



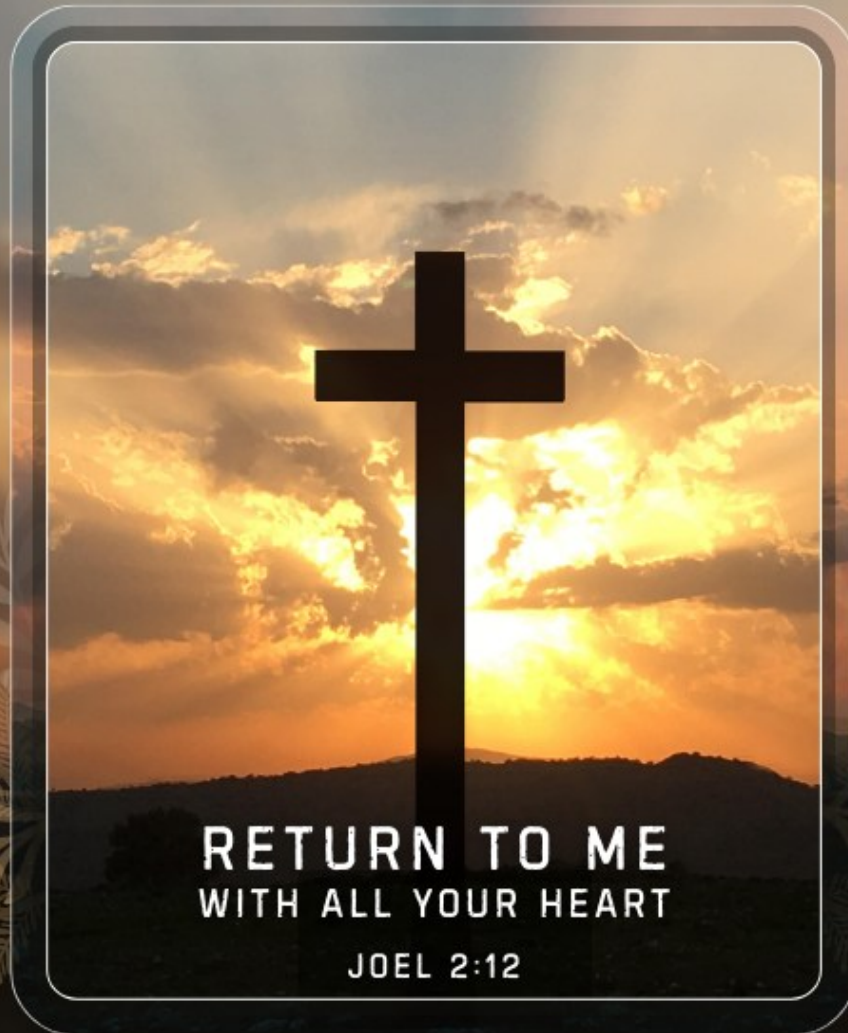
October 2025

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

A season of transformation



From the Rector

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart..." -Joel 2:12

In recent Sundays, our gatherings for liturgy have involved parables of Jesus as recorded in Luke's Gospel: the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, the Lost/Prodigal Son, and the Unjust Steward. These parables have all been described as ways that Jesus illustrates the never-exhausting, and therefore always-surprising, grace of God. As we've explored them together, I have wondered how the Holy Spirit, through them, has changed me (or would like for me change). It's a question that I often wonder and am on the lookout for because I believe that a change of heart within me (and anyone) is always possible with God, and especially when there is an encounter with the Word of God and the Sacraments... thanks be to God! And that is what the church gathers in worship, in service, in fellowship, and in any other way: to encounter the Living God, to be transformed, and to be sent out for God's purposes in this world.

Although the passage from the book of the prophet Joel that is highlighted here is usually read during Lent, it stands out to me also in this time because of our many "returnings" this time of year: a return from summertime rhythms, perhaps a return to "church" altogether (welcome home!), and certainly a return for all of us to the Program Year. May you find opportunities here (at St. Mary's and in this BellRinger) for joyful, authentic, and charitable life together... and may we all be transformed and sent in joyful service to the Risen Lord Jesus!

Yours in Christ, *Tom +*



We are excited to share that St. Mary's will host a concert in early 2026 (date TBD) featuring the Ciompi Quartet of Durham, NC. Be on the lookout for more

information!

"Since its founding in 1965 by the renowned Italian violinist Giorgio Ciompi, the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University has delighted audiences and impressed critics around the world. In a career that spans five continents and includes many hundreds of concerts, the Ciompi Quartet has developed a reputation for performances of real intelligence and musical sophistication, with a warm, unified sound that allows each player's individual voice to emerge."

