

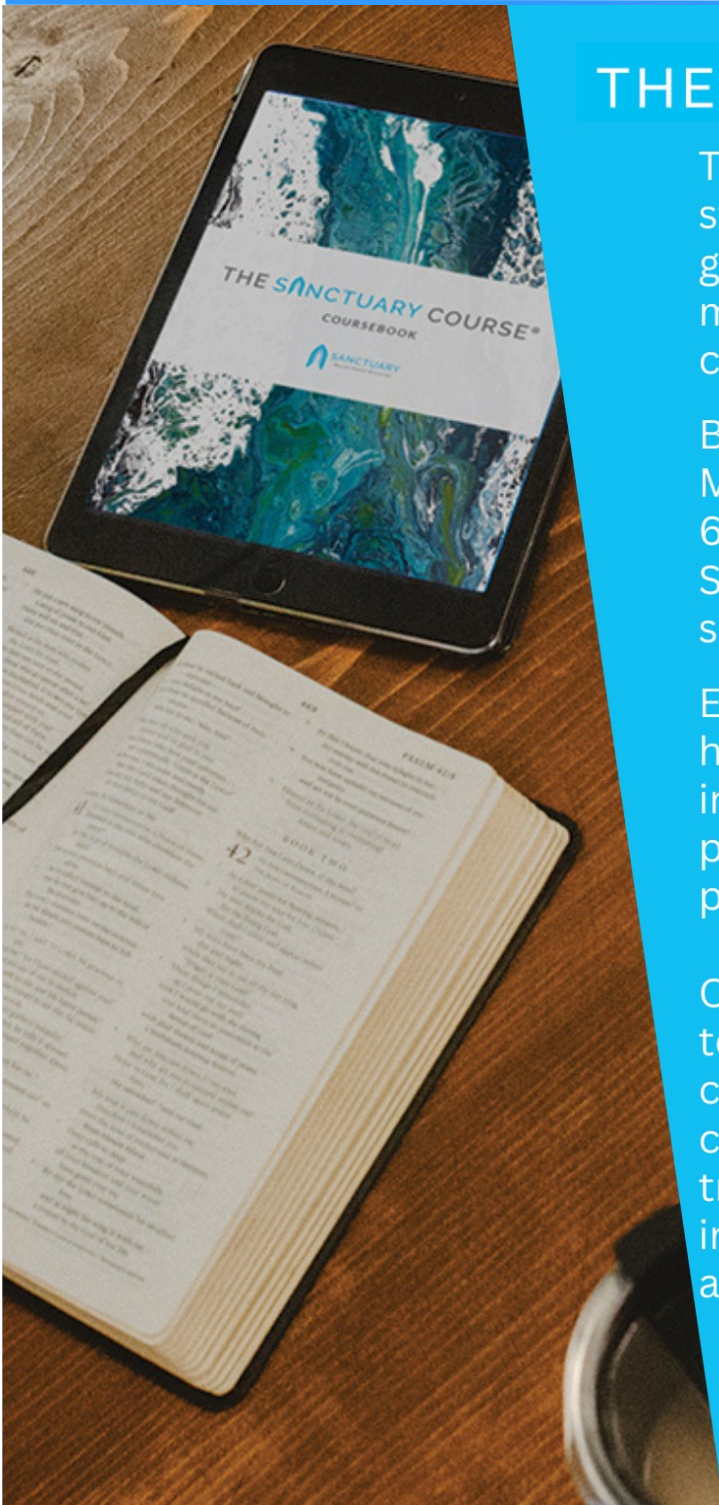


February 2025

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



THE SANCTUARY COURSE®

The Sanctuary Course is an eight-week study guide for churches and small groups who want to learn about mental health and start their own conversations.

Beginning February 12th, join St. Mary's each Wednesday evening at 6pm for supper followed by The Sanctuary Course. There will be a specialized version for youth as well.

Each session explores key mental health topics, drawing upon the insights of mental health professionals, church leaders, and people with lived experience.

Come and learn about important topics such as stigma, recovery, companionship, and self-care. This course requires no prior mental health training or expertise; it is for anyone interested in starting the conversation about faith and mental health.

LEARN MORE AT
SANCTUARYMENTALHEALTH.ORG

From the Rector

LOVE

is patient
 is kind
 it does not envy
 it does not boast
 it is not proud
 it is not rude
 it is not self-seeking
 it is not easily angered
 keeps no record of wrongs
 does not delight in evil
 rejoices with the truth
 always protects
 always trusts
 always hopes
 always perseveres
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

What is Most Important?

