



January 2021

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Shine the Light of Christ in 2021

From the Rector

This “word-cloud” cross is made up of many of the key words contained in our organizational statements.

In late 2018, the Vestry commissioned a Long Range Planning Committee to recommend future priorities as a church and neighborhood parish based on these organizational statements and in consultation with the Rector. Please keep this group’s faithful ministry in your prayers!



All of the organizational statements may be read on our website:

www.stmaryskinston.com/about-us/

Long Range Planning Committee Members

Steve Mazingo - Chair

Jo Parrott

Jimmy Ballard

Jon Sargeant

Walter Poole

Jess Edwards

Outdoor Task Group

Walter Poole, Chair

Indoor Task Group

Skip Greene, Chair

Music Task Group

Bonnie Holton & Pam Mazingo, Co-Chairs

New Year Greetings

Maybe you're a New Year's resolution kind of person... maybe not. If you are, may you seek God's wisdom in discerning fitting and fruitful ways to commit your time and talents to God, and may these efforts be a blessing!

For all of us, I pray that the new year before us will be one in which the people of St. Mary's thrive in our daily walks with Jesus and His love in us is shared widely with grace and joy.

Throughout this January edition of the BellRinger, you will find news about what is being planned for the coming weeks in our community of faith and I encourage you to ask God where you might be blessed (and be a blessing) by joining in.

The Episcopal Church is blessed with a tradition of liturgies that includes so many inspiring prayers. Among the many that stand out to me each year is the prayer for January 1, the feast that celebrates the naming of Jesus (which literally means “God saves”). May it be an encouragement for you and yours at the beginning of 2021.

Let us pray:

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Tom +

Monthly Outdoor Worship

Our next Outdoor Worship experience will be a liturgy of Compline led by the youth of St. Mary's Church on Sunday, January 17 at 5pm. At this time, we'll also enjoy the annual “2nd Lighting of the Warren Family Christmas Tree.”

Hope to see you there!



Check out the beautiful 2021 St. Mary's T-Shirt design and learn about this great effort on Pg. 7!



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • KINSTON, NC

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. Michael B. Curry

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

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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	Mrs. Jo Parrott
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jimmy Ballard
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Ministry Coordinator (Youth/Families)	Mrs. Liz Hengst
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs. Sharon Veitch
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

News at St. Mary's

From the Parish Register

Transfers In:

Jane Brothers

(from First Presbyterian Church - Kinston, NC)

Liz and Chuck Hengst, Christian, Madison & David

(from St. Peter's Episcopal Church - Phoenix, AZ)

Mary French

(from St. Peter's Episcopal Church - Phoenix, AZ)

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Advent and Christmas celebrations here at St. Mary's. You made the parish look beautiful and served in ways that have been a blessing to so many. May God grant you a joyous Christmas season and may you and those you hold dear have a happy New Year!



Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

It is with deep sadness that we will not be able to celebrate the Boar's Head Festival this year. We pray that over the next year, we will discover that it will be possible to fill the church again to celebrate this great Epiphany celebration. Please join us in this prayer and keep an ear open for familiar Boar's Head Festival tunes in our worship during the Christmas season.



Mary's Kitchen

Bread Drive & Quarterly Service Date

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a bread drive for Mary's Kitchen! Loaf sandwich bread will be collected in the church office anytime during the week of Jan. 4-8 or in the Narthex on **Sunday, January 10th**. Bread will be delivered to the Kitchen that week to coincide with our parish's quarterly service date, **Saturday, January 16th**. *The goal is to collect 70 loaves - this is a one week supply of bread to Mary's Kitchen.* If you would like to serve this day or have any other questions about the bread drive, please contact Jessica Shimer, Outreach Committee Chair, at jshimer4300@gmail.com.



The parish office will be closed Friday, January 1, in observance of the New Year holiday. The parish staff wish you and your family a peaceful, joyous, healthy new year!

News at St. Mary's

Cookie Walk



The Drive-Thru Cookie Walk (2020-style) was a great success! We sold out of all boxes by 12 noon. Cookie Alley was fun and festive, and the day was full of joy and laughs. Much love was shared which is the main goal of the event. Thank you to all the cookie bakers, Cookie Alley decorators, and volunteers - you are the true Cookie HEROES!

Dear St. Mary's Parish:

We want to thank you for your warm wishes, cards, goodies, and gifts this Christmas season. We are thankful to walk beside you in ministry to Christ and His Church within this parish as well as outside to the surrounding communities. We look forward to a new year and pray many blessings for you, your families, and St. Mary's Church!

In Peace,

Lori Kelly & Sherry Tanner



Thank You



Pastoral Announcements

We offer thanksgiving for the birth of **Aerosyn Emmett Franklin** to Harper & Kaeden Franklin on December 21, 2020. Susanne Eledge and Jimmy Ballard are the joyful grandparents, and Piper is the excited big sister!

New Vestry Class of 2023



The Annual Parish Meeting was held during the 9:30am liturgy on December 6, 2020, at which time the Vestry Class of 2023 was elected: **Skip Greene, Audra Haddad, Vicki Kennedy, and Pam Mazingo**. As you get the opportunity, please thank them for their discernment to serve St. Mary's and keep them (with the rest of our vestry and leadership) in your prayers. The outgoing Vestry Class (**Jess Edwards, Gerry Fox, Whitney Grady, and Jo Parrott**) served as the Nominating Committee that did the work of compiling the nominating ballots that were submitted and communicating with the nominees accordingly to put the slate together. We are grateful for their faithful service in this work and SO MUCH more throughout their remarkable three year vestry term!

The Vestry will hold its annual **Vestry Retreat Weekend on January 8th - 9th**, at which time the new Wardens, Clerk, & Treasurer will be selected. Then, on **Sunday, January 17, 2021** the new Vestry class and Officers will be commissioned. May God bless the upcoming seasons of ministry for these leaders of our church family.



**138th Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina**

Saturday, February 13, 2021

The 2021 Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina will be held virtually in response to COVID safety guidelines. During our Annual Parish Meeting, the following members of our church were elected to represent St. Mary's at the upcoming Diocesan Convention:

Lay Delegates: *PC Barnick, Barbara Crumbacker, Richard Crumbacker, & Jo Parrott*

Alternate Lay Delegate: *David Brown*

Youth Representative: *Anna Haddad*

We give thanks for your ministry and keep you in our prayers!

Worship



Blessing of the Homes at Epiphany

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) and the season which follows, ending on Shrove Tuesday (February 16th). Historically, family and friends would gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. A traditional way of doing this is to invite the clergy of the church to visit your home for the blessing. During this liturgy, "20 + C + M + B + 21" may be written with chalk above the home's entryway. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross of Christ and the numbers "2021" indicate the year of the blessing.

Chalk and printed prayers will be made available for you to take home for private prayers. Fr. Tom would also be glad to offer prayers of blessing for your home if requested. It is a blessing to your clergy to share in your lives! Being invited to offer this gift of the church to your home would be a great joy, so please don't hesitate.



The Bells of St. Mary's are back with rehearsals each Thursday at 5pm.

We will set up bells and begin rehearsal with music reading skills followed by repertoire (songs we learn). Everyone should be able to be present by 5:30pm. Some will be able to be at church earlier than others, so we could have a set-up crew and a clean-up crew. The aim is to have the actual rehearsal concluded between 6:15-6:30pm followed by clean-up. We are excited to enjoy the music of a hand bell choir at St. Mary's!



Ministry Scheduler Pro

A Ministry Scheduler Tutorial from Gerry Fox

The new year is a great time to reacquaint yourself to the Ministry Scheduler. In 2018, St. Mary's began using the Scheduler to schedule, remind, and help our lay ministers, the Church staff, & Fr. Tom keep track of those who serve each Sunday. Servers were added to a database separated by their choice of ministry: Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, Greeter, Altar Guild, and Breakfast Team. When the schedule was set up, all of the positions were randomly selected from the database and put into the schedule. If a person had conflicts, they could ask for a "sub" and other ministers could accept to replace them. Emails were sent out every Monday to remind people that they were serving for the next Sunday service.

When the pandemic began, in-person worship was suspended and the Scheduler was not needed. As in-person *outdoor* worship began in the summer, Lectors were personally called and reminded. When in-person *indoor* worship resumed in the fall, more ministers were needed and phone calls to fill those positions became quite time-consuming. The Scheduler was re-activated in December to help with scheduling and reminding. The types of ministers have changed as well. **For the 8am service**, there is only one Lector and one Usher (no Eucharistic Ministers and no Breakfast Team). **For the 9:30am service**, there is only one Lector, one Crucifer, two Torchbearers, and three Ushers/Greeters. **For the online recorded service**, there are two Lectors (this service date is recorded on the Thursday before the online worship date.) It is more important than ever that our ministers stay informed and are diligent in not only asking for "subs," but ensuring that subs are attained because there are no extra people to fill in if someone is missing. If you do not feel that this is the time for you to serve during the pandemic, please notify Gerry Fox so that you may be listed "inactive" for the time-being. Please take some time to re-familiarize yourself with the Ministry Scheduler, its app, and the "live" schedule: www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/stmaryskinston/schedules/565452. If you need some one-on-one help, email Gerry Fox at gfoxjr@gmail.com. The Scheduler is a tool to help us ease the burden of contacting people each week to serve. It is our hope, with your help, it will do just that.

Adult Christian Formation

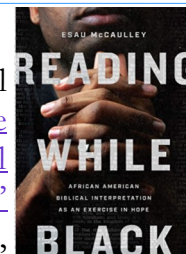


New Adult Forum Series: Philippians

The Adult Forum in January will focus on the letter of St. Paul to the church in Philippi. This is a short letter, only four chapters long, but is filled with messages of joy regardless of challenging situations. St. Paul wrote this letter from prison and his words point the reader towards the hope and Good News of the Gospel of Jesus that is present in all times and circumstances. This 5-week series will begin on January 10, meeting at 10:45am in Moseley Hall and online via Zoom (a link will be shared by email).

Rector's Forum Book Study

In January, the Rector's Forum will begin its new study on ["Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope"](#) by the [Rev. Canon Dr. Esau McCaulley](#), an Anglican priest and New Testament scholar at Wheaton College. **The Rector's Forum will meet via Zoom on Tuesdays at noon, beginning Jan 19.** Copies of the book are available now at the church office. Contact Fr. Tom by email at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com if you would like to receive the Zoom link.



"Esau McCaulley's voice is one we urgently need to hear. This book is prophetic, biblical, measured, wise, friendly, and well-reasoned - and thus all the more hard-bitting. A powerful word for our times." (N.T. Wright; former Bishop of Durham, England; professor of New Testament at the University of St Andrews; and senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford)

ECW



**THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB**

Women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021! As we turn to a new year, we often think of new beginnings, fresh starts, and new goals. Have you ever desired to attend a Bible study... to dig a little deeper into God's Word... to share thoughts and questions with other women as you learn and pray together? ECW has the perfect opportunity to begin your 2021!

The ECW Ladies Bible Study will be reading the Gospel of Mark along with the GOOD BOOK Club during the 8 week season of Epiphany. Join us as we study the Gospel of Mark **beginning Tuesday, January 12th at 4pm on Zoom.** Invite a friend and bring your Bible.

Daily readings and the Zoom link will be sent via email in early January. Let's see where God will lead us in 2021!



Be on the lookout for the upcoming **ECW Valentine's Heart & Soul Drive-Thru Event at "Heart Alley"**. This year, our event will use creativity and innovation to maintain COVID-safety guidelines all while continuing the fundraising efforts to support the ministries of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's. There will be many opportunities to be involved in the fun. . . just contact Audra Haddad (252-526-8537) or Laury Sargeant (252-268-6521) to help share the LOVE!

COMING UP SOON ~ ECW annual business meeting, Sunday, January 17th at 7pm via Zoom. The link will be emailed in the new year. Be sure to join us as we give thanks for our dedicated members and make plans for 2021!

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



**please remember face coverings for all in-person gatherings*

Sunday, January 10

10:45-11:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
3-4:30pm EYC

Sunday, January 17

10:45-11:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
3-4:30pm EYC
5-6pm Youth-Led Compline
(West Lawn - bring your Book of Common Prayer/phone, blanket/ chair)

Sunday, January 24

10:45-11:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
3-4:30pm EYC

Sunday, January 31

10:45-11:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
3-4:30pm EYC

EYC SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The EYC is excited to share with you our EYC 2021 Fundraiser!!! **Beginning Sunday, January 10th and continuing through Sunday, January 31st**, you will be able to order your **OFFICIAL 2021 ST. MARY'S T-SHIRT** with proceeds to benefit EYC service projects and activities! Our 2021 shirt design is inspired by the time we spent worshipping in the great outdoors with our big beautiful magnolia tree as our backdrop on the West Lawn. Shirts are available in blue/grey or green, in sizes XS-3X. \$25 for short sleeves, \$30 for long sleeves.

This tee is unique and incredibly soft with a worn-in, vintage look. Please [contact Liz Hengst by email at lhengst@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:lhengst@stmaryskinston.com) for any questions or to place an order.



(front)



(back)



From the Desk of Liz ~

EYC Families: As we move into a new season, we will continue to “Wonder As We Wander”. While the journey to the end of 2020 is probably not where we expected to be when we began 2020, we will still embrace the journey. We will learn, grow, and adventure together.

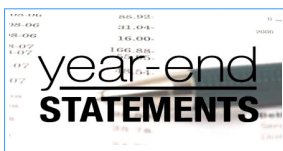
EYC: We are excited for the return of EYC gatherings (*meeting outside when possible*) that will be a mixture of formation, fellowship, games, service, and discussion. Our January journey is all about relationships - the dynamics of them, how they change, how they are presented in the Bible, and how we engage through our own with God.

Parents: It is time to start exploring the idea of journeying alongside our children and youth. This is a great time for parents and other leaders in our church family to volunteer on a Sunday with our children and youth. If you are interested in giving your time one Sunday a month (or more!!!) please contact me to explore options.

Please let me know how I can pray for you and your family!

Liz

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

 All year-end contributions to be credited for 2020 must be received in the church office no later than **12pm on Thursday, December 31, 2020**. Final year-end statements will be mailed in mid-January.

CONNECTING
faith
 and
friends

Join a group of ECW women who are willing to make intentional personal connections by checking in on an assigned church member via short chats, doorstep visits, letters, and/or surprise gifts. Please contact Laury Sargeant by email at jsarg4@suddenlink.net or Audra Haddad by email at 5haddad@suddenlink.net to be paired with your friend today!

WORSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S

8:00 am

Online Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion)

posted to [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

8:00 am

Indoor Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel

9:30 am

Indoor Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church

Face coverings required. Social distancing will be practiced - overflow seating available in Moseley Hall. The indoor services are offered following the guidelines described in Fr. Tom's [Pastoral Letter to the Church](#) from Oct 21.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2020

Jess Edwards
 Gerry Fox
 Whitney Grady
 Jo Parrott

2021

Jimmy Ballard
 Sam Gilmore
 Jessica Shimer
 Stuart Stroud

2022

John John
 Scott Turik
 Dee Warner
 Harry Wooten

Senior Warden – Jo Parrott

Junior Warden – Jimmy Ballard

Clerk – Whitney Grady

Treasurer – Billy Page