

October 2024



St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!
The Bell Ringer
Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night, shall not cease.”*

Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

WE INVITE YOU TO READ MORE
ABOUT THIS BOUNTIFUL SEASON OF
FAITH WITH ST. MARY'S:

- PGS. 2 & 5 - ST. FRANCIS
- PG. 4 - NEWCOMERS' GATHERING
- PG. 5 - ST. BARNABAS SERVICE
- PG. 6 - CONSECRATION SUNDAY

... AND SO MUCH MORE!

From the Rector



Wisdom from St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

-Prayer attributed to St. Francis (BCP, pg. 833)

St. Francis is certainly one of the most spoken-of (and even frequently seen!) people from the history of the Christian church. I see him nearly every day as I look out of the window of my church study. There, in the garden that bears his name, is a statue of St. Francis. Perhaps you have one like it in your yard. St. Francis is well-known as being the patron saint for animals and ecology. Our church is among many that observe his feast day (Oct. 4) by giving thanks to God for the gifts of creation, asking God's blessing in particular over the animals with whom we share life.

Statues in gardens and liturgies alongside our animal companions are beautiful invitations for us to consider the rich Christian witness that St. Francis offers. He wrote a powerful hymn, one of my favorites, called "All creatures of our God and king" (#400 in the Hymnal, 1982) that hints at these riches. The hymn, of course, describes all parts of creation taking their proper places in God's grand masterpiece: planets & stars, skies & winds, waters & fire, flowering & fruit-bearing plants, all glorifying our Creator simply by *being*. And then, Francis invites us even deeper, into the power of God that can do the unimaginable. The sixth stanza places death itself into its proper place in light of the resurrection of Jesus - "you lead back home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod: O praise him, Alleluia!" Some of you have begun humming the tune as you read this... I hope it stays with you all day!

Without the Gospel, it is impossible to see the fullness of God's redeeming work in this world and in every facet of our lives. But with it, even death itself is known to ultimately yield to God. Friends, the Good News is that God is also at work in this same life-giving way in our everyday living - even in situations that look as hopeless as death, the Gospel tells us that God has the last word, and following Him in our lives is transformative for individuals, families, communities, nations, and this world in ways that are beyond what we could ask for or imagine. I hope you carry this truth with you like a song in your heart! Pray St. Francis' prayer again - for yourself and for us as a family. I am praying it for you and us all. God bless you!

Tom +

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	Mr. Jess Edwards
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jim Purnell
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Minister of Music	Mr. Sam Holt
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Marriage:

Lenzi (Moore) and Max Thorne
September 14, 2024

Baptism:

Braxton Hill Miles
September 22, 2024

Burial:

Frances Hatcher "Honey" Fuller
September 14, 2024



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jay Derby, husband of Rita (Rit) Carey Derby. Jay died on September 9th at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. There was a private family burial at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Snow Hill and the family received friends on September 14th. Please keep Rit and all who love and miss Jay in your prayers.

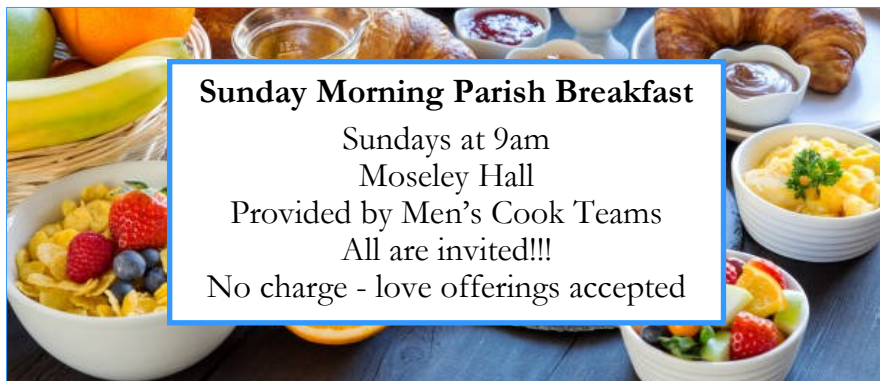
Let us pray:

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Jay, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Cherished Members' Luncheon!

This special ministry celebrates our Senior members of St. Mary's and their friends with a luncheon in Moseley Hall at 11:30am on the first Thursday of each month beginning October 3rd. It's a great time to get together with friends and enjoy a delicious meal lovingly prepared and served by members of St. Mary's. Sign up in the Narthex or call the parish office!



Sunday Morning Parish Breakfast

Sundays at 9am
Moseley Hall
Provided by Men's Cook Teams
All are invited!!!
No charge - love offerings accepted

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



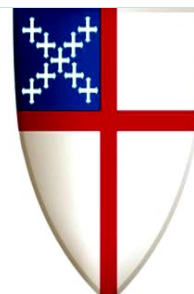
Mary's Kitchen Food Drive & Service Date

This quarter, the St. Mary's scheduled service date is Saturday, October 5th. If you have individually wrapped snack cakes (Little Debbie cakes or something similar), be sure to drop those donations to the church office to coincide with our service date. The ECW is scheduled to serve and needs 5 willing

THANK YOU!
FOR SUPPORTING MARY'S KITCHEN!

helpers. If you would like to volunteer for this date, please contact Audra Haddad or Ginny Wade.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH
Welcomes You!



Life with St. Mary's A Newcomer Gathering

St. Mary's has been blessed to welcome many to the parish family in the last year! If you consider yourself new, or would otherwise appreciate a conversation about the life of faith at St. Mary's, please plan to come to this 3-session series on October 6th, October 13th, & October 30th. We'll meet after the 10:30am liturgy, and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Fr. Tom (tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com) by the Friday before each gathering. Welcome!

HURRICANE HELENE

RESPONSE

Kinstonians understand the devastation that is possible from hurricanes and flooding... as well as the difference that the generosity of others can make during the season of recovery. Help us reach our goal of \$2500 to send right away to Episcopal Relief & Development's response to local churches doing boots-on-the-ground ministry in response.

Bring a contribution to the church office this week, give online at www.stmaryskinston.com/give or text "STMARYSKINSTON" to 73256. A link to our giving portal will be sent to you. Select the "PDF - Priest Discretionary Fund" to contribute. God bless you!



Ironclad Race Aid Station

St. Mary's will serve as an aid station for the "home stretch" of the MEB Ironclad Race 1/2 Marathon (and a block away from the 5k route) on October 19th from 8-11am. If you would like to dress up in a Boar's Head costume, cheer on the runners, and hand out water that day, please contact the church office or Holly Warren by October 16th!

ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, October 21st
NOON-4PM
IN MOSELEY HALL

WALK-INS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
BUT RESERVATIONS ARE PREFERRED

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AT
WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG
TYPE IN STMARYS
OR PHONE 1-800-RED-CROSS



Worship



First of all, I want to say thank you for making me feel so welcome as your new Minister of Music! It has indeed been a great joy meeting you and being a part of worship each Sunday, and I look forward to working with you as we continue to focus on our mission to enrich worship at St. Mary's! There are many considerations in planning music for worship each Sunday, but first and foremost is choosing meaningful hymns that not only appeal to you on a musical level but that also convey a message that resonates within you. As much as possible, I aim to select songs that somehow relate to the Gospel or other readings; but more importantly my mission is to choose hymns that you enjoy singing! I love playing much of the beautiful music composed for the organ, but there is nothing more exciting than accompanying a congregation singing boldly and joyfully! Singing is worship, so regardless if you feel you have a good singing voice or not, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!" ~Sam



St. Francis of Assisi Celebrate the Feast Day with a Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 6th, at 4pm, ALL ANIMALS are welcome inside St. Mary's Church for the annual Blessing of the Animals liturgy!! All animals are to be accompanied by their human friends and restrained either by leash or carrier/cage. A special offering of monetary donations and pet food will be collected for the Lenoir County SPCA.

ST. BARNABAS
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Saturday, October 26th at 10am

THE HOLY EUCHARIST LITURGY WILL BE FROM THE 1928 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER WHICH INCLUDES POETIC LANGUAGE LARGELY UNCHANGED FROM ITS ENGLISH PREDECESSOR IN 1552.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

ALL SAINTS EVENSONG

Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 5:00 pm

COMPLINE UNDER THE STARS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH AT 6PM

JOIN US ON THE PARISH COMMONS
PRAYER ~ WORSHIP ~ CAMPFIRE'S
S'MORES & HOT CHOCOLATE



Mark your calendars! There are **96 days** between October 1st and the 2025 Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival on Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at 3:00pm & 5:00pm.

Plans are underway for the 34th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival, and we can feel the excitement as we prepare. The performance is free to the public as a love offering during this beautiful season. The roles, costume fittings, and rehearsal schedules will be provided in November, and tickets for the banquet will go on sale then as well. Be on the lookout for all of that information, but most of all, be in prayer for this wonderful event to be shared with the community.

Consecration Sunday is Coming - October 27!

