

January 2024



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

# The Bell Ringer

Online at [www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)



**January 7, 2024**

**3pm & 5pm**

**Free to the public**

*\* Boar's Head Performers:*

*See page 5 for full rehearsal schedule*

St. Mary's has offered the Boar's Head Festival as its annual gift to the community since 1990, the 650th anniversary of the festival's start at Queen's College, Oxford, England, in 1340. With the exception of an ice storm (2018) and the COVID-19 pandemic (2021 & 2022), the Boar's Head Festival has been a constant celebration for this community.

But why, you may wonder, a "boar's head"? We, in Eastern NC, understand well the cultural significance of a pig pickin'! The Romans, likewise, served boar as the first course at their banquets, and it would draw a crowd like it does today! Additionally, the boar was a fierce and dangerous creature. So, as the Gospel spread throughout Europe, the boar's head came to represent evil's ultimate defeat by the power of God through Jesus Christ.

The pageant follows a similar narrative arc. While clearly a Christian celebration from the start, the pageant's early sections feature secular wintertime celebratory songs. But as all of the characters gather for a feast, the story dramatically shifts to tell the story of Immanuel: how God became with us in the person of Jesus. Shepherds, angels, and wise men soon join the more than 150 other people dressed up as peasants and nobility, beggars and kings, clergy, and cooks. In the end, everyone in attendance can relate to one or many of the characters and find his or herself uniquely placed at the Christ child's manger, where all people are found to be beloved recipients of God's greatest gift, and no one is left unchanged.

The services at 3pm and 5pm are free as a gift to all. Following the 5pm service, a delicious banquet is offered as a full meal of wonderful food & drink, all set in the king's decorated hall (tickets for the banquet have already sold out for this year!). We hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the JOY that is the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival!



## From the Rector



It makes me sad that Christmas has now been put in the rear-view mirror by so many people that I speak with. What's the hurry?! Maybe you also catch people off-guard when you wish them a Merry Christmas only a few days after December 25, much less as the twelfth day approaches?!

Here at St. Mary's, I'm glad that we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus into this world and into our lives through all twelve days, leading right into the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. It's yet another opportunity that we have to celebrate the joyous Gospel of our Lord Jesus!

Epiphany is often referred to as a festival of light. On this occasion, we remember the light of the Star of Bethlehem that led the Magi to the Christ Child. And in our many ways of celebrating the Epiphany, light is featured... perhaps none more precious to members of St. Mary's Church than the Christ Candle being carried out into the world at the conclusion of the Boar's Head Festival. The significance of this light-bearing moment is of the utmost importance for our lives and for this world. How wonderful is it that you, dear friend, are beginning 2024 with opportunities to live out your life of faith and serve as a beacon of God's light wherever you are and for whomever God has placed in your life?!



Throughout this January edition of the BellRinger, you will find news about some opportunities just like this. Opportunities to nourish and cultivate the faith that has been given to you. Opportunities to get to know one another and serve others in Jesus' name. Opportunities to be a reflection of the light of God around you. There are, of course, countless other opportunities that the Lord may be placing on your heart too. I encourage you to ask God where you might

be blessed (and be a blessing) by joining in. May we all welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives as He comes to us afresh in this time, and may we seek to know Him and to make Him known in this new year.

*Tom +*



Lectors lead worshipers in hearing the Word of God proclaimed during the liturgy. A time of fellowship and discussion about this ministry will take place on Sunday, January 21 following the 10:30am liturgy - we'll gather in the Nave. Would you be interested in learning more? All current and prospective Lectors are encouraged to attend!



### 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.*

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

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

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://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](http://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org)

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### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!"

**J**esus First,

**O**thers Second,

**Y**ourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

[www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)

Rector	<a href="#">The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren</a>
Sr. Warden	<a href="#">Mrs. Vicki Kennedy</a>
Jr. Warden	<a href="#">Mr. Jim Purnell</a>
Parish Administrator	<a href="#">Mrs. Lori Kelly</a>
Family Ministry Coordinator	<a href="#">Mrs. Liz Hengst</a>
Interim Organist & Choirmaster	<a href="#">Ms. Sylvia Wall</a>
Communications Director	<a href="#">Mrs. Sherry Tanner</a>
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	<a href="#">Mr. Jim Godfrey</a>

## News at St. Mary's



### From the Parish Register

#### Burial

*Barbara Pearce Houston ~ November 25, 2023*

#### Baptism

*Abigail Rose Minshew ~ December 17, 2023*



We offer prayers for the repose of the soul Nelda Potter. Nelda had experienced declining health in recent years and was receiving hospice care in Greensboro, where she and her late husband, Glenn, had moved some years ago. Funeral arrangements are still being developed at this time.

