

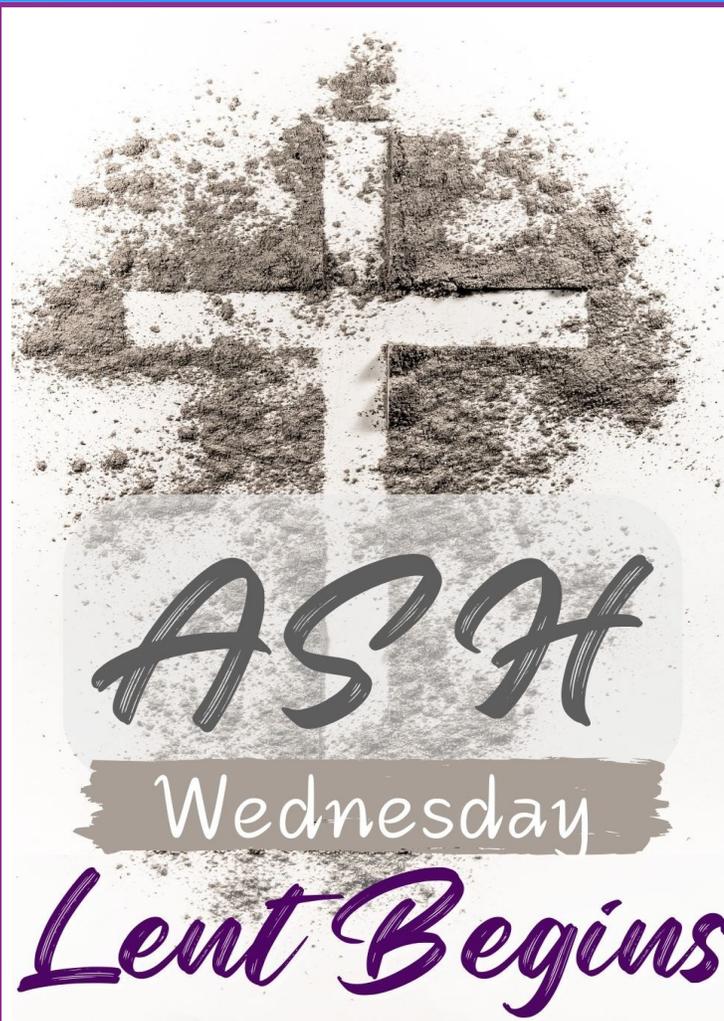
February 2024



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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, which is on February 14th this year.** The season of Lent lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), which represents 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 14th** are available to all:

7:00am - St. Mary's Church (in the All Saints' Chapel)

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

7:00pm - St. Mary's Church (in the Church & livestreamed)

From the Rector

Come and See: An Invitation to Lent

Recently on a Sunday morning in our liturgies, we read together from John's Gospel and were reminded that "come and see" is the Christian invitation par excellence. God "came and saw" His creation when Jesus was born and He lived right here among us. God, of course, continues to be present with us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus invites us to "come and see" for ourselves how He is transforming lives, reconciling us and the rest of creation to God the Father. We, also, are called to invite others to "come and see" the amazing work and grace of God where He has promised to be and where we have experienced Him.

I believe that Lent is a season, ripe with 'come and see' potential. Far from a *dreary* season, the true heart of Lent is, quite simply, to draw close to God - to come near - with our true and honest selves with an openness to being transformed by His mercy and grace. And in so doing, we will see clearly God's love for us that transcends any brokenness that we experience. I invite you, therefore, to come and see for yourself everything that God has for you at St. Mary's this Lent. Every time the church doors are open - for worship, for fellowship, for learning - there is blessing for you to receive and to share. And invite others to come and see with you, for what better

invitation can we offer?

God bless you,




**BACKPACK
BUDDIES**

of Lenoir County

LENTEN ALMSGIVING FOCUS

Almsgiving is the act of giving of one's wealth for the benefit of others, and is an integral part of a traditional observance of Lent. For years, the St. Mary's community have chosen a single focus to pour into together each Lent. This year, we are collecting funds for Backpack Buddies of Lenoir County which provides food for students to take home on Fridays to sustain them until then next Monday's school meal. [Click here to give](#) and write "Lenten Almsgiving" in the memo. God bless you!

LONG RANGE PLANNING LISTENING SESSIONS

Come to Moseley Hall for a time with Fr. Tom, Steve Mazingo (Long Range Planning Committee Chair), and Jess Edwards (Sr. Warden & Capital Campaign Committee Chair) to learn about the projects planned for the upcoming capital campaign and the process that has led to them. **Two sessions are planned: Wednesday, February 7 at 6pm and Sunday, February 18 at 9:30am.** We hope to see you there!