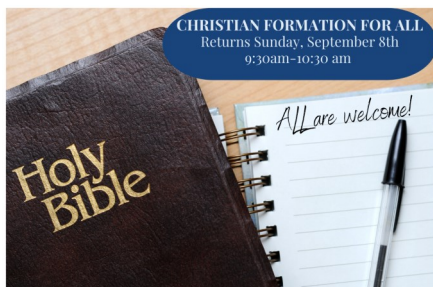
Consecration Sunday



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. St. Mary's Vestry has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis. New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" Each Sunday of

October, we will have a guest speaker during the announcements period of our service. Then, on Consecration Sunday, October 27th, we will have only one service (10:30am liturgy) and welcome our guest preacher, the Rev. Bob Hudak, former Rector from St. Paul's in Greenville (2005-2018). Father Bob will include a brief period of instruction and inspiration, concluding with an opportunity for members to make their commitments as a confidential act of worship. Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, either online or in-person. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. Immediately following the 10:30am liturgy, we will share a time of food and fellowship with a catered banquet in Moseley Hall. Please keep this time in our church life in your prayers, and we give thanksgivings for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday!

Christian Formation



Christian Formation for All Ages

Christian Formation for All Ages continues to meet at 9:30am every Sunday. High school and younger age groups are having activities related to the Scripture readings in Sunday worship. Adults are sharing a 6-week series about the history and formation of the Bible as well as an exploration of the four Gospels. Join us!

Join a conversation...

ALPHA with St. Mary's

Wednesdays this fall through November 20

Join us in Moseley Hall at 6pm for a shared meal followed by small group time.

ALL are welcome ~ Free ~ Childcare provided

RSVP to tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com

- Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts and hear from others



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ALPHA RETREAT
Saturday, November 2

Alpha

Episcopal Church Women



Happy Fall!!!

- The wonderful ECW group serves a warm meal with love at Mary's Kitchen on Saturday, October 5th, from 8:30am-12pm. We need at least 5 willing hands to serve over 100 patrons. Please reach out to Ginny Wade or Audra Haddad. This quarter we are collecting Little Debbie snacks for the Kitchen.
- The ECW Bulb Sale Fundraiser concludes this month. Don't miss this wonderful fundraising effort that supports the many ministries of the ECW within our parish and our larger community. Be sure to place your order before the deadline, Wednesday, October 9th.
- And lastly, don't forget our Holy Night Nativity oyster shell activity on Sunday, November 17th, at 3pm. Join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and craftiness to create a Nativity that you can cherish during Advent, Christmas, and throughout the year. Sign up information will be sent out at a later date.

We hope you will join us this fall for all the wonderful moments of faith and fellowship!

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

*Pictured below:
Robin Simms, Lori Kelly, & Sherry Tanner.*



We offer our thanksgivings for the St. Mary's Nursery School and its new school year. Recently, SMNS celebrated with a 3-day Open House event, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church members and staff

hosted a hospitality table to welcome the students, families, and teachers. In addition, "Grab-N-Go" lunch boxes were lovingly prepared for the teachers to enjoy on their first day of school. The feedback from Madison, Director of SMNS, was overwhelming. In her words: *"Everyone was so THANKFUL for the lunch! Amazing and definite life savers after the first day!"* She went on to say *"My teachers said the blessing [of the preschool] was so great...like we were loved and welcomed. A few even said we got hugs....Thank you all for being so welcoming to me and my staff. So excited for all the good things happening this year!"*

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
&
ST. MARY'S NURSERY SCHOOL
invite you to
Trunk or Treat
31 OCTOBER 2024
5:00-6:30 PM
800 ROUNDTREE STREET
KINSTON, NC

Reserve your space to host a decorated car!
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A-FA62BABFCC61-51938698-trunk>

CANDY! GAMES! MUSIC!

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



Join Us! We're Hiring!

St. Mary's is now receiving applications for a part-time Nursery Staff position. The ideal applicant will have experience working with and caring for children, ages birth-5th grade. CPR Certified is a plus, but training Sundays 8:45am-noon, Wednesdays 5:30-8pm, and occasional other hours for seasonal events. Interested applicants should email a resume or letter of experience to tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com.

SUNDAYS (Childcare available 8:45am-Noon)

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 in Facebook)

Staffed nursery available 8:45am-Noon.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS (Childcare available 5:45pm-8pm)

7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Group in Moseley Hall

6:00 pm - ALPHA & Programming for all ages

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2024

Rob Bizzell
 Jess Edwards
 Jo Parrott
 Ginny Wade

Senior Warden – Jess Edwards
 Junior Warden – Jim Purnell

2025

Andrew Duppstadt
 Bonnie Holton
 Anne Lindley
 Jim Purnell

Clerk – Andrew Duppstadt
 Treasurer – Corey Fader

2026

Richard Crumbacker
 Corey Fader
 Randy Spaugh
 Kay Turner