P.C. Barwick

100 Hickory St.

Apt. A203

Greenville, NC 27858



**The Parish Office will be closed
for the Christmas Holiday:**
Monday, December 25th
Tuesday, December 26th
Wednesday, December 27th

More News at St. Mary's (cont'd)

Coskie Walk

Join us for our annual St. Mary's Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9th in Moseley Hall! Hand-select and fill your boxes with beautiful and delicious holiday treats for \$8 per pound. A homemade soup lunch is also served for \$6, so come hungry! Church members are asked to bake any kind of cookie for the sale and invite all of your friends. **Please drop off cookies to the church office from December 4th-7th during business hours or bring them to the parlor on Friday, December 8th from 9am-7pm.** COOKIES ARE LOVE! Bake up some LOVE and share some LOVE this holiday season! Thank you for your support! If you are interested in helping, please contact Laury Sargeant at jsarg4@suddenlink.net.



An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for **Sunday, December 17th. We will meet at 4pm in the church parking lot.** Bells & festive clothing are welcome! This is sure to be a time of fun and fellowship as we spread good news and cheer to many of our *cherished members*. This is a church-wide event - ALL are welcome to join in this festive afternoon!



Poinsettias for Christmas

At the Christmas liturgies, the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones. Contributions of any amount are welcome. If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. Special offering envelopes may also be found on the Narthex tables. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church. **Monday, December 18th is the deadline** to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletins.

Please join our merry group of St. Mary's members as we beautify the church for Christmas!

Tuesday, December 19th
9:30am

*Contact Susan Fox
for details or questions.*



The
Hanging
of the
Greens

HO! HO! HO!

WRAP IT WITH A BOW!

DECEMBER 17, 2023 ~ 2 Pm
Moseley Hall

Bring your gifts in a box!
Bring a roll of wrapping paper!
We will help you design beautiful bows!
Enjoy fun and fellowship!

An ECW Event

Worship

Annual Parish Meeting



Again this year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held **during the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 10th**. We do not anticipate the service to last much longer than usual that day. After the Peace and before the Offertory that morning, we will have an uncontested election by voice for the next 4-person Vestry class prepared by the Vestry's Nominating Committee reflecting the nominating ballots received last month (*read more about those nominees on page 6*).

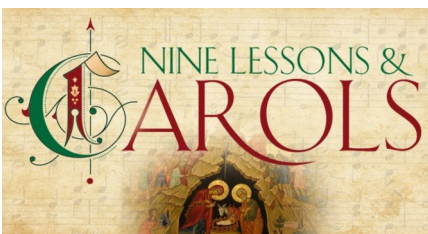
We will also elect lay delegates and alternates for the Diocesan Convention to be held in Greenville on **February 9th-10th**. Delegates to Diocesan Convention are Richard Crumbacker, Jo Parrott, and Dacie Edwards. Our Alternate Delegate is Laury Sargeant. Madi Hengst will be our Youth Representative, and Jayden Wright will serve as a Page. The Annual Report will be available online and in hard copy that Sunday morning. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for all who serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!



We are thrilled to have a baptism planned for **Sunday, December 17th during the 10:30am liturgy**. That morning, we plan to celebrate the baptism of Abigail Minshew, daughter of Andrea Nuñez-Minshew and Caleb Minshew, and sister to big brother Benjamin. Please keep Abigail, her parents and family, and her baptismal sponsors in your prayers. We hope you will make every effort to join us that day as we welcome the newest member of the houseful of God and renew our own Baptismal vows at all services that day. Join us for a reception in Moseley Hall immediately following the service.

One LORD, One Faith, One BAPTISM.

Ephesians 4:5



Celebrate the First Sunday in the Christmas Season with The Lessons & Carols on **Sunday, December 31st at 10:30am**. Come, lift up your voices, and let us rejoice and share in song together. (*There will not be an 8am service that day.*)



Christmas Gifts for Foster Children and the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

This year, we only expect to receive a few lists from the Foster Children Program. Any that are received will be posted on the Nursery Hall bulletin board. Please contact Becky Darst (252-521-9800) if you have any questions about this opportunity. In addition, the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry has many children (500!!!) that can be supported in a similar way by purchasing items from their Amazon wishlist (<https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/12B6O5Q3P6AKR>) and shipping those items directly to the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry! God bless you all as the Advent and Christmas seasons draw near, and we discern the ways that we are called to love and serve in these sacred times.

St. Mary's Organist & Choirmaster Discernment & Search Committee

The following members of St. Mary's will serve on the St. Mary's Organist & Choirmaster Discernment & Search Committee: Fr. Tom Warren, Mrs. Bonnie Holton, Mrs. Pam Mazingo, Mr. Ike Hines, and Mrs. Heather Mintz. Please keep these individuals and this ministry in your prayers.

