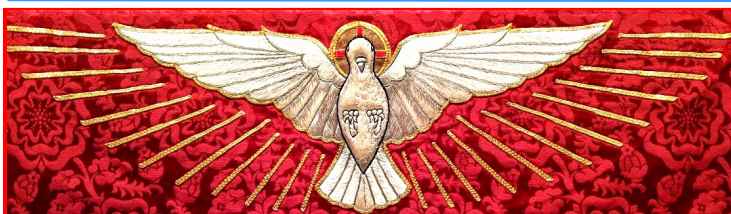




May 2021

St. Mary's Episcopal Church:
Serving with JOY!
The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



Pentecost is a Principle Feast Day of the church calendar and this year will be on **Sunday, May 23rd**. Pentecost commemorates the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem. Because the Holy Spirit is a gift that provides comfort, encouragement, and guidance and spreads the Good News of Jesus to the world, Pentecost is often understood to be the birthday of the Church. Red is a traditional color of the day, and it is very fitting to wear red as you worship on Pentecost. At St. Mary's, the altar is adorned with red linens, and you may see streamers, candles, and doves as well.

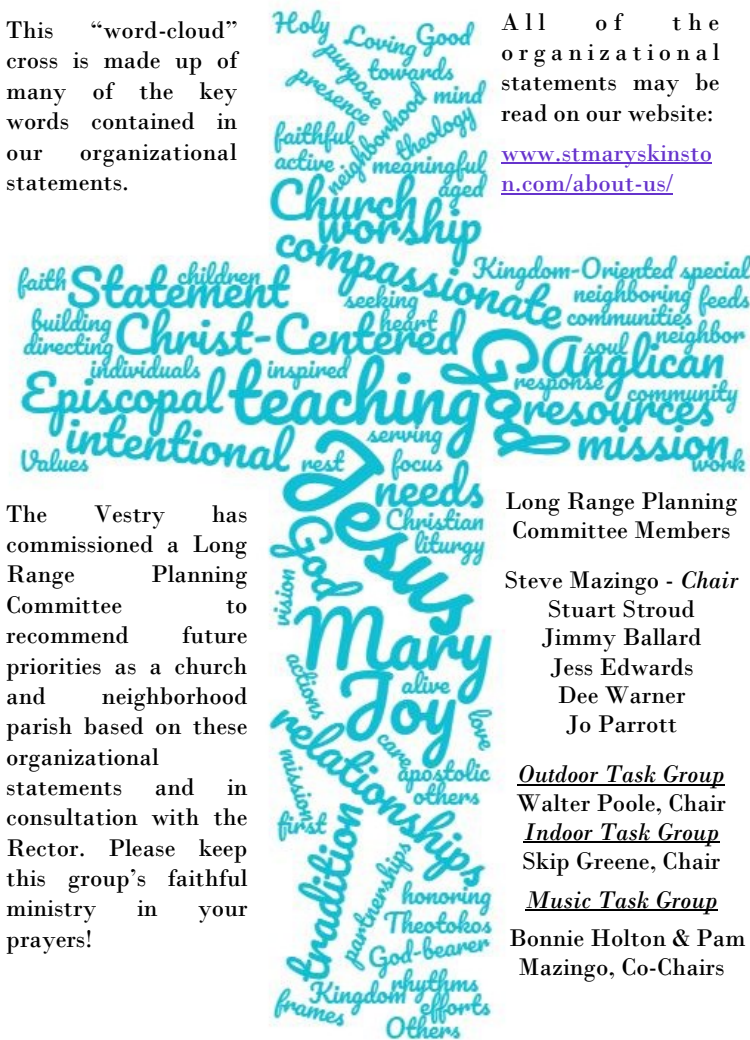


We hope you will join us for this special liturgy and celebration day in the life of the Church. There will be three worship times available that day: an indoor liturgy of Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 at 8am; an online liturgy of Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion, Rite 2 at 8am; and an **outdoor** liturgy of Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 at 9:30am.

If you would like more information on baptism, confirmation, and all other matters of faith, please reach out to Fr. Tom by phone at 252-523-6145 or by email at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com. You are invited to visit him in person during his office hours as well. Let's walk in faith together!

