



September 2025

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

**find
joy & renewal**
*in a community of
Faith*

From Homecoming (pg. 5)
to the Block Party (pg. 4),
St. Mary's Welcomes you!



From the Rector

Y'all, I am just so glad and excited... for so many reasons. Ever since the program year ended last spring, it has been a joy to envision what the coming year might hold and now we are so close to the new program year beginning! Many people are returning home from vacations and summer rhythms - we're seeing more of each other through the course of the week as well as on Sunday mornings! The St. Mary's Nursery School Year begins next week! Our outdoor projects are getting closer to completion (& under budget!)... "soon!" is now the answer when folks ask when the new playground will be ready! In the broader life of our diocese, the work of discerning our next bishop will enter a new stage later this month when candidates are announced and plans for "Meet & Greet" events are shared. **I am hooked** and can't wait see how the Holy Spirit will be at work as these next months unfold. While you will see some pictures below of the latest playground developments, I was especially drawn to the picture above... of hooks. *Soon*, these hooks that are now empty will hold up backpacks of SMNS students and bags of adults who have come to watch their children play (and hopefully play with them too!). The hooks are signs of hope and expectation. They are signs of welcome and service. They are signs of faith that God will use these efforts to bless others. When you come to St. Mary's on September 7 for Homecoming



Sunday, I hope you'll join in for our playground tours after the Pot-Luck luncheon to learn more about what is yet to come. But most of all, I hope you'll find that the playground hooks are only one of countless other examples at St. Mary's of events, ministries, and opportunities to be blessed by the God of Hope. See you soon! Peace in Christ Jesus, *Tom +*

Children and Youth Ministries

Have you completed and returned the 2025-2026 Youth and Children Ministry Interest Form yet? Hard copies are in the Narthex and can be returned to the church office, [or you can complete the online version that is included in the mid-week "Sunday @ St. Mary's" emails.](#) Thank you!

One LORD,
One Faith,
One BAPTISM.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Join us as we welcome
the newest member to the household of God and
celebrate the renewal of baptismal vows!



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
of Goldsboro-Wayne, Inc.

Habitat for
Humanity has
kicked off
another build

in Lenoir County, this time in our own back yard on Perry Park Drive. All are welcome to come to a presentation about this site on Tuesday, Sep. 9 at noon at the Kinston Community Center. Want to volunteer on the site? Volunteers are welcome on Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays and at other times by request only. Construction shifts are 8-11:30am. and 12-3:30pm each day. You can call (919-736-9592 x3) or email volunteer@habitatgoldsboro.org. Please contact [Fr. Tom](#) or Sarah Warner if you have other questions about this ministry.

The Episcopal Church

α

In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

α

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

α

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

α

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	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 Register

Burials:

Christopher "Chris" Johnson

August 22, 2025

Michael "Mike" Jones

August 25, 2025



Congratulations to Madison Mauck Ellis and Taylor Ellis on the birth of their son, Armistead Glenn Ellis, born on Tuesday, July 29th! Mother and baby are healthy, happy, and well. Congratulations to their whole family, including Madison's parents, Louise and Armistead! We offer our prayers of thanksgivings for this joyful, new life, and we praise God from whom all blessings flow! Let us pray:

Gracious God, Father of us all, we give you thanks for the gift of Armistead Glenn Ellis. Thank you for the blessing you have bestowed upon Madison and Taylor in giving them a child. 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 this child 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. We pray these things in the name of Your Son. Amen.

With Sympathy



We offer our sympathy to the families of:

* **Jerry Hopfengardner**, father of Sandra Warren and grandfather of Fr. Tom and family, who died August 9th at 93 years old following the passing of his wife of 69 years last November. A celebration of both of their lives may be arranged at a later date.

* **Chris Johnson**, a long-time member of St. Mary's, who died August 14th. Chris was a devoted caregiver to his mother, Mary Lou Johnson, until her recent passing and is survived by his brother, Gary Johnson (Karen). The Burial Liturgy was held on August 22nd at St. Mary's.

* **Mike Jones**, husband of Kelly Bowen Jones and father to 3 sons, Michael (Rachel), Steven, and Ryan. Mike died August 11th following open heart surgery and post-operative complications. The Burial Liturgy was held August 25th at St. Mary's.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the Hopfengardner, Johnson, and Jones families 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.

News at St. Mary's



As Doug & Kim Hazelgrove work on the rebuilding of their home throughout this year, please note their temporary address and continue to hold them in your prayers:

819 Greenbriar Road
Kinston, NC 28501

Step One: Love God ~ Step Two: Love Your Neighbor

St. Mary's Annual Block Party

Sunday, September 28th, 2025 at 5pm

Join your St. Mary's family as we extend a warm welcome to our surrounding community! **Beginning September 7th**, we will put out signs and hand-deliver invitations around the neighborhood. We'd love your help as we invite neighbors to this event of food (a PIG PICKIN'!!!), hospitality, games, music, and fellowship! Brush up on your recipes and get your casserole dishes out to bring as a side or dessert to share! Invite a friend and share this wonderful yearly celebration!