Your Next Vestry Class



RICHARD CRUMBACKER - Richard has lived in Kinston his whole life, attending Kinston High School and then, South Lenoir High School. He worked as an EMT-Intermediate for Lenoir, Duplin and Greene Counties; the last one as the Training Coordinator when he retired. Richard and his wife, Barbara, are the parents to six children and grandparents to eight, with the ninth grandchild on the way. When not cooking at Mary's Kitchen, Richard enjoys spending time with his family and friends, cooking, grilling, traveling, and attending Jeep events. Richard is also active with Concerns of Police Survivors and participates in COPS Walk in memory of his father-in-law. Richard has attended St. Mary's since 2003.



COREY FADER - Corey is a native of Kinston and has been attending St. Mary's since 2021. He is married to Megan, and they have two daughters, Lucy Abbott (17) and Emma (15). He is currently serving as the church's treasurer and on the Edward's breakfast team. He is a managing director with Coastal AgroBusiness, Inc. in Greenville. He is excited about his new role on the Vestry and looks forward to learning and being a part of the vibrant future of St. Mary's.



RANDY SPAUGH - Randy and his wife Margaret, their daughter Mara and her husband Bill, and grandchildren Jake and Jamie are members of St. Mary's. Randy and Margaret's son Jones, and his wife Jessica and their son Wyatt, live in California. Randy has been an Ordained Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for 44 years, serving churches in Eden NC, Richmond, VA, and Kinston. When Randy retired in 2019, he became a member of St. Mary's. He received his BA from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) and worked on his seminary degree at Duke Divinity School and Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest. He received his Doctorate from The Theological School at Drew University in Madison, NJ.



KAY TURNER - Kay was born and raised in Kinston and has been a member of St. Mary's Church for over 30 years. Her 2 sons were confirmed here and were active in the youth group. Over the years, she has taught Sunday School, served on the Altar Guild, and is currently a lay reader for the 8am service. Kay graduated from UNC-CH with a BSN and has been a Registered Nurse for 50 years. She has been employed as a staff nurse, a member of the nursing faculty for Davidson College and PCC Schools of Nursing, Camp Trinity Nurse, and at UNC Lenoir Health Care for 30 years (initially as a Nurse Educator and then Director of Women's Health Services until she retired in 2021). She is excited about the opportunity to serve on the Vestry.

Christian Formation



DECEMBER

Wednesday Supper and Program

December 6th & 13th ~ 6pm

All kids and EYC are invited to join us for supper and programming in Moseley Hall.

Parents' Night Out Hosted by EYC

Saturday, December 9th ~ 4:30-7:30pm

Parents! Drop off your kids (5th grade and younger) for a night of fun, pizza, and crafting while you get some shopping done, have a date night, or just enjoy some quiet time! Cost is \$20 per child and will benefit St. Mary's Youth Ministries Projects.

Family Christmas Movie Night

Sunday, December 10th ~ 5:30-7:30pm

We will watch Elf together! Bring a snack to share. Also bring a blanket and big pillows if you want to lounge on the floor of Moseley Hall and enjoy the movie!

Advent Coffee with Liz

Thursday, December 14th & 28th ~ 4-5pm

Join us at the Daily Grind on Vernon Avenue for discussion and fellowship.

EYC & Young Adult Service Day at Mary's Kitchen

Friday, December 15th ~ 8:30-11:30am

All EYC students and Young Adults are invited to help cook, serve, and clean at Mary's Kitchen. We will hand out all of the wonderful scarves and other warm weather items made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you would like to bring your younger children to help, please contact Liz!

Kids Ministries Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th ~ 9-10:15am

Bring a light snack to share if you would like.

EYC Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21st ~ time/place TBA

Bring a wrapped gift following the theme "it must be edible."



THE
GIFTS
OF
Christmas


★ HOPE ★ LOVE ★ JOY ★ PEACE

From the Desk of Liz:

Hi families!

Advent is here! I hope all of you have been able to find a way that fits for you and your family to slow down and focus on what Advent truly means for you. As we move through Advent together, we will focus on Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. I pray that Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace can find us wherever we are this Advent.

In Peace, Liz



Sundays in Advent

9:00am ~ Parish Breakfast
9:30am ~ Sunday School for All Ages

Check our Social Media for more

Winter
Break
activities!



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



ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Thursday, December 21st** from **12:00-4:00pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org.

Give a give that counts this year...give LIFE.

SUNDAYS

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel
 9:00 am - Parish Breakfast in Moseley Hall
 9:30 am - Christian Formation for All Ages
 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church
 (livestreamed to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and shared on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com))

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2023
 Skip Greene
 Audra Haddad
 Vicki Kennedy
 Pam Mazingo

2024
 Rob Bizzell
 Jess Edwards
 Jo Parrott
 Ginny Wade

2025
 Andrew Dupstadt
 Bonnie Holton
 Anne Lindley
 Jim Purnell

Senior Warden – Vicki Kennedy
 Junior Warden – Jim Purnell

Clerk – Audra Haddad
 Treasurer – Corey Fader