



January 2019

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



The Christmas season at St. Mary's began with a LIVELY and wonderful pageant celebrating and re-enacting the birth of Jesus. You'll see a couple images of our Christmas celebrations in this BellRinger, but these images don't suggest that the time for celebrating Christmas has ended! The season has only begun and St. Mary's will be a place to celebrate the closing of this wondrous season yet

again with the Boar's Head and 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 (England), in 1340, and is probably the oldest continuing Christmas festival.



**KEEP
CALM**

IT'S STILL

**CHRISTMAS
UNTIL EPIPHANY**

The performances are at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on the Feast of the Epiphany: Sunday, January 6, and mark St. Mary's 29th retelling of the tale. Entrance is free and open to everyone. There will be a free-will offering.

....(continued on page 5)



The Boar's Head & Yule Log festival will be on Sunday, January 6th at 3p.m. and 5p.m. 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 in the church office (252-523-6146) or [online at www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com).

From the Rector

Serving with Joy!!

Happy New Year, dear people of God!

As the calendar turns from 2018 to 2019, I pray that you have taken advantage of many opportunities to share in meaningful times with those whom God has placed in your lives. What a blessing it is to share in these times together at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

2018 was a year in which so many of us prayed for clarity of God's will for this Christian community and took efforts to discern how to faithfully articulate the life of faith to which we are called here at St. Mary's. Among the many blessings of 2018 for which I am grateful is the vestry's work on crafting and adopting of several "organizational statements" that were presented at last month's Annual Parish Meeting.

These statements highlight the core values, mission, and vision of our church, and also offer a slogan that rings true to the heart of discipleship that has been part of the St. Mary's DNA here for many years: Serving with JOY! We hadn't planned it out this way, so it is interesting that these organizational statements can be separated into 12 different elements. I look forward to highlighting an element in each of the upcoming BellRingers for 2019 as a way of celebrating how each one fits into our understanding of how God is calling us into the work of His Kingdom here and in this time.



We'll start this month with the slogan because it is your vestry's hope and my hope that these words will become second nature to you all whenever you think of this parish family - **"St. Mary's: Serving with JOY!"**

The *Collect for Peace* (BCP, pg. 99) is a prayer that has been part of the Morning Prayer service for generations and it includes this line that was written by Augustine of Hippo: "to serve [God] is perfect freedom." Unlike service to governments or employers or other 'powerful' entities in the world, service to God is liberating to the soul of the

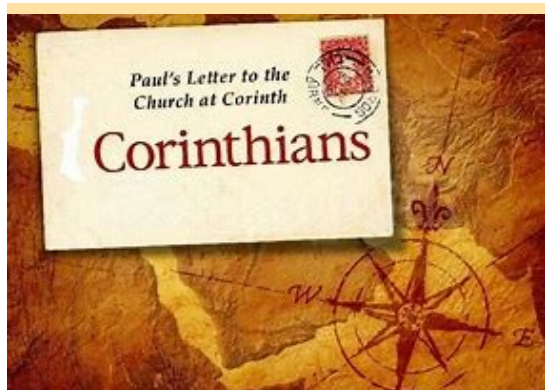
one who lives to serve and is life-giving to the world through these faithful and holy actions. It's no wonder that countless Christians have woken up and had these words among the first spoken from their lips as they strive to begin each day in service to God, living into this perfect freedom!

At St. Mary's, we have long been, and strive to continue to be, a place where service to God is marked by joy which accompanies this sense of freedom in Christ. A catchy way of remembering the heart of this JOY and this kind of service is: **J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ourself last. In our worship and devotion, we are rooted in Jesus' first and greatest commandment to love God with our whole selves. Then, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit, we serve Christ *through* our service of love to our neighbors (near and far) and in so doing, we are liberated in Christ's perfect freedom and health for ourselves. These things are inextricably connected and are the heart of the Christian life. So as we turn the page to 2019, may we be vigilant in always turning our hearts towards serving with JOY!

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Tom +

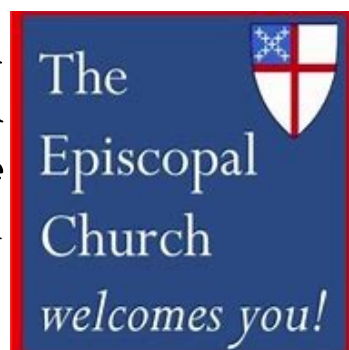
Christian Formation



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Our journey in faith and formation for the new year will find us learning about St. Paul's first letter to the Church of Corinth. Carl Younger will lead this series of lessons in January and February that will highlight selected themes from one of the most quoted books of the Bible. Make plans to join us for Adult Christian Formation each Sunday in Moseley Hall after the 9am Parish breakfast. This is a wonderful way to expand your knowledge, grow your faith, and feed your soul with the fellowship of other members at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

NEW TO ST. MARY'S? Please join Father Tom for a three-session introduction to the Episcopal Church and St. Mary's. The first two sessions will be **during the Coffee Hour on Sundays, January 13th & 20th**. Then we'll gather for a third time for a social with the vestry on **Sunday, January 27th at 4pm**. More information will follow ~ please mark your calendars. Welcome ~ we are glad you're here!



MEET JOY KASSAS, our Parish Intern for Membership Records. Members of the church can expect to hear from Joy in the coming months as she works to update our membership records and assist individuals and households in accessing and managing their membership data. Joy will be working in the church office weekday mornings and her email is office@stmaryskinston.com. Please offer her a warm St. Mary's welcome at your next opportunity!

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: Serving with JOY!

A church of baptized members whose mission is to bear God's Good News through joyful worship, Christ-centered teaching, compassionate care, and intentional relationships.

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
Jr. Warden	Mr. Walt Poole

News at St. Mary's



New Lay Leadership

At the Annual Parish Meeting on December 9, **Jimmy Ballard, Sam Gilmore, Jessica Shimer, & Stuart Stroud** (pictured at left, from top to bottom) were elected as the Vestry class of 2021. These Vestry members will begin their ministry as of January 1, 2019. We offer our great appreciation to the outgoing Vestry members **P. C. Barwick, Clifton Carey, Becky Darst, & Dee Warner** for serving St. Mary's faithfully over the past three years.

In addition, we offer our sincere thanks to **Stuart Lindley** for serving as Treasurer of St. Mary's Church for the past 11 years, and we welcome **Billy Page** who has agreed to begin a 2-year term as Treasurer this month.

Merry Christmas!...



from many of the worshipers who gathered in the All Saints' Chapel for mass on Christmas morning!

Boar's Head Festival News *(continued from cover)*

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.



Choir Practice:

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

Boar's Head Movie Viewing:

Thursday, Jan 3rd, 6:30pm

Dress Rehearsal:

Saturday, Jan 5th, 9am



ECW Corner



The ECW Board cordially invites you to gather at the home of Sarah Weeks on **Sunday, January 13th at 7pm**. We will celebrate a wonderful year of serving together and look ahead with plans for 2019. We hope you will join us!!!

Worship

Blessing of homes at Epiphany

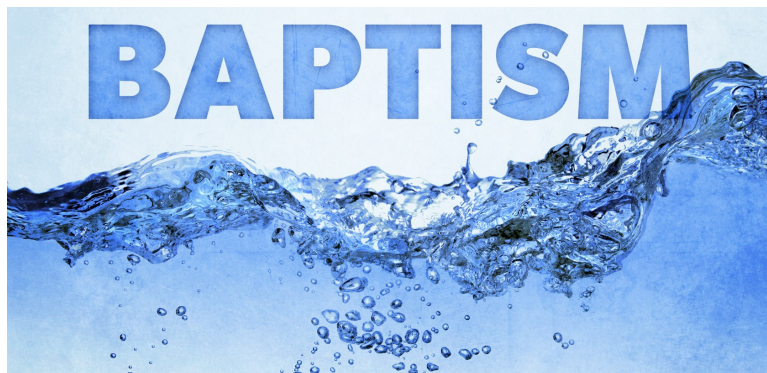
The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6th) and the season which follows, ending on Ash Wednesday. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our 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 + 19 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 2019 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!

