



January, 2018

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

The Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival

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. This Boar's Head tradition originated at Queen's College, Oxford, England, in 1340, and is probably the oldest continuing Christmas festival.

The performances are at 3 & 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2018 and mark St. Mary's 29th telling of the tale. Entrance is free and open to everyone. There will be a free-will offering.

But why, you may wonder, a "boar's head"?! The pageant of killing the boar is ancient: The Romans served boar as the first course at their banquets. 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 5:00 p.m. performance, a delicious banquet is offered. For the banquet, you will need to purchase a ticket, which costs \$30 per person. The banquet offers a full meal of wonderful offerings, including wine, all set in the king's decorated hall. To purchase your ticket, contact the church at 252-523-6146.



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
Assistant Rector	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Minister of Music	Mrs. Sharon Veitch
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough

News at St. Mary's



New Lay Leadership

At the Annual Parish Meeting on December 10, **Jess Edwards, Gerry Fox, Whitney Grady, and Jo Parrott** (pictured clockwise from top left) were elected as the Vestry class of 2020. These Vestry members will begin their ministry as of January 1, 2018 and will be installed at the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, January 28. Our thanks extend to everyone who allowed their name to be placed in nomination to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry will be meeting in



retreat on January 26-27, at which time Officers (Sr Warden, Jr Warden, Treasurer, & Clerk) will be elected.

We offer our great appreciation to the outgoing Vestry members **Earl Harper, Mark Herring, John John and Sandy Shimer** for serving St. Mary's faithfully the past three years.

What do you think?

In the coming weeks, you will be asked to take two surveys that are extremely important to the life and ministry at St. Mary's. Both will be available online or in hard copy at church.

The purpose of the first survey is to help the Vestry gather information from you regarding the schedule of services and Christian Formation programs on Sunday mornings. This survey will be open at the beginning of the month and [available at this link](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q6LZGQJ):

www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q6LZGQJ

The purpose of the second is to help the Communications Committee to measure members' preferences for communicating methods from the church to its members. This survey will be open towards the end of the month with a report of its findings in February.

Pastoral News

Congratulations to:

Ethan Bowen

Bachelor's Degree in Sustainable Technology/Solar Energy from Appalachian State University

Lilli Wooten

Begins Nursing School at East Carolina University this month

From the Senior Warden

Dear People of St. Mary's,

It has been eighteen months since we bid farewell to Father Michael and Teresa. Can you believe it?!!! During this eighteen month period it has been "business as usual" with great leadership and commitment from Father Tom and Mother Judith, and now Father Gene Carpenter is helping us with Sunday worship services and pastoral care. We have been truly blessed during this period of transition which will probably last another couple of months. Our Search Committee is working very hard to complete their task of making its recommendation to the Vestry. Your Vestry understands its obligation to promptly consider the committee's recommendation and make its decision.

At our December 11 meeting, your Vestry voted to conduct a survey of the parish regarding the "trial" service schedule which was initiated this fall. You will be receiving a survey form soon. Please respond with your opinions and input. We need more than just a "yes or no." The results of the survey will help your vestry and our pastoral leadership make decisions regarding our future service schedule.

Congratulations to Jess Edwards, Gerry Fox, Whitney Grady, and Jo Parrott upon their election to a three year term on your Vestry. All four of them joined us for our meeting in December. They will be installed at the 10:30am liturgy on January 28 along with the new slate of officers for the Episcopal Church Women.

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival is just around the corner. What an exciting way to start our calendar year! This event involves so many members of our parish and beyond. Thanks to all of those who participate in the festival and a special thanks to Marion Classen, Frances Herring, Holly Warren and all of the folks who make it happen.

Keep your Search Committee and Vestry in your prayers as we move through this very important time in the life of St. Mary's.

P.C. Barwick, Jr.
Senior Warden

Episcopal Church Women

In December 2017, a gathering of the ECW was held in the home of **Anne Lindley**. At that meeting, the group gave thanks for the years of service that Anne has offered as President of the ECW. THANK YOU, ANNE! Also at the meeting, new officers were elected. **Sarah Warner** is now serving as President, **Laury Sargeant** is the Vice President, **Dacie Edwards** is the Secretary, and **Cathy Sale** is the Treasurer. These officers will be installed at the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, January 28.

A January ECW meeting will be announced soon! ECW board members will also be calling the women of the church to establish new parish service teams. We are seeking church women or men that would be willing to make small casseroles (we have recipes!). Please contact Sarah Warner at 252-521-2494 if you would be willing to help. Thank you!



A Christmas Caroling "Thank You"

A cheerful group toured 7 residences in Kinston to share the love of Christ through carols last month. Here is a very kind thank you message from Bill & Alice Vandivere following the caroling: "Alice and I just wanted you to know how much we appreciate the kindness and generosity of the fine people of St. Mary's. We appreciate your caroling and your visit and your gifts. And we want you to know how grateful we are that we have such a loving family and such a fine church. Thank you!"

Worship

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

On Sunday, January 7th, St. Mary's will celebrate our 29th Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. There will be two performances: 3pm and 5pm. **Tickets to the Renaissance Banquet, following the 5pm performance are still available for \$30.** Please contact the church office at 252-523-6146 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. They will make a marvelous gift!

Boar's Head Festival Viewing Parties

We are offering a new experience in preparation for the Boar's Head Festival this year. In place of spot rehearsals, we are inviting all door marshals and any interested cast members to view a recording of a past festival on the nice new TV in the parlor. We will have popcorn and other goodies to enjoy together! See you January 1st or 2nd at 5:00pm!

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

Rehearsal Dates

Monday, January 1 ~ 5:00 p.m. DVD Viewing in the Parlor, with popcorn!

Tuesday, January 2 ~ 5:00p.m. DVD Viewing in the Parlor, with popcorn!

Wednesday, January 3 ~ 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal and
7:00 p.m. Full Cast Walk-Through

Thursday, January 4 ~ 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 6 ~ 8:00 a.m. – Sign In and Costumes
9:00 a.m. – **Mandatory Full Dress Rehearsal**

Sunday, January 7 ~ 2:00 p.m. Sign In and Costumes
3:00 & 5:00 p.m. ~ The Festival Begins

Please refer to the Facebook page "Boar's Head 2018
Cast Info" for updates.

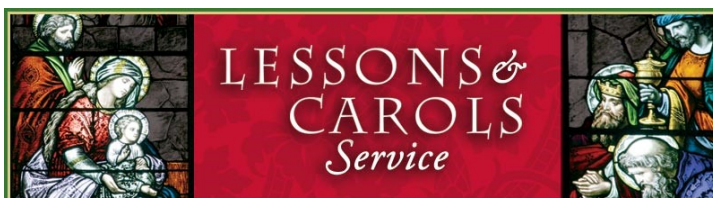


Thank you!

Our deepest appreciation goes to everyone who contributed to 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 your faithful attendance enriched the family of God.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*



St. Mary's will celebrate a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 10:30 am. Join in lifting your voice and hearing the Good News of the Christmas Season now that it is here! Our service is adapted from the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" that has been celebrated annually since it was first introduced in 1918 at King's College Chapel. We will hear five Scripture lessons and enjoy carols that accompany each passage.

Deadline for The Bell Ringer

Groups or organizations who have articles to appear in The Bell Ringer, are asked to send them to Fr. Tom Warren by the 15th of the month. Thank you for helping to share the Good News of what God is doing through St. Mary's Episcopal Church!

Christian Formation

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Confirmation Classes – Bishop Skirving will be at St. Mary's on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. Youth participating in *Sealed & Sent Forth* on Sunday mornings and adults participating in *Journey in Faith* will be able to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church at that time. Baptism and affirmations of faith will also be possible that day. *Journey*

in Faith (JiF) is a series of classes that presents the fundamentals of the Christian faith along with the particular ways of being a Christian in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition and locally here at St. Mary's. The class is for anyone, regardless of intention to be confirmed. **An informational meeting for JiF will be on Sunday, January 21 after the 10:30am liturgy.**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Programs for all ages return on Sunday, January 14th

December 31st - Lessons and Carols - We will worship together at 10:30 a.m. with a liturgy of Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist. Our carols on this day will be traditional Christmas carols.

January 7th - The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival - Join us at 3:00 or 5:00 p.m. for the 29th annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival.

January 14th, 21st, & 28th - Classes for all ages meet at 9:15am

Perspectives on the Christian World Movement

Perspectives is a 15-week course exploring God's heart for the nations and the story of how He is redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. Each week the class receives instruction from a different guest lecturer, including biblical scholars, seminary professors, missionaries, and leaders of Christian organizations. The course curriculum is comprised of articles written by dozens of authors who are biblical scholars, historians, missionaries, cultural anthropologists and seasoned strategists including N.T. Wright, Steven Hawthorne, Yvonne Honeycutt, John Piper, John Stott, Rick and Kay Warren, Tim Keller, Neil Cole, William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Ralph Winter, Don Richardson and more. You can watch this 3 minute video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6a-uSBHu9A) to learn a little more and then read below to find out the details for the Kinston Class.

Kinston has had multiple *Perspectives* courses in the past at different churches. Members of St. Mary's who have taken the class and may be helpful in answering any questions you may have about the class are Juliet Barrus, Laury Sargeant, and Sarah Weeks. The next *Perspectives* class begins on **Thursday, January 11 at 6:30pm at Rivermont Baptist Church. The first two classes are free.** Learn more at www.perspectives.org/KinstonNC.

Training for Eucharistic Ministers

The annual training for our Eucharistic Ministers will be Sunday, January 28 at 11:45am in the church. All servers, new or experienced, should make every effort to attend so that your license may be completed and sent to the Diocesan Office.

History and diocesan policy place high priority on development of strong lay ministries. From colonial days when East Carolina churches functioned almost completely under the care of vestries, since clergy were rarely available, the Diocese has been blessed with exceptionally strong lay leadership. The Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer (p. 855) describes the ministry of lay persons:

The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and His Church; to bear witness to Him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Especially in the worship of the Church, the whole people of God are represented in our worship services as lay people, as well as clergy, enable the corporate worship of the gathered community of the faithful!

Young Adults

The Young Adult Christian Formation class meets in the Bookstore (very close to the Nurseries, but not too close!) for topical discussions that help us make connections between the Christian faith and our lives. We recently finished a series on faith at work. In January, we will begin a new series on parenting. Breakfast is served every week! We hope to see you there.

Youth Community News

Mark Your Calendars!!

Wednesday, January 3

No EYC - Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 7

*Celebrate Gordon Kelley's
Baptism at the 10:30am liturgy,
then live into the Nativity Story
in the Boar's Head Festival!!*

Wednesday, January 10

No EYC - Warrens out of town

Sunday, January 14

*9:15am THE STORY for
Middle School in the Parlor
and SEALED & SENT
FORTH for High School in the
Youth Room*

Wednesday, January 17

3:00pm Homework Hangout

5:30pm EYC!!!

6:15pm Parish Family Night

*7:00pm Wednesday Worship
Music Team*

Sunday, January 21

*Same schedule as January 14
5:30pm 2nd Lighting of the
Warren Family Christmas Tree*

Wednesday, January 24

3:00pm Homework Hangout

5:30pm EYC w/ Wed. Worship

6:15pm Parish Family Night

Sunday, January 28

Same schedule as January 14

Wednesday, January 31

3:00pm Homework Hangout

5:00pm EYC Prep for...

6:00pm Chili Cook Off!!!



Or... A Short Note About Prayer

When the Episcopal Youth Community paused for a few moments before serving the meal which they had prepared for the Wednesday Night Supper on December 13, there was a short time during which each young person pondered if God was calling him or her to offer the prayer before the meal.

One young person shrugged and said what many adults have also said in similar situations: "I wouldn't know what to say in front of everyone." The young person was wearing a t-shirt that said "OMG Tacos." The meal that evening was... you guessed it... tacos.

I gently pointed out that the prayer, in essence, was right there in our midst. "Oh, my God, thank you for these tacos!" The prayer could go on, of course. It could also ask God's blessing on the food and fellowship to our individual and corporate well-being. It could also remember and ask God's favor to rest on every person and part of God's creation that had sacrificed energy, time, resources, and life to make the meal possible. It could include many many other things. But the very core of a prayer at meal time is thanksgiving.

God wants you - the real you, the honest and truthful, 100% YOU! The next time you pray, whether it's alone after reading this paragraph, or with others at church this Sunday, try to let go of the desire to say the "right" words in prayer and simply let yourself be honest and open with God in your thanksgivings, petitions, confessions, and praise. The Psalms are filled with helpful examples of honest prayer. Ask God to help you with this! I'm praying for you.

Fr. Tom+



Make Work Worship!

St. Mary's will return to Glory Ridge this summer from Sunday, July 22 through Saturday, July 28! Registration forms are

available [on our website](#) and on the tables in the narthex. The total cost per participant is \$275. This includes transportation, all meals at Glory Ridge, shirt, and a white water rafting trip! A \$100 deposit and completed Registration Form is due February 11. The balance of the cost will be due Sunday, April 15. Scholarships are available for this and every youth event as needed. Speak to Fr. Tom if a scholarship will be requested.

Other news

Year end Financial Statements

Financial statements for 2017 will be mailed out by mid-January. If you have a discrepancy in your statement, please contact our Parish Administrator, Lori Kelly, by the end of January. The Vestry wishes to thank everyone who contributed. Thank you for your gift which enables St. Mary's to minister in our community and beyond.



Blessing of homes at Epiphany

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) and the season following. 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 + 18 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 2018 indicates 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!**



Wednesday, January 31 @ 6pm

Moseley Hall

This is THE fundraiser for the Mission Trip to Glory Ridge!

Everyone is invited to enter a chili and/or cornbread into the competition. Bring all your friends to the best Chili & Cornbread Cook Off event around!

Juliet Barrus Visits Northwest School

First grade students were spellbound as Juliet Barrus introduced her book *Siete* to them. Using stuffed animals (a duck and ducklings) and also a lighthouse and a captain she told how little Siete was born with a disability and was bullied by his brothers. The students were captivated by Siete's adventures and are anticipating the outcome of the story. Juliet presented each first grade teacher with a signed copy of her book to read and share with students.



Ingathering of Gifts

What a joy it was to see the church with brightly wrapped Christmas gifts on Sunday, December 10th, as gifts for children in Lenoir County Foster Care were blessed and distributed to the Department of Social Services. Thank you so much to everyone who took a name and purchased and wrapped gifts for these children. Thank you also to Becky Darst for coordinating this event and to Brant & Heather Wentz and Mark & Gilda Hollar who helped deliver the gifts to DSS on Monday, December 11th.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

THANK YOU to all who came out to St. Mary's Blood Drive on December 28. What a powerful gift to make over the holiday season! The next Blood Drive will be on Thursday, **March 1** from 2-6pm in Moseley Hall.



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

Returning in January 2018

Tuesday, January 2

8:30 a.m. ~ Morning Prayer
 (each Tuesday & Thursday)

5:30 p.m. ~ Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 3th

6:45 a.m. ~ Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, January 14th

9:15 a.m. ~ Christian Formation
 classes for all ages



Wednesday, January 17th

3 p.m. ~ Homework Hangout

5:30 p.m. ~ EYC

5:45 p.m. ~ Holy Happy Hour

6:15 p.m. ~ Parish Family Dinner

St. Mary's Market & The Cookie Walk

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and supported St. Mary's Market & Cookie Walk in recent weeks. A special thank you to Anne Lindley, Susan Grady, & Cathy Sale for coordinating Mary's Market and to Laury Sargeant, for chairing this year's Cookie Walk. God bless you all!

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist: Rite I

9:15 a.m. ~ Christian Formation for all ages

10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m. ~ Morning Prayer

4th Wednesday of January, 5:45pm ~ Holy Eucharist w/ Healing Prayers

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2018	2019	2020
P.C. Barwick	Ron Albertson	Jess Edwards
Clifton Carey	Juliet Barrus	Gerry Fox
Becky Darst	Walter Poole	Whitney Grady
Milton "Dee" Warner	Jonathan Sargeant	Jo Parrott
	Senior Warden – P.C. Barwick	
	Junior Warden – Walter Poole	
	Clerk – Becky Darst	
	Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley	