

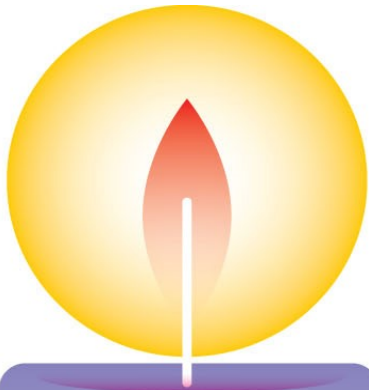


November 2021

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



ADVENT BEGINS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

A New Season - A New Year

This is the time the church calendar begins a new year and we prepare, in **HOPE**ful anticipation, of God's Good News being made known and real to us.



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

From the Rector

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD;
his love endures forever.

Not to be confused with only a “November thing,” Psalm 107 says to GIVE THANKS anytime and for the endless array of ways in which God’s steadfast love shows up in our lives! Now, I’m not trying to be a Thanksgiving Day hum-bug... far from it! Holidays and seasons should draw our attention at particular times and in particular ways to practices that can also find faithful expression at many other times. And so as you observe the Thanksgiving holiday this month, I encourage you to pay special attention to God’s work in and around you, in these days, and in previous seasons of your life. As the Psalmist implores, may we give thanks

Finding Light in a Pandemic ... *an Advent retreat with Julian of Norwich*

December 3-5, 2021 at Pelican House, Trinity Center,
Pine Knoll Shores, NC.

Contact Nancy Reynolds, for more information.
(252) 247-5600
trinityctrregistrar@gmail.com

to God in prayer. Maybe then you will also want to share some of these expressions of thanks on the “Thankful Tree” here at St. Mary’s (see pg. 7). Maybe you will also be led to point out to another person how you’ve witnessed God at work in their life. If you’re one who gives thanks for music, listen to Wendell Kimbrough (a friend of St. Mary’s Church) sing [“Oh Give Thanks”](#) which is his song based on this psalm. Find it at www.youtube.com/wendellkdotcom. Friends, I’m thankful that God has seen it fitting for us to share life and ministry together here. Happy Thanksgiving and Advent Hope to come!

Tom +

Happy Thanksgiving!!

As you observe the Thanksgiving holiday, consider making use of the Litany of Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 837) as part of your home’s observance of thanks:

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Take a moment to lift the prayers and thanksgivings that are on your heart...

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***



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	Mr. Stuart Stroud
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jimmy Ballard
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Family Ministry Coordinator	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

Marriage:

Eliza Newton & Josh Davis
(October 24, 2021)

Baptisms:

Richard David Reinert
Cooper David Reinert
Colin Michael Whitfield
(October 31, 2021)

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows:

Jennifer Christine Reinert
(October 31, 2021)

Transfers Out:

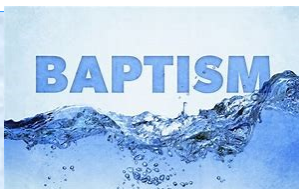
Sue Schaffer ~ St. Philip's (Southport)
(September 24, 2021)

Bill, Deb, Will, & Lexi Connolly ~ St. Andrew's (Morehead City)
(October 6, 2021)



Change of Address

Tempe and Carl Younger
1909 Cambridge Dr.
Kinston, NC 28504



We are thrilled to have a baptism planned for **Sunday, November 7th**, when we will celebrate the baptism of **Luke Miles** (son of Charlton & Claire Miles, grandson of Holly Hill and Stephen Hill, nephew of Caroline & Trent Mooring and Abby & Trey Means, and cousin of Eva, Britt, Amelia, Charles, & Audrey)! Renewal of Baptismal vows will be a part of all of the liturgies offered on those Sundays. Please keep Luke, his sponsors, and family in your prayers!



More News at St. Mary's (cont'd)

2021 Kinston Cornhole Classic



Looking for a fun way to spend the day AND support your favorite organization, Mary's Kitchen? Then come on down to Grainger Stadium Saturday, November 6th for the Kinston Cornhole Classic! All non-players/spectators may watch the tournament by **bringing 3 non-perishable canned goods which will be donated to Mary's Kitchen** or by paying a \$5 admission fee. The stadium opens at 10am, and the tournament begins at 11am. There will be full concessions and beverages available at the event. For any questions, contact John McCormick

at jmccormick@woodducksbaseball.com.

#ADVENTWORD

For the eighth year in a row, #AdventWord will gather prayers via a global, online advent calendar. Forward Movement, the new home of AdventWord, will offer 28 daily meditations and images during this holy season **beginning Sunday, November 28**. Gathering a worldwide community, #AdventWord provides a daily meditation, visual image, and invites your personal reflections via social media to share your own Advent journey. Thousands have participated each year, responding to the words with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and Holy Spirit-filled posts. For more information:

www.AdventWord.org

www.instagram.com/adventword

www.twitter.com/AdventWord

www.facebook.com/AdventWordOrg



MINISTRY Minute

Joyfully there are many new members at St. Mary's, so we'd like to include this new section to highlight various ministries and help everyone know whom to call if interested in learning more. Also, you may feel a particular ministry has your name written all over it, and we need each other! Please join! Joy comes from service to and with our church family whether we have known each other a long time or a brief time. Everyone can contribute! We pray this can help you find your special ministry at St. Mary's and/or discover a new calling and that it will bless your life.

To start this series, there are 7 commissions: Administration, Finance, Worship, Christian Formation for Adults, Christian Formation for Children & Youth, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Fellowship. Each commission is chaired by a member of the Vestry and coordinates numerous ministries. Be sure to read next month's Ministry Minute as we take a closer look at one of these ministries - you may discover some ministries you did not even know we had!



The Parish Office **will be closed Thursday, November 25 & Friday, November 26** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The parish staff wish you and your family a joyous, safe holiday!

Vestry



Vestry Nomination Process

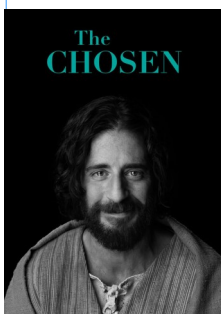
The Vestry of St. Mary's has a vital role in the leadership of this parish, and St. Mary's will soon elect its next 4-person class of vestry leaders using the process we adopted in 2020.

1. On October 17, a preliminary list of members who are eligible to serve on the vestry was shared via email. Please contact the church office by Thursday, November 4 with any needed corrections.
2. On Friday, November 5, nomination forms will be emailed and posted in the Narthex with instructions on the "Nomination by Ballot" process. Nominations by Ballot will be received by all eligible voters until 11:59pm on Friday, November 19.
3. The Vestry's Nominating Committee will form a 4-person candidate slate based on the nomination ballots. In the event of a tie, the Nominating Committee will be trusted to discern an appropriate solution based on the needs of the parish.
4. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place during the 9:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 5, 2021 during which the 4-person slate will be voted on. Please plan now to attend worship this joyous day!

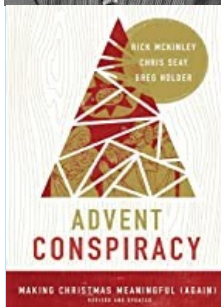
Serving on the Vestry of St. Mary's is service to Christ himself and is an honor and privilege. Please be in prayer for discernment about who you sense may be called to serve in this way and may God bless the leadership of this church.

Adult Christian Formation

Adult Christian Formation



Join us each **Sunday morning at 10:45am in Moseley Hall and via Zoom for Adult Christian Formation**. In the beginning of November, we will continue our viewing and discussion of the film series, "The Chosen." In person sessions will view the video in the Parlor or Vestry Room from 10:45-11:25am, then gather in Moseley Hall for group discussion from 11:25-11:45am. For those joining from home, watch episodes any time at <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>, then join us via Zoom from 11:25-11:45am for group discussion. Contact Fr. Tom if you would like the Zoom link shared with you.



Then, as we approach the Advent season, we will "press pause" on viewing "The Chosen" and begin Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again). We will ask ourselves: ***Am I tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas?*** This year, take a stand! Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be - a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us, not a retail circus that depletes our pocketbooks and defeats our spirits. As we reflect on this, we will read *Advent Conspiracy*. *Advent Conspiracy offers thoughts on how to substitute consumption with compassion by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts: Worship Fully - because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus; Spend Less - and free your resources for things that truly matter. Give more - of your presence, your hands, your words, your time, your heart. Love All - the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick in ways that make a difference.*

Please join us for discussion in the Church Parlor at 10:45am on Sunday mornings during the four Sundays of Advent (November 28th, December 5th, December 12th, and December 19th). The book may be purchased at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), but it is not necessary to read the book in order to participate in this meaningful conversation. A Zoom link will also be provided to our email list, or upon request, for those who would like to participate from home.

Worship



Evensong

Choral Evensong

Join us on the evening of **Monday, November 1st at 6:00pm**, during which the Roll of Remembrance will be read and prayers for our faithful departed will be offered. We hope you will join us for this special service.



Return to Wine at Communion

After careful thought to health and safety as well as liturgical and theological practices, we are excited to reintroduce communion wine on the first Sunday of Advent (**November 28th**)! Since we will use individual cups for this significant part of our sacramental life together, we're offering an opportunity for communicants to create unique individual pottery communion cups, intended to be brought each Sunday and otherwise kept sacred and reserved for this purpose. Two gatherings are being planned to include the pottery project, learning about our Eucharistic theology, and discussing the important ministry of Eucharistic Ministers. Please attend one, **either on Sunday, November 7 (10:45am) or on Wednesday, November 10 (6pm)**. Contact Fr. Tom or Renee Herlong with questions!

Compline Under the Stars

Sunday, November 21, 2021

6:00pm

Prayers. Campfires. S'mores. Hot Chocolate.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church - West Lawn

ECW

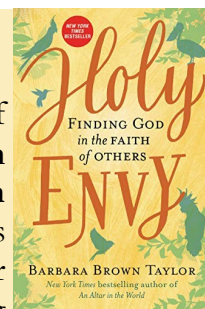
Enjoy some scenes from the recent ECW Fall Pumpkin & Spice Event held Sunday, October 10, 2021 and organized by Cathy Beasley! Be on the lookout for more ECW events for fellowship and fun!



ECW Fall Book Study

Join the women of St. Mary's each **Tuesday at 4pm in Moseley Hall** as we read together Holy Envy: Finding

God in the Faith of Others. This book study began October 19th and **will continue for 6 weeks** and is led by Juliet Barrus and Pam Mazingo. Order your book [here from Amazon](#). We look forward to seeing you!



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



Friday, Nov. 5—7
Family Camping Weekend

Wednesday, November 10
3:45pm Coffee with Liz (High Schoolers)

Wednesday, November 17
4-6pm Family CRAFTernoon
Join us in Moseley Hall for crafts & snacks

Friday, Nov. 19—21
Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers
Contact Liz Hengst for more details

Sunday, November 21
6:00pm Compline Under the Stars
Join us on the West Lawn for compline, fire, and s'mores!

Wednesday, November 24
8:30am EYC at Mary's Kitchen
All EYC students are invited to help cook and serve a meal at Mary's Kitchen

2-4pm EYC Thanksgiving Party
Join us for games, fun, and fellowship

Friday, November 26
Time TBA EYC Movies at the Theater
Stay tuned for the movie choice!

Saturday, November 27
Time TBA EYC Pre-Advent Retreat
Place to be announced—stay tuned for details!

* * *

EACH SUNDAY:
10:45am Kids' Sunday School
All kids pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us for prayer, activities, Bible stories, and fun

3-4:30pm EYC
All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for discussion, formation, service, and fun

From the Desk of Liz:

Advent begins the last Sunday of November when we move to a special time of waiting...preparing...anticipating. Let's take November to focus on being truly thankful and to consider where we have space to let go and welcome all things new. Our Advent focus will be on change, awareness of the changing world around us, as well as changing our way in the world in order to be closer to God. During Advent, our kids ministries will be working on "God With Us," and our EYC will be working on "Advent Conspiracy" (see pg. 5). Keep an eye out towards the end of November for a full list of all our Advent activities!

In Peace, Liz

The Thankful Tree Returns!

Last year, we invited you to be intentional each day in November by writing the things you give thanks for on colorful paper leaves and attaching them to our "Thankful Tree." The response was overwhelming, and we are happy to announce the return of our Thankful Trees the first week in November located in the Narthex. We invite you to participate now through Sunday, November 21st. Then, on the first Sunday of Advent (November 28th), all of our thankful leaves will be found hanging in the church. Don't miss this opportunity to give JOYful thanks in a very visual way!



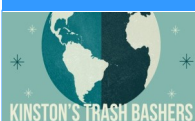
Family Camping Weekend at

Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

There is still time to make plans to join us **November 5th-7th (Friday-Sunday)** for a fun parish family campout! Enjoy hiking, fishing, camp crafts, suppers together, campfires, scavenger hunts, and morning prayer! This will be primitive camping with bathrooms nearby. The cost is \$20 per person (\$60 for families of 3 or more) and includes your camp site, dinner on Friday and Saturday nights, water, fire wood, and light snacks. You are responsible for sleeping arrangements (tents, blankets, sleeping bags, hammocks), breakfast and lunch everyday, and any other camping necessities. Please fill out [this google form](#) if you plan to attend or contact Liz Hengst for more information.

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

*Looking for meaningful fellowship
and a call to serve?*



View [Kinston's Trash Bashers Facebook group](#) and join one of our 2 groups - **Mondays**

at 8:30am, **Tuesdays** at 10am for **Northside Trash Bashers**, and **Saturdays** at 10:00am for a grass roots effort to clean and care for our community! Contact Amy Albritton at aalbritt@gmail.com for more information.

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 at jsarg4@suddenlink.net or Audra Haddad at 5haddad@suddenlink.net today!

REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 am (Online) - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion)
 posted to [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

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

9:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the large sanctuary the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays and outside on the West Lawn (weather permitting) on the 2nd & 4th Sundays

Morning Prayer Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:30am in Chapel

Regarding wearing face coverings at St. Mary's, we recognize that the pandemic situation is evolving. At the time of publishing, the familiar Anglican phrase applies: All may, some should, none must. While all are welcome to wear a face covering at any time, we affirm the CDC recommendation that all persons over age 2, especially all who are not vaccinated, should wear a face covering indoors when other people are present. Following the Governor's most recent Executive Order and Bishop Skirving's guidance, no one is required to wear a face covering at St. Mary's. Recognizing that individuals will have varying comfort levels about gathering in public, please be mindful and respectful of one another.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2021	2022	2023
Jimmy Ballard	John John	Skip Greene
Sam Gilmore	Scott Turik	Audra Haddad
Jessica Shimer	Dee Warner	Vicki Kennedy
Stuart Stroud	Harry Wooten	Pam Mazingo
Senior Warden – Stuart Stroud	Clerk – Audra Haddad	
Junior Warden – Jimmy Ballard	Treasurer – Jon Sargeant	