From the Rector

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



The Vestry has 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

Stuart Stroud

Jimmy Ballard

Jess Edwards

Dee Warner

Jo Parrott

Outdoor Task Group

Walter Poole, Chair

Indoor Task Group

Skip Greene, Chair

Music Task Group

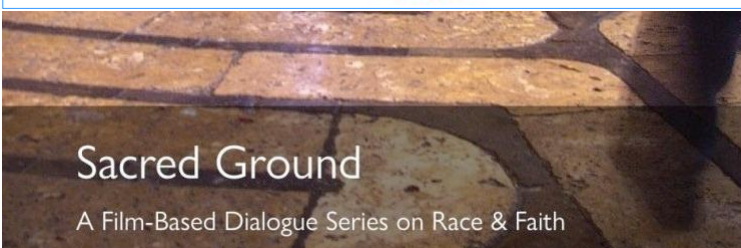
Bonnie Holton & Pam Mazingo, Co-Chairs

Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Do not be afraid. God is with you. - Frederick Buechner

Each year, as students in our lives enter into seasons of transition, we often wonder what we might say as helpful (and truthful) words of advice. The quotation above from Frederick Buechner strike me as particularly appropriate, not only for graduates, but for all people in all times. They are a reminder that each day holds opportunities for happiness and laughter, celebration and praise. And it is also true that the days will hold occasions of loss and lament, of frustration and mystery. Through it all, God is with us, always inviting us towards a better way that reconciles and encourages life along Jesus' way of love, peace, and truth. And because of that, the faithful can honestly say "I will not fear." I pray that the pages of this newsletter offer you examples of joy and invitations to practices that will affirm God's presence in your life, leading you in the Easter proclamation:

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Tom +



Sacred Ground is a film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, and created by the Episcopal Church's commitment to Becoming the Beloved Community. This 10-part series, hosted by the Diocese of East Carolina, is built around a curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Upcoming Dialogue Dates:

June 12: 9am-noon (sessions 1 and 2)

June 23: 6:30-8pm

July 14: 6:30-8pm

July 28: 6:30-8pm

August 11: 6:30-8pm

August 25: 6:30-8pm

September 15: 6:30-8pm

September 29: 6:30-8pm

October 13: 6:30-8pm

This series will be offered via Zoom. It is open to all and it is primarily designed to help people talk about systemic racism. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.

NOTE: The Diocese is dedicated to making this program available and accessible to all. There are two books used in the course. If you need financial assistance to purchase them please indicate this on the [sign-up form](#) that is also shared in the St. Mary's Wednesday emails. If you have any questions, contact Rachel Williamson via email at edwrwb@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. 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
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

Weddings:

Jen McKinley & Jason Dean

04-24-2021

Sydney Vick & Zane Hamstead

04-24-2021

Burials:

Christopher Dane Crumbacker

04-16-2021

Catherine Lewis Walters

04-18-2021



Congratulations to the Kelley family (parents Mary and Ryan, siblings Gordon and Dottie, and grandparents (Molly and Randy) on the birth of Heidi Kelley on April 2!



Pastoral Announcements

We extend sympathies to the family of Cathy Walter (wife of JP Walter), the family of Christopher Dane Crumbacker (son of Barbara & Richard Crumbacker), the family of Elizabeth Parker Wynne (mother of Jane Wynne), and the family of Jerry Henderson.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Prayer Requests

There is a new way that prayer requests can be shared with Fr. Tom through our website. Just click on "[Share a Prayer Request](#)" on the homepage. You are not required to leave your name, phone number, or email address. However, if you would like follow-up pastoral care, you can indicate the best method to reach you. A link to this form is also included in our weekly "Sunday @ St. Mary's" emails.



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 31, 2021** in observance of Memorial Day. The staff of St. Mary's join you in honoring those who lost their lives in service of our nation.

Other News at St. Mary's



St. Mary's Walking Groups

Beginning in May, the St. Mary's Walking Groups will pause for the summer months and will return in September. With the summer months approaching, we are excited to offer new ways of fun and fellowship with "park days" for families as well as other summer activities. More information will be shared in the upcoming weeks, so be on the lookout and make plans to join us!



F3 is a workout group for men that has really taken off in Kinston this year. Most of the workouts are "high intensity." We are starting a new F3 workout that is "low intensity"; stretching, core, light cardio, light weight training, for men who, because of age, current fitness level, or injury, would benefit from another workout option. F3 needs all men, especially those who have life experience to guide younger members. Our target start date is May 19 at 6pm at Northwest School. The purpose of F3 is to develop male community leadership. F3 is free and open to all men. Please contact Stuart Stroud, 252-468-8771, with any questions.



