



December 2021

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24th

5:00pm - Online Worship - Holy Eucharist Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion) with Nativity Pageant

5:00pm - Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with Nativity Pageant in the Sanctuary

Staffed Nursery Open

11:00pm - Midnight Mass: Festal Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with Special Music at 10:30pm in the Sanctuary

No Staffed Nursery

Christmas Day: Saturday, December 25th

10:30am Pajama-Friendly Worship Service in the All Saints' Chapel

No Staffed Nursery but "kids" of all ages in pajamas are most welcome!

From the Rector



“The Blood of Christ. The Cup of Salvation.”

-Words spoken by the Eucharistic Ministers at St. Mary's on Sunday, March 8, 2020 and Sunday, November 28, 2021

We had waited a long time (630 days) to hear these words spoken at the liturgy at St. Mary's. During the pandemic, we have waited for a lot of things. We have hoped for a lot of things. And on the First Sunday of Advent, 2021, after much careful preparation, a very sacred element of worship returned as wine was shared at communion.

I am grateful for the questions that were asked as we prepared for this special day. With safety measures leading us to use individual cups, some members of the church asked “What qualifies as an appropriate cup for such a sacred gift?” With Anglican Eucharistic theology teaching that Jesus is *truly present* at communion, others asked “How should we care for the residual wine in the cups?” These thoughts fed a rich conversation in our community that resulted in the communion practices [outlined in my recent pastoral letter](#). This included the creation of some beautiful cups (two pictured above next to a chalice) in a project coordinated by Renée Herlong.

Advent is commonly understood by many to be a season of waiting, of hope, of expectation. The season points very directly towards Christmas as we prepare to celebrate once again the joy of the first coming of Jesus at the Incarnation. The season's Sunday readings also point us towards a time that has yet to be: the second coming of Jesus when He will “with power and great glory” (Luke 21:27). We wait for more moments of God's revelations of divine presence in and among us. We hope, expectantly, for God's promises of ultimate peace and fullness of life to be realized. I wonder what this looks like in your life. May this Advent bring blessings to you in your waiting, hoping, preparing among this community.

Recently, Vicki Kennedy, who is a current Vestry member and chair of the Worship Committee, had a letter to the editor published in the Daily Reflector. During this Advent season, we reflect on God's presence with us and around us and invite you to read Vicki's editorial here to meditate on His presence in all of creation and the joy that we can have in its care.

Yes, the Glasgow climate summit is over. Media pundits are busy with post-game analysis: who won, who lost, what are next year's prospects. But if you are a Christian, or a person of any faith who believes that God created the earth and its intricate, amazing system of nature, set aside the post-conference critique and consider this.

Truly, the world God created is an intricate beautiful garden overflowing with grandeur and goodness. Yet we look around and see waste, trash, pollution. We hear about melting glaciers and disappearing rain forests. Politicians may argue over the causes. But clearly, God's world needs tending to.

Imagine that tomorrow you came into your home church and saw trash scattered in the aisle, stained glass smeared with grease, an altar turned over. Would you say, “Well I didn't do it” and walk away? Would you leave the mess for others to look at and walk through on Sunday morning? Or would you do your part to clean it up, regardless of how or by whom it was made? Would you sacrifice your time and effort to do what serves God's holy place?

Don't let the politicians' words bother you. You don't have to call it environmentalism, or being green, or being a liberal. Call it serving God. Because that's what it is. We cannot love the Lord with all our heart, mind, and soul if we do not take better care of his creation. And we cannot claim to love our neighbor if we let his home become a wasteland.

This is the good news we are called to share. Taking care of God's created world is not a burden but a joy — a gift of love and gratitude that each of us can offer.



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.

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Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

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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

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



Baptism:

Luke Miles

(November 7, 2021)



Congratulations to Allie and Jack McNairy, and big brother JJ, on the birth of their son (and little brother) Henry Patrick McNairy! Henry was born in Greenville on Friday, November 19. Please hold this family in your prayers as they begin this new season of life together. Let us pray:

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon the McNairy family in giving them Henry. 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. Amen.

