

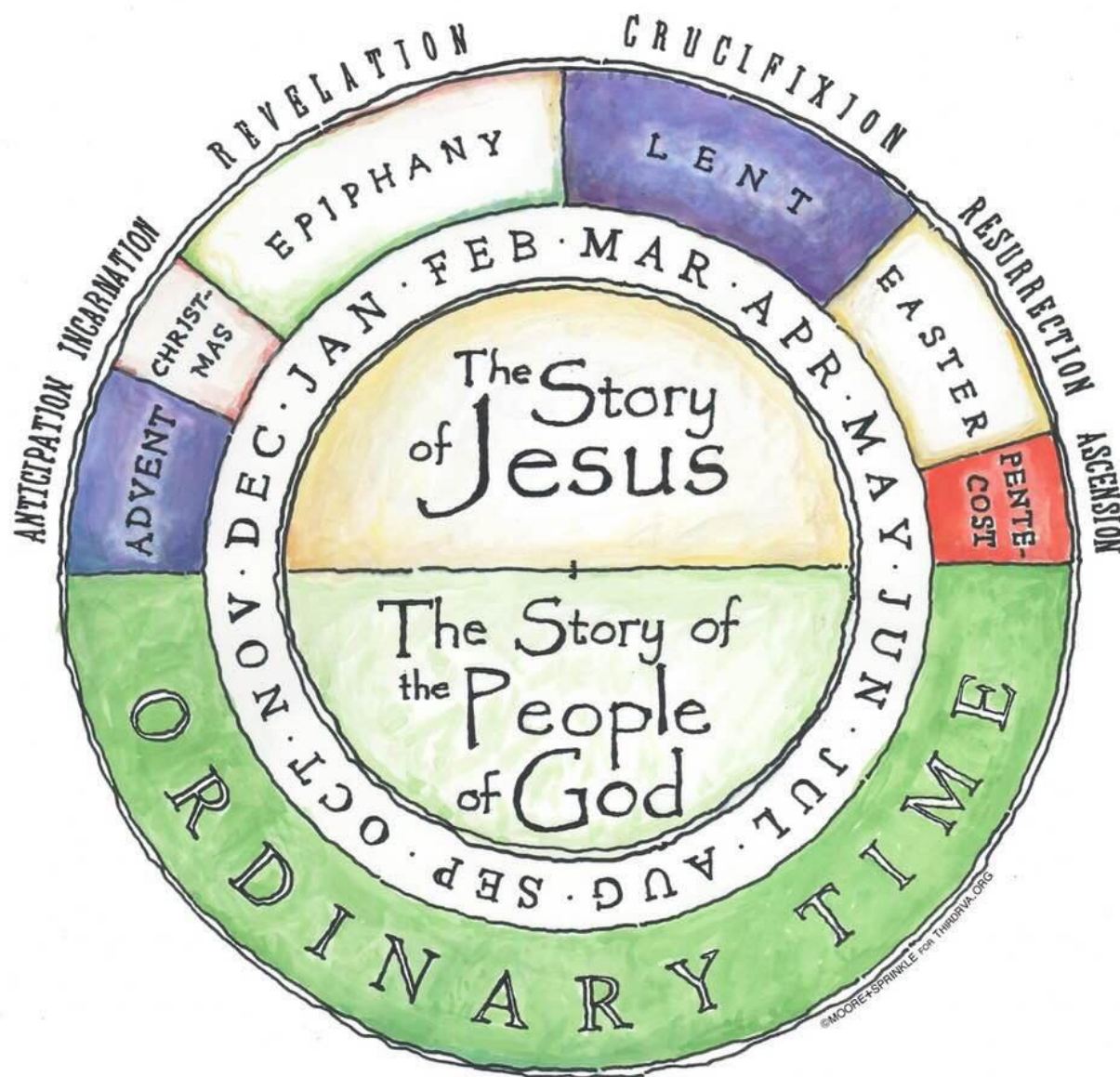


August 2026

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



Ordinary Time

We are now in Ordinary Time—the period between Pentecost and Advent, and the longest season of the church year. In liturgical terms, "Ordinary" does not mean commonplace; rather, it derives from the Latin for "ordered" or "numbered" time, referencing how these weeks are counted. This season represents the structured, day-to-day rhythm of Christian living, guiding us in our walk with Jesus between the major feasts and fasts of the church calendar.

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

What a summer it has been so far! Amidst life-giving worship; joyful fellowship; creative planning for the upcoming program year; outreach at Mary's Kitchen, sharing in Vacation Bible School with our partner churches in the community, final preparations for a return mission trip to Glory Ridge in Madison County, NC, and MUCH more; we have also continued taking exciting steps in the final RISE with JOY project of this first phase: the parking lot off of Rountree Street! We are still quite a ways out from groundbreaking, but the process is indeed underway!

Now, in just a few short weeks, many of us will be shifting our rhythms of life from what was possible during the summer time to make way for school and work in a new year. This is a very important time. In the coming days, you will be sorting out many various activities that are vying for your time, attention, and energy, and I pray that we will all see this new season to be the incredible gift that it is to enrich our spiritual lives and community of faith. This BellRinger offers many such opportunities for you to consider - and more will come in our weekly emails and bulletins. Some will be familiar to you, others will be new offerings and you'll have questions - please ask! Some may be ministries that you've engaged in personally, or witnessed from a distance, or felt the blessings of more directly. The St. Mary's Church family is called to be a community that helps folks in this sort of discernment and offers friendship to accompany us in living out the life of faith. This gives us great JOY!

I am holding you, dear reader, in my prayers as this new season approaches. Please make plans to celebrate the beginning of this season with a special Homecoming Sunday at which time we will observe the Feast of St. Mary followed by a pot-luck luncheon on Sunday, September 13! And please reach out to me or any of the ministry leaders noted with any questions you may have.

Tom +



JOIN THE NEW EfM CLASS

Starting in September 2026

Do you want to deepen your Christian faith, learn how to articulate that faith, and let that faith inspire you into action? Then join Education for Ministry! More than bible study, **EfM** participants read and discuss the Old Testament (year 1), the New Testament (year 2), Church history (year 3), and theology (year 4). (You do not have to commit to all four program years nor complete in four years.) Through study, prayer, and reflection, a trained mentor facilitates small group discussions and guides participants to examine life through an increasingly informed and inspired theological lens. St. Mary's offers a cohort session of **EfM** with a virtual 2-hour meeting every Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. We will also meet in person once a month. Please contact **Dennis Tracz** (dtracz@gmail.com)

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. Sarah Fisher, Bishop

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

Births

Carmen Minshew

June 12, 2026

Citlali Curiel Torres

August 7, 2926

Burial

Randy Spaugh

July 26, 2026

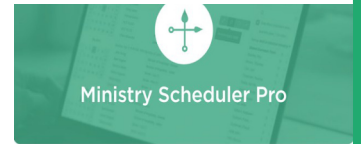


Join friends from church on **Saturday, September 12** for a 4pm showing at the Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts. This international hit offers a faithful stage adaptation of Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, following *Screwtape*, a senior tempter in Hell, as he schemes to capture the soul of an unsuspecting human on earth and reveals spiritual warfare in vivid, humorous and powerful ways. *The Screwtape Letters* run time is 90 minutes with no intermission. It is recommended for ages 13 and older, and children under age 4 are not admitted. If ten or more participate, tickets will be \$60 plus any taxes/fees. Let Fr. Tom know if you're interested!

More News at St. Mary's

Sunday Serving Schedule

The current serving schedule will end on August 31. **NOW** is the time to enter all dates on which you are unable to serve from September 1-November 30 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 will be glad to assist you - just reach out to him at gfoxjr@gmail.com.



Lemonade
On the Lawn
Sundays at 11:45am



JOIN US!
SIGN UP TO HOST!



May 24-Sept 6

Email Sherry Tanner with questions stanner@stmaryskinston.com. Scan the QR code to sign up to host.



There will be opportunities to work one on one with students again this year. This is a rewarding experience for both tutors and students. The teachers and staff are most appreciative. If you have an hour each week to give to this program please contact Becky Darst 252-532-9800



Volunteer today!

American Red Cross



Give blood.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: STMARYS to schedule an appointment.

Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.

Blood Drive@
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"In Moseley Hall"

Monday, August 24, 2026
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ECW

EMF

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
5PM

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

EPISCOPAL MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Coming this Fall! A new opportunity FOR the men of St. Mary's to unite in Fellowship and Service. We are in the process of organizing a formal St. Mary's Men's group. We want to develop relationships among the men of St. Mary's through fellowship and provide resources to support each other. We want to serve St. Mary's more effectively and serve in the community. We plan to have social events twice each year. The first event will be at 6:00 pm on October 23, 2026, in Moseley Hall. Please put 10/23 on your calendars now. More details to follow. Please contact Stuart Stroud if you have questions, ideas or want to help.

MINISTRIES



Join a conversation...

RSVP that you will join us!
Call: 252-253-6146
Email: tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com

ALPHA with St. Mary's
Wednesdays beginning
September 9th

Join us in Moseley Hall
at 6pm for a shared meal
followed by small group
time.

ALL are welcome!

Free! Childcare provided!

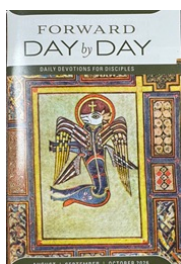
- Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts and hear from others

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



We will celebrate
The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin
September 13, 2026

Wear **BLUE** (the color of St. Mary) and join us as we celebrate this special day in the life of the Church with a St. Mary's Day/Homecoming Sunday covered dish meal. It will be in Moseley Hall. All are encouraged to bring some food to share and enjoy fellowship to celebrate what God is doing in our community and the beginning of our new program year.



FORWARD DAY BY DAY

The August-October edition of Forward Day by Day in small or large print is available now! Pick up your copy in person or call the church office for one to be mailed to you.



"Starting Back to School with Success"

with Steve Roman, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) Regional Coordinator

Date: Wednesday, August 5th

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Lenoir Community College

The transition back to school in the fall can be difficult. If you would like to learn how to transition successfully, join us for this presentation and Q&A! The information provided will be helpful for parents and caregivers of all school-aged children, K-12th grade.

ST. MARY'S AT THE BALLPARK

Down East Bird Dawgs Game

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

GATES OPEN AT 6PM - GAME STARTS AT 7PM

MEAL TIME IS 6:30-8PM

FIREWORKS BEGIN FOLLOWING THE GAME

\$30 FOR PEOPLE AGES 11 AND OLDER ADULTS

\$20 FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-10

FREE FOR CHILDREN 2 AND UNDER

INCLUDES ADMISSION, MEAL, AND A DRINK (NONALCOHOLIC)

MENU ITEMS:

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS, PULLED PORK, MAC AND CHEESE, CHIPS, COOKIES, SODA/WATER

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE TO RSVP

PAY USING CASH OR CHECK OR ONLINE AT REALM

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. MARY'S AND INDICATED DAWGS AND # OF TICKETS IN THE MEMO LINE)



Church Ministry Spotlights

THE VESTRY - YOUR ELECTED CHURCH LEADERS BUT WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

A vestry is a key governing body in the Episcopal Church, composed of elected lay members. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish in the absence of a rector and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a secretary or clerk may also be chosen. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances. Your current vestry members are: Corey Fader (Sr. Warden), Richard Crumbacker (Jr. Warden), Judy Johnson (Clerk), Rob Bizzell, Frances Herring, Randy Spaugh, Sarah Warner, Kay Turner, Harry Wooten, Heather Mintz, Mark Moore, and Sarah Weeks. The position of treasurer is currently held by Jess Edwards, an ad hoc member of the vestry (pictured below in listed order).

In order to effectively manage all the many activities of the church, the vestry has divided up the duties into various committees. The following leadership roles have been determined: **Worship** - Kay Turner, Chair with Frances Herring and Randy Spaugh assisting; **Christian Formation for Adults** - Randy Spaugh, Chair with Sarah Warner assisting; **Christian Formation for Children & Youth** - Heather Mintz, Chair with Mark Moore assisting; **Fellowship** - Richard Crumbacker, Chair with Heather Mintz assisting; **Outreach** - Sarah Warner, Chair with Mark Moore assisting; **Pastoral Care** - Sarah Weeks, Chair with Kay Turner assisting; **Administration/Personnel** - Corey Fader, Chair with Heather Mintz assisting; **Finance** - Rob Bizzell, Chair with Corey Fader assisting; **Long Range Planning** - Frances Herring, Chair (Committee also includes current and most recent Sr & Jr Wardens, plus 2 at-large positions that will be Harry Wooten and Judy Johnson); **Capital Campaign Committee** - Heather Mintz,



COMMITTEES

Worship - Encourage all worshippers to join in seasonal conversations about our liturgies and support the clergy, Minister of Music, Altar Guild, and all liturgical ministries as needed.

Christian Formation (Children & Youth) - Participate in and support the coordination and planning of Christian Formation ministries, including occasional meetings to prepare for various seasons and events.

Christian Formation (Adults) - Encourage all members of the community to join in seasonal conversations about Christian Formation topics and programs to offer. Plan and support the leaders of our Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and occasional other programs (i.e., Alpha).

Fellowship - Plan and support joyful events that allow our congregation to better get to know one another and to encourage our congregation's growth in Christian faith. This includes Wednesday evening meal coordination and baptismal receptions.

Outreach - Connect with, and support as needed, the many lay leaders of St. Mary's who are already actively leading a wide variety of outreach ministries. The Chair will support outreach initiatives as they arise, coordinate teams to serve at Mary's Kitchen on the 4 Saturdays assigned to the church throughout the year, lead the selection of a Lenten Almsgiving focus for our community, and call at least one meeting to determine how Endowment Outreach funds will be distributed.

Pastoral Care - Respond to the pastoral care needs of our community. This includes connecting with ministry leaders to ensure that they are adequately supported: Baptismal Ministry, ECW, Cherished Members Luncheons, Reception Ministry, Flower Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Food Ministry.

Administration/Personnel - Partner with the Rector in overseeing all personnel matters of the Parish to include Ministry, Office, Childcare, & Building & Grounds staff. Occasionally, this will also include involvement with St. Mary's Nursery School and Mary's Kitchen..

Finance - Monthly review of parish financial reports, leading monthly meetings at 5:30pm prior to Vestry meetings, and partnering with the Parish Administrator, Treasurer, Trustees, & Rector on the management of parish financial matters.

Long Range Planning - Facilitate the implementation of the church's Organizational Statements through periodic review of the Long Range Plan Goals & Strategies, oversight of any Task Groups, and communicating with the vestry regarding Long Range Planning work.

Capital Campaign - Work towards funding the long range projects, be an advocate for the projects, carefully articulating what they are, lead the Capital Campaign Committee. track project cash flow and encourage pledge payments

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

ALPHA YOUTH



COMING SEPT 9

Registration for
Candidates and
Applications for Team is
open! Candidates must
be rising 9th-12th
graders

To learn more and register/apply, visit
[https://dioec.regfox.com/happening-85!](https://dioec.regfox.com/happening-85)



FALL CONFERENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

OCTOBER 16-18, 2026 | TRINITY CENTER

UPFRONT LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS

- Must be in 10th, 11th or 12th grade for the 2026-2027 school year
- DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JULY 1ST
- Must have served on team for at least one Diocese of East Carolina Youth Event in the past school year (2025-2026)
- Must be able to participate in the FCMS Leadership Planning Meeting(s) via Zoom (TBD)

Questions? Contact: Emily Gowdy Canady
egowdy@canady@diocese-eastcarolina.org

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 16th
During the 10:30am liturgy

All students, lifelong learners, and educators are invited to bring your bag of choice for a special blessing during this service!



SAVE THE DATES 26-27 Diocesan Youth Events

HAPPENING 85

- September (24) 25-27, 2026
- Trinity Center
- Team & Candidates | 9th-12th Graders

FALL CONFERENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

- October 16-18, 2026
- Trinity Center
- Participants | 6th-8th Graders
- Team | 9th-12th Graders

YOUTH@CONVENTION

- Annual Diocesan Convention
- November 13-14, 2026
- Maxwell Center, Goldsboro
- 9th-12th Graders

WINTER RETREAT

- January 15-17, 2027
- Trinity Center,
- 8th-12th Graders

HAPPENING 86

- March (4) 5-7, 2027
- Trinity Center
- Team & Candidates | 9th-12th Graders

NEW BEGINNINGS 60

- April 9-11, 2027
- Trinity Center
- Participants | 6th-8th Graders
- Team | 8th-12th Graders

REGIONAL OR DEANERY YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES | TBA

NEED MORE INFO?
ACCEPT FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION, ALL YOUTH EVENTS
THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA REQUIRE PARISHES
AND 1 ADULT FOR EVERY 6 YOUNG PEOPLE.

CONTACT: EMILY GOWDY CANADY
EGOWDY@CANADY@DIOCESE-EASTCAROLINA.ORG
MISSIONER FOR LIFELONG CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Throughout August!

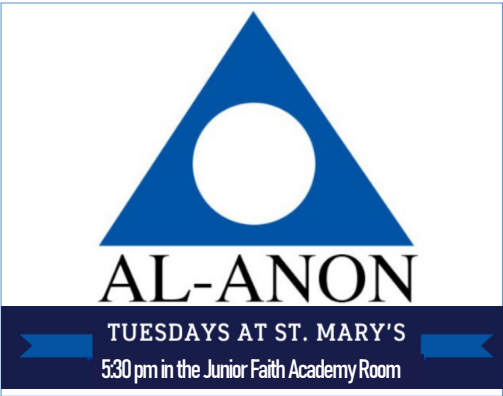
for Northwest
Elementary School

- BACKPACKS
- BLACK AND WHITE COMPOSITION BOOKS
- WOODEN #2 PENCILS
- 16 OR 24 COUNT CRAYOLA CRAYONS (REGULAR OR LARGE SIZE)
- GLUE STICKS
- WIDE-RULE LOOSELEAF PAPER PACKS
- 1 SUBJECT SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS
- FOLDERS WITH POCKETS
- BLUNT-TIP SCISSORS

Drop off donated items in the Vestry Room during weekday business hours.

Lastly, if you are interested in providing food for, or assisting with, the annual Northwest Elementary School Back-to-School Teachers' Luncheon on August 11th, please email Laury Sargeant at laurelsargeant@gmail.com

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



SUNDAYS

(Staffed childcare available 10:15am-Noon)

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church
(livestreamed to YouTube and shared on 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

7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Group in Moseley Hall

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2026

Richard Crumbacker
Corey Fader
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 Crumbacker

Clerk – Judy Johnson
Treasurer – Jess Edwards