YOU ARE INVITED.....if you love caring for others through conversation, prayer, hospitality and/or your talents please join us. St. Mary's Pastoral Care Ministry will hold a meeting in the Parlor immediately **following the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 2nd**. Christ calls us to care for each other whether you have a brief amount of time to share or a few hours. Our meeting will be brief but loaded with information and a willingness to answer all questions. Join Kay Turner and me... light refreshments will be provided. Please share your blessings!

Faithfully yours,
Anne Lindley

A SHAWL MAKER'S PRAYER by Diane Burgess

Dear Lord:

Bless my hands as I knit today. May each twist of the yarn guide me to create a pattern of love and comfort in my work and remind me of Your ultimate protection. Wrap me in Your spirit so that I will be caring towards those in need. Grant me patience as I create this shawl. And bless my handiwork as it travels to bring comfort and peace to someone in need of Your warm embrace. Amen.



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. Sean Rowe

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

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

www.episcopalchurch.org

α

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. Bonnie Holton
Jr. Warden	Mr. Richard Crumbacker
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Minister of Music	Mr. Sam Holt
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Lisa Maxwell
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Richard Crumbacker

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Baptism:

Adriana Maria Gonzales

September 14, 2025



Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows:

Jennifer "Jen" McKinley Dean

September 14, 2025

With Sympathy



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Jeff Davis, brother of Sherry Tanner. Jeff died on September 10th, 2025 at home surrounded by family. There was a Celebration of Life service in Plymouth on September 13th, 2025 with a private family burial planned for later. Please keep Sherry and all who love and miss Jeff in your prayers.

Let us pray:

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Jeff 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 2nd. 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!

ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, October 20, 2025
12PM-4PM
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



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 4th**, and we are collecting individually wrapped snack cakes (Little Debbie cakes or similar) for the Kitchen. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or brought to church on Sundays to coincide with our service date. In addition, any donation is always welcome, and financial gifts may be made by scanning the QR code as well. The ECW will be serving with JOY this quarter! Please contact Audra Haddad if you would like to join them.



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 join us for an evening of conversation and supper on **Sunday, October 26th, 4:30-6:30pm** in Moseley Hall. Please RSVP to Fr. Tom (tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com) by the Wednesday, October 22nd. Welcome, Newcomers!



Helping Hands & Hearts Needed

Come join the Habitat for Humanity crew! St. Mary's will have the opportunity to assist in the new build at 1504 Perry Park Drive on **Wednesday, October 8th from 12:00pm-3:30pm**. No experience needed - just a willingness to learn and

a heart for giving back. If you are interested, please contact the church or Sarah Warner at 252-521-2494 by **October 6th**.

MOTHER EARTH BREWING
IRONCLAD
HALF MARATHON + 5K

Ironclad Race Aid Station

St. Mary's will host an aid station for the "home stretch" of the MEB Ironclad Race Half Marathon on **October 18th from 8-11am**. Join a group of merry makers as we dress up in a Boar's Head costume, cheer on the runners, and hand out water that day!



Boar's Head News - *Mark your calendars!* *There are 102 days between October 1, 2025 & January 11, 2026*

Plans are underway for the 35th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival planned for **Sunday, January 11th, 2026, with performances at 3pm and 5pm**. The performances are free to the public as a love offering during this beautiful season. The roles, costume fittings, and rehearsal schedules will be provided in November. The banquet that follows the 5pm performance is a ticketed event. Tickets are \$50 per person and will go on sale **Monday, November 3rd**. The excitement is building, so be on the lookout for all of that information! Most of all, please be in prayer for this wonderful event to be shared with the community.

Worship



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

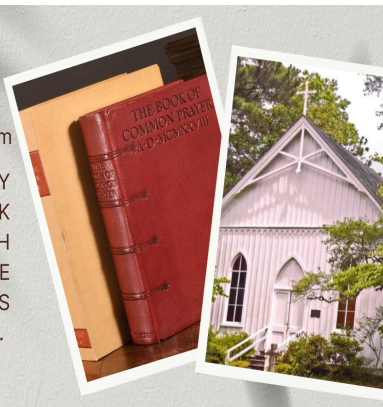
On Sunday, October 5th, at 4pm, ALL ANIMALS are welcome inside St. Mary's Church for the annual Blessing of the Animals liturgy!! All animals are to be accompanied by their human friends and restrained either by leash or carrier/cage. A special offering of monetary donations and pet food will be collected for the Lenoir County SPCA.

ST. BARNABAS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Saturday, October 25th 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!



WORSHIP THE LORD
IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS
-PS. 29:2

Choral Evensong led by the Chancel Choir

- Sunday, October 12th at 5pm
- Sunday, November 9th at 5pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT family hymn sing

Join your church family for a fun, family-friendly night! Adults AND kids! Come ready to belt out your favorite hymns from the Hymnal. Special kid-friendly songs will be prepared, and percussion instruments will be available.

OCTOBER 8, 2025

JANUARY 21, 2026

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

APRIL 15, 2026

SUPPER AT 6PM
HYMN SING AT 6:30PM

SAVE THE DATE

**WORSHIP
COMMITTEE
MEETING**

SUNDAY	NOVEMBER
	<p>JOIN US AFTER CHURCH FOR PRE-ADVENT PLANNING</p>

Episcopal Church Women



Happy Fall ECW Members!

- **Serving at Mary's Kitchen With Love** - The wonderful ECW group serves a warm meal with love at Mary's Kitchen on **Saturday, October 4th, from 8:30am-12pm**. Please reach out to Audra Haddad for questions or if you would like to join this date! This quarter we are collecting Little Debbie snacks for the Kitchen.
- **Christmas Ornament Shell Activity** - Invite a friend and bring your favorite paper napkins (Christmas or others) to make a beautiful Christmas ornament on **Sunday, November 30th at 3pm** in Moseley Hall.

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

Consecration Sunday is Coming - November 9th!

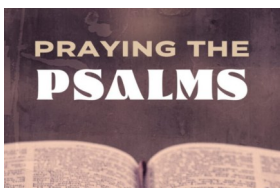


Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting 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, beginning October 19, we will have a guest speaker during the announcements period of our service, and we will welcome a guest preacher, The Rev. Ronald G. Abrams, on Sunday, November 2nd. Then, on **Consecration Sunday, November 9th**, we will have only one service (10:30am liturgy). We will have a brief period of instruction and inspiration that concludes 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!



Fr. Ron began his ministry in New York where he was Assistant Rector of St. Mark's in Westhampton Beach from 1982-1984, followed by seven years as Rector of St. Ann's church in Bridgehampton from 1984-1991. In 1991, Fr. Ron embarked on a new chapter, coming to North Carolina as Rector of Holy Trinity church in Fayetteville. During his time there, he devoted himself to supporting military families and shared his expertise as a guest lecturer for the Bishop of the Armed Forces at conferences in Japan and Germany. He then served a 20-year tenure as Rector of St. James' Parish in Wilmington from 1999-2019, followed by serving as Priest-in-Charge at Holy Trinity Church in Hampstead from 2019-2025. Most recently, Fr. Ron has served as the Summer Ministry Coordinator for the worship community on Figure 8 Island, NC. Fr. Ron is married to Kathleen, an accomplished interior designer, and together they have two sons and four grandchildren.

Christian Formation



Christian Formation for All Ages continues to meet at **9:30am every Sunday**. High school and younger age groups have tailored, age-specific activities, while the adults will focus on the Psalms. After starting with a broad overview of the Book of Psalms and seeing how the whole book fits together, we'll look at some specific psalms and explore how they might fit into your everyday prayer life. And then later in October, join us as we begin a study the Song of Solomon.



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

FALL 2025



Fall Conference is designed by the ECYC for young people in grades 6th-8th from around the diocese. Taking place at Trinity Center, participants will share a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun through worship, small and large groups, singing, dancing, and enjoying the surroundings of Trinity Center. This year, Fall Conference will be held **October 17th-19th** at Trinity Center. For registration: <https://dioec.regfox.com/2025-fall-conference-for-middle-schoolers>.

Hallelujah!
We are learning hymns!

Junior & Senior Faith Academy

During September, the Junior and Senior Faith Academy students have been learning about the history of hymns, the beautiful ways to praise singing hymns, and will make their own hymnals that will be used at the October 8th Family Hymn Sing. In October, the youth will Celebrate the Saints as they learn about the lives and lessons from those who have dedicated their lives to serving God and others.

Church Family Hymn Sing OCTOBER 8

HOSTED BY THE EYC

Music
JAM SESSIONS

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME OUT, BRING YOUR VOICE, BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS, AND "JAM" WITH US IN MOSELEY HALL!

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY
OCTOBER 9 & 23

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
FAMILY Game Night
NOVEMBER 5
6:30 PM
CHURCH WIDE EVENT ALL ARE INVITED
ALL AGES WELCOME

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



Sunday Morning Parish Breakfast

Join us **each Sunday morning at 9am** in Moseley Hall for Sunday Morning Parish Breakfast. Provided by the Men's Cook Teams, this event is for everyone, free of charge, but love offerings are accepted. Let us start your Sunday mornings off with a great meal and fellowship before you head to Christian Formation for All Ages.



SUNDAYS

(Staffed 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)

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

(Staffed childcare available 5:45pm-8pm)

- 7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Group in Moseley Hall
- 5:00 pm - Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm - Supper & Programming for all ages
- 7:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2025
 Andrew Duppstadt
 Bonnie Holton
 Anne Lindley
 Jim Purnell

2026
 Richard Crumbacker
 Corey Fader
 Randy Spaugh
 Kay Turner

2027
 Rob Bizzell
 Frances Herring
 Sarah Warner
 Harry Wooten

Senior Warden – Bonnie Holton
 Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker

Clerk – Andrew Duppstadt
 Treasurer – Jess Edwards