



February 2026

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



The following liturgies including
the Imposition of Ashes
and celebration of the Holy Eucharist
on Wednesday, February 18th
are available to all:

- 7am - St. Mary's Church
(All Saints' Chapel)
- 12noon - St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
(707 E. Lenoir Ave., Kinston)
- 7:00 p.m. - St. Mary's Church
(Main Sanctuary)

*This service is also livestreamed at:
www.youtube.com/stmaryskinston.*

The Season of Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th, lasting for 40 days (*not including Sundays*), representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. Ash Wednesday is one of only two fast days (*Good Friday is the other day*) 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 imposition of ashes is often a central part of that 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."*

From the Rector

A L E N T E N
J O U R N E Y



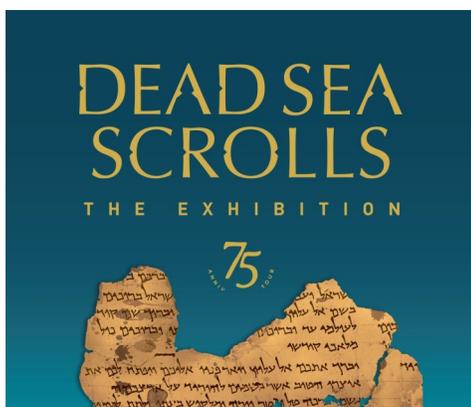
T O W A R D S A
RULE OF LIFE

character changes that result in a drastic re-ordering of his (endlessly repetitive) Groundhog Day time. I'll leave the rest for your viewing pleasure!

Recently I watched (again!) the movie "Groundhog Day." While it doesn't have much competition to be named my all-time favorite Groundhog Day movie, I actually do like it a lot! It features Bill Murray in the role of a surly & sarcastic tv weather man stuck in a mysterious time-loop, where he wakes up every day to cover the famous Groundhog Day ceremony in Punxsutawney, PA. He is not at all pleased about this and the movie shows how he evolves in deciding the best ways to spend each day, going through phases of anger & frustration, hedonism (several varieties), and depression, before undergoing some deep

I see in this movie, however, a nice lead-in to the invitations of Lent... and especially the opportunity to consider seemingly small practices that can have incredible impact. Whether you're living in a time-loop of the same day or not (if you are, come tell me about it!), the Gospel truth is that every day and every breath is a gift from God, and is sacred. Lent is an especially fitting season to discern the ordering of our time, and Christians have long used something called a "Rule of Life" to do so. This Lent, I will be facilitating a 5-week Wednesday evening series called **Ordering Our Lives: A Lenten Journey toward a Rule of Life**. In this series, we will explore how the financial, physical, psychological, spiritual, and vocational elements of our lives can be shaped by living as disciples of Jesus. Each session will draw on Scripture, wisdom from the Christian tradition, and practical tools for everyday living, and ultimately these topics may end up being components of your personal *Rule of Life* — *a sacred framework for living the life of faith with intention*. I hope you'll join us this Lent! Peace,

Tom +



PILGRIMAGE TO WASHINGTON DC - Fr. Tom will be traveling to DC this June to see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Museum of the Bible and worship at the National Cathedral. Would you be interested in such a trip too? Email him at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com and perhaps an itinerary for group travel may be possible.



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

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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, Bishop

The Rev. Sarah Fisher, Bishop-elect

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. Corey Fader
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. Richard Crumbacker
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Lisa Maxwell

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Kya Mae Campbell

Margaret “Margot” Tyndall Davis

January 11, 2026

Transfers In

Marc Dudley

April 23, 2025 from All Saints, Gastonia, NC



Congratulations

We celebrate the amazing beginning of life for:



- Nikolas Carter Johnson was born to Krystal and Wesley Johnson on December 18th, joining brothers Krystian and Alex!
- Haywood Tripp Howard was born to Marissa and Dylan Howard on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6th, joining brothers Warren and Edward!

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.

With Sympathy



We offer our sympathy to the family of Carol Crawford Smith, mother of Del Hannah, who died on January 23rd at 78 years old. We pray for the repose of her soul and comfort to all who loved her and will miss her. Carol will be laid to rest in a family cemetery plot in Iron Duff, NC at a later date. You may read Carol's obituary at www.taylor-tyson.com/obituaries/obituary-listings.

Let us pray:

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Carol, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints. Deal graciously with her 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.

News at St. Mary's



New Leadership Commissioned

On January 18, 2026, 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:

Worship - Kay Turner, Chair, with Frances Herring and Randy Spaugh assisting

Christian Formation for Adults - Randy Spaugh, Chair, with Sarah Warner assisting

Christian Formation for Children & Youth - Heather Mintz, Chair, with Mark Moore assisting

Fellowship - Richard Crumbacker, Chair, with Heather Mintz assisting

Outreach - Sarah Warner, Chair, with Mark Moore assisting

Pastoral Care - Sarah Weeks, Chair, with Kay Turner assisting

Administration/Personnel - Corey Fader, Chair, with Judy Johnson assisting

Finance - Rob Bizzell, Chair, with Corey Fader assisting

Long Range Planning - Frances Herring, Chair. The Committee also includes current and most recent Sr & Jr Wardens, plus 2 at-large positions that will be Harry Wooten and Judy Johnson

Capital Campaign Committee - Heather Mintz, Chair, with Harry Wooten assisting



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, February 17th ~ 5:30-7:30 pm

Any
donation
appreciated!

All donations benefit EYC
summer mission trips!

YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**We need your help to make this night a success!!!
Reach out to Fr. Tom for volunteer opportunities!**



**BLOOD
DONATION**

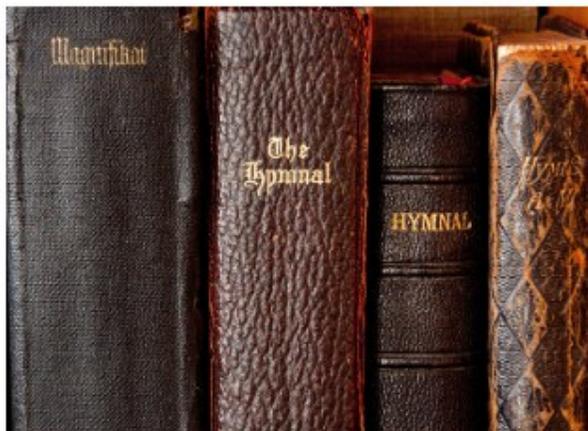
St. Mary's Blood Drive

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, February 24th from 12-4pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org. As an added incentive, the Red Cross is offering a \$20 e-gift card to your choice of merchant for donations between January 26th-February 28th. **Show your LOVE by giving the gift of LIFE.**

Music Ministry

Second Sunday
led by the Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 8th at 5pm

Choral Evensong is a beautiful, unique gift of the Anglican worshiping tradition, and we invite you and your guests to join us for this moving liturgy to end your Sunday. There will be a livestream available as well.



Ciampi Quartet Concert at St. Mary's

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 4:00 pm
(reception to follow)



Since its founding in 1965 by the renowned Italian violinist Giorgio Ciampi, the Ciampi 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 Ciampi 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. This concert will be free to the public, made possible by love offerings and sponsorships.

ECW

Lenten Wednesday Hospitality



Lent is almost here, and we hope you can join us for Lenten Soup & Sandwiches on the Wednesday nights during Lent (February 25th-April 1st, 2026). If you are able to help, please use the link below to sign up for meat soup, vegetarian soup, meat sandwiches, or non meat sandwiches during any of those Wednesdays. Cleaning up is not included in the link, but we welcome that help all of those Wednesday nights. Contact Audra Haddad for any questions. God bless your Lenten hospitality!

www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945ADA62EA2FE3-54696279-lenten#/

Worship



The Way of the Cross

St. Mary's will offer the Way of the Cross in the Nave of the Church on **Friday evenings at 5:45pm, beginning the first Friday (February 20th) 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.

Changes You May See at Lent

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." It is a time of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christ's victory over death and the season of Easter. During Lent, 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 Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession) in Lent

While it is appropriate to make private confession at any point during the year, it is especially so in Lent. Fr. Tom is available by appointment to hear confessions as well as any other time during the year. Curious about the Rite of Reconciliation? Fr. Tom would be glad to speak with you about it. Feel free to learn more from the Book of Common Prayer (pages 447-452).

Lent is a season of fasting and our Sunday Bulletins will reflect this spiritual practice as we fast from our more 'robust' bulletins and open the Prayer Books - you're welcome to bring your own (maybe from your baptism or confirmation), or use the books in the pews. This will reduce our bulletin length by a third and remind us of the riches of the Book of Common Prayer!

Christian Formation



Wednesday Night Dinners & Programs

Join us in Moseley Hall on Wednesday evenings for supper at 6pm and programming 6:30pm.

On February 11th, Olivia's Catering will provide the supper (*suggested donation of \$12 for adults 13 & older, \$7 for children 12 & under, or \$25 per family*), and we will continue our journey into Season 2 of The Chosen. Then on **February 18th**, dinner and programming will pause for the Ash Wednesday liturgy. When we return the following week **on February 25th**, our Wednesday evenings will shift for the season of Lent. We will enjoy Lenten Soup and Sandwiches for dinner, hosted by members of our parish family (*to host, see the sign up link on page 5*), and our programming will focus on Lent. During this season of self-reflection and contemplation, make Wednesday nights a significant part of your Lenten discipline. Staffed childcare will be available.



2026 LENTEN MEDITATIONS
HOLY HABITS
EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT | SISTER MONICA CLARE

Episcopal Relief & Development is honored to announce that Sister Monica Clare, a Sister of the Community of St. John Baptist and beloved TikTok personality, is the author of its **2026 Lenten Meditations**.

These daily reflections, running Ash Wednesday through Easter, offer an invitation to rediscover—or deepen—**Holy Habits** of prayer, worship and engagement with Scripture. They provide a path to a life rooted in relationship with God, giving it shape, meaning and direction.

Join Lent Madness!

Each weekday of Lent, join with people from around the world at www.lentmadness.org for a daily pairing of two different saints. For 24 hours, you can read about those pairings and then vote which saint moves to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the Golden Halo. Lenten Madness makes a wonderful, educational, spiritual Lenten practice.

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



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!

MEETS EVERY
OTHER
THURSDAY



Camp Trinity Summer 2026

Camp Trinity provides a residential Christian camping experience on the banks of the Bogue Sound, and the 2026 Summer Camp dates have been announced! Brochures and information are available here:

<https://www.trinityctr.org/events/summer-camp-2026-registration-is-live/>.



HAPPENING

All High Schoolers are invited to experience Happening in 2026! Happening is a Christian experience of the Diocese of East Carolina presented by teenagers, for teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. Happening 84 is scheduled for March 6th-8th, 2026 at Trinity Center. Registration for Candidates is due February 9th. Read more here:

<https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/events/happening-84/>.

THE CHILI COOKOFF HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST!

to *GLORY RIDGE:*
176 Days!!

Make plans now to "Make Work Worship" with the EYC at Glory Ridge on **Sunday, July 26th through Friday, July 31st!!!!** 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 continue to help the people and communities who were profoundly impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2024. Current middle & high schoolers, as well as adult chaperones, are needed. The total cost is \$300, and registration forms are in the narthex & EYC room. **Registration form and \$100 deposit are due to the church office by Friday, March 20th.** The balance of costs and all other forms (to be provided separately) will be due by Sunday, May 10th.



New Beginnings 59

Beginnings is a weekend event designed especially to respond to the unique challenges and concerns of young people 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 with a 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! New Beginnings 59 will be hosted at Trinity Center on April 17th-19th, 2026. Registration information and team applications will open in February 2026. Read more information at <https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/diocesan-life/lifelong-christian-formation/youth-ministry/youth-events/new-beginnings/>.



During February, the youth of St. Mary's will continue will continue the study of the Parables of Jesus. As Lent approaches, the class will shift its focus with an introduction to the season. We will discuss what Lent is, what it means for our spiritual life and the life of the church, and how spiritual fasting and disciplines can enhance our walk with Christ.

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



**MARY'S
KITCHEN**

BINGO NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 AT 6PM

Join us for Bingo Night in Moseley Hall of St. Mary's Church for food (hot dogs, chips, & drinks), fellowship with friends and family, and door prizes and game prizes!

\$25 FOR 12 GAME CARDS
\$5 PER EXTRA GAME CARD
WEAR GREEN TO RECEIVE 1 FREE GAME CARD!

EMAIL FOR YOUR RESERVATION:
MARYSKITCHEN@STMARYSKINSTON.COM

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

2026
 Richard Crumbacker
 Corey Fader
 Randy Spaugh
 Kay Turner

2027
 Rob Bizzell
 Frances Herring
 Sarah Warner
 Harry Wooten

2028
 Judy Johnson
 Heather Mintz
 Mark Moore
 Sarah Weeks

Senior Warden – Corey Fader
 Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker

Clerk – Judy Johnson
 Treasurer – Jess Edwards