I remember a fun experiment that we tried with a Science Olympiad team some years ago. Our students were given a recipe to make delicious cookies, but were then also given way too many ingredient options... the only thing was that none of the ingredients were labeled, and many of them looked identical! The students then had to use the scientific method to try to figure out the correct ingredients to use. In a couple instances, some really delicious cookies were made! In most cases, however, something was amiss... and you could tell by how the “cookies” looked, or tasted, or both! St. Paul, in the first letter to the church in Corinth, wrote about many spiritual gifts that are given to followers of Jesus to guide, uplift, and build God’s Kingdom here on earth. Famously, in chapter 13, he wrote that as wonderful as those


gifts and skills are, they are all useless... unless you have the one key ingredient: love. It’s kind of like the cookies: with that single key ingredient missing, the whole thing can fall apart.

Jesus is clear about just how important real, biblical, love is. The greatest commandment is to love. Followers of Jesus will be known by their love. All you need is love. Ok, that last one wasn’t Jesus (!), but it is the Gospel truth that the love of God IS what we need!

With Valentine’s Day, there is a whole lot of talk about “love” in the month of February. Friends, I hope you’ll take a good close look at how the Bible describes “love” in 1 Corinthians 13 and strive for that real love to be what you celebrate. I hope that you’ll try to “walk in love,” and let God’s love reach others through the way you live. But most of all, I hope you’ll remember that 1 Corinthians 13 is actually describing the Love that God has for YOU, most powerfully shown through Jesus. Celebrate that Good News and pray for ways to share it, joyfully!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Tom +



2025
Chili & Cornbread
COOK OFF
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH
 FOLLOWING THE 10:30AM LITURGY
 IN MOSELEY HALL
ANYONE CAN ENTER
A CHILI AND/OR CORNBREAD!
JUDGES PANEL AWARDS BEST IN SHOW, 2ND & 3RD PLACE
CHILI AS WELL AS BEST CORNBREAD.

This is THE fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip to Glory Ridge!!!
People’s Choice Award goes to the chili with the most \$\$\$ given
by attendees. Please come & vote (with your wallets) for your
favorite! The real winners are Glory Ridge & our Youth!

Welcome to Lisa Maxwell!



Lisa is our new Administrative Assistant at the Church Office. She will work during the church’s office hours on

Fridays 8:30am until 1:30pm. You may email her at lmaxwell@stmaryskinston.com. Welcome, Lisa!!!

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 |
| Mary's Kitchen Executive Director | Mr. Jim Godfrey |
| Administrative Assistant | Mrs. Lisa Maxwell |

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Ray Hamilton Nute

Billy Ray Heath, Jr.

January 12, 2025

Transfers Out

Terah and Dick Archie

January 23, 2025 to St. Paul's, Greenville, NC



With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the families of:

- [Sarah Ellen Archie](#), wife of Joe Archie and sister of Tommy White, who died on January 4th at 85 years old. A celebration of life service will be held on February 8th at Christ Church in Raleigh.
- Dolores Collins, long-time member of St. Mary's, who died on January 16th at 90 years old. Her funeral was held at Pinelawn Memorial Park.
- [Jean Holt](#), mother of Sam Holt, who died on January 16th at 92 years old. A time of family visitation was on January 19th, and a celebration of life was held at Stony Hill United Methodist Church in Albemarle on January 20th. A celebration of her life is at St. Mary's is also planned for February 15 at 11am.
- [Hannah Esham](#), mother of Dirk Griffith, who died on January 17th at 81 years old. Her funeral was January 25th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Berlin, MD.
- [Bob Bright](#), long-time member of St. Mary's and father of Kim Hazelgrove, Bill Bright, Michael Bright, and Georgeann McLain, who died January 23rd at 85 years old. A funeral service will be held at St. Mary's on Saturday, February 8th, at 2:00pm, and the family will receive friends in Moseley Hall following the service.
- [Mary Lou Sutton Johnson](#), a longtime member of St. Mary's, who died January 28th at 95 years old. Her funeral was held at Pinelawn Memorial Park in Kinston on January 29th.



Let us pray:

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the Archie, Collins, Holt, Esham, Bright, and Johnson families 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.