YOU MAY NOTICE...

The church calendar helps us mark time and make spiritual preparations for significant times in our lives of faith. Lent is our time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's victory over death and the season of Easter. In anticipation of the Easter season of exuberance and feasting, Christians in the Anglican tradition observe Lent by "self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." Elements of our liturgies change during the season as well. Some things you may notice include our services beginning with "A Penitential Order," fewer candles, the more solemn purple color of vestments and paraments, our restraint from saying "Alleluia," and singing the "Kyrie Eleison" rather than the more festive "Gloria."

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

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 [Mr. Jess Edwards](#)

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

Transfers In

Judi Norman

January 9, 2024

from the Church of the Servant, Wilmington, NC

Lois and Paul Muller and Lisa Nolan
September 18, 2023 from St. John's Anglican Church, Canada

Transfer Out

Holly Batts

January 5, 2024 to St. Andrew's, Morehead City, NC



With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the families of:

- Lizy John, mother of John John, who died on January 19th at 85 years old. Her funeral will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 9am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary, followed by a small family burial. [You may read her obituary at this link.](#)
- David Graves, stepfather of Kathy Hyler, who died on January 17th, at 86 years old. His funeral was Thursday, January 25th, 2024 in Asheboro. [You may read his obituary at this link.](#)

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the John family and the Graves family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Congratulations

We celebrate the amazing beginning of life for:

- Elizabeth James Shimer, who was born at 4:49am on Monday, January 22nd to Kristen & John Shimer, and big sister, Claire, and big brother, Jack. Her joyful grandparents are Jessica & Sandy Shimer. Uncles Jesse and Justin, and aunt Langley, share in the joy of this wonderful occasion!
- Braxton Hill Miles, born at 4:12am on Saturday, January 20th to Claire (Hill) & Charlton Miles, and his big brother Luke. His joyful grandparents are Stephen Hill and Holly Hill, and he is surrounded by aunts, uncles, and cousins of the Mooring and Means families!
- Wade Thomas Jones, born on December 29nd to Chelsey & Garrett Jones. Her joyful family includes grandparents, Randy & Beth, and aunt Colleen!

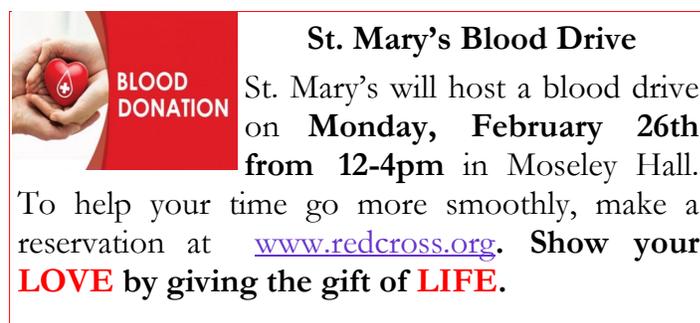
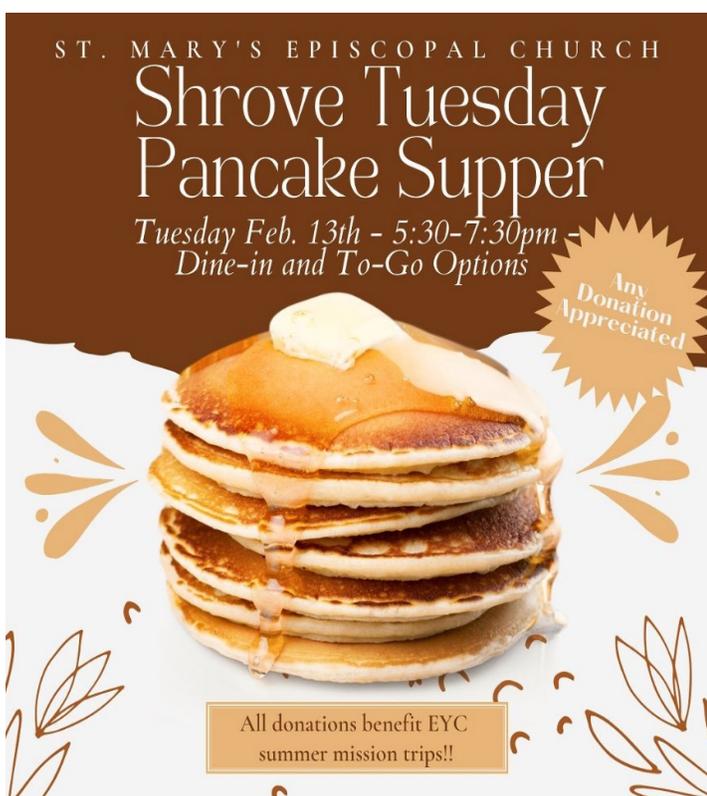
Let us pray:

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon these families. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring their children to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

News at St. Mary's



The prayers of the church are requested for the 141th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina (February 9th-10th). St. Mary's will be represented by Lay Delegates Dacie Edwards, Jo Parrott, and Laury Sargeant; Youth Representative Madi Hengst; and Page Jayden Wright. Please hold them, your clergy, and all the delegates throughout the Diocese in your prayers!