Let us pray:

*Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Nelda. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*



### Join Us! We're Hiring!

St. Mary's is now 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 Certified is a plus, but training would be provided. Work hours include 9am-noon on Sundays, Wednesdays 5:30-8pm, & other hours for seasonal events. Interested applicants should contact Liz Hengst, Family Ministry Coordinator, at [lhengst@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:lhengst@stmaryskinston.com) with your resume or letter of experience.



**ADDRESS  
CHANGE**

### *The Mintz Family*

1107 Walker Drive, Kinston 28504

### *Gilda Hollar*

185 Pine View Blvd., Beaufort, NC 28516



### *Thank you!*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Advent observances & Christmas celebrations here at St. Mary's. You made the parish look beautiful and served in ways that have been a blessing to so many. May God grant you a joyous Christmas season and may you and those you hold dear have a happy New Year!



## News at St. Mary's



The Cookie Walk was a great success again this year! Moseley Hall was decorated beautifully, fun, and festive. The day was full of joy and laughs, and we felt the support of many. Much love was shared which is the main goal of the event. Thank you to all the cookie bakers, decorators, and volunteers - you are the true Cookie HEROES!



### Mary's Kitchen Food Drive & Quarterly Service Date

It's not too late to make one of your New Year's Resolutions to support the Mary's Kitchen Ministry!!! Our next food drive for the Kitchen will be **Sunday, January 14th**. This quarter, we will be collecting individually wrapped Little Debbie snack cakes. We challenge everyone to participate! Please drop off your donations to the church during business hours during the week of January 8th-January 12th, or bring it on Sunday, January 14th at the morning liturgy. The items will be taken to the kitchen that week to coincide with our next quarterly service date on **Saturday, January 20th**. The Outreach Committee group is scheduled to serve. Please contact Audra Haddad if you would like to serve on this date.

**STEWARDSHIP**

*Final year-end statements for 2023  
will be mailed in mid-January of 2024.*

## New Vestry Class of 2026



The Annual Parish Meeting was held on **December 10th, 2023, at the 10:30am liturgy**. At that time, the Vestry Class of 2026 was elected: **Richard Crumbacker, Corey Fader, Randy Spaugh, and Kay Turner**. As you get the opportunity, please thank them for their discernment to serve St. Mary's and keep them (with the rest of our vestry and leadership) in your prayers. We are grateful for the members of the outgoing Vestry Class (Skip Greene, Audra Haddad, Vicki Kennedy, and Pam Mazingo). We are also grateful for their faithful service for their work as the Vestry Nominating Committee and SO MUCH more throughout their three-year term! The Vestry will hold its annual **Vestry Retreat Weekend on January 19-20th**, at which time the new Wardens, Clerk, & Treasurer will be selected. Then, on **Sunday, January 21st**, the new Vestry class and Officers will be commissioned. May God bless the upcoming seasons of ministry for these leaders of our church family.



141st Convention of the  
Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

**February 9th-10th**

The 2024 Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina will be held February 9th-10th at the Greenville Convention Center in Greenville, NC this year. During our Annual Parish Meeting, the following members of our church were elected to represent St. Mary's at the upcoming Diocesan Convention:

Lay Delegates: *Richard Crumbacker, Jo Parrott, and Dacie Edwards*

Alternate Lay Delegate: *Laury Sargeant*

Youth Representative: *Madi Hengst*

Page: *Jayden Wright*

We give thanks for your ministry and keep you in our prayers!

# Worship

## BOAR'S HEAD REHEARSAL SCHEDULE



- **Tuesday, January 2nd; 6pm** - Spot Rehearsal for Pageant Start: Door Marshalls, Beefeaters, Lord & Lady of the Manor & their Pages, Choir, Masters of the Revels, Rector, Yule Sprite. Choir will begin their music practice at 6:30pm (running until 8pm).



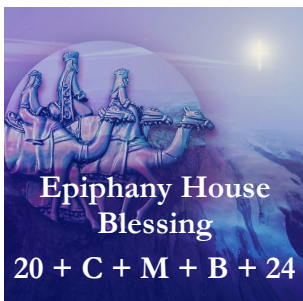
- **Wednesday, January 3rd; 6pm** - Spot Rehearsal for “Boar’s Head Carol” & “Deck the Halls”: Door Marshalls, Masters of the Revels, Trumpeters, Herald, Trencher Bearers, Banner Bearers, Huntsmen, Scholar, Cooks, Pilgrims, Bishop, Dame Julian & Orphans, Knight, Manor Ladies & Children, Puppeteers, Wenceslas & Page, Woods & Yule Log Company, Poor Man, Holly Bearers, Skipping Sprites



- **Thursday, January 4th; 6pm** - Spot Rehearsal for “Here We Come A Wassailing” through “Nativity” Spot: Door Marshalls, Jugglers & Apprentices, Waits, Wizard, Cookie Girls, Tinkerer, Shepherds, Tintinnabulum, Star & Angels, Wise Men & their Pages, Torchbearers



- **Friday, January 5th; 6pm** - Full Cast Walkthrough with Everyone (except the animals!)
- **Saturday, January 6th; (arrive at 8am, hard start at 9am)** - Dress Rehearsal for everyone (except the animals!)
- **Sunday, January 7th** - services are at 3 & 5pm, with a ticketed banquet after the later service (the ticketed banquet has sold out).



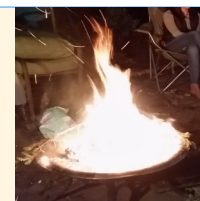
## Blessing of the Homes at Epiphany

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (which is **January 6th** every year) and the season which follows, ending on Shrove Tuesday (which is **February 13th in 2024**). Historically, family and friends would gather to ask God’s blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. A traditional way of doing this is to invite the clergy of the church to visit your home for the blessing. During this liturgy, “20 + C + M + B + 24” may be written with chalk above the home’s entryway. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi who bear gifts to the Christ Child at Epiphany: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “May Christ bless this house.” The “+” signs represent the cross of Christ and the numbers “2024” indicate the year of the blessing.

It is a blessing to your clergy to share in your lives! They would be glad to offer prayers of blessing for your home if requested. Being invited to offer this gift of the church to your home would be a great joy, so please don’t hesitate.

## Monthly Outdoor Worship

Our next Outdoor Worship experience will be a liturgy of Compline on **Sunday, January 21st at 5pm**. At this time, we’ll also enjoy the annual “2nd Lighting of the Warren Family Christmas Tree.” Hope to see you there!





## Faith Formation

### Wednesday Night Dinner & Program



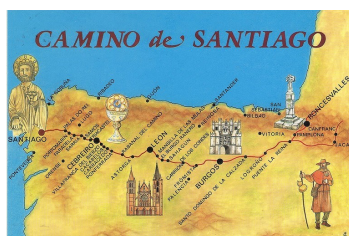
Please join us on **Wednesday, January 17th** for a special edition of our Wednesday Night Dinner and Program as the Warren family shares memories of their sabbatical summer with us. Dinner will be at 6pm, and the program will follow at 6:30pm. We hope to see you for this special night of reflections on this wonderful time!

Then, we look forward to the return of our Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study on **January 24th** with dinner at 6:00pm and Bible Study at 6:30pm. We will read and reflect on the lessons from the weekly lectionary. If you have always wanted to attend a Bible study but don't have time to read and prepare, then this is your chance to take a break from your weekly demands and join us at St. Mary's to be fed physically and spiritually!

### ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

#### The Parables of Jesus

Adult formation will return on **Sunday, January 14th**. Please join us for a special series of lessons on The Parables of Jesus. Jess Edwards will teach this interesting series that explores the truths Jesus taught us through the parables. Adult Christian Formation meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Moseley Hall. ALL are welcome!



### Join us for a JOURNEY.... Walk the Camino de Santiago in Fall 2024

*"The best journeys answer questions that in the beginning, you didn't even think to ask."*

The Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) is an extensive network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St. James (Santiago in Spanish) in Santiago de Compostela in Northwest Spain. Take a first step and learn more in the parlor of St. Mary's on **Thursday, January 25th at 7pm**. Bill Anlyan, father of St. Mary's Sully McRae, will present an informative session about his Camino de Santiago pilgrimage experiences and answer questions about planning a pilgrimage as a group. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in this journey. For more information: contact Pam Mazingo, Audra Haddad, or Laury Sargeant.

*"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin"*

## ECW

### ECW ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, January 21st

3:00-4:30 pm

Moseley Hall

*(with light refreshments)*

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



## Weekly Beginning Sunday, January 14th

Sunday Breakfast - 9am  
Sunday School - 9:30am

### Boar's Head Festival

Sunday, January 7th ~ 3pm & 5pm

*All kids and EYC who are not in the Boar's Head performance are encouraged to attend this event with their families.*

### Coffee with Liz

January 11th & 25th ~ 4-5:30pm

*Join us at Middle Grounds for coffee, games, & discussion.*

### Winter Retreat at Trinity Center

Friday, January 12th—Sunday, January 14th

*Contact Liz for more information.*

### Wednesday Dinner & Formation for All Ages

Starting January 14th ~ 6-7:30pm

*All kids and EYC are invited to join us in Moseley Hall for supper and lessons/activities.*

### Family Ministry Meeting

Sunday, January 14th ~ 11:45 am

*Anyone interested in participating in Kids Ministries, EYC, or general Family Ministries, please join us in Moseley Hall for light lunch, discussions, and questions.*

### Common Ground Garden Clean Up & Lunch

Monday, January 15th ~ 9:30am-12:30pm

*All EYC are invited to join us for cleaning up the Community Garden followed by lunch.*

### A Case for Love Movie (Jacksonville, NC)

Tuesday, January 23rd ~ 4:30-10:30pm

*Can unselfish love change everything? ALL are invited to join St. Mary's for this documentary movie inspired by the teachings and writings of Bishop Michael Curry. We will leave from St. Mary's at 4:30pm, eat dinner, watch the movie, and head back to St. Mary's (aiming to arrive by 10pm). Cost \$20 (dinner & movie). Bring extra money for your movie snacks. Limited spots available.*

*Contact Liz Hengst.*

### Family Dinner & Game Night

Friday, January 26th ~ 6-8:30pm

*Join us in Moseley Hall for dinner (bring a side dish to share) and games (if you have a game you love...bring it to share with others). ALL ages are welcome!*



## FROM THE DESK OF LIZ ~

Welcome 2024! We are so excited for all that 2024 holds for all of our St. Mary's Families!

- What are you excited about in 2024?
- What are you hopeful about in 2024?
- Please let us know how we can pray for you throughout 2024!

IN PEACE, LIZ

SAVE

13 FEBRUARY  
SHROVE  
TUESDAY

14 FEBRUARY  
ASH  
WEDNESDAY

THESE

DATES

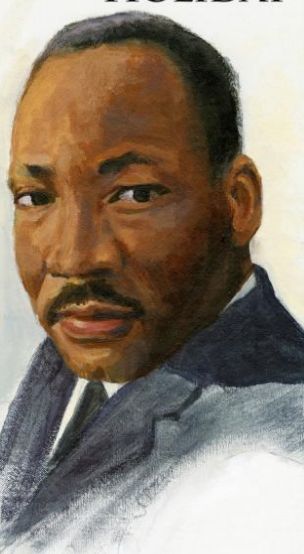
1-3 MARCH  
HAPPENING  
#80

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

The Parish Office  
 will be closed  
**January 15, 2024**  
 in honor of the

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**HOLIDAY**

EVERYBODY  
 can be  
 great.  
 Because  
 ANYBODY  
 can  
 SERVE.  
 You only  
 need a  
 HEART  
 full of  
 grace.  
 A  
 SOUL  
 generated  
 by LOVE.



**REMEMBER! CELEBRATE! ACT!**

### 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](#) and shared on [Facebook](#))

### 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	2024	2025
Skip Greene	Rob Bizzell	Andrew Duppsstadt
Audra Haddad	Jess Edwards	Bonnie Holton
Vicki Kennedy	Jo Parrott	Anne Lindley
Pam Mazingo	Ginny Wade	Jim Purnell

Senior Warden – Vicki Kennedy

Junior Warden – Jim Purnell

Clerk – Audra Haddad

Treasurer – Corey Fader