



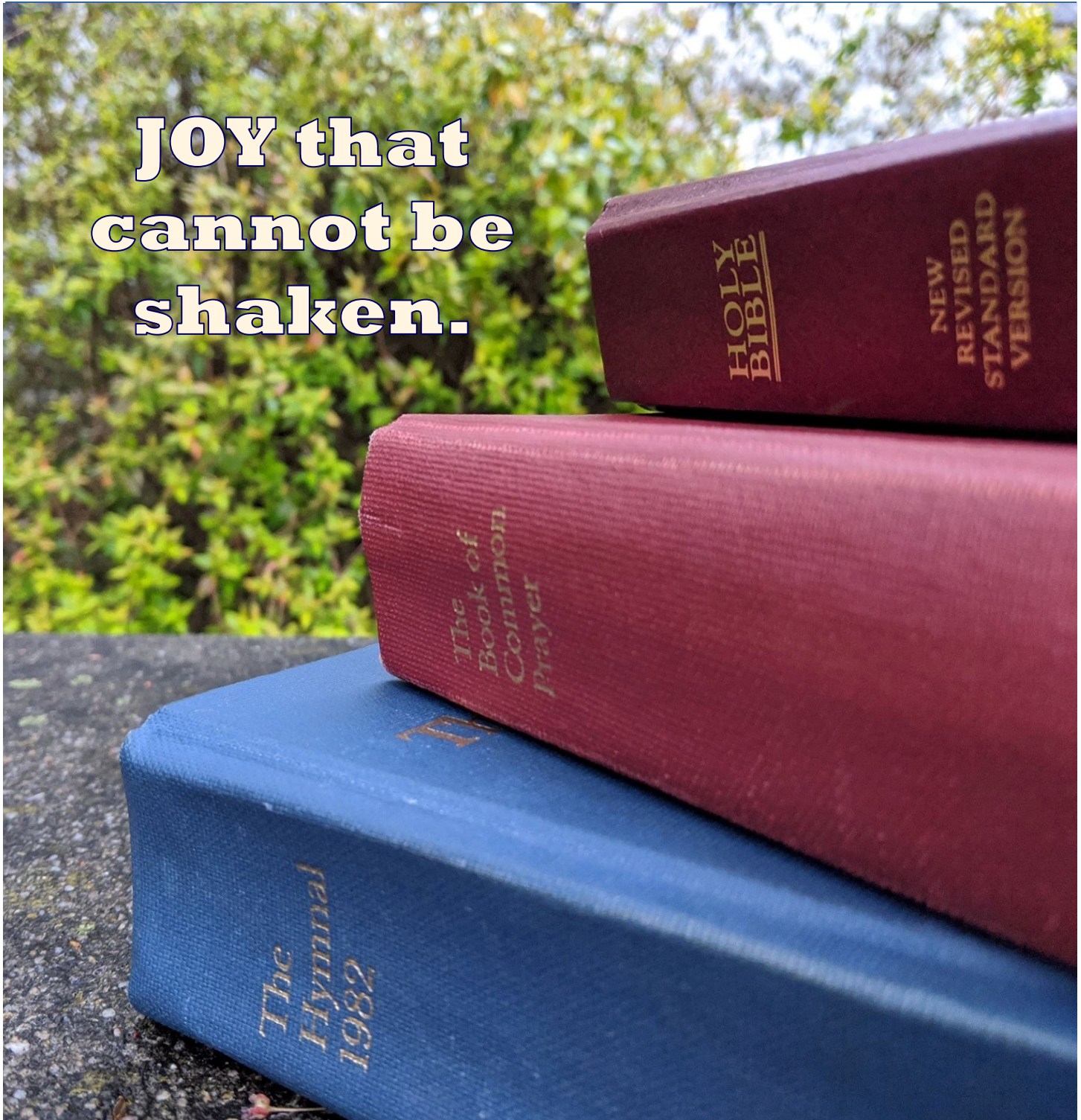
August 2020

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

**JOY that
cannot be
shaken.**



From the Rector

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

In late 2019, the Vestry determined that the Long Range Planning Committee would be a standing committee of the vestry to recommend priorities as a church and neighborhood parish based on our 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.starmaryskinston.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

Serving with Joy? Really?

Dearest Friends in Christ,

When the Vestry met to determine a phrase that would be easily remembered and capture the heart and spirit of our parish family, the chosen phrase was “Serving with JOY,” with the “J” representing “Jesus,” the “O” representing our commitment to being with and supporting “others,” and the “Y” acknowledging the significance of loving “yourself,” but not placing self above God or others. I admit to you that I didn’t come to the process with this phrase in mind - I had another idea. But when the conversation turned to JOY and all that it means for the Christian faith, I was all in because joy is what I have experienced in Christ and joy is what I have witnessed in the St. Mary’s community!

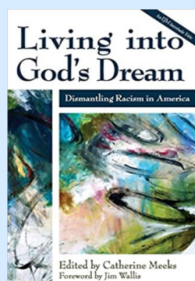
The word “joy” is frequently spoken synonymously with the emotion of happiness. But they are not the same! Happiness is accurately described as an emotion that ebbs and flows. Praise God for the happiness that we experience, but no one is happy all of the time. Biblical joy, however, is a much deeper, rich, and nuanced entity. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit that comes with the believer’s choice to

want union with Christ. And because unity with Jesus brings us into His promises of salvation and reconciliation with God, as well as His earthly suffering, Christian joy is present in all circumstances. As we join Jesus in His being *for the world*, we align our service with God and others, we have our eyes opened to the brokenness of the world, and we find joy in choosing the one who has already chosen us.

As I write this, there's a lot that makes us unhappy. A pandemic that has claimed 150,000 lives - one of whom called St. Mary's "home." Racial and socio-economic tensions. Political discord. Tough decisions about schooling, jobs, and finances. And now a hurricane is brewing off our coasts. Surely you are holding other, more personal things in your life. May we be reminded, that we are never alone and that Jesus is with us. I recommend reading Paul's letter to the Philippians this month - may it give you joy!

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say, Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)



The weekly book study on [Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America](#) continues this month - and it's not too late to join! The book is a compilation of essays curated by Dr. Catherine Meeks, the Director of the [Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing](#) and offers the reader a theological lens through which to view the racial dynamics of our country. The weekly discussion of the book is held on **Tuesdays at noon via Zoom**. The link was shared in an email to the church on June 19. Contact the church office if you need to receive the link.

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
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

Transfer In:

Amanda Hodges ~ July 6, 2020

Burials:

John Shao ~ July 11, 2020

Jane Ann Walter ~ July 15, 2020

Becky Temple ~ July 18, 2020



Pastoral Announcements

We also extend our sympathies to the following families on the death of their loved ones:

Martha Leake (stepmother of Vicki Kennedy)
Eddie Shackelford, Sr (member of St. Augustine's)
Nancy Cherry (mother of Louise Mauck)
Eleanor Blake (mother of Anne Lindley)

Let us pray:

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servants. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.



Congratulations to Elizabeth & Gary Hamm on the birth of their daughter, Katie Elizabeth Hamm, born on June 24, 2020. Proud grandparents are Anne & Jim Cooper.

Fr. Tom's Time Away

Fr. Tom will be away for vacation from Thursday, August 6 through Sunday, August 23. He will also have Coast Guard Reserve duty during many of the following weekdays and will return to his Church Study on Wed. Sep 2. In an emergency, contact Sr. Warden, Jo Parrott (521-5591).



American Red Cross



Now testing blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies

St. Mary's will host a Blood Drive on **Tuesday, August 25, Noon-4pm in Moseley Hall**. Donors will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies as well. Walk-ins are always welcome but reservations are preferred - make yours at www.redcrossblood.org or phone 1-800-RED-CROSS.

News at St. Mary's

Mary's Kitchen Updates

During the month of July, Mary's Kitchen celebrated its 36th anniversary by inviting the community to participate in a "31 Days in July" fundraiser. With a \$35 donation, individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations were able to sponsor a day in July in honorarium or in memoriam of someone special. This was the second year of the "31 Days in July" fundraiser, and the response from the community continued to be well-received. Many thanks for the support in reaching our goal of 31 contributors. May God bless each of you.



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming

Mary's Kitchen Events:

- Next bread drive: Sun., Sept. 27th
- Next quarterly service date: Sat., Oct. 3rd

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 2020

Bishop Skirving will be returning to St. Mary's on All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 1). Please save the date! If you missed the Journey in Faith class, but are interested in being confirmed, write to Fr. Tom asap!



St. Mary's Tabernacle

Through loving memorials given in memory of Bob Nielsen, and with the careful work of the Memorials Committee in conjunction with the Rector and Vestry, St. Mary's has hired Hart Wiggins to design and build a tabernacle to the right of the high altar (see plans pictured). The tabernacle will serve as a beautiful place in which to keep the reserve sacrament. When complete, the full project will include a tabernacle light and memorial plaque. We look forward to sharing photos when the full project is completed!



Rector's Discretionary Fund at Work

Thanks to generous contributions to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, St. Mary's has the ability to address special needs among our parish as well as the community at large. Recently, St. Mary's was made aware of an urgent need for a wheelchair ramp, and members of our parish family spent a day of construction addressing that need. With careful planning and carpentry skills, a wheelchair ramp (pictured) was built to ensure the safe entry & exit of the home of a community member.

These are difficult times for so many. Since the pandemic began, the Rector's Discretionary Fund has also been employed to bring assistance to 8 households and 4 partner organizations, helping to keep lights on, roofs over heads, meals available, and ministries sustained. May God bless your giving to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.



Worship

On July 14th, Governor. Cooper extended “Phase 2” for North Carolina, and the congregations of the Diocese of East Carolina continue to live and worship using social distancing guidelines to ensure the safety and well-being for our community. As Bishop Skirving wrote:

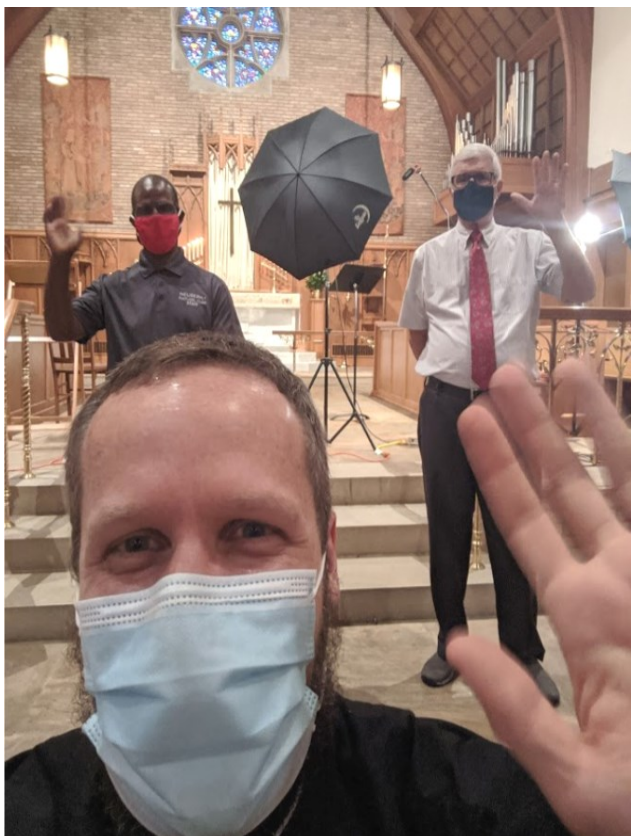
“Over this long journey, many of us will have had moments of fatigue or exhaustion, longing to leave COVID-19 behind. And yet we must go on. We go on with the confidence that we are surrounded by the “great cloud of witnesses” that have gone before us in this life. We go on with the knowledge that we have one another as companions on the journey. We go on with the faith that Jesus walks with us. So let us “fix our eyes on Jesus” and continue in the work of being God’s Church here and now and in the face of the needs of a hurting world.”

St. Mary’s continues to offer Sunday morning worship online at 8am as well outdoors (weather permitting) at 9:30am. We worship in ways that are innovative and supportive during these times, as we seek - and find - JOY in our Christian hope and life of faith!

We have learned and adapted so much. Enjoy a few behind-the-scenes glimpses of ministry in these times. Many thanks to Ike Hines for the loaning of his studio lights for our ‘sanctuary studio’ and to all who serve in our worship ministries!



Michael Adams, Choral Scholar



***Ron Albertson & Allan Turner, Lectors
Father Tom Warren, Rector***



Ron Michalowicz, Lector

Christian Formation

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION



An eight-week “Study of the Gospels” led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Spaugh will kick off the Program Year this September.

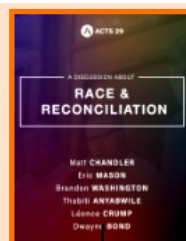
Randy writes: We have always assumed that Matthew, Mark, and Luke are basically the same, with John being just a little bit different. While they all have the same message, each one is different, written to a different audience. That is what this study is about. Why does Luke never use the term “Rabbi”? Why is the favorite word of Mark the conjunction “and”? Why does Peter walk on the water in Matthew but not in Mark? Why is 92% of John not found in the other gospels?

Today, we have greater archeological evidence supporting when these gospels were written than we had just 40 years ago, and we hope you can join us as we learn about each of the unique perspectives of the Good News of Jesus!



A NEW EfM CLASS BEGINS!

Education for Ministry is a rich and wonderful opportunity for diving deeper into your life of faith. You can be a part of a new class that joins with others who are continuing their EfM experience this Fall. Visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu/> to learn more about EfM, and feel free to email Jon Sargeant (jonsargeantattorney@gmail.com) to register or ask any questions. The new EfM season begins August 11th - sessions will be Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm via Zoom.



rightnow MEDIA

Right now, we need the grace of God more than ever.

Right now, we need love.

Right now, we need reconciliation.

RightNowMedia has the tools to help us and our community to listen, learn, and grow together. St. Mary's members are encouraged to explore the many resources available: from timely topics about racism and the pandemic, to Bible studies, to marriage support, to quality children's programming (Fr. Tom's favorite is the “Slugs & Bugs Show!”) and more. As a member of St. Mary's you have access to RightNowMedia and its entire library of discipleship resources for free! To accept your invitation to the biggest video Bible study library in the world, simply [click here](#) or contact the Church Office.

Episcopal Church Women



Thank you so much for all the donations to fill the Power Snack Packs during our recent outreach to the essential workers in

our community. We are also thankful for our packing team as well. We were able to meet our goal of 300 Power Snack Packs!



Be sure to mark your calendars for **September 15th at 4pm** for the fall return of our ECW Bible Study. The group will meet **each Tuesday**. Stay tuned for more details!



Back-to-School Supply Drive

Throughout the month of August, we will be collecting school supply items to benefit our Hand-In-Hand partnership with Northwest Elementary School. Our supply list includes: **backpacks, 1-subject spiral notebooks, wooden No. 2 pencils, 16 or 24 count Crayola crayons (regular and large sizes), glue sticks, folders with pockets, blunt-tipped student scissors, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray.** No donation is too small!!! Drop off your donated items in the bin on the front porch of Laury Sargeant's home (1105 Margaret Lane, Kinston). Thank you!

Diocesan Youth Event - Save the Date

Saturday, November 7th
 (Intro on Friday, November 6th & Closing on Sunday, November 8th)
Non-Residential: Online & In Person*
For 9th - 12th Graders & their Adult Leaders
\$35 Per Person - Includes supplies sent to you
More Details Coming Soon!

*The possibility of an in person gathering will depend on COVID -19 Guidelines

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

JOIN F3 NATION!

Fitness - Fellowship - Faith.



Peer-led
 Outdoors
 Free
 Men of all ages

Saturdays, beginning

August 8th

7-8am at Bill Fay Park

Find them on Twitter:

@F3Kinston

CONTACT:

Chris Jenkins

phone 252-341-7042 or [email](#)

Jay Surles

phone 252-347-9774 or [email](#)

WORSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S

8:00 am

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

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

9:30 am

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

West Lawn, Weather Permitting

This service is offered following the guidelines described in Fr. Tom's [Pastoral Letter to the Church](#) from May 14. Please read it, especially if you plan to attend outdoor liturgy.)

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2020	2021	2022
Jess Edwards	Jimmy Ballard	Bill Connolly
Gerry Fox	Sam Gilmore	John John
Whitney Grady	Jessica Shimer	Scott Turik
Jo Parrott	Stuart Stroud	Dee Warner

Senior Warden – Jo Parrott

Junior Warden – Jimmy Ballard

Clerk – Whitney Grady

Treasurer – Billy Page