Mark your calendars for the return of Mary's Kitchen Bingo Night on **Friday, March 15th** in Moseley Hall. Come support the Mary's Kitchen ministry while enjoying a night of laughter and fun! Be on the lookout for more information. Contact Jim Godfrey at 252-523-6146 or by [email \(maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com\)](mailto:maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com) to make reservations, for questions, or to make donations!

Worship

THE BAKE & PRAY WORKSHOP WITH KENDALL VANDERSLICE



Join us for an afternoon of bread-making and prayer. Blending baking science and technique with theological reflection, Kendall will teach participants how to incorporate bread-making into the rhythms of their busy lives. Whether lifelong bakers or intimidated by the thought of yeast, participants will step away from the workshop with a practical understanding of how to bake bread and a deep appreciation for the ways God can shape them in the process.

The event is free but as RSVP is needed to prepare materials and ingredients. Please email Father Tom at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com by February 1st to RSVP.

SUNDAY
February 11th
1:30PM
MOSELEY HALL



St. Mary's will be offering the Way of the Cross in the Nave of the Church on **Friday evenings at 5:45pm, 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.



Change in Bulletins During Lent

Each Lent, St. Mary's explores the many perspectives of fasting as a life-giving spiritual practice. Our Sunday bulletins during Lent will reflect this as we intentionally cut back on paper use and open up our Prayer Books during the liturgy. Feel free to bring your own BCP or use the books in the pews!



Lent Madness - The 2024 Lent Madness brackets are ready, however the Saintry Scorecard was not published in printed form this year. Instead, [click here for your digital printable scorecard](#). Get your family in on the action or start a group to research and learn more about many fascinating lives of faith in this Lenten devotion! Then go to www.lentmadness.org every day of Lent to vote and watch the event unfold! May this devotion be a blessing to you this Lent.

ECW



Lenten Wednesday Hospitality

Each Wednesday during Lent, there will be Lenten programming with a simple meal of Soup and Sandwiches. Each week we will need: *two kinds of sandwiches, one with meat and one without (30 of each cut in halves); 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 by emailing Audra at 5haddad@suddenlink.net.

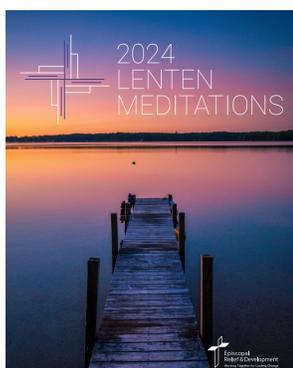
Christian Formation



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 were commissioned. Here are our officers and commission leaders for the coming year:

- **Senior Warden:** Jess Edwards
- **Junior Warden:** Jim Purnell
- **Treasurer:** Corey Fader
- **Clerk of the Vestry:** Andrew Duppstadt
- **Christian Formation for Adults:** Richard Crumbaker with Randy Spaugh
- **Christian Formation for Children/Youth:** Andrew Duppstadt with Ginny Wade
- **Pastoral Care:** Anne Lindley with Kay Turner
- **Fellowship:** Ginny Wade with Kay Turner
- **Finance:** Rob Bizzell with Jim Purnell
- **Worship:** Kay Turner with Jo Parrott
- **Outreach:** Randy Spaugh with Bonnie Holton
- **Personnel:** Bonnie Holton with Jo Parrott
- **Long Range Planning:** Steve Mazingo (Chair), Jess Edwards (Sr. Warden), Jim Purnell (Jr. Warden), Jo Parrott, Richard Crumbaker, Vicki Kennedy (Most recent Sr. Warden), and Harry Wooten (Most recent Jr. Warden)
- **Capital Campaign Committee:** Jess Edwards



ERD'S Lenten Meditations

The 2024 Lenten Meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development focus on Psalm 51:10 which reads, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Reflect on your newness in Christ as you journey through Episcopal Relief & Development's

Lenten Meditations, written by

Miguel Escobar, and discover new ways your faith is guiding you through the world. As a part of ERD's goal to become a carbon-neutral organization, Lenten Meditations are now delivered only via email and as downloadable PDFs. [Click here to download your copy.](#)

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

On February 4th & 11th, we hope you will join us for the concluding Christian Formation sessions exploring some of the "Parables of Jesus," with Jess Edwards. These sessions are meeting in the beautifully re-designed & decorated Parlor.

