



April 2026

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
Heart & Soul Dinner



benefiting

*Mary's Kitchen
&*

The Friends of the Homeless Shelter

Join us for dinner, music, and fellowship!



Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Moseley Hall at St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree Street, Kinston, NC 28501

Tickets \$50/person

Reserve and pay for your seat(s) with either option:

- Online by scanning the QR Code to the right
- Bringing/ mailing a check to the St. Mary's church office.

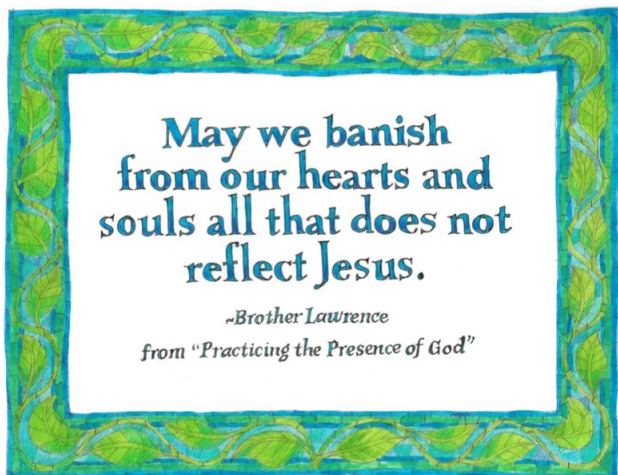


Be sure to choose "Heart & Soul" in the drop-down menu if using the QR code or write it on the memo line if paying by check.



**100% of the proceeds will go directly to
Mary's Kitchen & The Friends of the Homeless Shelter**

From the Rector



My friend Jay Sidebotham is an amazing artist. When he came to visit the vestry of St. Mary's earlier this year to discuss RenewalWorks and discipleship, he brought me a print of a recent design that highlights some words of Brother Lawrence. This print instantly brought me back to another season of my life where I had been deeply moved by Lawrence's words. So, as Lent approached, I decided to follow this 'nudge' of the Holy Spirit to spend more time with Brother Lawrence's writing as a part of my preparations for Easter. Much certainly *could* be said of Brother Lawrence, but much is not *needed* because the central argument of most of his writing is simply to encourage everyone to "practice the presence of God" - to

intentionally recognize that God is with you at all times (see more on pg. 6!). The more we make intentional notice of this truth, the more we will naturally be inclined to want God to shape our thoughts, our actions, our lives. I have been moved, again, by Brother Lawrence's advice and recommend him to you. I wonder how your Lent has been. I wonder what your hopes are for the coming season. I look forward to celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus with you as we continue in His Way of new life. *Tom +*

Christ calls us to care for our neighbors, inside and outside the church. "**Pastoral Care**" is the language we use to describe the ways we seek to 'pastor' or tend to the needs of one another, and we have a Pastoral Care Commission to help lead us in this ministry. If a parishioner is injured, sick, in the hospital, scheduled for surgery, in crisis, or has special needs or prayers, this group helps our community have responses put in place to minister to these needs. Every member of the church is invited to minister in these ways. You only need a heart for service! This month, we are highlighting a few of these pastoral care ministries:

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

If someone is unable to join the worshipping community for Eucharist on a Sunday morning, the church can come to them. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) are trained by the clergy and licensed by the Bishop for this pastoral ministry of bringing the sacrament of Holy Communion to the faithful who desire it. If you are interested in serving as an LEM, join us for one of the upcoming training sessions (*see page 5*).

CHERISHED MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Cherished Member Luncheons are a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church. Luncheons are held on the first Thursday of the month, from October to May, at 11:30am for retired individuals. This is an opportunity for fellowship and to enjoy what is most likely the best meal in town that day! Our next luncheon is Thursday, April 2nd (*see page 3*), and the last one before summer will be Thursday, May 7th. Please contact Anne Lindley (252-521-6404) if you would like to serve on this team.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Flowers are a beautiful reminder of the church's prayers and care for someone. Oftentimes, flowers on the altar are taken apart the following week, made into new arrangements, and gifted to our cherished members or those unable to join us for in-person worship. For more information or to join this ministry, please contact Anne Lindley (252-521-6404).

BAPTISMAL MINISTRY

We celebrate baptisms at St. Mary's for everyone with a reception that includes a cake, goldfish, pretzels, and lemonade. When an infant is baptized, they are gifted with a special handmade Baptismal Doll and a hand cross-stitched Baptismal Towel. Join this group to help plan the celebration for our newest members of the body of Christ. Contact Ginny Wade to join with reception planning, Jo Parrott to make Baptismal Dolls, or Becky Darst to make Baptismal Towels.

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



Cherished Members' Luncheon Thursday, April 2nd

- Meal begins at 11:30am in Moseley Hall
- Sign up by calling the parish office or using the sheet in the narthex



Mary's Kitchen
Kinston, North Carolina

MARY'S KITCHEN

quarterly food drive

Little Debbie cakes
and

#10 cans of fruit/baked

April 6th-10th or April 12th

&

service date

Saturday, April 18th, 2026

Spring into Life. Give Blood



American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mary's Episcopal Church

In Moseley Hall

Monday, April 27, 2026 from 12-4pm

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: STMARYS or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

Easter Sunday

WE WILL "FLOWER" THE CROSS
AT 10:30AM SERVICE. REMEMBER
TO BRING YOUR FLOWERS!



More News at St. Mary's



From the
Parish Registry



Transfers In

Sarah & David McKerney, and
Erickson, Amelia Grace, Eleanor
March 10, 2026



HAVE A BLESSED
HOLY WEEK

Pre-Filled Easter Eggs Needed!!!

*Donations may be dropped off this week to the
workroom in the parish office.*

*ALL children are invited to bring their baskets Easter
Sunday for the hunt following the 10:30am liturgy.*



Praise Be to God: A Letter of Thanksgiving from Cyndi Rafferty

With gratitude and love, I write this note of thanks to each of you and to God. It is the one year anniversary of almost losing my son's life here on earth. On March 23, 2025, my son, Brandon, due to illness, was on his journey to heaven with our Lord, when God divinely intervened. Brandon and God shared a conversation with the outcome of Brandon coming to heaven at a later time in his life. Brandon said he met God and will always have that vision with him, and at that time, he and God felt there was more for him to do here on earth. Along with your prayers and those of others around our community and beyond, God brought Brandon from a near death experience to a journey of regaining his life here. In doing this, Brandon and I thank God everyday for his life and Brandon's rebirth to share God's word with all he meets, either through actions or words, showing and telling others of his zest for life with God as his rock and Jesus as his cornerstone. He has a zest for life with a supernatural joy that beams. This year we are rejoicing in this special gift from God, but we know all of you who prayed had a share in this spiritual miracle of life for Brandon. You are a part of this gift from God, and we all can be a part of miracles throughout our lives. The power of prayer is amazing with each and every thought and prayer being heard by God. I felt the prayers, and I felt God with me from day one of this experience. We only need to open our hearts and believe in God's word to see His miracles. God has a hand in all we do and will guide us on His path, if only we let Him. We need to share our miracles. We must keep praying and thanking God for his faithfulness and many blessings. Brandon always believed in God, as have I and my family. We have always had faith, but that faith has become stronger with a deeper connection with God for each of us.

Brandon had medical appointments this week, with ultrasound and lab work, leading his doctors to determine his health is good. These same doctors witnessed the miracle in Brandon's life and also experienced "God Winks" along the way to restoring his health with God's help. They also read accounts of what happened, all of which was astounding. These doctors continue to be amazed at Brandon's life.

