

March 2025



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

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

Ash WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), representing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. This is one of only two fast days for all Episcopalians on the church calendar. 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, and 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 related to the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for the beginning of Lent. 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, reminding them of the promises of forgiveness and reconciliation with God made at baptism.

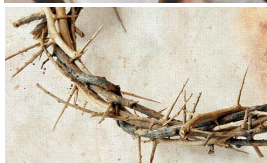


ALL are invited to any of the following liturgies including the Imposition of Ashes and celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, March 5th:

- * 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

A New Season Begins



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. For Christians around the world, and throughout millennia, this time of preparation for Holy Week & Easter brings renewal and deepening of life whenever the season's practices are approached as offerings and gifts of devotion to God.

There are many areas of devotion to which the Church invites our renewed attention in Lent: self-examination & repentance; prayer, fasting, & self-denial; reading & meditating on God's holy Word. It is, of course, a matter of each individual's personal piety and sense of call that drives that person's approach to the observance of a "Holy Lent." I pray that each of us will embrace this season's opportunities, for in so doing, there will be blessing. **As a community, I invite you to make an intentional commitment to worshipping & learning with your St. Mary's family this Lent.**



Also, as March begins, a new season of outdoor play and learning at St. Mary's is unfolding! With the generous contributions to the RISE with JOY Capital Campaign, the Vestry was recently able to give the 'green light' to proceed with construction of the new playspace on the Parish Commons. As we begin to see these developments unfold, please hold them, and the generations of families that will enjoy them, in your prayers. Truly, this community and church family is a gift! I am grateful for you and look forward to God's blessings through our Lenten journey together!

Love +

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER
MARCH 4TH ~ 6:00-7:30PM**

**ANY DONATION APPRECIATED!
PROCEEDS BENEFIT YOUTH
PROGRAMS!
(SCHOLARSHIPS, ACTIVITIES, AND
SUMMER TRIPS)**

**PANCAKES, NOOHEROOKA SAUSAGE, AND
FRUIT**

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT



Community Housing Coalition

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 the Community Housing Coalition of Madison County, a trusted partner of St. Mary's since 2012 who is a strong leader in recovery efforts from Hurricane Helene. [Click here to give](#) and write "Lenten Almsgiving" in the memo. God bless you!

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

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

Transfers In

Debbie Fallin

February 23, 2025

Debbie Rutledge Holt and Sam Holt

January 29, 2025 ~ from St. Peter's Church, Washington, NC

Burials

Dolores Collins ~ January 20, 2025

Leigh Ann Harper ~ February 7, 2025

Bob Bright ~ February 8, 2025



With Sympathy



We offer our sympathy to the family of Minnie B. Walters Albertson, the mother of Ron Albertson, who died on February 13th at 93 years old. Her funeral was held on February 22nd at Pinelawn Memorial Park, and her obituary may be read at <https://www.swinsonfs.com/obituaries/minnie-walters>. Please pray for the repose of her soul as well as the consolation of the Holy Spirit to dwell richly with Ron and his siblings and all who love and miss her.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding; Deal graciously with the Albertson 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.



Thursday, March 6th, at 11:30am in Moseley Hall
Sign up in the Narthex or call the parish office to RSVP.

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



Say **CHEESE!!!** Have you had your photo session yet for our new church pictorial directory? There is still time! Make your reservation by visiting www.ucdir.com. Click on

"Photography Session Sign Up" and enter the church code (NC542) and password: photos. The remaining photo dates will be March 10th and March 11th. We hope to see you there!

More News at St. Mary's

Well done, Jim. Well done.



The end of February brings a change in the leadership of Mary's Kitchen with the retirement of Jim Godfrey, who has served as its Executive Director since August 2017. Not only did Jim bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role, but he also brought the heart, determination, hard work, commitment, and vision that helped the Kitchen grow its ministry, overcome the challenges of COVID-19, complete incredible major renovations, and celebrate its 40th Anniversary! Jim worked countless hours - days, nights, and weekends - to ensure that Mary's Kitchen continued its mission to serve the community. As Jim prepares for retirement, the Board of Directors, members of St. Mary's Church, his colleagues, and the Kinston community at large express their gratitude for his dedication and service.



While you offer your congratulations to Jim, please be sure to welcome Richard Crumbacker, as he assumes his new role as the next Executive Director of Mary's Kitchen. Richard shares: "I'm glad to have been given the opportunity to continue growing a wonderful organization, following in the footsteps of the great work Jim Godfrey has done during his time as Executive Director of Mary's Kitchen." Welcome!

BINGO NIGHT FOR MARY'S KITCHEN

COMES CATERED WITH HOT DOGS, CHIPS AND DRINKS!