#AdventWord a global advent calendar

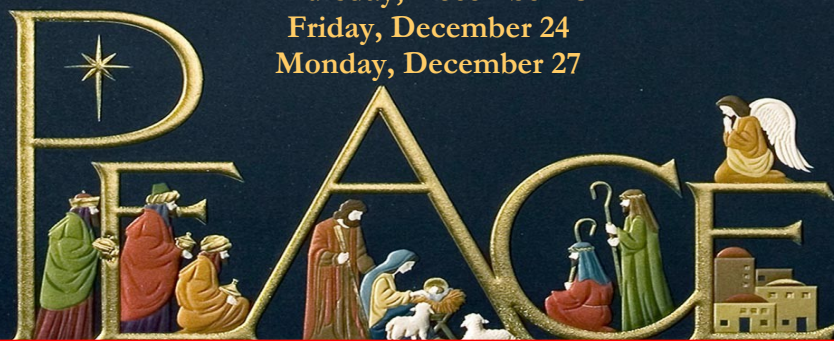
Be sure to join #AdventWord, a global, online community of prayer to explore the mystery and wonder of Advent! Each morning during Advent, a meditation is distributed on www.AdventWord.org, [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). Around the world, thousands have participated each year, responding to the words with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and Holy Spirit-filled posts. [Sign up at www.adventword.org](http://www.adventword.org).

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holiday:

Thursday, December 23

Friday, December 24

Monday, December 27



SAVE THE DATE!!! While the Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival will not be taking place this year, plan to come to a Boar's Head-themed event at the Warren Home Backyard on the afternoon of **Sunday, January 9, 2022**. More details to come!

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



An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for **Sunday, December 19th. We will meet at 4pm in the church parking lot.** Bells & festive clothing are welcome! This is sure to be a time of fun and fellowship as we spread good news and cheer to many of our cherished members. This is a church-wide event - **ALL** are welcome to join in this festive afternoon!



Join us for our **DRIVE THRU St. Mary's Cookie Walk** on Saturday, December 11th from 11am-Noon. We will have delicious, beautifully boxed cookies ready for pick up (small box for \$10 or large box for \$25). Nut-free boxes also will be available. Come for a festive drive thru experience and pick up some Cookie LOVE to enjoy and to share this Christmas season! Please enter Cookie Alley from Rhem Street entrance. Bakers are needed for this event! Cookies may be dropped off to the church office through Thursday, Dec. 9th or to Moseley Hall beginning Friday, Dec. 10th from 9am-6pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Laury Sargeant at jsarg4@suddenlink.net.



Poinsettias for Christmas

At the Christmas liturgies, the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones. Contributions of any amount are welcome. If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. Special offering envelopes may also be found on the Narthex tables. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church. **Monday, December 20th is the deadline** to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletins.



MINISTRY Minute



Prayer Shawl Ministry

KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY. Cooler weather means more indoors time and picking back up the handwork (knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, etc.) we put aside during warmer weather. At St. Mary's, we offer a **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, where everyone is welcome - men, women, experienced, and first timers. Recently Bishop Skirving visited with the group. There is no one to call...just show up! This hearty, informal group meets every **Tuesday 12:30-2:30 at Queen St Deli.** Having started over 5 years ago, this group has produced about 150 beautiful prayer shawls, countless baby and adult handmade caps, and many other treasured handwork pieces. These items are blessed during a church service before they are distributed with love and received with gratitude. This ministry is part of the Pastoral Care Commission, and we invite you to come to watch or participate and most of all enjoy the fellowship of one another!

Worship



Annual Parish Meeting

Again this year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held **during the 9:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 5th.** We do not anticipate the service to last much longer than usual that day. After the Peace and before the Offertory that morning, we will have an uncontested election by voice for the next 4-person Vestry class prepared by the Vestry's

Nominating Committee reflecting the nominating ballots received last month (*read more about those nominees on page 5*). We will also elect 3 lay delegates for the Diocesan Convention to be held in Wilmington February 11-12. Delegates must be confirmed and 16 years old or older. The Annual Report will be available online and in hard copy. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for all who serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!

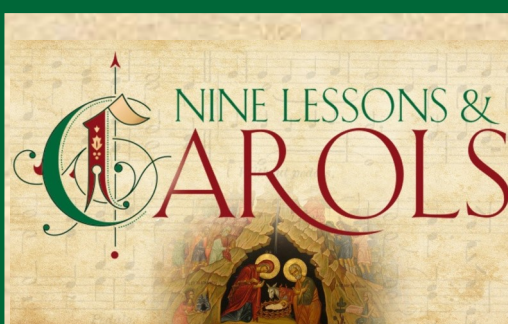
Mark Your Calendars for Ministry Training Sessions

With many recent additions to our worship life, training has been scheduled for Sunday mornings at 10:45am for Ushers (Dec. 5 in the Sanctuary), Acolytes (Dec. 12 in the Sanctuary), and Eucharistic Ministers & Visitors (Dec. 19 in the Chapel). All are welcome to join in these ministries and come to the training!



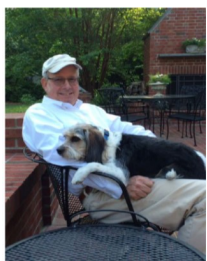
Hanging of the Greens

Please join our merry group of St. Mary's members who will decorate the church for Christmas! Do you have an eye for decorating or would like to contribute to the beauty of worship this Christmas? Please **come to the church on Tuesday, December 21st at 10am** and help us beautify St. Mary's for the season.
Thank you!



St. Mary's will celebrate the First Sunday in the Christmas Season with **Lessons & Carols during the 8am and 9:30am liturgies on Sunday, December 26th.** Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season with this wonderful, joyful service! Come, lift up your voices, let us rejoice and share in song together.

Your Next Vestry Class



CLIFTON CAREY - I look forward to serving on the vestry for the next three years. I have been a member of St. Mary's for over 65 years. My wife Linda and I have two sons who live and work in the Raleigh area. I served as an investment adviser for over 25 years. I am currently retired. I hope to have discussions of Transubstantiation and Consubstantiation while serving on the vestry. I will promote a greater use of the Book of Common Prayer. A Reading of Psalm 22 during Holy Week was my moment of Christian belief. I believe in the Nicene Creed as a guide to greater Christian commitment.

JESS EDWARDS - I have been a member of St. Mary's since 2013. I serve as an Usher on Sunday mornings, as a Beefeater in the Boar's Head Festival, am currently on the Long Range Planning Committee, and was Finance Chair during my previous time on the Vestry. My wife, Dacie, and I were married at St Mary's in 2014, and we serve as Greeters on Sunday mornings. We have two daughters, Leah Rose (5) and Mary Helen (2), and a Goldendoodle named Wembley. I am the Owner of Kinston Realty Group and Eastern Outdoor Development, Inc., an outdoor advertising company. I graduated from Arendell Parrott Academy, and then went on to North Carolina State University (BA of Economics, 2009). I enjoy going for walks with my family and spending time on the farm.



JO PARROTT - Kinston has been my home of 48 years, and I am married to Jimmy, a Kinston native. I am Mom to Hunter and Jake, other mother to Hunter's husband, Phil, and a devoted Gran to Reaben and Hutton. I have dreams of one day spending more time in my amazing mountain hometown of Hendersonville. A graduate of East Carolina University (B.S. in Child & Family, M.S. in Marriage & Family Therapy), I retired as Chair of the Counseling Department at Kinston High School. I also worked in Lenoir County elementary & middle schools and with Lenoir County Mental Health. Serving as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector and praying Morning Prayer humbles and feeds me. The beauty of our liturgy and church inspire me. During the over 40 years of calling St. Mary's home, we have shared so much working together on many ministries and committees. It has been my humble privilege to serve on the Vestry and as Senior Warden, on Rector Search Committees, as Altar Guild Chair, and as Director of Religious Education. The servant opportunities of President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of East Carolina, Chair of the Trinity Center Board, and the Lay Dean of our Trinity have offered new insights and visions to bring home to St. Mary's. I love that St. Mary's is a beacon of God's love and mercy in our community as we respond to God's call to grow in love, faith, service, and outreach. I am truly blessed every day to serve, celebrate, and pray with you and for you and for the mission and purpose of our parish home and our life together.

VIRGINIA (GINNY) WADE - I have been married to Chuck Wade for 20 years and we have 2 kids: Morgan (almost 17yo) and Colin (6yo) and a dog named Buddy. I am a Certified Nurse Midwife at Wayne Women's Clinic in Goldsboro. We have been at St. Mary's for 4 years. I am so appreciative of how welcoming everyone at St. Mary's has been since we started coming and joined. Our St. Mary's family has been wonderful and helped to nurture and grow my and my family's faith. As a member of the Vestry, I hope to help St. Mary's continue to thrive and grow and help others to grow in their faith.



Christian Formation



DECEMBER

EYC Christmas Movie & Activity Nights
Friday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
6-9pm
Moseley Hall

Family Ministry Advent Prayer Stations and Compline
Saturday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th
4-5pm

Advent Coffee with Liz (High Schoolers)
Tuesday, December 7th, 14th, and 21st
4-5:30pm
Middle Grounds

Kids' Sunday School
Sunday, December 5th, 12th, and 19th
10:45am
All kids pre-K to 5th grade are invited to join us for prayer, activities, Bible stories, and fun

EYC Sunday Gathering
Sunday, December 5th, 12th, and 19th
3-4:30pm
All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for discussion, formation, service, and fun

Christmas Eve with St. Mary's
Friday, December 24th
5pm Holy Eucharist with Nativity Pageant
11pm Midnight Mass with Traditional Music

Christmas Day Service
Saturday, December 25th
10:30am
Pajama-friendly service in the chapel

NO Sunday School or EYC Gathering
Sunday, December 26th

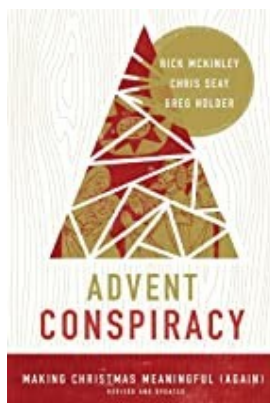
Also, please check our Instagram daily for ways to participate from anywhere in our Advent journey!



From the Desk of Liz:

As we enter Advent, we share our anticipation for the return of our *live* Christmas Pageant on **December 24th at 5pm!** This year, we have many main character roles available (minimal speaking involved). **All children and youth (from babies - 12th graders) are invited to sign up for a role by December 12th (contact Liz or use the sign up sheet in the Narthex),** and Liz will contact you on December 13th with your assigned role. **Pageant Practice will be Sunday, December 19th at 10:45am.** In addition to the main roles, we are excited to include parish-wide participation during the pageant by encouraging you to choose a prop (or multiple props!) located in the Narthex as you enter the service that night. With the help of the Narrator, you will be given directions regarding the prop you have chosen and when your participation is needed during the pageant. You won't even have to leave your pew to join the fun! For questions, please email Liz at lhengst@stmaryskinston.com.

In Peace, Liz



*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.*

Small groups of all ages are meeting this Advent to discuss the topics presented in this book. Adults are meeting Sundays at 10:45am and EYC meets at 3pm. Books are not required to be read to get something good out of the conversation, but if you'd like, they are available online at [Amazon!](https://www.amazon.com)

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



ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Monday, December 27th** from **12-4pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org.

Give a give that counts this year...give **LIFE.**

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

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	