



May 2025

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

Online at [www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)



**Join us for a JOYful day of celebration!**  
**May 18, 2025**

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***Bishop Skirving Visit to St. Mary's, including Baptism & Confirmations***

At the 8am & 10:30am liturgies, Bishop Skirving will preach, and we will renew our baptismal vows at both services. We will celebrate confirmations and a baptism and enjoy a baptismal reception under the arches immediately following the 10:30am liturgy.

***St. Mary's Nursery School: 50th Anniversary Celebration***

At 3:30pm, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Nursery School with pictures, stories, music, blessings, and refreshments in Moseley Hall as we honor the rich traditions, the generations of loving care, and the ministry that is "SMNS." EVERYONE, especially those who have been blessed by the ministries of SMNS, is encouraged to come join the celebration.

***Choral Evensong***

At 5pm, we will close our day with a Choral Evensong in the church, where we will share in the beautiful music ministry of our Chancel Choir.

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Parish life of *faith* in action

## From the Rector

*"Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired. How does a lamp burn? Through the continuous input of small drops of oil. If the drops of oil run out, the light of the lamp will cease, and the bridegroom will say, 'I do not know you' (Matt. 25:12). What are these drops of oil in our lamps? They are the small things of daily life: faithfulness, small words of kindness, a thought for others, our way of being silent, of looking, of speaking, and of acting. These are the true drops of love that keep your religious life burning like a living flame."*

~ Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Here at St. Mary's, we frequently speak of our common life together as the Life of Faith. This is not to be understood as our "Sunday morning" life or our "Bible study" life or our "Prayer group" life. The Life of Faith is the whole, entire life of the person of faith. This, of course, entails those times when we gather together on the Lord's Day for common prayer & worship, and the other times when we do "church-y" things! But, understood more fully, the Life of Faith is meant to encompass everything that our lives hold - to the most ordinary or mundane details. God is there as well!

I love how Mother Teresa put it in the quotation above. Truthfully, the ordinary and usual aspects of our everyday living must become those drops of oil in our lamps such that our lives burn brightly, not only for God, but indeed with God's spiritual light for this world.

In the month of May, as we continue the season of Easter, consider afresh the practices or habits that are life-giving drops of oil for you. Maybe they are things that you learned from a Lenten season in the past that you sense God calling you to continue. Maybe they will be something completely new, and you aren't sure how they'll work out. Maybe there are things in this Bell Ringer to which you are called to engage or support. Maybe there is a practice for you that is as simple (but as challenging) as slowing down from a quite busy pace and more intentionally appreciating the people and God-given life around you. May you be delighted by joy and life all around you in this Easter season!

Peace,

*Tom +*



Lighting the New Fire at  
The Great Vigil of Easter



Singing the Exultet at  
The Great Vigil of Easter



Lulu the Mule and worshipers  
on Palm Sunday



The gorgeous flowered cross  
on Easter Morning

## RISE with JOY - Long Range Planning

Join us for the last Wednesday Night Supper of the Program Year on May 21! There will be a wonderful meal catered by Olivia's and an update on all the Long Range Planning projects! The meal starts at 6pm. Hope to see you there!

## 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](http://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](http://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org)

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### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!

**J**esus First,

**O**thers Second,

**Y**ourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

[www.stmaryskinston.com](http://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 Registry*

### Transfer In

Tori & Tyler Croom

*April 24, 2025*



### With Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of Arey Wilson Grady Jr., father of James "Punk" Grady and his wife Whitney and grandfather of Thomas and Eliza. Arey died on May 1 at 75 years old, and his funeral will be held on Sunday, May 4 at St. Mary's Episcopal church. You may read his obituary at: [www.taylor-tyson.com](http://www.taylor-tyson.com). Please pray for the repose of his soul as well as the consolation of the Holy

Spirit to dwell richly with Punk, Whitney, Thomas, Eliza, the Grady family and all those who love and will miss Arey.

Let us pray:

*Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the Grady 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.*



### We Keep You in Prayer: Walking the Camino de Santiago

*"You'll travel safely, you'll neither tire nor trip...  
Because God will be right there with you;  
he'll keep you safe and sound." (Proverbs 3:23, 26)*

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. This spring, a group of "pilgrims" from St. Mary's and other churches are making their way through the routes, and we ask for your prayers during their journey. The pilgrims include Audra Haddad, Jo Parrott, Renee Herlong, Laury Sargeant, Jon Sargeant, Will Sargeant, Will's girlfriend Daisy, Constance Hengel, Liz Hengst, and Bev Jenkins.



*The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 26, 2025** in observance of Memorial Day. The staff of St. Mary's join you in honoring those who have lost their lives in service of this nation.*



## More News at St. Mary's



Ministry Scheduler Pro

Review your  
calendars



### The Summer Serving Schedule

The new serving schedule will be created in the next couple of week and will cover June 1-August 31. **By May 16**, please look at possible vacation dates and other commitments that you or your family may have for this period. If you find dates where you won't be here, use the Ministry Scheduler app on your smartphone or login (<http://rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stmaryskinston>) on your computer and enter "Can't Serve Dates." If you have problems, Gerry Fox can enter the dates for you - just reach out to him with that information. If the "Can't Serve Dates" are entered into the Scheduler, it will not schedule you for those dates!



### Lemonade on the Lawn

One of the joys of our summertime gatherings is sharing light refreshments after church.

Lemonade on the Lawn provides a relaxed, refreshing, time to catch up and share life together. Beginning **Sunday, May 25**, join us each Sunday immediately following the 10:30am liturgy to share this special time together before the rest of the week begins. Individuals or families are encouraged to join together to host the refreshments. Hosts are asked to provide lemonade and something light to eat. Paper products will be provided. Be on the lookout for sign up information coming soon. Sherry Tanner will coordinate this ministry, and you may email her [stanner@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:stanner@stmaryskinston.com) with any questions.



## ATTENTION GRADUATES

*If you are graduating from high school or an institution of higher learning this spring, please contact Sherry Tanner ([stanner@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:stanner@stmaryskinston.com)) by May 19 to let us know. Please give us your school's name, the degree you'll receive, and any plans following graduation. We will celebrate our High School graduates on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 (10:30 a.m). God bless you in your studies!*



Thank you

TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED  
WITH LOVE AND CARE  
THROUGHOUT THE SEASON OF  
LENT AND HOLY WEEK TO  
PREPARE FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL  
EASTER CELEBRATION! WHAT A  
JOY IT IS TO SHARE THE LIFE OF  
FAITH IN THE ST. MARY'S FAMILY!

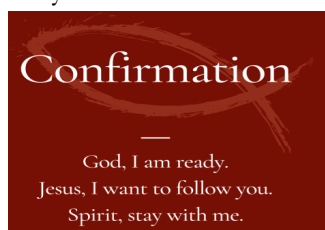
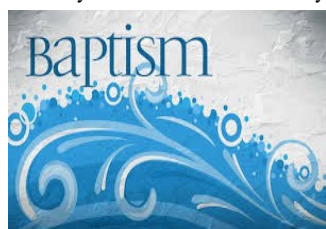
*The Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2026  
(only 255 days away)*

# Worship



## Bishop Skirving Visits St. Mary's

On **Sunday, May 18, 2025**, we are excited to have a baptism, confirmations, and receptions planned for the 10:30am liturgy. This day also will be significant in our parish life with the visit of Bishop Skirving. Given the number of worshipping communities in the Diocese of East Carolina, Bishop Skirving is present with each one on a Sunday about once every two years.



**Baptism** is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. God adopts us, making us members of the church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God (BCP, pp. 298, 858). In baptism we are made sharers in the new life of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins.

**Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation** are rooted in the baptismal covenant. Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation are sacramental rites in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860).

Bishop Skirving will be our celebrant and preacher this day, and we will renew our baptismal vows at both 8am and 10:30am liturgies. This will be an absolutely joyful day in the life of St. Mary's Church! Invite a friend to join you!

WORSHIP THE LORD  
IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS  
-PS. 29:2

## Choral Evensong

**Sunday, May 18 at 5pm ~ St. Mary's**  
The St. Mary's Choir will sing Evensong using the Harrison Oxley *Preces and Responses* and the David Hogan *Phos hilaron*. These are beautiful new settings of the evening prayer service found in the Book of Common Prayer.

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**Sunday, June 15 at 5:30pm ~ St. Mary's**  
The Schola Cantorum will sing Choral Evensong before they begin their tour to Scotland and Ireland. This will be an especially beautiful service they have prepared for their tour this summer!

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE St. Mary's CHOIR

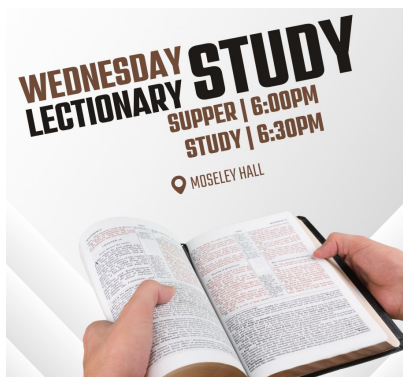
ANYONE INTERESTED IN SINGING IN THE CHOIR IS WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING JUST IN THE SUMMER, PLEASE JOIN US IN THE SANCTUARY AT 9:00 ON SUNDAY, JULY 6 WHEN WE BEGIN OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE. PLEASE CONTACT SAM IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS (SHOLT@STMARYSKINSTON.COM).

**ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A LOVE TO SING!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** On Saturday, September 6 at 10am, Kevin Kerstetter, conductor of Schola Cantorum and music director at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Raleigh, will conduct a choral workshop at St. Mary's for the choir and anyone interested in becoming a better singer. More details coming soon!



## Christian Formation



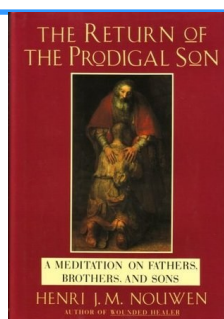
### Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program continues through **May 21**. 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. Supper begins at 6pm, and Bible Study is at 6:30pm. **On May 21**, the last Wednesday Night Supper of the Program Year, we will share a wonderful meal catered by Olivia's and hear an update on all the Long Range Planning projects! Join us Wednesday in Moseley

Hall at St. Mary's to be fed physically and spiritually! Suppers begin at 6pm with programming to follow at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there!

### ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

On **May 4**, we are excited to study the "Return of the Prodigal Son," led by Juliet Barrus. Participants will be guided through a look at Rembrandt's iconic painting about Jesus' parable that we read together in church on March 30 as Juliet will share connections between the parable, the painting, and Rembrandt's remarkable life and journey of faith with insights from Henri Nouwen's book of the same title. We look forward to you joining us Sunday mornings at 9:30am!



## Parish Commons Update

### Playground Installation

As site work continues and heavy machinery occupies the developing play area on the Parish Commons, please exercise caution and ensure that survey stakes remain in place!

Our first work day resulted in several playhouses being built. Many thanks to those who were a part of the playground build day on the Parish Commons. Once more site work has been completed, future work days to assemble more play components will be scheduled - stay tuned for updates on the next work day.

*What joy it will be to participate in the start of this new season of blessings for the children of this community!*



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

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 22- Thursday, June 26

5:00-7:30pm

at

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
800 Rountree St Kinston, NC



We are gearing up for an AMAZING event at St. Mary's this summer! Through our partnership with First Presbyterian, Westminster, and Queen Street United Methodist, we will offer a FIVE DAY evening VBS for children Pre-K through rising 5th grade. Children will learn about God's faithfulness and presence in our lives, wherever we may go! There will be meals, singing, learning, playing, and creating in a loving, safe environment. Adult and teen volunteers needed, so be sure to sign up for that opportunity as well!



For information or to register, scan the QR code or visit our website at:

<https://stmaryskinston.mycokesburyvbs.com>

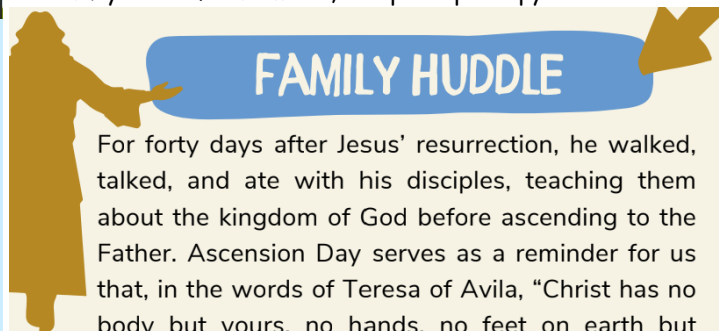
**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!**

## Tutors at Northwest Elementary

A big thank you to the following people who have joined others in the community to tutor weekly at Northwest Elementary, our partner school: Bill Ferguson, Althea Holton, Karl Kaminski, Louise Mauck, Robin Simms, Margaret Spaugh, Sarah Warner, Sarah Weeks, Jude Warren, and Father Tom Warren. Also, we offer thanksgivings for Juliet Barrus, who presented her book *Siete* to the fifth grade students of Northwest. The students and staff are most appreciative and sincerely hope we will be back next year. This partnership has been a blessing for all, and we thank you for sharing God's love, tutoring these children, and striving to make a difference.

Ascension Day is 40 Days after Easter (May 29, 2025)

Enjoy this snippet from The Little Way Chapel's May Guide for Families, and pick up a copy at church!



## FAMILY HUDDLE

For forty days after Jesus' resurrection, he walked, talked, and ate with his disciples, teaching them about the kingdom of God before ascending to the Father. Ascension Day serves as a reminder for us that, in the words of Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours...Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world." We are his body and must live into and up to this holy vocation. From the very earliest observances of this feast day, the liturgical procession led outside the city often up a hill to imitate Christ leading the disciples outside of Bethany before ascending (Lk 24:50). To celebrate the Ascension, take your family on a hike up a mountain or hill. During your family's procession discuss how you can be Jesus' hands and feet in the world. Conclude by praying together:

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. - Book of Common Prayer

to *GLORY RIDGE:*

*87 Days!!*

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



**TUESDAYS AT ST. MARY'S**  
**5:30 PM IN THE PARLOR**



### **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**

*(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 *(through May 18)*  
 9:30 am - Christian Formation for All Ages *(through May 18)*  
 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  
 6:00 pm - Supper & Programming for all ages *(through May 21)*

### **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	
Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker	Treasurer – Jess Edwards	