CONGRATULATIONS to those who have been formed in the Christian faith at St. Mary's as they celebrate graduation milestones in their lives! The **Class of 2021**, whether on the high school level or the college level, has continued to experience many defining moments in history including (but not limited to) the ongoing pandemic. COVID-19 has altered not only *this* school year but the *year prior as well*, and these students have displayed resilience as they altered plans and navigated a "new, temporary normal" in what hasn't felt normal or temporary at all. They have faced distinctive challenges and adapted, becoming a part of a great message of community, hope, and healing. The class of 2021 will continue to shape our future through this learned experience.

We celebrate all the ways that God has blessed this community and beyond through the gifts, generosity, and accomplishments of these young people as they graduate from high school and institutions of higher learning. We can't wait to hear about how God is calling them in the times to come and look forward to sharing life with them however it would be possible. Please join us on **Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd**, when we will honor our graduates during the 9:30am service.

ARENDELL PARROTT ACADEMY '21

Sydney Herlong (Furman University - Greenville, SC)

SOUTH LENOIR HIGH SCHOOL '21

Aidan Robertson

RHODES COLLEGE '21 (Memphis, TN)

Dee Warner - B.A. in Political Economy with minor in Business

JOHNSON & WALES '20 (Providence, RI)

Jill Saracino - B.S. in Criminal Justice

Worship



The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

Also called Ascension Day, this special day in the life of the church commemorates the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven. According to the Acts of the Apostles, the ascension of Jesus took place 40 days after His resurrection. The Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed both confess that Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. Please join us **Thursday, May 13th at noon at our outdoor chapel** for a celebration of the Eucharist with a sermon to commemorate the day.



Rogation Sunday Asking God for Protection Throughout the Year

Rogation days are special occasions to honor God for all creation and to pray for the land, the gifts of labor, and the needs of all. Our sisters and brothers in faith from the three Episcopal Churches of Lenoir County (St. Mary's, St. Augustine's, and Holy Innocents) traditionally join together for this outdoor liturgy. This short outdoor service will be **Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 3pm at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church** (6861 Hwy. 55 West; Seven Springs, NC) with Father Tom as the Officiant. You are welcome to bring your seeds or garden tools to be blessed at this service that joins our Episcopal community together.

"We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood."



~The Peoples' Response at the Baptismal Liturgy (BCP, Pg. 308)

We are thrilled to have a baptism planned for Constance "Coco" and William "Billy" McRae, children of Sully and Scott McRae on **Sunday, June 13th**. Please keep Coco and Billy, their sponsors, and family in your prayers as we prepare to welcome the newest member into the household of God!



Pentecost Sunday will mark the transition for the St. Mary's Altar Guild Chair from **Cyndi Rafferty to Susan Fox**. Cyndi's 3-year term began not long after Father Tom became our Rector and she served faithfully and creatively as the COVID-19 pandemic emerged. We offer thanksgivings to Cyndi and Susan and ALL who serve towards our "worship in the beauty of holiness" at St. Mary's Church!



Updated Worship Guidelines & Outdoor Worship

Please read [Fr. Tom's Pastoral Letter of April 30](#), found through the link to the church's COVID updates at www.stmaryskinston.com.

It reflects the loosening of face covering requirements for outdoor gatherings and also notes that beginning in May, we will hold our 9:30am Sunday morning liturgy **outdoors on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month!** The 8am liturgy will continue to be held in the Chapel. In the event of inclement weather, the 9:30am liturgy will be held indoors. We look forward to sharing this special time of worship with you in the beauty of God's creation. Outdoor worship will meet on the West Lawn of St. Mary's. Please bring your chair or blanket - we look forward to this time together!

ECW

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Spring Gathering

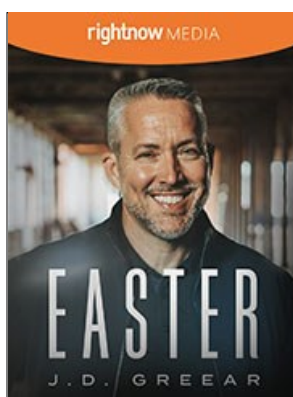
MAY 23, 2021



You are invited to our Spring ECW Gathering on the **West Lawn, Sunday, May 23rd at 3pm** as we welcome a special guest speaker, The Honorable Beth Heath. Beth will share with us her passion to serve women, specifically with Kinston's House of Hope, a new transitional home for women. Come for fellowship with women and be inspired about helping women in our own community. You may wish to bring your own lawn chair, though chairs will also be available from Mosely Hall.

The ECW Walking Group that usually meets Tuesdays will break for the summer months. Enjoy the slower pace of summer with your families! We look forward to the return of this and all St. Mary's Walking Groups in the fall.

Adult Christian Formation



The resurrection is the most important moment in history, but it is more than an event we remember on Easter Sunday.

Through Pastor J.D. Greear and his series "Easter," the Adult Christian Formation group continues its deeper study of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in the Gospel of Matthew as well as the ways we should see ourselves in Jesus' story.

This 5-week series began in April and will conclude on May 9th. Please keep this class in prayer and consider joining us **Sundays at 10:45am in person and virtually from Moseley Hall.**

St. Mary's parishioners have free access and can sign up by clicking on the RightnowMedia tab at the bottom of the page from this link:

<http://www.stmaryskinston.com/learn/adult/>

We Will, With God's Help



During the season of Easter, members of the Diocese of East Carolina are invited to participate in a prayerful process of discerning mission priorities for our life together. This process is centered in reflection on our Baptismal Covenant and will engage participants in three simple conversations. Participants are invited to offer their feedback to the Executive Council of the Diocese, the group of leaders who will be responsible for establishing

mission priorities for the next period of time in our life together.

We encourage our parish family to participate in this opportunity for reflection, discernment, and feedback for this initiative now through Friday, May 21. More information may be found at <https://ecdio.org/we-will-with-gods-help.html>.

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



please remember face coverings for all indoor gatherings

Sunday, May 2

- 10:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
- 1:00pm Glory Ridge information mtg
- 1:30pm Lasagna Event
(no EYC today)

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day)

- 10:45am Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
- 3pm EYC at the Rogation Service
@Holy Innocents

Thursday, May 13

- 3:45pm Coffee with Liz
@ Middle Grounds

Saturday, May 15

- 9:30-11am Family Park Meet-Up
@ Neuseway Nature Park
(snacks & drinks provided)

Sunday, May 16

- 10:45am Acolyte Training in the Nave
Also, Sunday School
(pre-k – 5th grade)
- 3-4:30pm EYC

Friday, May 21

- 7:30-10:30pm EYC Movie Night
on the West Lawn
6th-12th graders
vote for your movie choice

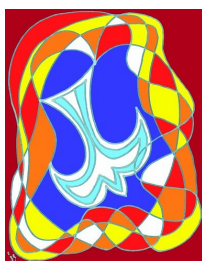
Sunday, May 23 Pentecost Sunday

- 10:45am Last Sunday School Party
(pre-k – 5th grade)
- 3-6:00pm Last EYC Sunday Party
(6th-12th grade)

From the Desk of Liz:



The EYC will hold its inaugural event "Lasagnas of Love" on **Sunday, May 2nd at 1:30pm**. EYC will make as many lasagnas as possible to provide for those in need of a hot meal at home. If you are in need of a hot meal at home or know someone who is, please contact Liz Hengst at lhengst@stmaryskinston.com. The lasagnas are free and will be available for pick up during church office hours while supplies last. Delivery may be available upon special request. If you would like to support this event, we are asking for donations of Food Lion gift cards for the purchase of ingredients. Gift cards can be dropped off to the church office during business hours or given directly to Liz Hengst anytime.



Pentecost is the day we celebrate the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. **Pentecost Sunday is May 23rd**, and our children and youth will celebrate with a party! At 10:45, preK-5th graders are invited to join our Sunday School party that will also mark the end of the curriculum year until September. Then from 3-6pm, all 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for a celebration with games, food, fellowship, and discussion. This will be the last regular Sunday afternoon EYC gathering until September.



As the summer months arrive, St. Mary's is excited to offer events here as well as around town for all kids, youth, and families in our community! St. Mary's will launch "Summer Days Adventure Activities" to provide summertime fun opportunities and get-togethers in familiar places as well as in new spaces in the community. We will connect and explore our faith together in fun, new ways from June-August. Be sure to check out our Summer Days Adventure Activities Calendar coming soon!

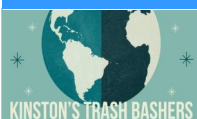


And finally, we are excited to share that St. Mary's will return to Glory Ridge **July 4th-9th**. Join us Sunday, May 2nd at 1pm for an information meeting (at least one parent must be present).

Liz

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 (Indoors on 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays, Outdoors on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month)

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

Face coverings required for all indoor gatherings and are optional for outdoor gatherings. Social distancing is observed at all times - overflow seating available in Moseley Hall. All in-person services are offered following the guidelines described in Fr. Tom's [Pastoral Letter to the Church](#) from April 30.

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	