Always remember "God is always with us" Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 41:10, and Deuteronomy 31:8 and "God is our strength and portion forever" Psalm 73:26.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with you. Many ask about Brandon and how things are for him and for me. This past year, coupled by the previous year of losing Bruce, has been hard. I feel God's glory knowing Bruce is in heaven and humbled by Brandon's and my experience. Your gracious kindness of prayer and thoughtfulness have been a God-send to me and my family. May you feel God's blessings everyday and see His Glory as the sun shines, the rain sparkles, and at the brilliance of the night sky along with beauty given through all of nature. Praise be to God.

With love,
Cyndi Rafferty

Worship

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM & EASTER SUNDAY (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, & Easter Sunday)

We are entering the period of Holy Week, known as the Paschal Triduum. These are the most sacred days of the Church year. We pray this holy journey meets you where you are and may your hearts, minds, and souls be changed by His holy presence.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:30pm - This powerful liturgy includes retelling the events of the Last Supper, highlighting Jesus' washing of the disciples feet and inviting His followers to do the same (which all worshippers that evening will have the opportunity to do if they desire), the institution of the Lord's Supper, and the giving of the New Commandment to love one another as Christ loves. The time together ends by stripping the altar and the beginning of an overnight prayer vigil in the Chapel that recalls Jesus' invitation to His friends to pray with Him. Staffed childcare will be available for the 7:30pm liturgy.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3rd, at noon - This liturgy, which takes place at the traditional hour of Jesus' crucifixion, includes the reading of the Passion narrative from John's Gospel, a homily, Solemn Collects, veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament. Staffed childcare will be available. The final Way of the Cross (Stations) will also be offered in the Nave at 5:45pm, ending the Good Friday observance. (No staffed childcare.)

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Taking place in the Nave, the Lenten observance officially ends, and Easter celebration begins on **Saturday evening at 7:30pm** with this liturgy, one of the most ancient and exciting of the Christian Church - the celebration of the transition from the darkness of Holy Saturday into the light of Christ's Easter Victory. The service begins with the lighting of the New Fire at the entrance to the church and includes hymns & spiritual songs, accompanied by City Lights Jazz, baptisms, and the first Eucharist of Easter! Please keep our baptismal candidates (Denise Jenks & Aaron Curiel) and their baptismal sponsors in your prayers and make plans to join us! Staffed childcare will be available.

EASTER DAY

On **Sunday, April 5th**, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord will begin with the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 8am. The 10:30am service is a Festal Holy Eucharist with handbells, full choir, flowering of the cross, and all the glory of Easter Morning! We even have a Baptism planned for Cooper Croom! There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children following the service, so be sure to bring their Easter baskets! Please keep Cooper and his baptismal sponsors in your prayers and join us for Easter! Staffed childcare will be available.

Eucharistic Minister/Visitor Training

There will be two opportunities for Eucharistic Minister & Visitor Training.

- Wednesday, April 15th
5:15pm in the Chapel
- Sunday, April 19th
Noon in the Church

Whether you are currently a Eucharistic Minister/Visitor who needs their annual training or someone who is interested in these ministries, this training is for you!



In Loving Memory

Susan Fox was a beloved sister in Christ and faithful lifetime member of St. Mary's who served for many years as our Altar Guild Chair. She touched many lives in all the ways she ministered to others at St. Mary's and the wider community. In her memory, a new plaque has been installed on the reredos behind the altar where the right candelabra rests.

THE RENEWAL OF THE CANDELABRAS
IS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY
OF SUSAN FORT FOX
JULY 3, 1954 - APRIL 13, 2024

Christian Formation

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Prayer: From the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer (page 856)

Q. What is prayer? *A. Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words.*

Q. What are the principal kinds of Prayer? *A. The principal kinds of prayer are adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession and petition”*

Adoration: lifting up of the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God’s presence, including meditation and contemplative prayer.

Praise and Thanksgiving: offering thanks to God for all the blessings of this life, for our redemption, and for whatever draws us closer to God.

Penitence and oblation: confessing our sins and making restitution where possible, with the intention to amend our lives.

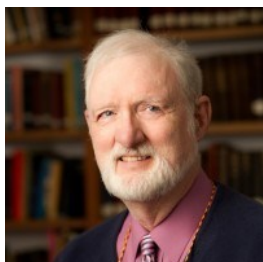
Intercession and petition: bringing before God the needs of others or our own needs, that God’s will may be done.

It is easy to recognize and practice most of these types of prayers.. But how do we "enjoy the presence of God?" The practice of contemplative prayer uses our minds and hearts, and sometimes our imaginative ability, to recognize God’s presence and fix our gaze on God. We seek to achieve a union with God that is characterized by quiet, stillness, and simply resting in God’s presence.

“Contemplative prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with God who we know loves us.” (St. Teresa)

Contemplative prayer is actually the simplest of prayers; it is essentially just being in the presence of God. What makes contemplative prayer difficult for us is learning how to spend time in silence and solitude. Contemplative prayer is not about accomplishing something or gaining some insight or solving a problem, but just receiving the gift of God’s presence. It is very difficult for us to receive and not to do or accomplish something.

Are you feeling the need for quiet time to listen for in be in the presence of God? Would you like to learn more about meditation and contemplative prayer? All are invited to join a small group on **Tuesday mornings at 9:30am for preparation and prayer in the Church** and/or on **Thursday mornings at 9:30am for centering prayer and reflection in the Chapel**. For more information contact Randy Spaugh or Bonnie Holton



Sunday Morning Series: The Parables of Jesus in Mark’s Gospel

What is a parable? Why did Jesus use them? If parables aren't allegory and they aren't morals, what are they? What is the Kingdom of God? Where and when? How can parables impact my daily choices as a Christian or should they? Guest teacher the Rev. Dr. Fred Horton will address these questions and more on Sunday mornings, April 12, 19, & 26. Join us in the Parlor after breakfast from 9:30-10:15am!

ECW

ECW has some exciting events planned for this year, and we hope you will mark your calendars, invited your friends, and join in the fun and fellowship!

Mark
YOUR
Calendars

- It’s BUNCO TIME
Sunday, May 17th at 3pm in Moseley Hall
- Wise Women of the Word Book Study: **The Wisdom of Jane Eyre**
Sundays: June 28th, July 5th, July 12th, July 19th at 5pm in the Parlor
- Dinner and a Movie - **Jane Eyre**
Sunday August 9th at 5pm in Moseley Hall and the Parlor



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



to *GLORY*
116 Days!!

We are excited 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!

Registration forms and \$100 deposit are due to the church office by Friday, April 10th, [registration forms are available in your weekly email from St. Mary's](#), in the narthex, & EYC room. The total cost is \$300. The balance of costs and all other forms (to be provided separately) will be due by Sunday, May 10th.



Congratulations

We offer our prayers of thanksgiving for the births of:

- Eliza Fallin Robbins, born on March 20th, to Sara and Tanner Robbins. Eliza is the granddaughter of Debbie & Phil Fallin and was born on their 44th wedding anniversary!
- Scottie Reid Wooten, born on March 24th, to Taylor and Reid Wooten. Scottie is the granddaughter of Harry & Crystal Wooten and niece to Lilli Wooten and Ellie & Ben Riley.



Congratulations to these families!

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 the Robbins and Wooten families in giving Eliza and Scottie to them. 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 them 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.



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 from their website at www.trinityctr.org.

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




AL-ANON
TUESDAYS AT ST. MARY'S
 5:30 pm in the Sr. Faith Academy Room

SAVE **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

JULY 20-22 **THE**

DATE



St. Mary's
 Episcopal Church
 KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH OF KINSTON

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 (begins in Moseley Hall)
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2026	2027	2028
Richard Crumbacker	Rob Bizzell	Judy Johnson
Corey Fader	Frances Herring	Heather Mintz
Randy Spaugh	Sarah Warner	Mark Moore
Kay Turner	Harry Wooten	Sarah Weeks
Senior Warden – Corey Fader	Clerk – Judy Johnson	
Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker	Treasurer – Jess Edwards	