WEARING VISIBLE GREEN GETS YOU 1 FREE GAME CARD!

DOOR PRIZES GALORE!!

\$25 FOR 12 GAMES - MORE GAME TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES - ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT MARY'S KITCHEN!

15	20	1	10	19	19
25	44	40	18	63	53
37	60	★	13	30	10
33	5	27	48	53	3
21	70	57	68	56	8

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2025 | 6:00PM | MOSELEY HALL
ST. MARY'S CHURCH - 800 ROUNTREE ST
GAMES | PRIZES | FUNDRAISING

For reservations or questions
Contact Jim Godfrey or Richard Crumbacker
by phone at 252-523-6146

PASTORAL CARE

MEETING

ALL are invited to share in conversations and planning within the Pastoral Care Commission at St. Mary's. You do NOT have to be a "committee member" - we are looking for compassionate hearts and willing hands as we minister to others in time of need. We would love to hear from you.

Sunday, March 30th at 11:45am in the Vestry
Light Refreshments

ECW

ECW
LENTEN MEALS
Wednesday nights, March 12 - April 16
SIGN UP TO BRING SOUP AND/OR SANDWICHES

Lenten Wednesday Hospitality

During Lent, there will be Wednesday evening programming that begins with a simple Lenten meal of Soup and Sandwiches. Please consider providing a meat soup, vegetarian soup, meat sandwiches, or non-meat sandwiches during any of the Wednesdays from March 12th-April 16th. Be sure to review the sign up schedule by scanning the QR code, and contact Audra Haddad for any questions. God bless your Lenten hospitality!

Worship

Lenten Worship Each Wednesday

- March 12 - Liturgy with Healing Prayer
- March 19 - Evensong Liturgy
- March 26 - Liturgy with Healing Prayer
- April 2 - Evensong Liturgy
- April 9 - Liturgy with Healing Prayer

In the Church (not Chapel), beginning at 5:30pm.

Beginning March 7th, St. Mary's offers the Way of the Cross in the Nave of the Church on Friday evenings at 5:45pm. 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.

Way of the CROSS



Lenten Changes in Bulletins

Each Lent, St. Mary's explores the many perspectives of fasting as a life-giving spiritual practice by intentionally cutting back on paper usage for our bulletins and opening up our Prayer Books!

Diocese of East Carolina: Bishop Search News



The Bishop Search Committee is Listening... Come and Share your Voice!

The Search Committee for the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina wants to hear from you! As part of the search process, we create a diocesan profile that will articulate who we are as a diocese and where we believe God is calling us to go in the coming years. NOW through March 9th, please take advantage of this opportunity to share your thoughts by participating in an online survey (available in English or Spanish) by scanning QR codes below.

Access Bishop Survey in English:



Access Bishop Survey in Spanish:



There will be Listening Sessions, In-Person and by Zoom. These Listening Sessions will be forward-looking and conversational, during which you'll be invited to share your answer to these five questions:

1. Tell us about something exciting in your worship community and your wider community, and tell us about a challenge in your worship community and your wider community.
2. In what ways has the diocese been a blessing to you or your parish?
3. What opportunities and challenges face our diocese and bishop in the next five years?
4. Jump ahead to ten years from now. What accomplishments do you hope the bishop will have led us to?
5. Is there anything you'd want to make sure our new bishop knows about our diocese?

To help plan for each session, please register for the date you prefer using the QR Code here >



If you have questions about the listening sessions or the process in general, please contact the search committee at admin@decbishopsearch.com.


A Collect for Our Bishop Search

Gracious and loving God, guide the hearts and minds of those among us who will search for a new bishop to lead the Diocese of East Carolina, that we may listen carefully to discern your will and call a bishop who will love and serve your people in all the communities of this diocese and lead us forward in new ways in our ministries and service to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christian Formation

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

As March begins, the Adult Christian Formation group is completing its 5 week course, led by Randy Spaugh, looking at “The Other Side of Prayer.” Then, starting on March 9th the Adult Formation class will begin a five week study on “Jesus Fulfilling the Old Testament.” Jess Edwards will lead the group through New Testament stories with a focus on the Eastern/Hebrew perspective of how Jesus' life brought fulfillment and clarity to the Old Testament scriptures. These sessions meet in the comfort of the Parlor on Sunday mornings at 9:30am, just after our 9am parish breakfast. We hope to see you soon!



THE SANCTUARY COURSE®

The Sanctuary Course is an eight-week guide for churches who want to learn about mental health in the context of the Christian faith. Explore key mental health topics, drawing upon the insights of mental health professionals, church leaders, and people with lived experience.

