



January, 2020

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



THE 30TH ST. MARY'S *The Boar's Head and Yule Log* FESTIVAL AND BANQUET

JANUARY 5, 2020

3PM & 5PM - BOTH PERFORMANCES ARE FREE

St. Mary's has been offering the Boar's Head Festival as its annual gift to the community since 1990, the 650th anniversary of the festival's start at Queen's College, Oxford, England, in 1340. It is probably the oldest continuing Christmas festival. In 2018, the festival had to be canceled due to weather, so this year will be the 30th year of the festival at St. Mary's!

But why, you may wonder, a "boar's head"?! We, in Eastern NC, understand well the cultural significance of a pig pickin! The Romans, likewise, served boar as the first course at their banquets and it would draw a crowd like it does today! Additionally, the boar was a fierce and dangerous creature. So, as the Gospel spread throughout Europe, the boar's head came to represent evil's ultimate defeat by the power of God through Jesus Christ.

The pageant itself follows a similar narrative arc. Beginning with a secular celebration as all of the characters gather for a feast, the story dramatically shifts to telling the story of Immanuel: how God became with us in the person of Jesus. Shepherds, angels, and wise men soon join the more than 150 other people dressed up as peasants and nobility, beggars and kings, clergy and cooks. Everyone in attendance can relate to one or many of the characters and find his or herself uniquely placed in the end at the Christ child's manger, where all lives are made equal and no one is left unchanged.

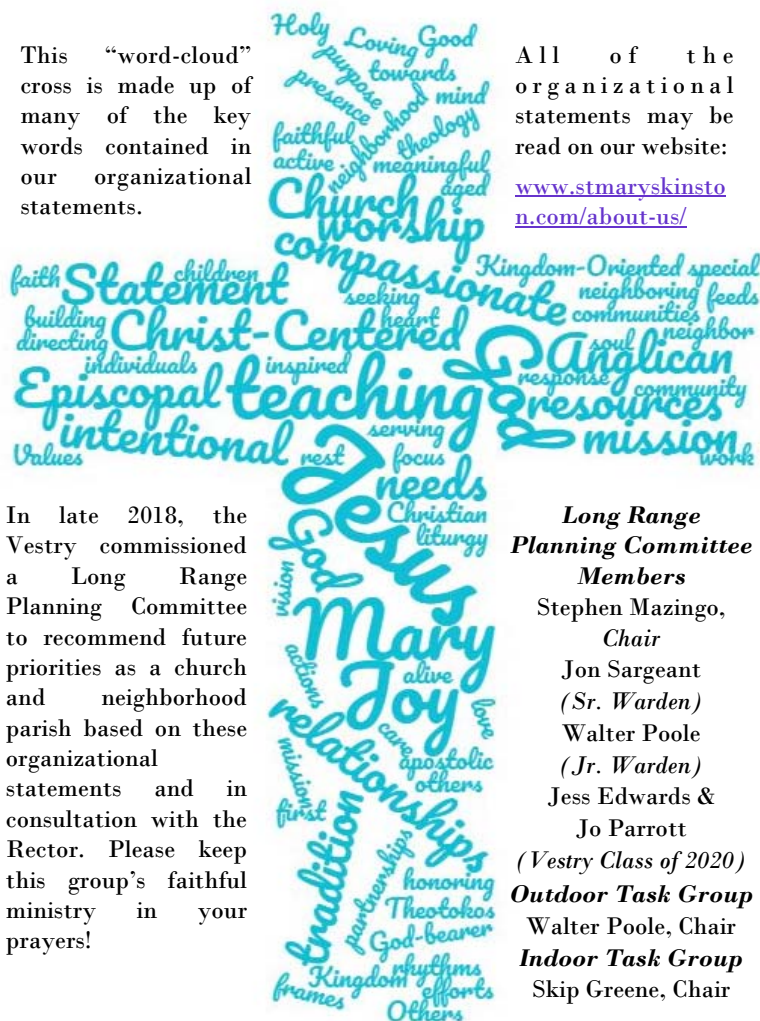
Following the 5pm performance, a delicious banquet is offered as a full meal of wonderful foods, including wine, all set in the king's decorated hall. For the banquet, tickets are purchased in advance in the church office and cost \$30 per person (*the banquet has sold out for this year*).

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the day of Epiphany with the JOY that is the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival!

From the Rector

Each of the 12 elements of our organizational statements are being featured in our BellRingers as a way of explaining and celebrating how we hear God calling us into JOY-ful service in this time. In this edition, we look at the 6th and final part of the Vision Statement...

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



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

www.stmaryskinston.com/about-us/

Over the last 12 BellRingers, this column has called attention to some profoundly powerful and significant areas of life and ministry towards which our church members have sensed God calling us in this time and place. Please do check out previous editions of the BellRingers if you missed any, and know that you can find more information about the work of the Long Range Planning committee at the link to our website noted at left.

All of this work is good! And yet, contrary to what many experience in our culture, and even what many experience in “church,” *work* is not everything. Scripture lays out God’s “Top Ten” list of things to do and to not do (Exodus 20:2-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21). Fourth among these ten commandments is to honor the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Over time, there has been much debate about exactly *how* one might observe this commandment, but never should it be debated *that* it should be observed! God created us with a need to put our talents to work for God and the sharing of His Gospel with all the world - this, of course, demands our best efforts. God also created us with a need to rest and to honor Him through enjoyment of the fruits of God’s work of creation. Perhaps during this holiday season, you strongly feel this tension in how you have been made - to work **and** to rest. At St. Mary’s, we will order our lives and ministries to honor this commandment, that they may be life-giving to us and as a witness to God’s goodness for the world around us!

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!

Long Range Planning Committee Members

Stephen Mazingo,
Chair

Jon Sargeant
(Sr. Warden)

Walter Poole
(Jr. Warden)

Jess Edwards &
Jo Parrott

(Vestry Class of 2020)

Outdoor Task Group

Walter Poole, Chair

Indoor Task Group

Skip Greene, Chair

The Vision Statement of St. Mary’s

Through the love of Jesus, St. Mary’s will be a joy-filled Christian community for all individuals through:

- inspired joy-filled worship in the Anglican tradition
- faithful apostolic teaching that feeds the mind and soul
- compassionate response to the needs of all, with special focus on the needs of the aged, children, and those in crisis
- partnerships with neighboring faith communities and others
- meaningful relationships with the neighborhood
- ***honoring God in rhythms of work and rest, and in the intentional use of all resources***

Tom +

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

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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	The Hon. Jan Sargeant
Jr. Warden	Mr. Walt Poole
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



Burial:

Simmons Patrick
December 13, 2019

Transfers In:

Jennifer McKinley and her son Daniel McKinley
December 19, 2019



Pastoral Announcements

We offer thanksgiving for the births of:

-Scotland Claire Veitch to Alison on December 26, 2019. **Sharon & Phil Veitch** are the joyful grandparents, and **Robert, aka PJ**, is the excited big brother!

-Hayden Arthur Junius Edwards, to Kathryn & JJ Edwards on Nov. 30, 2019. **Elizabeth Maxwell & Dennis Tracz** are the joyful grandparents!

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, you added your voices to make our worship joyous, and you 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!



Mary's Kitchen Bread Drive

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a bread drive for Mary's Kitchen! Loaf sandwich bread will be collected in the Narthex on **Sunday, January 12th**, and delivered to the Kitchen that week. This will coincide with our parish's quarterly service date, **Saturday, January 18th**, at the Kitchen. **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.

Wonderful Wednesdays RETURN!

We will kick off the new year with the return of Wonderful Wednesdays as well as a new program series, "Life Shared." Beginning January 15th, we hope you and your family will join us each Wednesday for this schedule of events:

- 5:30pm Training Choristers
- 5:50pm St. Cecilia's Choir
- 6:00pm Supper
- 6:30pm Program, Small Groups, & EYC



News at St. Mary's

A NOTE OF THANKS

Alpha

Many thanks to all those who helped make our recent Alpha Class such a success: kitchen crews, small group hosts, nursery attendants, and especially Jon Sargeant for coordinating it all!



The following parishioners have address changes:

Christine Maroules

c/o Cypress Glen

100 Hickory St.

Greenville, NC 27858

Carol Wentz

(back home!)

1300 Airlee Dr.

Kinston, NC 28504

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,
Sherry & Lori*



ECW News



THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB

The Gospel Of John | Epiphany 2020

Women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020! 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 enjoy the casual fellowship of other women as you learn and pray together? *ECW has the perfect opportunity to begin your 2020!*

Please join us for the GOOD BOOK Club. We are so excited to offer an ECW Ladies Bible Study during the 8 week season of Epiphany. Join us as we study the Gospel of John **beginning Tuesday, January 7th at 4pm** in the parlor. Just come as you are. Invite a friend and bring your Bible.

Let's see where God will lead us in 2020!

As we ring in 2020, we welcome a new ECW Executive Board:

President: Laury Sargeant
Vice-President: Audra Haddad
Secretary: Dacie Edwards
Treasurer: Cathy Beasley

We offer a big thank you to the dedicated leadership of our outgoing president, Sarah Warner, and treasurer, Cathy Sale.



& SOUL \$\$\$

Banquet Fundraiser

Save the date for the upcoming ECW **Valentine's Heart & Soul Dinner and Raffle**. This dinner and raffle will be the big fundraiser event for the year to support the ministries of the Episcopal Church Women of St. Mary's. Invite your friends and make plans to join us **Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 6:30pm** for a delicious meal and a delightful evening of **LOVE**. Tickets will be \$50 each.

There will be many opportunities to be involved in the fun... just contact Laury Sargeant (252-268-6521) to help share the **LOVE!**

COMING UP SOON ~ ECW will offer hospitality for the Lenten Suppers beginning March 5, 2020. Please see the ECW bulletin board to sign up!

Worship

BAPTISM

The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord

The Book of Common Prayer highlights four particular Sundays in the year as especially appropriate for baptisms: Easter, Pentecost, All Saints' Day, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. On **Sunday, January 12, 2020**, it is our great joy to be able to celebrate the baptisms of **Aryn Bridwell** (granddaughter of Frances Bridwell) and **Piper Franklin** (daughter of Harper & Kaeden Franklin and granddaughter of Jimmy & Susanne Ballard). Please keep Aryn and

Piper, and their baptismal sponsors in your prayers as they prepare for this special day. Please also make every effort to join us as we celebrate this milestone in their lives in Christ Jesus!



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 25th). Family and friends 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 + 20" may be written 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 "2020" indicate the year of the blessing.

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!



NEWS AND NOTES

What a pleasure and delight to work with fine musicians at St. Mary's! The Chancel Choir, the Training Choristers, instrumentalists (such as Ily Sarasohn and Seraphim Smith), and leaders of the children (Vickie Kennedy) have all

added so much to the services at St. Mary's. May you be blessed by the ministry of these marvelous people who serve ever so faithfully, joyfully, and graciously of the gifts the Lord has bestowed upon them.

The season of Epiphany is upon us. What is your favorite hymn for this season? Is it #117, "Brightest and best of the stars of the morning," or #138, "All praise to you, O Lord"? Would you like to sing your favorite Epiphany hymn this year? Did you know there only eight weeks until the season of Lent is upon us? You can send in your favorite Epiphany hymn to sveitch@stmaryskinston.com, or write it in the space on the announcements and place it in the offering plate. Your favorite hymn will make its way into our liturgy. If you would like to know when your favorite hymn will be sung, please include your name with your selection.

I look forward to serving you this season,
Sharon Veitch



JOURNEY IN FAITH RETURNS! - A New class of Journey in Faith (JiF) begins in January with an informational session on **Sunday, January 12 at noon in the Parlor (lunch will be provided)**. JiF is a short course in the basics of the Christian Faith, Episcopal Church, and St. Mary's that is open to all, and especially appropriate for newcomers to St. Mary's and anyone

considering baptism or confirmation when Bishop Skirving visits St. Mary's on May 17, 2020. JiF will meet on occasional Sunday afternoons throughout the coming months. More details and a full schedule will be shared on January 12!

New Vestry Class of 2022

The annual Parish Meeting was held in Moseley Hall on December 8, 2019 at which time the new class of the Vestry was selected: **Bill Connolly, John John, Scott Turik, and Dee Warner.**



Bill has served on the Vestry twice in the past, once serving as Junior Warden. He and his wife Deb are 25+ year members of St. Mary's and have two children - Will and Lexi.



John has also served as a Vestry member multiple times and has chaired the Adult Christian Formation committee. He and his wife, Rekha, have been members of St Mary's for over 20 years, and have two sons, Joseph and Jacob.



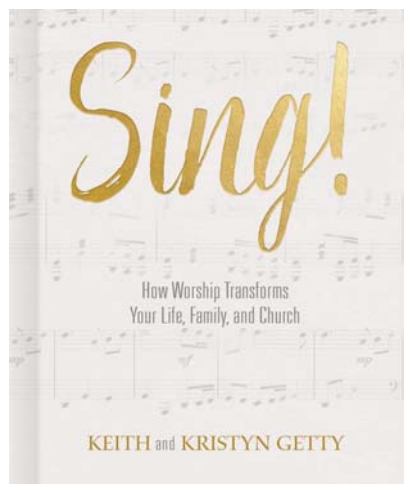
Scott has been a member of St. Mary's since 1970. He has served on the Outreach committee, as a Eucharistic Minister, Usher, and Lector at the 8am liturgy. This will be his first time serving on the Vestry. He and his wife, Annette, have two sons, Caleb and Kyle.



Dee returns to the Vestry where he has previously served in many ministries, including the Finance Committee. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children, Dee and Lillian.

The Vestry Members will have a Vestry Retreat Weekend on January 24th - 25th at The Refuge, at which time the new Wardens will be selected. Then, on **Sunday, January 26, 2020**, please make every effort to attend the **10:30am liturgy at St. Mary's** as we commission our new Vestry class and Wardens as well as offer our appreciation to our outgoing Vestry members: Juliet Barrus, Walt Poole (Junior Warden), Jim Purnell, and Jon Sargeant (Senior Warden).

Christian Education



On Sunday mornings, beginning January 12, right after the 9am breakfast, the Adult Forum will be reading through the book "Sing!" by authors, lyricists, and worship leaders Keith and Kristyn Getty. About the book: "The Gettys write to church members to remind them why the Church should sing, when the Church should sing, and how the Church should sing. A congregation that gains a greater understanding of why they sing won't dread a worship service, with arms crossed and shoulders slumped, but see singing as an opportunity to proclaim the gospel together in obedience to God. *Sing!* guides individual church members together with their congregation on a campaign to declare with one voice, 'This is why we Sing!'" **1 copy of the book will be available for every participating family.** More copies will be available for sale in the Bookstore for \$7.50.

On Wednesday nights, a follow-on to Alpha, called "**Life Shared**," will begin on **January 15**. This three-week program will begin at 6pm with a meal, followed by a program and small group. Each session explores what it means to live out God's call to share our lives and invite people into an honest conversation around the Christian faith.

Following the conclusion of "Life Shared," we'll be kicking off a new 8-week Wednesday night program called the "**Prayer Course**" on **February 5**. The Prayer Course will meet every Wednesday until Holy Week, except on Ash Wednesday (Feb 26). Please invite someone to join you!



