



May 2026

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Come Holy Spirit!

Pentecost is a Principle Feast Day of the church, celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter. This year, Pentecost is May 24th. While there is an ancient Jewish holiday of the same name, for Christians, Pentecost commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem observing the Jewish custom. Because the Holy Spirit has inspired the spread of the Good News of Jesus to the world, Pentecost is often understood to be the birthday of the Church. Happy Birthday!!! On this day, the clergy wear RED vestments, and the altar will be adorned with red hangings. It is even customary for the people of the congregation to wear RED as well.



*Wear **RED**, invite your friends & neighbors, and make plans to join us on this joyous day in the life of the Church. We will celebrate the season with the start of our Lemonade on the Lawn series. See page 4 for more information on this and how to sign up!*

From the Rector

What a beautiful season Easter has been! I have remarked several times that the work of the Holy Spirit has been on display in so many ways recently. From celebrating three baptisms, the thanksgiving of the birth of a child, and the renewal of marriage vows at our Easter & Easter Vigil liturgies; to the conversations about spiritual vitality and discipleship with our RenewalWorks program; to the incredible outpouring of time, talent, and gifts at the Heart & Soul Dinner; there simply is no shortage of beautiful ways that God is at work in this community. As the Easter Season nears its end and the Church celebrates Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit to the people of God, I invite you, dear reader, to consider again the Gospel truth that God's Holy Spirit is absolutely present in your life today, working more good than we could possibly ask for or imagine. A good way to prepare for Pentecost Sunday, and to discern how the Holy Spirit's guiding presence is alive in your life, would be to spend some time with this section of our Catechism about the Holy Spirit. May we all cherish God's presence in our lives and be faithful in discerning and following God's call each day!

Peace,



The Holy Spirit is

- ...the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now.
- ...revealed in the Old Covenant as the giver of life, the One who spoke through the prophets.
- ...revealed as the Lord who leads us into all truth and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.

We recognize

- ...the presence of the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and are brought into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors, and with all creation.
- ...truths to be taught by the Holy Spirit when they are in accord with the Scriptures.



We wish to thank everyone from our community who attended the Heart and Soul dinner. There is great news to share ... we've collected \$30,000 and more continues to come in. Our hearts are completely full!! Your generosity will provide much needed food and shelter for many in Lenoir County. A big thank you goes out to Nooherooka Natural Farm, Warren Brothers, Carl and Tempe Younger, and TC Smith Farms. They provided fresh ingredients and beverages used by Seraphim Smith and Julie Babbitt to create an amazing feast.

We are grateful for our outstanding wait staff and cleanup crew. It takes a village and we have a great one.

The Heart and Soul Team—Sarah, Mary, Seraphim, Anne



Mother's Day Intergenerational Gathering

On **Sunday, May 10th**, during our Christian Formation time, we ask everyone to come to Moseley Hall. Corey Fader and Dolph Mintz will lead us in creating a gift for our dear mothers. This activity will take the place of all regularly scheduled classes. We will need parents to assist their younger children. This will surely be a wonderful time for all!

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	Ms Judy Johnson
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Richard Crumbacker
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Lisa Maxwell

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Registry

Transfers In

Mackenzie and Matt Brown

April 1, 2026

(children, Lila and Liam, planned Baptism for the fall)

Baptisms

Denise Jenks ~ *April 4, 2026*

Aaron Curiel ~ *April 4, 2026*

Cooper Croom ~ *April 5, 2026*

Marriages

Hannah Kennedy and Richard Crumbacker, Jr ~ *April 11, 2026*

Burials

Pearl Stroud ~ *April 29, 2026*



Thank you

to all who served with love and care throughout the season of Lent and Holy Week in preparation for the beautiful Easter morning and season. What a joy it is to share the life of faith in the St. Mary's family!



ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you are graduating from high school or an institution of higher learning this spring, please contact Judy Johnson (jjohnson@stmaryskinston.com) by May 12th. Please provide your school's name, the degree you'll receive, and any plans following graduation. We will celebrate our High School graduates on Sunday, May 17th during the 10:30am liturgy. God bless you in your studies!



