



December 2018

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm

Holy Eucharist: Rite 2
with Christmas Pageant
in the Church
(Staffed Nursery open)

11:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite 2
In the Church

with traditional music and choir that will lead us
into Christmas morning.
(No Staffed Nursery)

Tuesday, December 25th

Christmas Day Service

10:30 a.m.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
Holy Eucharist: Rite 2, spoken
(no music or staffed Nursery),
In the Chapel

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

From the Rector

Dear Beloved in Christ Jesus,

What is it that you hope for? And to where do you turn as the source of the hopes that you have?

As followers of Jesus, December marks the beginning of the season in which we are drawn back to our most fundamental hopes: to be known by God and to live in God's presence forever. The season of Advent, which begins Sunday, December 2 and lasts until Christmas Eve, is designed to help us orient our lives so that this hope (and its answer!) is front and center.

When we gather for our Sunday liturgies this Advent, you'll notice many things that are unique to the season... wreath, nativity scene, *Marion* blue colors. Another will be our singing of a new verse each week of the Advent hymn "People, look east" as our opening *hymn of praise* instead of the *Gloria*. It's certainly among the most lively and joyful Advent hymns. The east is highlighted because it is where the rays of light and warmth first break into the dark world each morning and, in Christian tradition, it is also the direction of the returning Messiah. Each verse then speaks of how all of creation (including each of our lives) should make preparations for Love, the LORD, who is on the way!

Christmas is the "crowning of the year" because, with the birth of Jesus, our most fundamental hopes are answered: God indeed knows and is with us, and Jesus opens the way to eternal life with our Heavenly Father. May this assurance of our hope be front and center for you and yours as we share this Advent and Christmas time together!

Tom +

People, look east!

*The time is near
of the crowning
of the year.*

*Make your house fair
as you are able,
trim the hearth
and set the table.*

*People, look east
and sing today:
Love, the Guest,
is on the way!*

*-Eleanor Farjeon
(1881-1965)*



PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birth of Britton Stewart Ingalls, November 4th

Born to Caroline (Beasley) and Redmond Ingalls
(Grandparents ~ Eleanor and Charles Beasley)

Birth of Elise "Ellie" Scott Hazelgrove, November 7th

Born to Maddie and Scott Hazelgrove
(Grandparents ~ Kim and Doug Hazelgrove)

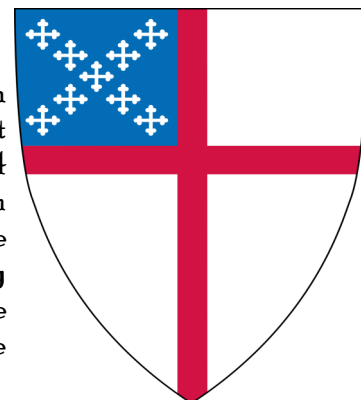
Sue & Bob Nielsen Fund

On December 28, 1999, Sue and Bob Nielsen signed a letter that effectively set apart a portion of their savings to be given to St. Mary's Episcopal Church upon their deaths. After Bob died in August, the process began to transfer this gift to the church, and on October 15, the vestry accepted this extremely generous gift. Each year, the Sue & Bob Nielsen Fund will provide a percentage of its total annual value to be used for maintenance of the buildings and grounds of St. Mary's Church as well as to provide outreach ministry funding in Lenoir County. This gift reflects so well the heart for Christian love and service that Sue and Bob lived out in their lives of faith, including Bob's particular care and attention to the physical worship spaces of St. Mary's that are meant to be a blessing to the faithful who come here to worship Jesus. As part of the Nielsen letter states, "May the brass shine, the doors glisten as they open wide for all to enter and become a part of St. Mary's." We are grateful to the Nielsen family as we pray 'may it be so!'

Christian Formation

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - DECEMBER 9TH

Please make every effort to join us on Sunday, December 9th for the Annual Parish Meeting in Moseley Hall at **9:30 am** with breakfast being served at 9:00 am. At that time, you will hear updates on various ministries of the parish, vote for the next class of 4 Vestry members, and appoint 3 delegates to represent St. Mary's at the next Diocesan Convention (February 7-9 in Wilmington). The candidates for the next Vestry class are **Terah Archie, Jimmy Ballard, Dr. Sam Gilmore, Jessica Shimer, Stuart Stroud, & Harry Wooten**. A short biography and photo of each is found on pages 5 - 6. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for these members who are willing to serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!



MARY'S KITCHEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU AND A GUEST
TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL

Volunteer and Donor Holiday Gathering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2018
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
800 Rountree Street
Kinston, North Carolina 28501



PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN 5 PM
ON DECEMBER 6TH TO:
maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com

FOSTER CHILDREN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For over forty-five years, members of St. Mary's and groups within the parish have generously supported the foster children in our community



by providing Christmas gifts. Please consider choosing a child and making Christmas more meaningful for both you

and that child. The names are posted on a bulletin board in the hall closest to the nursery.

The gifts will be blessed at the 10:30 service

Sunday, December 9th. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Darst at

rcdarst@suddenlink.net.

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.

Bishop

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 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

Rector The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren

Parish Administrator Mrs. Lori Kelly

Organist & Choirmaster Mrs. Sharon Veitch

Communications Director Mrs. Sherry Tanner

Mary's Kitchen Executive Director Mr. Jim Godfrey

Director of Children's Ministry Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough

Sr. Warden The Hon. Jon Sargeant

Music Ministry



Raise a Joyful Sound ~ Join the Choir

Do you love to sing, love to be among friends, and love to give glory to the Lord? Have you considered joining the St. Mary's Choir? Please contact Sharon Veitch, Organist and Choirmaster by calling the church office or emailing her at sveitch@stmaryskinston.com. Let's lift our voices together!

SERVICE OF

Lessons & Carols

St. Mary's will celebrate the First Sunday in the Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols during the 10:30 a.m. liturgy on Sunday, December 30th.

HANDEL'S Messiah

December 17th at 7pm
First Presbyterian Church



Choristers & Training Choristers

making a joyful sound
for the Glory of our Lord

Pictured left:

Ty Wentz, Robert Beck, Jude Warren, Stella Posey, and Mason Warren



Vestry Nominations



Terah Archie ~ St. Mary's has been an important part of my family's life since we moved to Kinston in 1998 and a very special place to my husband's family since the 1950's. I have worked with youth as both a volunteer and parish employee since my confirmation in 1991 at Christ Church in Raleigh. It has been a privilege to teach confirmation classes at St. Mary's and lead our youth on pilgrimage to the birthplaces of our faith tradition. I love the Episcopal Church and delight in sharing that love with our youth as both a Sunday School teacher and youth advisor. I am currently enrolled in year two of EfM, the Education for Ministry course created by Sewanee, where I am learning even more about my

faith and the history of our church alongside fellow parishioners. When I am not at St. Mary's, I work as the Director of Community Relations and Outreach for ECU's College of Education. My other volunteer activities include: Mary's Kitchen; Common Ground of ENC; and serving as an advisor to Zeta Tau Alpha at ECU.

If elected, I will advocate for the youth of our parish and work to increase St. Mary's visibility in our community.



Jimmy Ballard has been a member of St Mary's ever since he got the good sense to walk up the street for a visit six years ago. Since then he's quietly found ways to serve our congregation- as an usher, a cook, a waiter, a plumber, an electrician, a repairman, a home-bound Eucharistic minister, a member of the Boar's Head Festival, a team leader at Glory Ridge and the only official male member of our altar guild. Prior to becoming a project superintendent with Group III Management, Jimmy was a stay-at-home Dad who homeschooled his four daughters, teaching them how to read, write, change tires and hang sheetrock. He is a founder of the successful Mother Earth Brewing Ironclad Half

-Marathon. He has renovated one house on Rountree, where he and his wife, Susanne, have raised their family for the last 12 years, and has recently begun renovation of an abandoned property, also on Rountree, which will become the new family home. He believes in the value of honest work, the goodness of individuals, and the exquisite treasure of slowing down and getting to know people. Jimmy is very interested in the well-being of St Mary's and would be honored to serve as a member of our vestry.



Dr. Sam Gilmore arrived in Kinston in July of 1975, fresh from a Duke OB-GYN residency and with Kathryn, his bride of eight weeks, by his side. They quickly decided on St. Mary's as their church home, and as they say, the rest is history. Dr. Gilmore began singing in the choir in 1980 and has never tired of the challenge of working with others to present a musical offering to God. He has served or sung under five rectors and four organist/choirmasters. He has also been on the Organist Search Committee as well as the Rector Search Committee, and he has previously served on the Vestry. Having retired from

medical practice two years ago, he is now able to devote more time to the church.

"If I am again honored to serve on the Vestry, I will strive for the betterment of St. Mary's Church and the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth, respect the opinion of others, promote those things I believe to be right, and pray always that God will grant us strength and courage to love and serve with gladness and singleness of heart."