Food!

Fun!

Fellowship!

Games!

Music!



St. Mary's/SMNS Partnership

SMNS will kick off its 52nd year the week after Labor Day, and we offer prayers for a wonderful, safe, joy-filled year of learning and growing and we offer our thanksgivings for the teachers and director who minister daily to these children and their families. St. Mary's continues its intentional ministry partnership between the parish and the preschool by showing the love of Christ to the students, families, teachers, and director. We want to support the students by assisting with special events while we minister to the teachers and director by providing care packages and treats. This ministry will assist with the St. Mary's Nursery School Open House and extend our heartfelt invitation to Sunday worship, Wednesday evening meals and programming, the Block Party, and other events. We will combine our resources for another fun Trunk-or-Treat event. We welcome your help, participation, and ideas! Join an enthusiastic group of people who want to foster the love between the two communities who both call St. Mary's "home." Contact Sherry Tanner or Robin Simms for more information.



Cursillo EC 106
TRINITY CONFERENCE CENTER
NOVEMBER 6-9, 2025

CURSILLO is a 3-day retreat for adults held at Trinity Center. Through talks, shared meals, worship, music, prayer, & fellowship, Cursillo helps Christians discover what is fundamental within our faith and encourage us to live out our Baptismal Covenant by serving Christ and one another. Learn more and register

online at www.cursillodec.org. Please also speak with Fr. Tom, Kelli Stroud, or Becky Darst.

Worship

HOMEcoming SUNDAY! Mary's Day ~ Sunday, September 7th

On **Sunday, September 7th**, we are excited to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin - our parish's Matron Saint Day ~ with a special homecoming day! The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin is one of the highlights of our calendar, and we invite you to wear something **MARIAN BLUE**, a traditional color of St. Mary. During the 10:30am liturgy, we will enjoy special music by our choir & visiting musicians, and set aside a special time to offer thanksgivings and a blessing for the new year at St. Mary's Nursery School. Please be ready to offer a warm welcome and Christian hospitality to visiting Nursery School families! Afterwards, we will continue our JOYful celebration with a special Homecoming Pot-Luck Lunch in Moseley Hall. Please invite a friend and make plans to join us on this very special day in the life of the Church and the life of our Parish!



Mary was a young Israelite Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee and the mother of Jesus. Christians believe that she conceived her son, Jesus the Christ, miraculously by the power of the Holy Spirit. This took place when she was already betrothed to Joseph and was awaiting the culminating marriage ceremony. She married Joseph and accompanied him to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The Virgin Mary is viewed as the ultimate compassionate human being, and holy, in part, because of her willingness to participate in God's plans for her life. The Virgin Mary is known and honored for her faithfulness to God, compassion for her Son and others, perseverance through incredible hardships, and much more. These must have been among the reasons why the Virgin Mary was chosen as the matron saint of this church nearly 200 years ago. Like our matron saint, we too are called to carry out ministries of faithfulness, compassion, perseverance, and much more each and every day of our lives.

Acolyte Training

for all current acolytes and those interested in becoming or assisting acolytes



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH
FOLLOWING THE 10:30AM SERVICE

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

Choral Evensong led by the Chancel Choir

- Sunday, September 14th at 5pm
- Sunday, October 12th at 5pm
- Sunday, November 9th at 5pm



Ministry Scheduler Pro

The Fall Schedule

We are now in the fall serving schedule that cover **September 1st-November 30th**. Please remember to log in to MSP and make a note of the dates you will be serving. May God bless the many ways you participate in ministry and life at St. Mary's!

Choral Workshop at St. Mary's Saturday, September 6th, 10am-2pm

with Kevin Kerstetter (from St. Michael's Episcopal Church ~ Raleigh)

- Techniques
- Posture
- Sound Production
- Blending

Confirm your attendance:
sholt@stmaryskinston.com
or
text 704-438-1252

A New Program Year!

Praying the Psalms

seeing how the whole book fits together, we'll look at some specific psalms and explore how they might fit into your everyday prayer life.

Sunday mornings, beginning September 14, the Adult Christian Formation offering will focus on the Psalms. The first few weeks will be led by Pam Mazingo. After starting with a broad overview of the Book of Psalms and

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

Meal: 6-6:30pm

Program: 6:30-7:30pm



Our hope is that everyone within the church family will see Wednesday evenings as a blessing - one where the cooking is taken care of and there is life-giving, informative, faith-building fun to be enjoyed with your church family. Childcare is provided and there will be a variety of activities for all ages scheduled throughout the season.

Olivia's Catering will provide suppers on Wednesday evenings this fall. There is a suggested donation of \$12 for adults (13 and older), \$7 for children 12 and under, or \$25 per family. Of course, all donations will help greatly in allowing us to make these fellowship meals possible!

For programs, there will be a mix of intergenerational activities like Family Game Nights and Hymn Sings scheduled throughout the year. Most Wednesdays, adults will watch and discuss episodes from THE CHOSEN. This show tells the story of the Gospel of Jesus in creative and compelling ways, and because the story builds with every episode, we will begin with season 1. [You may watch all of the episodes online for free at www.watch.thechosen.tv](http://www.watch.thechosen.tv). Meanwhile, our Episcopal Youth Community (Middle & High Schoolers), Senior Faith Academy (3-5th Grade), Junior Faith Academy (Pre-k through 2nd Grade), and "Cradle" children will all have age-appropriate activities. Here is our weekly schedule for the beginning of the season:

Sep 10 - ***Family Bingo Night!!***

Sep 17 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Sep 24 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Oct 1 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Oct 8 - ***Family Hymn Sing***

Oct 15 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Oct 22 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Oct 29 - The Chosen, EYC, SFA, & JFA

Thank you!

ECW

Thank you to all who attended and provided hospitality for our ECW Movie Night! It was a great turnout and a wonderful movie. Stay tuned for the next ECW gatherings later this fall!

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



Happening is a Christian experience presented by high schoolers, for high schoolers, with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. The program is meant to be one of the instruments within the Anglican Tradition of renewing the Christian church in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the church may more readily respond to its call to spread the Kingdom of God throughout the world! Happening #83 will be **September 19th-21st** at Trinity Center. While the Team Registration deadline has passed, Candidate Registration for 1st-time attendees is due September 9th by 7pm. Team Members are required to attend one team meeting. Register at <https://dioec.regfox.com/happening-83> and see Fr. Tom for details!



Fall Conference is an event designed by the ECYC for young people in grades 6th-8th from around the diocese. Taking place at Trinity Center, participants will share a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun through worship, small and large groups, singing, dancing, and enjoying the surroundings of Trinity Center. Grounding the weekend in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, we discuss how we adapt and change to life and how God is present in the toughest moments. This year, Fall Conference will be held **October 17th-19th** at Trinity Center. Team applications and registration are open at <https://dioec.regfox.com/2025-fall-conference-for-middle-schoolers>.



GLORY RIDGE

W
E
M
A
D
E



JULY 2025



W
O
R
K



W
O
R
S
H
I
P



SAVE THE DATES 25-26
YOUTH & FORMATION



HAPPENING 83

SEPTEMBER (18) 19-21
@ TRINITY CENTER

**FALL CONF. FOR
MIDDLE SCHOOLERS**

OCTOBER 17-29
@ TRINITY CENTER

**YOUTH AT
CONVENTION**

NOVEMBER 14-15
IN GOLDSBORO

**WINTER
RETREAT**

JANUARY 16 - 18
@TRINITY CENTER

HAPPENING 84

MARCH (5) 6-8
@TRINITY CENTER

**NEW
BEGINNINGS 59**

APRIL 17 - 19
@TRINITY CENTER

DEANERY YOUTH GATHERINGS

Albemarle • 10/5/25 • St. Paul's, Edenton
Trinity • 11/2/25 • Christ Church, New Bern
Upper Cape Fear • 1/11/26 • Holy Trinity, Fayetteville
Lower Cape Fear • 2/1/26 • St. Mark's, Wilmington
Pamlico • 3/1/26 • St. Timothy's, Greenville

FORMATION LEADER DINNERS

Trinity • September 29, 2025
Lower Cape Fear • November 3, 2025
Pamlico • January 12, 2026
Albemarle • March 9, 2026
Upper Cape Fear • April 13, 2026

Dates for quarterly Formation Leader Gatherings on Zoom will be announced soon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Emily Gowdy Canady • Missioner for Lifelong Christian Formation
Egowdycanady@diocese-eastcarolina.org • The Diocese of East Carolina

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



Weekly reading with a child at North-west Elementary School makes a huge difference! Please contact Becky Darst at 252-521-9800 to learn more about this ministry that begins in October.



SUNDAYS

(Staffed childcare available 8:45am-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 in Facebook)

11:45 am - Lemonade on the Lawn under the Breezeway Arches

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

8:30 am - Morning Prayer in the All Saints' Chapel

WEDNESDAYS

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

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2025
 Andrew Duppstadt
 Bonnie Holton
 Anne Lindley
 Jim Purnell

2026
 Richard Crumbacker
 Corey Fader
 Randy Spaugh
 Kay Turner

2027
 Rob Bizzell
 Frances Herring
 Sarah Warner
 Harry Wooten

Senior Warden – Bonnie Holton
 Junior Warden – Richard Crumbacker

Clerk – Andrew Duppstadt
 Treasurer – Jess Edwards