*The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 25, 2026** 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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CHERISHED MEMBERS LUNCHEON May 7, 2026 at 11:30am in Moseley Hall

Cherished Member Luncheons are a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's Church and 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 the best meal in town that day! The May luncheon is the last one before our summer break. Call the parish office or use the sheet in the Narthex to sign up. Contact Anne Lindley (252-521-6404) if you would like to serve on this team.

ST. MARY'S

Lemonade
ON THE LAWN

This summertime, after-church tradition offers a relaxing time to share life together while enjoying light refreshments. Beginning **May 24th** join us each Sunday after the 10:30am liturgy at the breezeway arches. Individuals or families are invited to join together to host refreshments (*lemonade, water, & a light snack such as cookies, muffins, etc.*). A table and a bin with paper products will be provided under the balcony stairs. You simply set up before the service ends and clean up when the event is over. Sherry Tanner will coordinate this ministry. Scan the QR code to sign up to host.

coming soon!



Lenten Almsgiving: With Thanks

Thank you all so much for joining us in the 2026 Lenten Almsgiving Focus for "Friends of the Homeless"! We're thrilled to share that the total donations came in at \$2002, which is a fantastic increase from our initial goal of \$800. May God bless you, this ministry, and our friends in the community who are impacted through this outreach.

The Summer Serving Schedule

The new serving schedule will be created in the next couple of weeks and will cover June 1-August 31. **By May 15th**, 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, you can enter "Can't Serve Dates" by using the Ministry Scheduler app on your smartphone or by logging in from your computer at <http://rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stmaryskinston>. If you have

problems, Gerry Fox can enter the dates for you - just reach out to him with that information at gfoxjr@gmail.com. If the "Can't Serve Dates" are entered into the Scheduler, it will not schedule you for those dates! Gerry plans to have the new schedule out by May 18th.

*The Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival is scheduled for Sunday, January 10, 2027
(only 254 days away!!)*

Worship



Farewell & Thank You

To celebrate Bishop Skirving's tenure as Eighth Bishop of East Carolina, and all the wonderful events Sandy curated for us, the Diocese of East Carolina will have a get together at Trinity Center! Everyone is invited on **Saturday, May 16th from 1-3pm** at Trinity Center for a thoroughly East Carolina event: food trucks, the Crystal Coast, and a time to share stories and hang out! If you haven't already done so, please be sure to RSVP by emailing [the Bishop Transition Committee](#) by **May 1st**. Be sure to follow all of the farewell information at the [Diocesan website](#) for updates. There will be a farewell gift for the Skirvings as well as they plan their pilgrimage to the holy Isle of Iona, Scotland following his retirement in May. In gratitude for his many years of service to our diocese, we invite you to join us in contributing toward the Skirving's pilgrimage to Iona. Gifts of any amount are welcome! The deadline for receiving contributions is May 15th, 2026 and may be made at [the link provided in your weekly emails](#). The Bishop Transition Committee is also gathering videos for a digital card! You may share a video for Bishop Skirving and Sandy through [that same link](#).

The Ordination and Consecration of Our Ninth Bishop

All are invited to the ordination and consecration of The Reverend Sarah Fisher as our Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina on **Saturday, May 23rd at 10am** at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern. [You may access all the up-to-date ordination information at the Diocesan website](#), including location and venue information, event accommodations, gifts of office for Bishop-Elect Sarah, and volunteer information for the ordination.



God willing and the People consenting,
The Reverend Sarah Kathleen Fisher
 will be ordained and consecrated Bishop in the
 one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and
 Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

The Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving
 and the Standing Committee
 of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina
 request your prayers and the honor of your presence
 on Saturday, the twenty-third of May
 Two thousand twenty-six
 at ten o'clock in the morning
 Riverfront Convention Center
 203 South Front Street
 New Bern, North Carolina
 Light reception to follow

Chief Consecrator:
 The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe,
 Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church



Choral Evensong is a beautiful and unique gift of the Anglican worshiping tradition and is offered every month at 5pm from September-May. Sunday, May 10th, will be the last Second Sunday Choral Evensong before the summer break. We hope you will invite guests, join us for this liturgy, and enjoy a reception in the Parlor after the service. There will be a livestream available as well.

Christian Formation

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program



Wednesday Night Dinner & Program continues through **May 20th**. On most evenings this season, we are viewing and reflecting on the award-winning show, *The Chosen*. Supper begins at 6pm, and programming begins at 6:30pm with supper provided by a variety of talented local caterers.