Deadline for The Bell Ringer

Groups or organizations who have articles to appear in *The Bell Ringer* are asked to send them to Sherry Tanner by the 15th of each month. Her email is stanner@stmaryskinston.com. Thank you for helping to share the news of all the exciting work being done here at St. Mary's Episcopal Church!



Sunday, January 13, 2019

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. Whenever there is not a baptism on those occasions, we will often renew our own baptismal vows in celebration of the new life in Christ to which we have been called. On January 13, it is our great joy to be able to celebrate the baptism of **Robert Beck**, grandson of Sharon and Phil Veitch and active member of the St. Mary's choir. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this special day!



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE will meet in the vestry room on **Sunday, January 13th following the 10:30 am liturgy**. We look forward to working together in the service of the Lord in 2019!



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING will be held on **Sunday, January 27th following the 10:30 am liturgy**. This is a ministry that requires annual training and license from the diocese. All current and prospective Eucharistic Ministers are invited to attend!

Youth Community News



"Go Tell It On the Mountain that Jesus Christ is born!!!"

How lucky are we, St. Mary's EYC, to have the opportunity
to do JUST THAT each summer at Glory Ridge?!!?

The time has come to make plans for this summer,
and this is going to be our BEST MISSION TRIP YET!!!

The dates are:

JULY 28th to AUGUST 3rd

Commitment Forms are available in
the Youth Room and the Narthex.

Our first team workday will be Sat, Feb 2nd, in New Bern, offering flood
relief clean-up with Christ Church,
and our first fundraiser will be Sun, Feb 3rd, in Moseley Hall,
in the form of a grand Chili Cook Off for LUNCH!!!



**Sunday, February 3rd at
12:00pm + Moseley Hall**

Mark your calendars, brush up those chili recipes, and INVITE someone to join you for the 2019 Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off Extravaganza!!! This event is THE main fundraiser for the Mission Trip to Glory Ridge!

This year's Chili & Cornbread Cook Off will be held on Super Bowl Sunday, following the 10:30am liturgy, in Moseley Hall. We will be joined by Jennifer Reda, Executive Director of Glory Ridge, and her family. Everyone is invited to enter a chili and/or cornbread into the competition. Extra crock pots will be on hand to keep chilis warm - just let us know if you need one. Enjoy great food and fellowship, support the youth mission trip, and stock up on extra chili for your Super Bowl gathering later in the evening! More details will follow, so stay tuned!

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

RETURNING IN 2019

January 2nd

6:45 am. Men's Prayer Breakfast

January 16th

3:00 pm Homework Hangout

5:30 p.m. EYC

5:45 pm Holy Happy Hour

6:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner

6:30 pm Choristers/Training Choristers

7:00 pm Choir Practice

February 7th

11:45 am Cherished Members Luncheon



**Give blood.
Give life. ♥**

SAVE THE DATE: The next Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Mary's will be Thursday, February 26th, from 2-6pm in Moseley Hall.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00am ~ Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 am ~ Breakfast *Returning January 13*

9:30 am ~ Christian Formation for All Ages *Returning January 13*

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

2019

Juliet Barrus

Walt Poole

Jim Purnell

Jon Sargeant

2020

Jess Edwards

Gerry Fox

Whitney Grady

Jo Parrott

2021

Jimmy Ballard

Sam Gilmore

Jessica Shimer

Stuart Stroud

Senior Warden – Jon Sargeant

Junior Warden – Walt Poole

Clerk – Becky Darst

Treasurer – Billy Page