News at St. Mary's



ADDRESS CHANGE

Jon Houston

6708 Gray Hill Circle; Unit F; Grifton, NC 28530

James Blanford

619 N. Heritage Street; #210; Kinston, NC 28501

Corey, Megan, and Emma Fader

708 Westminster Lane; Kinston, NC 28501



Cherished Members' Luncheon Thursday, February 6th

- ♥ Arrive at 11am for special music by the children St. Mary's Nursery School
- ♥ Meal begins at 11:30am
- ♥ In Moseley Hall
- ♥ Call the Parish Office to sign up



BLOOD DONATION

St. Mary's Blood Drive

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, February 25th from 12-4pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org. Show your **LOVE** by giving the gift of **LIFE**.

New Leadership Commissioned

On January 19, 2025, the Vestry members and officers of the church were commissioned as part of the Sunday morning liturgy. Here are our officers and commission leaders for the coming year:

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



Bless this Home
now until Ash Wednesday
Contact Fr. Tom for more details



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2025 | 6:00PM | MOSELEY HALL
GAMES | PRIZES | FUNDRAISING

MARY'S
KITCHEN
BINGO
NIGHT

More News From St. Mary's



St. Mary's

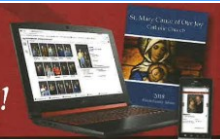
LECTOR MINISTRY TRAINING
Sunday, February 2nd at noon
Gather in the Parlor

Lectors lead worshipers in hearing the Word of God proclaimed during the liturgy, and there will be a training event for all current lectors and those interested in joining this ministry. All are invited for a time of fellowship and discussion and consider embracing a new season of faith and ministry!



use Glory Ridge as a 'home base' for exploring other areas of interest. **The cost of the trip will be \$200 and will include all lodging and community meals. A deposit of \$100 will be due by Friday, Feb 28.** Make sure to specify it is for the "Easter Retreat." See Fr. Tom with any questions.

Dear Church family,
It's time for a New Directory!



Our initial photo sessions Feb 3 & 4 booked so quickly that we've been given more dates on March 17 & 18. Make your reservation by visiting www.ucdir.com. Click on "Photography Session Sign Up" and enter the church code (NC542) and password: photos.

An Easter Retreat for the Whole Church Family at Glory Ridge

Unlike our youth summer mission trips to Glory Ridge, **all members of the St. Mary's Church Family are invited to enjoy April 21-24 at Glory Ridge.** Children & youth are welcome, but will need to come with an adult family member and there will be various activities and programs from which to choose. Some may wish to use this time to help with Hurricane Helene-related service projects. Others may wish to participate in the guided retreat for the Journey in Faith courses for youth & adults. Still others may wish to

ECW

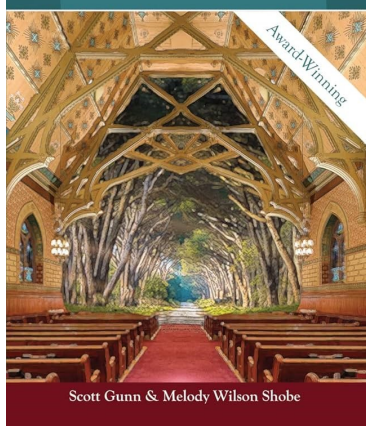


Lenten Wednesday Hospitality

Lent is almost here and each Wednesday during this season after Ash Wednesday (March 12th-April 16th), there will be Lenten programming with a simple meal of Soup and Sandwiches. We are reaching out for help with these meals. Please review the sign up genius link below and consider providing a meat soup, vegetarian soup, meat sandwiches, or non meat sandwiches during any of those Wednesdays. Contact Audra Haddad for any questions. God bless your Lenten hospitality!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945ADA62EA2FE3-54696279-lenten>

Christian Formation



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE "JOURNEY IN FAITH" GROUPS! - Journey in Faith (JiF) is a short course that explores the basics of the Christian Faith, Episcopal Church, Anglican Tradition, and St. Mary's Church. The course is open to anyone, and is especially appropriate for newcomers to St. Mary's and anyone considering baptism or confirmation when Bishop Skirving visits St. Mary's on Sunday, May 18, 2025. There is a Youth JiF group for high schoolers. Middle schoolers who are particularly interested in confirmation may speak with Fr. Tom about if this is the best year to participate. Adults meet on Wednesday evenings until the Sanctuary Course begins, at which point they will meet on Sunday afternoons. Youth will meet on Sunday mornings during the Christian Formation Hour. The course book [Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices](#) is available for \$15 in the church office. Ask Fr. Tom any questions. May God bless us all in our life-long journey in faith!



Wednesday Night Dinners & Programs!

Join your church family for our Wednesday Night Dinner and Programs. Dinner will be at 6pm, and there are programs for all ages beginning at 6:30pm. Staffed childcare will be available as well. Until the Sanctuary Course begins on February 12, the program will be our Lectionary Bible Study during which we read and reflect on the lessons from Sunday's liturgies. No homework needed, just a desire to share in exploring the Scriptures together!

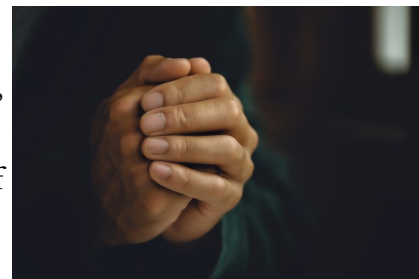
ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Beginning February 2nd, we hope you will join us for a new 5 week course, led by Randy Spaugh.

For the next five Sundays we will be looking at "The Other Side of Prayer." Bring your Bible and your questions.

These sessions will meet in the comfort of the Parlor.

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



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

Wednesdays for Kids!



This Spring, elementary aged kids at St. Mary's

will be exploring the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church about the Sacraments. Enjoy supper at 6pm, then learn about the outward and visible signs of God's inward and spiritual grace!



in **grades 6-8**. It was created by adults and young people to help participants grow in their love of themselves, others and for Jesus Christ. During the weekend, participants meet peers from across the diocese, enjoy skits, listen to talks, and participate in small group activities and discussions.

These activities focus on self, friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love, prayer, and the church. Free time is built in for young people and adult youth leaders to have an opportunity to fellowship with their newfound friends.

High Schoolers and Adults serve on team for this event!

[Register online](#) and learn more information through the [Diocesan Website](#).

THE SANCTUARY YOUTH SERIES

As St. Mary's adults are invited to engage in the Sanctuary Course, the EYC will be able to participate in the Sanctuary Youth Series. These youth resources are centered on the pressing questions that young people are asking about faith and mental health. They provide space to engage these questions and start important conversations within our community of faith. The Sanctuary Youth Series will take place on Wednesday nights beginning **February 12th** and continue through the season of Lent, ending at the cusp of our Easter celebrations.



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>

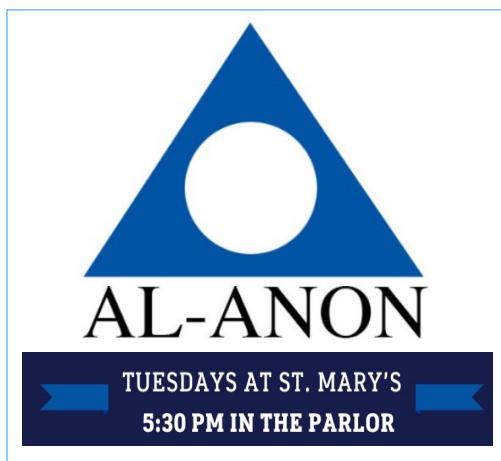
to *GLORY RIDGE:*
176 Days!!

the people and communities who were profoundly impacted by Hurricane Helene last fall. Current middle & high schoolers, as well as adult chaperones, are needed. The total cost is \$285, and registration forms are in the narthex & EYC room. **Registration form and \$100 deposit are due to the church office by Friday, February 28.** Please make sure to specify it is for the "EYC Summer Mission Trip." The balance of costs and all other forms (to be provided separately) will be due by Sunday, May 4.

Make plans now to "Make Work Worship" with the EYC at Glory Ridge on **Sunday, July 27 through Friday, August 1!!!!** This mission experience is an awesome blend of fun, work, worship, and play in the beautiful mountains of Madison County.

Our projects this summer will help

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



Camp Trinity Summer 2025

Camp Trinity provides a residential Christian camping experience on the banks of the Bogue Sound, and the 2025 Summer Camp dates have been announced! Brochures and information are available from their website at:

<https://www.trinityctr.org/summer-camp/camp-trinity/>.

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

| 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Dupstadt | Richard Crumbaker | Rob Bizzell |
| Anne Lindley | Corey Fader | Frances Herring |
| Bonnie Holton | Randy Spaugh | Sarah Warner |
| Jim Purnell | Kay Turner | Harry Wooten |
| Senior Warden – Bonnie Holton | Clerk – Andrew Dupstadt | |
| Junior Warden – Richard Crumbaker | Treasurer – Jess Edwards | |