On **Wednesday, May 6th**, we are excited to have an intergenerational game night during our program hour! Join us Wednesdays in Moseley Hall at St. Mary's to be fed physically and spiritually! Invite a friend ~ we hope to see you there!



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

There are three weeks remaining for our Christian Formation program year, and we have an exciting line up!

- **May 3:** The Renewal Works Committee will give us a presentation of their work following the parish-wide survey. All are invited to join us in the parlor to join in this presentation and discussion.
- **May 10:** We will enjoy a special Mother's Day intergenerational activity led by the men of St. Mary's.
- **May 17:** We will close out our program year this Sunday with a special presentation about Trinity Center by Executive Director, John Koch!

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

An Invitation to Contemplative Prayer

Are you feeling the need for quiet time to listen for God or would 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 main chancel, and/or **on Thursday mornings at 9:30am** for centering prayer and reflection in the Chapel. For more information please contact Randy Spaugh or Bonnie Holton.

ECW

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

SPRING & SUMMER CALENDAR 2026



SUNDAY, MAY 17
3PM

It's BUNCO time!
in Moseley Hall

SUNDAYS, JUNE 28, JULY 5/12/19
3PM

Wise Women of the Bible Book Study
THE WISDOM OF JANE EYRE
in the church parlor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
5:30PM

Pot Luck Dinner & a Movie
JANE EYRE
in Moseley Hall

OUR SCRIPTURE FOR THE YEAR

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." ~ Micah 6:8



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



Mark Your Calendars! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 20–22 • 5:30–7:45pm

at

First Presbyterian Church
2101 N. Herriage St., Kinston, NC

We are looking forward to another amazing summertime tradition...VBS! Through a partnership between St. Mary's, First Presbyterian, Westminster United Methodist, and Queen Street United Methodist, VBS will be a 3-night event for children Pre-K through rising 5th grade. This year, First Presbyterian will serve as the hosting church. Children will learn about God and His presence in our lives through singing, learning, playing, and creating in a loving, safe environment. They will enjoy the fellowship of a meal as well. Adult and teen volunteers will be needed as well. Be on the look out for sign up information coming soon!

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

Glory Ridge Registration 2026

We are so excited about our annual Youth mission trip to western North Carolina on July 26-31, 2026! The total cost is \$300. Please make your \$100 deposit, if you have not done so already. **The balance of costs and all other forms will be due by May 10th.** Be on the lookout for more information about our theme, music playlist suggestions, scripture verses, team-building activities, t-shirt design, and so much more!



Youth Choir

Youth Choir

We are excited to start Youth Choir this Spring! The Youth Choir will be meeting every other Sunday (May 3rd and May 17th). During the usual "Christian Formation"

time (9:30am-10:15am), children and youth in the Junior Faith Academy (Pre-K thru 2nd Grade), Senior Faith Academy (3rd-5th Grade), and Episcopal Youth Community (Middle & High School) will join in the chapel for 30 minutes during which adult leaders and EYC youth will help the younger ones engage with a Bible verse and learn some great age-appropriate songs. For the last 15 minutes, the JFA and SFA children will return to their usual classrooms for a final activity while the EYC spends some more time on other music. We really look forward to these Sundays and hope your children and youth will be a part of it! If you would like to learn more about shepherding or leading some of these sessions, or just have any questions about this program, please contact Fr. Tom!



Music Jam Sessions Hosted by EYC Continue!

Every other Thursday, we will enjoy music together in Moseley Hall from 6:30-8pm. Hosted and led by the EYC, this event welcomes ALL. The next session is scheduled for **May 21st**. See Tyler Nute for details.

to *GLORY RIDGE:*

86 Days!!

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



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.

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 17)*
- 9:00 am - Chancel Choir Rehearsal *(then will change May 31st to 9:30am)*
- 9:30 am - Christian Formation for All Ages *(through May 17)*
- 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
- 9:30 am - Contemplative Prayer *(Tues. in the Church/Thurs. in the 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 *(through May 20)*
- 6:00 pm - Supper & Programming for all ages *(through May 20)*
- 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal *(then will change May 31st: Sundays, 9:30am)*

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2026
 Richard Crumbaker
 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 Crumbaker

Clerk – Judy Johnson
 Treasurer – Jess Edwards