Then on **Sunday, February 18th**, we will gather in Moseley Hall for the second of two Listening Sessions about our Long Range Plans and upcoming capital campaign.

To wrap up the month, **Sunday, February 25** will begin our Lenten series on the faith, spirituality, and practice of the Desert Fathers & Mothers. This series will be led by Fr. Tom and Randy Spaugh.

Adult Christian Formation meets Sunday mornings at 9:30am, just after our 9am parish breakfast. We hope to see you soon!

Our Wednesday Evenings in Lent will include wonderful fellowship meals followed by an in-depth exploration of the Scriptures from our Sunday Lectionary. May this be a meaningful part of your observance of a Holy Lent.

A NEW, CONVENIENT WAY

TO GIVE

USING YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

TEXT "STMARYSKINSTON"

to 73256

If you need assistance with text giving, text "HELP".
Standard text message and data rates may apply.



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



Wednesday Dinner and Activities (*except* Ash Wednesday, February 14th)

All kids and EYC are invited to join us for supper and lessons/activities.

Chili Cook Off

Sunday, February 4th ~ 11:45am
Join us in Moseley Hall for the annual Chili and Cornbread Cookoff!

EYC Coffee with Liz

Thursday, February 8th ~ 4-5:30pm
Join us at Daily Grind for coffee, discussion, and fellowship.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13th ~ 5:30-7:30pm
Join us for pancakes, sausage, fruit, and a Valentine's treat! Any donation is welcomed. Donations will benefit St. Mary's EYC Summer Missions Trips. EYC students: sign up to help cook, serve, and clean in two shifts 4:30-6:30pm or 6:30-8pm.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14th ~ 7am or 7pm
Join us for any of the Ash Wednesday services.

Common Ground Garden Service Day

Saturday, February 17th ~ 9am-noon
Any age is invited to help prep the garden for planting and rebuild the grape arbor. Bring a water bottle!

Absalom Jones Service at St. Augustine's

Sunday, February 18th ~ 4pm
All are invited, but EYC is particularly invited to join this service and stay after for a very short discussion on who Absalom Jones was.

EYC Lent Coffee with Liz

Thursday, February 22nd ~ 4pm
All EYC Students are invited to meet us at Pearson Park for a very different Lent coffee experience.

EYC "Advantages & Disadvantages" Dinner

Sunday, February 25th ~ 4:30-7:30pm
All EYC students are invited for a dinner where we explore the advantages and disadvantages of today's society.

FROM THE DESK OF LIZ ~

BIG News!

We are filling Summer 2024 with awesome things to do!

- **Sunday, June 23rd-Wednesday, June 26th**, we will join with First Presbyterian Church and head over to Westminster Church for an awesome VBS. Kids can sign-up, and youth and adults can volunteer.
- **Wednesday, July 24th-Tuesday, July 29th**, our EYC students will head to Virginia Beach to hang out with our friends at Eastern Shore Chapel, help the community, and enjoy time in the community.
- Also, **very soon** we will announce our dates for a South Carolina Mission Trip as well as other big, fun events.

More information and sign-ups for all these events will be available soon!

Reminder! Look Out for Lent information and activities!

IN PEACE, LIZ



All High Schoolers are invited to experience

Happening in 2024! Happening is a joyful weekend of sharing life and Christian faith at Trinity Center that is led by High Schoolers for High Schoolers. Happening #80 will take place March 1-3. If you haven't already, register at this link:

<https://dioec.regfox.com/happening-80>

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 7pm in Moseley Hall! Join us as we 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 2024

Camp Trinity provides a residential Christian camping experience on the banks of the Bogue Sound and the 2024 Summer Camp dates have been announced! Brochures and information are available from their website at <https://www.trinityctr.org/camp-trinity-forms/>.

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
 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 Group in Moseley Hall
 6:00 pm - Wednesday Evening Meal & Program

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2024	2025	2026
Rob Bizzell	Andrew Duppstadt	Richard Crumbacker
Jess Edwards	Anne Lindley	Corey Fader
Jo Parrott	Bonnie Holton	Randy Spaugh
Ginny Wade	Jim Purnell	Kay Turner
Senior Warden – Jess Edwards	Clerk – Andrew Duppstadt	
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