



April 2024

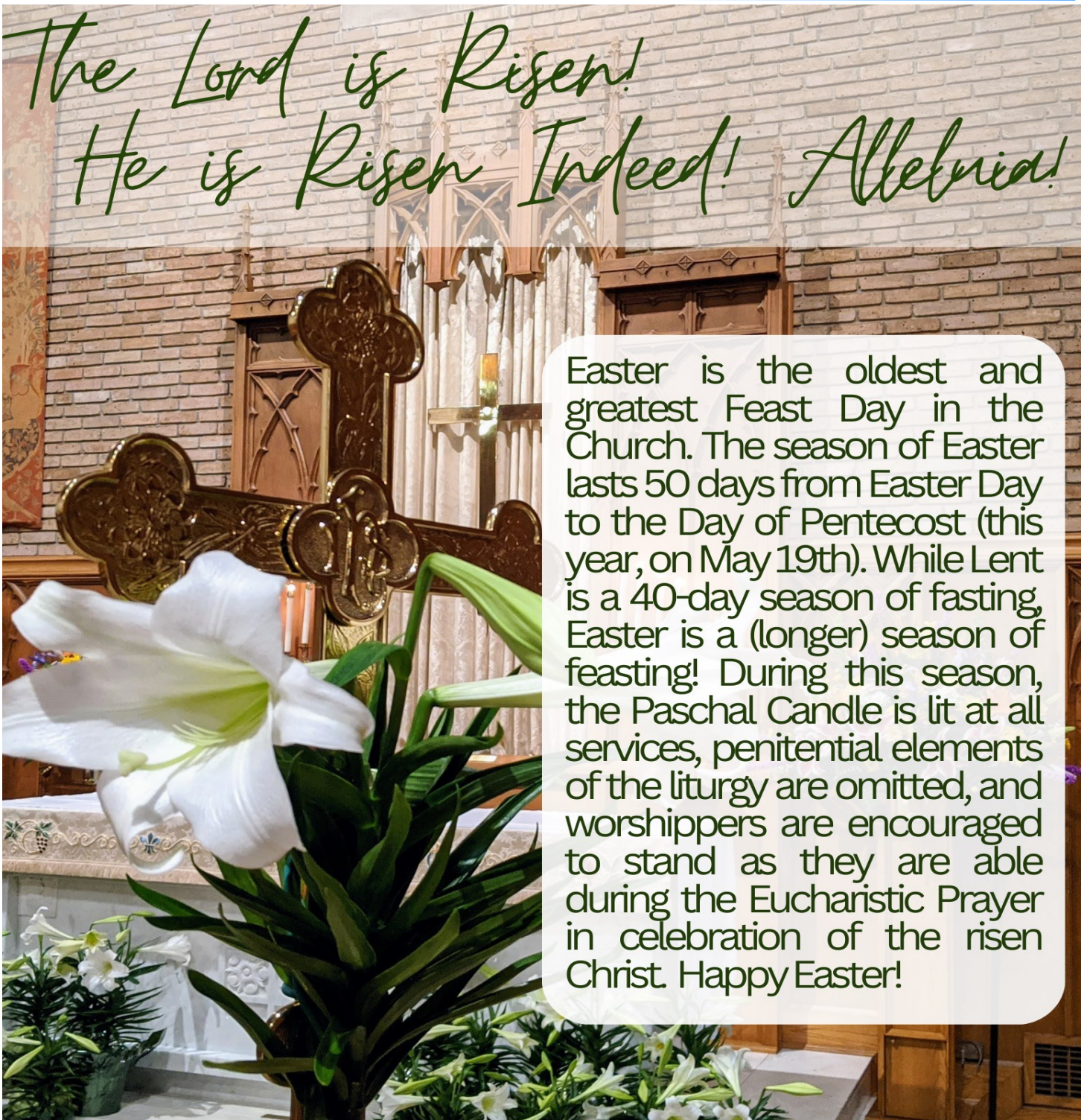
*St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!*

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

*The Lord is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

Easter is the oldest and greatest Feast Day in the Church. The season of Easter lasts 50 days from Easter Day to the Day of Pentecost (this year, on May 19th). While Lent is a 40-day season of fasting, Easter is a (longer) season of feasting! During this season, the Paschal Candle is lit at all services, penitential elements of the liturgy are omitted, and worshippers are encouraged to stand as they are able during the Eucharistic Prayer in celebration of the risen Christ. Happy Easter!



From the Rector

Dear St. Mary's Parish Family,

I want to tell you about something that happened to me recently that I found interesting. I was typing away on my computer one day. What I was writing had something to do with the Opening Day of the Major League Baseball season (which was on Maundy Thursday... and began with a win for my Baltimore Orioles!). Then something crazy happened: I misspelled a word. While it's actually not that unusual for me to misspell words (I hope I haven't misspelled any in this article!), the interesting thing about this was **how** I misspelled a word. I intended to write "Major" - like "Major League" - only instead of typing m-a-j-o-r, my fingers automatically hammered out m-a-j-o-y... which isn't even a word!



But what I think happened in that moment is an example of one of the countless ways that I have been molded into the person that I am by serving as the rector of St. Mary's. Serving at St. Mary's, where our motto is to "serve with JOY," means that we also talk about joy and (apparently) write about joy quite a lot! Typing that word over and over and over again has made it so that I automatically leaned into writing it again, without even thinking about it. Kind of like how the players on the Major League Baseball teams - or perhaps your college basketball team of choice - practice over and over and over again doing what they want to do well in their games, SO THAT when the moment comes they will automatically do that good thing without even thinking about it.

Practice matters. Repetition matters. Because when we do something often, it will change us. Jesus gives us things to practice in order to be shaped more and more into what God would have us be. The church invites us into these practices too. I hope that the season of Lent was a helpful example of that for you. On Maundy Thursday, we recalled the new *mandate* of Jesus: to love one another as Jesus loves. While no one can ever love perfectly like Jesus loves, it certainly is what we're called to strive towards, and thankfully, by God's grace, it is what we're all invited to receive. May this Easter season be filled with moments of practicing, both giving and receiving love in the Spirit of Jesus. Perhaps this BellRinger holds some of the opportunities that God is offering for you to be a part of! Peace,

Tom +

RISE with JOY Capital Campaign



The RISE with JOY 2024 Capital Campaign has formally begun our efforts to make our church building more accessible and to begin developing the adjoining western property into the Parish Commons. At the time of printing, \$1M of the \$1.5M goal has been pledged! Thank you to all who have joined this effort! If you haven't already, please pick up a booklet in the Narthex or [visit the capital campaign link on our website \[www.stmaryskinston.com\]\(http://www.stmaryskinston.com\)](#) where you will find [the campaign booklet](#) as well as [the online pledge form](#). **For the health of the campaign, we hope to receive pledges by April 19.** Above all, please hold this campaign and the St. Mary's community in your prayers. May God use our gifts to draw more and more people in to St. Mary's to receive Jesus' life-giving words, sacraments, and community, and to remove obstacles along the way!

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

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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	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:

Jim Godfrey

February 2, 2024 from First Presbyterian Church (Kinston, NC)



We offer our prayers to the Wade family as they mourn the loss of Charles Wade, Chuck Wade's father, who passed away on March 5th. Please pray for all who love and miss him, especially his wife, Martha; daughters, Debbie and Kathryn and their families; and son and his family (and St. Mary's members) Chuck, Ginny, Morgan, and Colin.

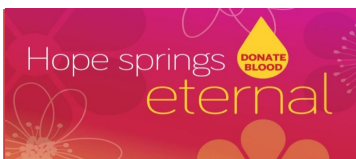
Let us pray:

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Charles. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. 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. However, please note: There will ***not*** be a Cherished Members' Luncheon in April. The next luncheon will be held on **Thursday, May 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!



Blood Drive

St. Mary's will host a Blood Drive on **Monday, April 22nd, from noon-4pm** in Moseley Hall. Walk-ins are always welcome, but reservations (www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS) will make your time go more smoothly.

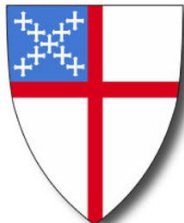


Yoga at St. Mary's

Yoga returns on **Thursday, April 4th** at 7pm in Moseley Hall.

News at St. Mary's

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 recent months! If you consider yourself new, or would otherwise appreciate a conversation about the life of faith at St. Mary's, please join us for the final session of a 3-part series on **April 14th**. We'll meet after the 10:30am liturgy, and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday, April 12th to Fr. Tom at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com. Welcome!!



Community Vacation Bible School

June 23 - 26, 2024

5:00-7:30 PM

PreK-5th

Hosted @ Westminster United Methodist Church

Registration Open: <https://bit.ly/KinstonVBS2024>

Adults and High School Youth Wanted for Leadership and Assistance



Join us for a JOURNEY....walk the Camino de Santiago Fall 2024 or Spring 2025

"The best journeys answer questions that in the beginning, you didn't even think to ask."

The Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) is an extensive network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St. James (Santiago in Spanish) in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. Take the first step and learn more in the parlor of St. Mary's on Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30pm. Bill Anlyan, father of St. Mary's Sully McRae, will present an informative session about his Camino de Santiago pilgrimage experiences and answer questions about planning a pilgrimage as a group. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested in this journey. For more information: contact Renee Herlong, Audra Haddad, or Laury Sargeant.

"The only impossible journey is the one you never begin."



News at St. Mary's



Join a fun, interactive event for ALL AGES that centers around celebrating God's creation of the Earth, and humanity's role in caring for the Earth. A particular eye is turned to climate change and environmental justice – with hope for change and steps for living a more environmentally just life. Involve relevant experts to make sure the focus is more on effecting systemic change rather than just individual changes, but leave lots of room for individual opportunities as well. Leave the land of our Diocese better than we found it. Creation Keeper is coordinated by Juniper LaNunziata (*St. Paul's, Greenville*) & The Rev'd Ashley Simpson (*St. Paul's, Beaufort*) and will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 10am-3pm at St. Mary's Church. Registration is \$15. More information is available at:



<https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/blog/creation-keepers-2024/>



MARY'S KITCHEN
quarterly food drive
 This quarter, we will collect cans of chicken noodle and vegetable beef soup!
Monday, April 8th - Sunday, April 14th
 &
service date
Saturday, April 20th

**Hosted by the Association of Congregations
of Lenoir County**
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST
 THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 AT 7 AM

The GATE of Lenoir County
 201 East Gordon Street, Kinston, NC

With Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who supported, participated in, or donated to the Mary's Kitchen Bingo Night. It was a fun evening and a great way to support the ongoing ministry of Mary's Kitchen!

ECW

Will you show St. Mary's ECW some **LOVE**?

Many of you joined us in January for our annual business meeting, and as a group we decided that In lieu of a spring fundraiser, ECW would ask for love offerings in any amount to continue the beautiful work and outreach of our group.

If you are able, please send a check to the church office or make an online contribution through this link...

<https://onrealm.org/stmaryskinston/-/form/give/now>

Find ECW in the fund drop down menu to make a donation.

THANK YOU!

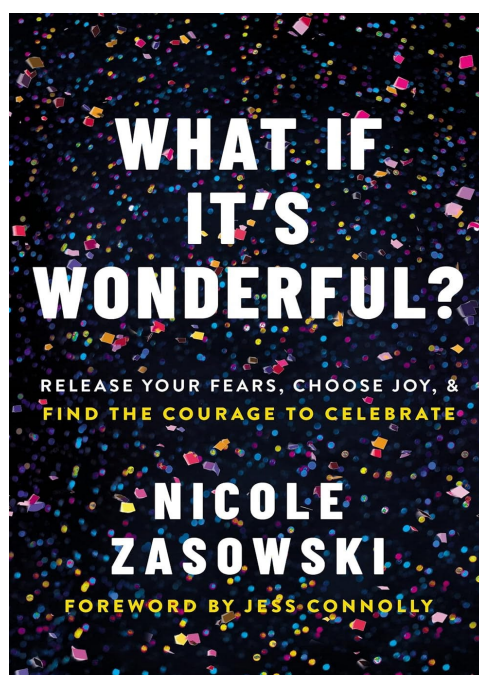


ECW Quarterly Meeting - Sunday, April 14th @ 2pm in the church parlor.
 Come help us plan more spring and summer activities.

What If It's Wonderful book review

Sunday, April 14th @ 3pm in the church parlor.

You still have time to purchase and read this incredible book about finding joy.

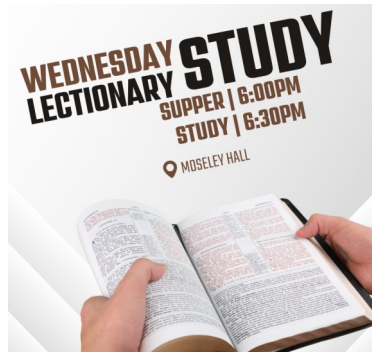


Adult Christian Formation



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION The Easter Experience

There is no doubt, that life can be a roller coaster of experiences and emotions. The Gospel of Luke shares those emotions, of two wondering Disciples who felt disappointed in what they had seen and witnessed. An emotional rollercoaster awaits the despairing disciples as news travels from the empty tomb to the two retreating disciples headed from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Along the way, they have an encounter with Jesus that is not only life changing but leaves them understanding that Jesus is always right beside us no matter what life brings. ALL are invited to join the Adult Christian Formation class **each Sunday at 9:30am beginning Sunday, April 7th for this 4-part series** led by Barbara Crumbacker. May it bring you peace and greater understanding this Easter season!



Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program will pause the first week in April and will resume on **Wednesday, April 10th with dinner at**

6:00pm and Bible Study at 6:30pm. This season, we will continue to read and reflect on the lessons from the weekly lectionary. If you have always wanted to attend a Bible study but don't have time to read and prepare, then this is your chance to take a break from your weekly demands. Join us each Wednesday at St. Mary's to be fed physically and spiritually!

Worship



Choral Scholar Spotlight

*Emmalee
Kennemore*

Meet Emmalee, the Simmons Patrick Memorial Choral Scholar at St. Mary's. Emmalee grew up in Currituck NC. She attends East Carolina University and is a Music major with a focus in Vocal Performance. Emmalee

loves singing and hopes to one day be an opera singer. Welcome Emmalee! We are thankful to share in worship with you each Sunday!

Be on the lookout for another Choral Scholar Spotlight next month!

FESTIVAL LOCATION: Pearson Park 210 w gordon st Kinston
PARK OPEN TO PLACE CHAIRS @ 2:30 pm starts 4:30

jacksonheightsmusic.com

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



EYC Coffee

Thursdays in April ~ 4-5pm

Join us each Thursday at a different location around town for a treat and an adventure.

Please Note: Stay tuned for the locations to be announced.

Park Day

Sunday, April 6th ~ 9:30-11am

ALL ages are invited to enjoy snacks and a morning of play at Pearson Park.

New Beginnings

April 12th-14th

ALL middle schoolers are invited to join youth from all over our Diocese for a great weekend at Trinity Center.

EYC Best Day Ever

Saturday, April 20th

EYC will decide which adventure we take. Will we go to Kings Dominion for the day, or will we go to Wilmington to hang out at the Aquarium and the beach? Either trip is \$50 which includes a small breakfast on the drive there, a lunch while there, and a small dinner on the drive back. Students will need to bring extra cash if they would like to purchase snacks or souvenirs. Registration link to come.

Creation Keepers

Saturday, April 27th

ALL ages are invited to this Diocesan-wide, interactive event held at St. Mary's that centers around celebrating God's creation of the Earth and the humanity's role in caring for it. Cost is \$15 per person, and lunch is included! Everyone is invited!

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Weekly in April

Sundays:

- ◇ 9am Parish Breakfast
- ◇ 9:30am Christian Formation

Wednesdays:

- ◇ 6pm Parish Supper
- ◇ 6:30pm Programming

FROM THE DESK OF LIZ ~

Hi St. Mary's Family!

VBS for ages PreK-5th will be here sooner than you think. This year, our Community Vacation Bible School will be hosted at Westminster United Methodist Church (Kinston, NC) on June 23rd-29th from 5-7:30pm (dinner will be served).

Registration for "Camp Firelight" VBS is open now! Please be sure to register your child by scanning the QR code or accessing the link below:



<https://bit.ly/KinstonVBS2024>

Contact me if you have any questions.



Follow us on
Social Media
for updates



Instagram



@stmaryskinstoneyc

@stmaryskinstonkids

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



If you would like to volunteer to send cards to parishioners who could use some love and cheer from you one month out of the year, please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090945ADA62EA2FE3-47181120-caring>. Review the available months and click on the button to sign up. You will receive a reminder email from Sign Up Genius when your month is coming up. During your month, please go to the church office where you will find a list of parishioners who would appreciate a note from you. This list will be hanging on the wall in the office wing. Addresses for parishioners can be found on our directory: <https://onrealm.org>. Note cards may be found in the credenza closest to the stage in Moseley Hall. Thank you!

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](#))
 Staffed nursery available 9am-Noon.

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 & Programming for all ages. Staffed nursery available 6-8pm.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

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