Vestry Nominations



Stuart Stroud is a native of Lenoir County. Stuart is married to his wife Kelli, and they have one daughter, Mary Stuart. He is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Wallace, Morris, Barwick, Landis and Stroud in Kinston. Stuart and Kelli have been members of St. Mary's for about 20 years. Stuart has served three prior terms on the Vestry, has served as Senior Warden and also has served on the most recent Rector Search Committee. Stuart enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time outdoors. His favorite dessert is pie.



Jessica Shimer ~ When I think of St. Mary's I think of family, my own and my church family. Family first, I feel love at St. Mary's, because my family is there. Church is a safe place where you can be yourself. I am Jessica Shimer, wife of Sandy and mother of John, Jesse, and Justin and soon-to-be grandparent!

One of my favorite responsibilities is being a greeter and serving on the fellowship committee. Our family atmosphere is what I hope visitors and members feel. I have never met a stranger, and I want others to love St. Mary's as I do. I enjoy being a lay reader. I have been a preschool thru Confirmation Sunday School teacher. With Jesse in preschool, I brought John to Sunday School and recognized we needed a preschool class---solution: I taught it. I recognize church needs and do my part.

Outreach is important and as a veteran educator with Lenoir County Public Schools, I see community needs and beyond. I have helped with Northwest Hand-in-Hand, Gate Back to School Co-Leader, Soles for Souls, Glory Ridge work team, and Neighborhood Block Party. As a Vestry member, I will listen to my church family and do my best!



Harry Wooten has been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church for over 54 years. He participates and contributes to the church as an Usher and in The Boar's Head. He has served on the Vestry as Junior Warden and on the Search Committee. The love and commitment Harry has for St. Mary's began as a young child and continues to grow. Harry is a landscape contractor and has been in business for over 30 years. He married his wife, Crystal, in 1990, and they have three children, Reid, Lilli, and Ellie.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Transfer In

Mr. Allan Turner (Westminster UMC) on November 25, 2018

Death

Mr. Oscar Greene, Jr. on October 25, 2018

*The Lord shall watch over your going and your coming in,
from this time for evermore. – Psalm 121:8*

Youth Community News

What do you want for Christmas, EYC?

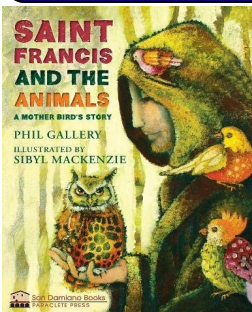
We wish you love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and maybe a new pair of pajamas to wear to St. Mary's on Christmas morning!!!



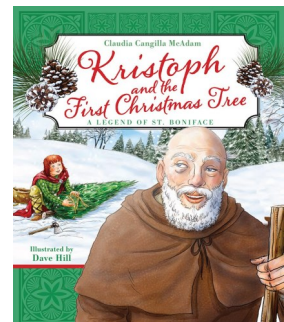
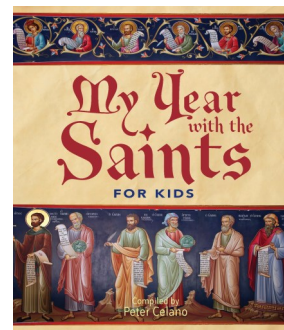
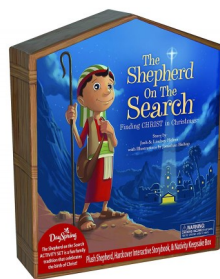
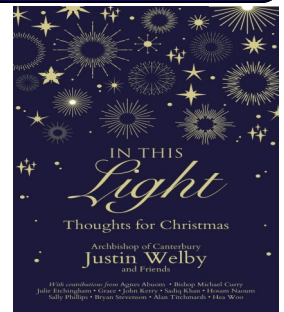
This Advent, we will have regular programming on Wednesdays and Sundays. Tuesday morning Bible study is on break until after the Boar's Head Festival, and we will not have Wednesday night programming during the 12 Days of Christmas.

There are many special events happening around church in preparation for and during the Christmas season, so please read through the Bell Ringer and consider ways you may be able to serve. From the Christmas Parade and the Cookie Walk, to the Christmas Pageant and the Boar's Head Festival, Caroling, and decorating the Nave for worship, there are many opportunities for us all to share the joy of Christ's birth with our community. Hope to see you around lots, and thank you for all that you do!

Advent Reading and Gifts



Looking for a meaningful gift for someone special? Stop by the St. Mary's bookstore for our latest selection of Advent and Christmas books (*right and left*). The bookstore also has an assortment of other gift items such as greeting cards, house items, jewelry, and ornaments. (*Trinity ornament pictured below*).



Boar's Head Festival News

We will hold our 29th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log festival on Sunday, January 6th at our traditional 3p.m. and 5p.m. times. There is no cost to attend the festival itself. A ticketed banquet follows the 5p.m. performance. Tickets for the banquet are \$30 per person and are on sale now! Tickets may be purchased in the church office or [online via the church website](#).

Boar's Head Invitations At The Kinston Christmas Parade!

Please consider spreading the Good News of this Christmas celebration and invitations for all to come and see what Jesus is offering at St. Mary's. Our parade group will meet (**in costume!**) at the Grainger Stadium parking lot at **8:30am on Saturday, Dec 8**. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex bulletin board or be in touch directly with Holly Warren at holly3799@hotmail.com.

Choir Practice:

Sunday, Dec 2nd, 4-5:30pm

Sunday, Dec 9th, 2-3:30pm

Wednesday, Jan 2nd, 6:30-8:30pm

Costume Fittings:

Sunday, Dec 9th, 11:45am-4pm

Sunday, Dec 16th, 11:45am-2pm

Boar's Head Movie Viewings:

Sunday, Dec 9th, 5:30pm

Sunday, Dec 16th, 2pm

Thursday, Jan 3rd, 6:30pm

Dress Rehearsal:

Saturday, Jan 5th, 9am

Christmas Pageant!



Calling all donkeys, camels, shepherds, wise men, angels, and the like to be a part of St. Mary's Best Christmas Pageant Ever!!! ALL AGES welcome! We have a sign up sheet in the Narthex, and will have **one practice following the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 16th**. However, even if you are unable to attend the practice, or even if you are a visitor showing up at St. Mary's for the first time on Christmas Eve, you are **STILL** invited to be part of the pageant! Simply make your way to

the Chapel before the 5:00pm service on December 24th, throw on some wings, animal ears, or a crown (etc.) and you will fit right in!

Christmas Happenings



Advent Wreath Making

Mark your calendars and plan to join us Sunday, December 2nd from 9:30 am - 10:15 am as we celebrate the first Sunday of the Advent season by making Advent wreaths. All ages are welcome!



The 7th Annual Cookie Walk

Come to Moseley Hall on **December 8th from 11am - 1pm** and stock up on beautiful and delicious holiday treats. Hand-select and fill your boxes and pay \$8 per pound. All proceeds support St. Mary's Hand in Hand partnership with Northwest Elementary School and our mission work in the Dominican Republic. A homemade soup lunch is also served for \$6, so come hungry!

Church members are asked to bake cookies for the sale and invite all your friends! We accept cookies in any quantities - large or small. You can bring your cookies to church on Sunday, December 2nd (or you may drop your cookies during office hours with church staff beginning Monday, December 3rd-Thursdays, December 6th. Beginning Friday, December 7th, you may drop your cookies off with a Cookie Walk volunteer in the parlor from 9 am - 7 pm. **COOKIES ARE LOVE!** Bake up some LOVE and share some LOVE this holiday season! Thank you for your support!



Caroling for Christmas

An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for **Sunday, December 16th**. We'll meet at the church in Moseley Hall at 4:00 pm, before venturing out to spread good news and cheer to the homebound members of our community.



Flowers for Christmas

At the Christmas liturgies, the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones.

If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. Special offering envelopes may also be found on the Narthex tables. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church. **Monday, December 17th is the deadline** to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletin.



Decorating for Christmas

Please come join the merry group of St. Mary's members who will be decorating the church for Christmas. Do you have an eye for decorating? Or maybe you are simply looking for a way to contribute to the beauty of worship this Christmas? Please come to the church on **Saturday, December 22, starting at 9 a.m.**, or swing by anytime in the morning. Thank you!

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



Blood Drive

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on Thursday, December 27th from 2-6pm in Moseley Hall. To make your time go more smoothly, [make a reservation at the Red Cross website!](#)

Year-End Contributions

All contributions to St. Mary's Church for 2018 must be received in the church office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 28, 2018 to be credited for 2018. Final year-end statements will be mailed in mid-January.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00am ~ Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 am ~ Breakfast

9:30 am ~ Christian Formation for All Ages

10:30 am ~ Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:30 am ~ Coffee Hour & Lectionary Bible Study

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 am ~ Morning Prayer

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2018	2019	2020
P.C. Barwick	Juliet Barrus	Jess Edward
Clifton Carey	Walt Poole	Gerry Fox
Becky Darst	Jim Purnell	Whitney Grady
Dee Warner	Jon Sargeant	Jo Parrott

Senior Warden – Jon Sargeant

Junior Warden – Walt Poole

Clerk – Becky Darst

Treasurer – Stuart Lindley