Join St. Mary's each Wednesday evening in Lent at 6pm for supper followed by The Sanctuary Course. There is a specialized version for youth as well, and childcare is also provided.



Journey in Faith

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP AT ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

a series of interactive sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith, Anglican tradition, and Episcopal Church

ADULTS: SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AT NOON
HIGH SCHOOLERS: SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM



Lent Madness 2025

Brackets have been made. Scorecards are ready. BUT ARE YOU? What is Lent Madness and why would you want to join in? Read the following description, to your right from Forward Movement, and be sure to pick up your brackets and scorecards from the Narthex this Lent.

Can you have fun in Lent? Yes, if you play along with Lent Madness – a basketball-inspired holy competition to see which of 32 saints earns the coveted Golden Halo. While it all seems very frivolous, you'll learn about the saints along the way. By the time Holy Week comes along, you'll see how God works in the lives of ordinary people to shine the light of Christ's love in a world in need of hope. Bloggers provide biographies to help fans choose which saint they'll vote for each day throughout Lent. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Sainly 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 coveted Golden Halo! ... Lent Madness helps us to get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith and reminds us that there's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline.

(Source: <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2688/2025-lent-madness-bracket-poster.aspx>)

ERD'S Lenten Meditations

The 2025 Lenten Meditations from Episcopal Relief & Development will focus on “Commonplace Lent.” As Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us, “let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” ERD invites us to journey with writer Jerusalem Jackson Greer on meditations on the communal faith journey. Lenten Meditations are now delivered only via email and as downloadable PDFs at: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/#resources>.



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

There is a lot going on in the lives of our children and youth these days! Among the recent highlights include a wonderful Chili Cook-off fundraiser for Glory Ridge, during which nearly \$1000 was raised for the summer mission trip! Congratulations to the award winners and THANK YOU to all who helped support the event and the youth ministries, especially our cooks and judges (Randy Jones of [Wheat Swamp Angus](#) and Tanner Hawkins of [The Baron & The Beef](#) and [Home Team Burgers](#))! Also, the **new Senior Faith Academy Room** is really coming along, with new coats of paint (thank you Anne Lindley & Dennis Riddell!) and the donations of a sofa, TV, and (the kid-favorite) gumball machine! Poke your head in sometime, and lift a prayer for the spiritual formation taking place in this refreshed space!

Wednesdays for Kids and Youth

The 7 Sacraments
 BAPTISM
 RECONCILIATION
 EUCHARIST
 CONFIRMATION
 MARRIAGE
 HOLY ORDERS
 ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Each Wednesday this Spring, elementary aged kids at St. Mary's are 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!

THE SANCTUARY YOUTH SERIES

St. Mary's Youth continue their Lenten journey each Wednesday with the Sanctuary Course Youth series. Centered on the pressing questions that young people are asking about faith and mental health, this course provides space to engage in these conversations within our community of faith. The Sanctuary Youth Series meets Wednesday nights with a shared meal at 6pm followed by the course at 6:30pm.

New Beginnings 58

April 4-6, 2025 | Trinity Center

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

VBS NEWS!

The VBS planning group is excited to take a "Road Trip" to St. Mary's this summer on Sunday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 26th and be "On the Go with God!" The next VBS planning meeting will be Sunday, March 16th at 1:30pm in the Parlor. Let's GOOOOOO!!!

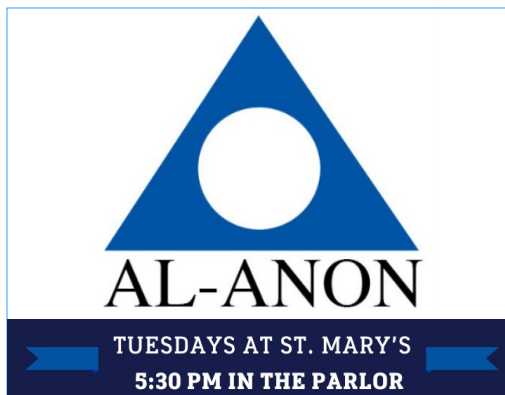
ST. MARY'S NURSERY SCHOOL
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Save
the
date**

MAY 18, 2025 | 3:30 PM
MOSELEY HALL

to *GLORY RIDGE:*
148 Days!!

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



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
- 5:30 pm - Lenten Worship in the Church beginning March 12
- 6:00 pm - Supper & Programming for all ages

FRIDAYS *(beginning March 7th)*

- 5:45 pm - Stations (Way) of the Cross in the Church

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2025	2026	2027
Andrew Duppstadt	Richard Crumbacker	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 Duppstadt	Treasurer – Jess Edwards
Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker		