



March, 2017

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

Dear Friends,

On the last Sunday of Epiphany we sang heartily as we accompanied Jesus up the mountaintop. There on Mt. Sinai's height, along with Jesus' first disciples, we were dazzled by the light of God's glory, awed by God's own booming voice. In this extraordinary mountaintop moment, Jesus was revealed as God's beloved Son. And, now, we follow Jesus down the mountain, down into the season of Lent, to discover more fully who we are in him.

Jesus leads us Wednesday liturgies calling us to return our minds about gods. In honest self-acknowledge all our and we ask God to hearts and right the noise and world often distract contemplation and that accompanies



first into our Ash where we hear God to God, to change following after false examination we sins and iniquities "create in us new spirits." However, distractions of our us from serious the re-formation contemplation.

Therefore, our Sunday worship in Lent will offer us times of silence in which we can truly focus on our Lord and lift our hearts to him. There will be no prelude or postlude, no communion hymns, no Alleluias or *Gloria*. I hope that you will embrace these Lenten moments of sacred silence and in them rest and reflect.

Especially for congregations in transition, Lent is a real gift. Indeed, it is our faith and trust in Christ Jesus that anchors us when all the "changes and chances of life" are swirling and twirling. With so many changes spinning around us, Lent offers us a time to slow down a bit so that we can ponder and process those changes. In prayer, penitence and piety, we seek to rid ourselves of all the meaningless "junk" that weighs us down and distances us from God. It is a time to focus on the essentials of our faith; a time, as Stephen Covey says, to "**keep the main thing, the main thing.**"

In this particular Lenten season, we also will explore what it means to be God's beloved children, called by Christ Jesus into mission and ministry here at St. Mary's at this point in time. Our Lenten activities will help us to celebrate the past of St. Mary's, to engage the present and to dream with God in hopeful anticipation of the future. How have our hearts been made new by God in the past? In what ways are our spirits currently being renewed? What dreams do we have for this parish in five years, in fifty years? One of the ways we will accomplish a greater understanding of who we are here at St. Mary's is by "**Telling Our Stories, Telling God's Story.**" Wednesday evenings in Lent will be a time to worship together, enjoy a meal together and then tell the stories of what it means to

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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

Website: www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

A church of 362 baptized members whose mission is to worship and serve God joyfully, to nurture each other in faith and wholeness, to minister to others, and to manifest the "good news" of Christ.

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

Website: www.stmaryskinston.com

Sr. Warden

Mr. P.C. Barwick, Jr.

Jr. Warden

Mr. Walter R. Poole

Interim Rector

The Rev'd Judith Foster Reese

Assistant Rector

The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren

Parish Administrator

Mrs. LaTonya Smith

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Linda Johnson

Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough

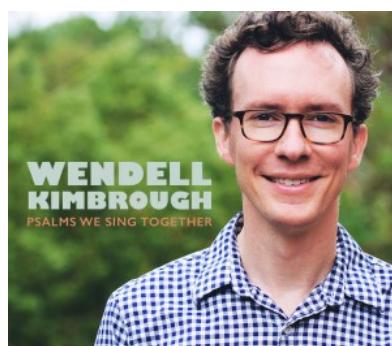
News at St. Mary's



A Lenten Organ Concert is scheduled for Friday, March 10 at 7pm. Dr. Janet Chung is the Organist and Director of Music of St. John's Evangelical

Lutheran Church in New York City. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Manhattan School of Music where she was awarded the President's Award and the Bronson Ragan award for most outstanding ability in organ performance. This concert is sponsored by the East Carolina American Guild of Organists and is free and open to the public, though donations will be accepted and split between the AGO and the St. Mary's Lenten Outreach fund.

It will be a great joy to be able to hear Dr. Chung perform at St. Mary's!



Wendell Kimbrough returns to St. Mary's for a special St. Patrick's Day Hymn Sing and Concert on Friday, March 17. Wendell first visited St. Mary's last April when he led us in singing the Psalm at our 10am liturgy and later in a joyful hymn-sing at the Mother Earth Tap Room. Since then, he has released a full-length album of Psalms set to music for congregational singing that has been met with great reviews from Christian churches across the country. **We hope you'll plan to celebrate St. Patrick's day at Moseley Hall: Doors open and food will be enjoyed at 6:30. Music will begin at 7pm!**

From the Parish Register

Baptized:

Leah Rose Edwards

February 12, 2017

Transfer In:

Andrea Lynn Fulcher Cohn

Andrea and fiancé Tripper Parham (son of Tempe Younger and step-son of Carl Younger) have moved to Kinston and are planning to marry in May. Welcome and Congratulations!

From the Interim Rector

be a part of this faith community. I'm always amazed at how God weaves our stories together and gives us to have a clearer vision of that portion of Christ's mission with which we have been entrusted. At this time in the life of this parish, being able to articulate our identity and mission is very important.

It is my deepest prayer that each and every one of us will follow Jesus into a holy Lent and allow our worship and our work to prepare us for Jesus' resurrection and glorious Easter joy. May God truly create in us new hearts and right spirits during these sacred weeks of reflection and repentance.

An Update on the Search Process for St. Mary's Next Rector

The Wardens and Vestry have a very special role when a congregation is in transition due to changes in clergy leadership. Since the rector is the principal and most visible leader of a congregation, the departure of the rector has a profound impact—especially when that rector has a long tenure with that congregation. When transition times occur, wardens and vestries are helped greatly by the connectional nature of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Skirving and Canon Matthew Stockard, who is the Transition Ministry Officer for this Diocese, are available to help church leaders as they enter into the very important spiritual discernment process that will result in the calling of a new rector.

The Wardens and Vestry of St. Mary's, working with the Bishop and Canon, have done an excellent job of shepherding the parish through the departure of Father Singer and the identifying and calling of an interim rector. And, at their last meeting, the Vestry prayerfully accomplished another important step: that of establishing the Rector Search Committee. The Search Committee is charged with discerning the needs of the congregation and the gifts required of the new rector. They are charged with completing the requirements of the Office of Transition Ministry and doing the tedious work of identifying and interviewing priests with the requisite gifts and skills and who are interested in participating in the discernment process. The primary role of the Search Committee is discernment. Their work is not to hire a new rector but to listen to the Holy Spirit and recommend to the Vestry a final candidate. It is the Vestry who will elect the new rector and, upon the approval of the Bishop, extend a call to that person to become the next rector of St. Mary's.

The Wardens and Vestry of St. Mary's are thankful for the willingness of so many to be considered for this important work of discernment and also very thankful for the willingness of those chosen to serve. Those chosen to serve on the Rector Search Committee are:

Jon Sargeant (Chair)

Juliet Barrus

Joe Stark

Sam Gilmore

Stuart Stroud

Audra Haddad

Sarah Warner

Jo Parrott

Carl Younger

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Worship



Ash Wednesday . . .

The imposition of ashes is often a central part of Ash Wednesday worship. Ashes have a long history in biblical and church traditions. In scripture, ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Gen. 18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jon. 3:6). Some traditions also have considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. In Christ's passion we see God's judgment on evil; in our penitence we express sorrow and repentance for our sins; in our rededication we show that we are purified and renewed.

Ashes are the burnt residue of the previous year's palms from Palm Sunday. Worshippers come forward and the priest makes a cross on each person's forehead (the "imposition"), saying words such as "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*"

It is the obligation for all Episcopalians, to make a proper beginning of Lent, to attend an Ash Wednesday liturgy. St. Mary's will offer the Imposition of Ashes and celebrate the Holy Eucharist on **Wednesday, March 1st** at:

7:00 a.m. - Chapel

12:00 noon - St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 707 E. Lenoir Ave., Kinston

7:00 p.m. - Church (*with music*)

Mid-Week Liturgies in Lent



The Way of the Cross

St. Mary's will be offering the Way of the Cross on Friday evenings at 5:30 p.m., beginning March 3rd. Sometimes called the Stations of the Cross, this short devotional experience is both tactile and meditative. As we move to each of the fourteen markers throughout the church, a different event of Jesus' Passion is remembered.

The Way of the Cross is an especially poignant way "that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby [God] has given us life and immortality," to quote the Prayer Book's collect for Palm Sunday. Please walk the Way of the Cross at least once this Lent.

Choral Evensong

Our Wednesday evenings in Lent at St. Mary's will begin with Choral Evensong at 5:30pm in the church sanctuary. Choral Evensong refers to the daily office liturgy of Evening Prayer whenever most of it is set to music and sung, accompanied by a choir. Since the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, Choral Evensong has been an evening offering in cathedrals and churches of the Anglican Communion. We hope you'll make this weekly liturgy a part of your Lenten experience in 2017.

Feast of St. Patrick

St. Mary's observes Feast Days of the Church on Wednesdays of the week in which the actual Feast Day occurs. Accordingly, the Feast Day of St. Patrick will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 15th with a celebration of Holy Eucharist and healing prayers in the All Saints' Chapel at noon. The liturgy will last 30 minutes and will include a brief meditation. We hope you will take a break during your workday to worship.

Christian Formation

**GOD'S STORY,
OUR STORY,
MY STORY.**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT

"Telling Our Stories, Telling God's Story"

The Lenten program this year is called "Telling Our Stories, Telling God's Story." Lent is a season of self-examination and our Wednesday programs will examine our life as a family of faith. We begin by telling our stories of the past and present at St. Mary's and later share our hopes and dreams for the future. We'll talk about times that have been meaningful and times that have been challenging. And we'll discover how our stories intersect with God's story. This is a prelude to the work of self-study required by the search process. But, most of all, it will help us identify and articulate our mission and suggest ways that we can strengthen that mission.

The nursery will be open during this time and programs for children through the 5th Grade as well as the EYC (Middle & High Schoolers) will also be offered. Here is the schedule for Wednesday evenings in Lent at St. Mary's:

3pm-5:30pm

for the EYC
in the Youth
Room.



6pm-6:30pm

for all in
Moseley Hall.



5:30pm-6pm
in the
Church.



6:30pm-7:30pm

Adults in Moseley Hall
Jr. & Sr. EYC in the Youth Room
Kids 2nd Grade through 5th
Grade in Room 110 (next to
Choir Room)
Kids 1st Grade and Younger in
Room 108 (nursery)



Please note that the usual Wednesday evening gatherings of the Adult Bible Study, Jr. & Sr. EYC, E(lementary)EYC, and St. Cecilia's Choir will resume after Easter.

Soles 4 Souls

1.2 billion people live on less than \$1.25 per day. 400 million are children. Many don't have access to one of life's most basic necessities: a good pair of shoes.

Again this year we will be collecting new or gently used shoes for *Soles4Souls*, (March 1 - April 9th). Shoes may be placed in a receiving box as found in the Narthex and Office wing.

Should you have questions, please contact Rachel Singer 252-521-7997.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Story has provided a powerful and insightful engagement with Scripture over the last several months. THANK YOU to all of the leaders who have facilitated the great conversations during this program! The final chapter of *The Story* will be covered on Sunday, March 5.

Beginning on Sunday, March 12, Mother Judith will begin an Adult Forum series on The Episcopal Way and how our Anglican tradition can help us draw near to God, understand scripture and offer the world the saving grace of Christ Jesus.

Other news

Congratulations and THANK YOU!!!!!!

Nearly 20 chilis were entered into this year's competition in addition to a solid field of cornbreads for their inaugural year in the tournament! Expert judges Jennifer Reda of Glory Ridge, Warren Brothers of Brothers' Farm, and Leraine Tolston of Queen St. Deli & Bakery had their work cut out for them.

Also, thanks to the generosity of the wonderful crowd that came out, nearly \$1000 was raised for the construction projects that our youth will take on while at Glory Ridge this summer. THANK YOU to all!!!



Here are the winners:

Best In Show Chili: Gerry Fox

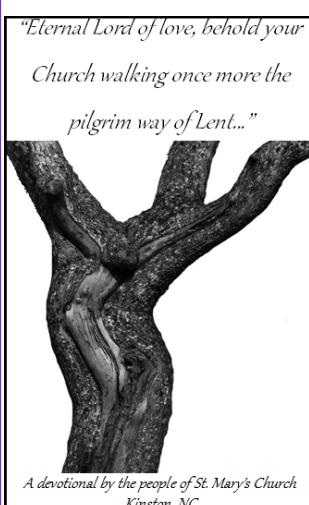
2nd Place: Brant Wentz

3rd Place: Stuart Stroud

People's Choice Chili: Linda Hines

Most Original Chili: Debbie Anderson

Best Cornbread: Chloe Albritton



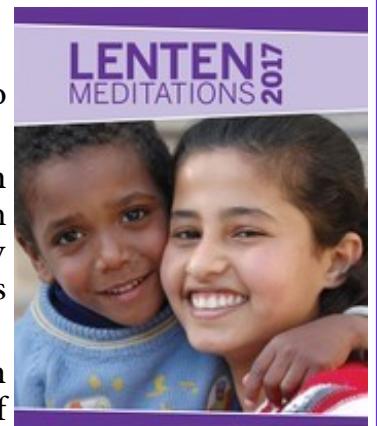
2017 Lenten Meditations

On tables in the Narthex you will find two Lenten meditation booklets.

One booklet was created by our congregation and includes daily Scripture readings, passages from the Christian Tradition, and meditations written by members and clergy, past & present, of St. Mary's Church.

Another booklet is entitled "2017 Lenten Meditations" and is provided by Episcopal Relief and Development.

These booklets are being provided to you without any charge. Please pick up a copy and use during the season on Lent.



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Healing a hurting world

St. Mary's Newest Eagle Scout: George Haddad

George's Eagle project was to plan and construct a beautiful pergola at Common Ground of ENC's Food Park's East entrance on Vernon Avenue. If you haven't seen it yet, swing by or join others from St. Mary's at our next "Local Mission Trip" to Common Ground after church on Sunday, March 19. George is the son of Mike & Audra Haddad. Congratulations!



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

**Cherished Members and
Friend's Luncheon**



The next luncheon will be on Thursday, March 2nd, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

All retired people and their friends are invited to attend. All we ask is that you sign up on the proper sheet in the Narthex or call the Parish Office. Thank you!

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 a.m. – Sunday School

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2017	2018	2019
H. Earl Harper	P.C. Barwick, Jr.	Ron J. Albertson
J. Mark Herring	Clifton W. Carey	Juliet S. Barrus
John K. John	Becky C. Darst	Walter R. Poole, Jr.
John "Sandy" Shimer, Jr.	Milton D. "Dee" Warner, Jr.	Jonathan L. Sargeant
Senior Warden – P.C. Barwick, Jr. Junior Warden – Walter R. Poole Clerk – Becky C. Darst Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley		