

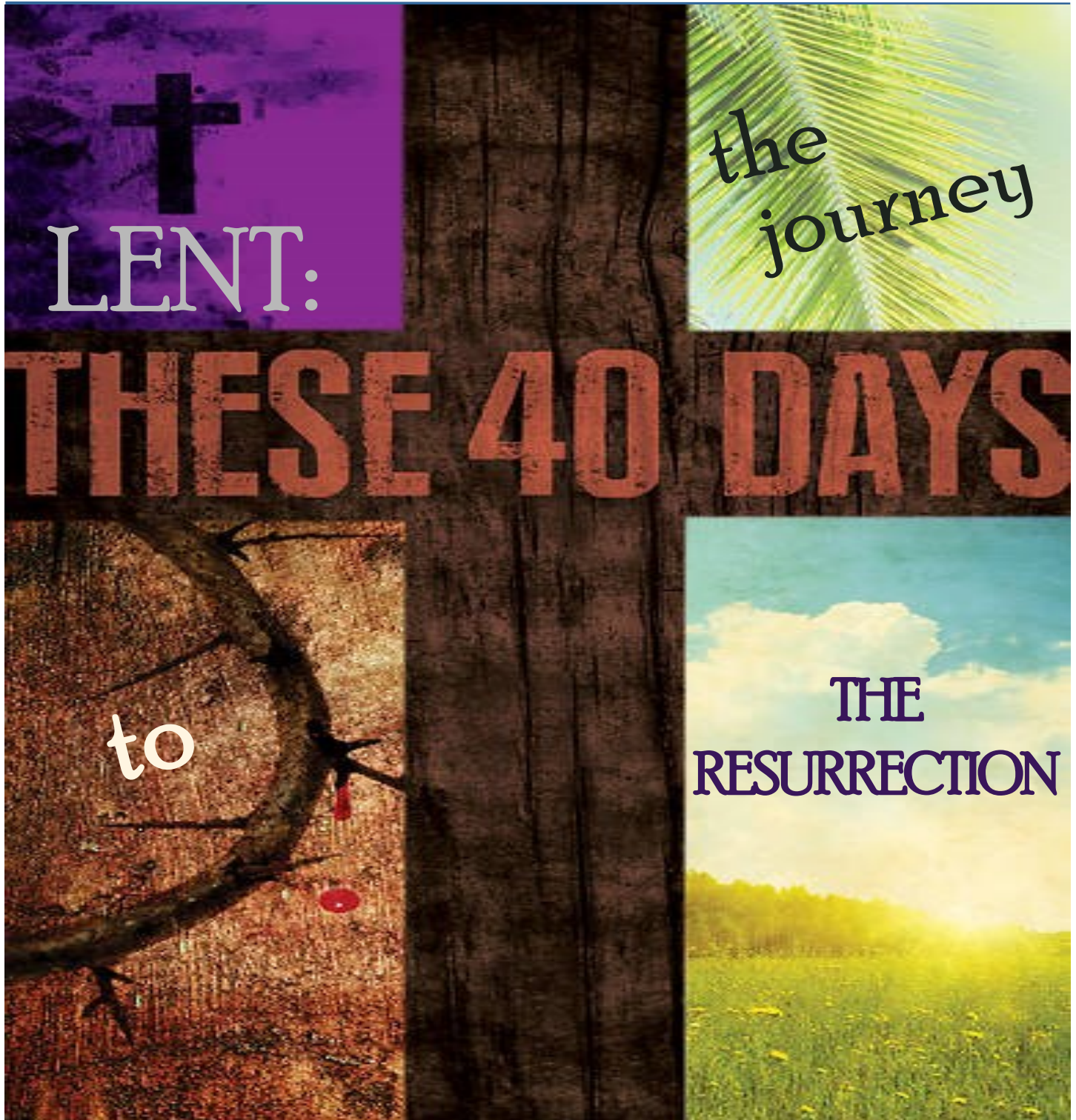


March 2020

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com



From the Rector

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.starmaryskinston.com/about-us.

In late 2019, the Vestry determined that the Long Range Planning Committee would be a standing committee of the vestry to recommend priorities as a church and neighborhood parish based on our organizational statements and in consultation with the Rector. Please keep this group's faithful ministry in your prayers!

Long Range Planning Committee Members

Steve Mazingo - Chair

Jo Parrott

Jimmy Ballard

Jon Sargeant

Walter Poole

Jess Edwards

Outdoor Task Group

Walter Poole, Chair

Indoor Task Group

Skip Greene, Chair

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

-Collect for Guidance; BCP pg. 100

Life is full of decisions. Some easy (don't touch that red-hot stove-top!). Some more difficult (what school to attend?). Some seemingly inconsequential and some seem to carry the weight of the world. March begins with Lenten decisions: selecting spiritual disciplines, voting in [Lent Madness](#) (check it out!), what to prioritize in order to draw closer to God. “Super Tuesday” primary election decisions quickly follow on March 2 (the right to vote is a valuable gift to be cherished and considered carefully). You certainly have other decisions before you each day.

I wonder: how does your faith inform your decision-making? The intentional seeking of God's guidance through prayer, study of Scripture & the tradition, and reason is often an early indicator that the Gospel of Jesus has taken root in someone's heart. This shifts the focus of authority from our own preferences and opinions to faithfully seeking God's heart. Another word for this is discernment.

As you faithfully discern the decisions that are before you, I also ask you to pray for the members of St. Mary's who are involved in the search process for a Ministry Coordinator for children, youth, & their families. The job description [is on our website for you to see and share](#). In all things, may God's will be done.

Sam +

New Choral Scholar Fund

A new fund has been established for the advancement of choral scholars at St. Mary's. Hopefully most of you are now aware of our first choral scholar, soprano Michael Adams. Michael has added much needed support to our choir. She is funded by revenues from the Sitterson Music Fund. The new Choral Scholars Fund will be a separate fund which will be allowed to grow until it is large enough to provide revenue to fund additional scholars. A substantial contribution has already been made to the fund and it is hoped that continuing contributions will be made. Gifts to memorialize or honor members and friends of St. Mary's, particularly lovers of the music program, would be most appropriate.

While this is a new concept for St. Mary's, choral scholar programs have been in place for years in other area churches such as First Presbyterian in Kinston. Most of you are aware of the increasing difficulty of providing quality choral service music on a volunteer basis. Choral scholars, usually four, (one for each voice part: soprano, alto, tenor and bass) provide the continuity and support needed to maintain and grow the choir's effort to present inspiring choral music on a regular basis.

If anyone has questions they can reach me at: samuelligilmore@me.com or through the church office.

Yours in the love of beautiful music at St. Mary's, Sam Gilmore

The Episcopal Church

α

In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

α

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

α

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

α

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	Mrs. Jo Parrott
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jimmy Ballard
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

Transfer Out

Mr. Scott Bowen

All Saints' Anglican Parish, Wilmington



LEVI WENTZ

126 NEFF STREET

PMB #861

WAHIAWA, HI

96786

Congratulations to Thomas Grady for achieving Eagle Scout rank! Thomas is the son of Whitney & James Grady and brother to Eliza Grady.



Parish Family, please enjoy this note of thanks given from a guest at this year's Boar's Head Festival & Banquet!

"Thank you so much for sharing your Boar's Head Festival with us. We had a very special night. It was the perfect culmination of our Christmas Season. The festival was absolutely beautiful. The costumes, the animals, the atmosphere of your gorgeous church, the children & the choir - it couldn't have been better. Please extend our compliments to your Rector, the chefs & all involved. What a perfect night! You have blessed the beginning of our 2020 with a night to remember."



Lenten Worship



**BE STILL
AND
KNOW THAT
I AM GOD**

Contemplative Prayer This Lent

As you pray about your Lenten fast and other spiritual practice possibilities, consider joining a group who will be learning about and practicing contemplative prayer on **Wednesdays in Lent from 12:15pm - 1pm**. This group will meet in the chancel area of the main sanctuary each Wednesday **beginning on March 4**. See Fr. Tom, Lee Albritton, or Randy Spaugh with any questions.

The Way of the Cross

St. Mary's offers the Way of the Cross on **Friday evenings at 5:45 p.m., beginning February 28th and ending April 3rd**. 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.



This 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 consider making a commitment to travel the Way of the Cross at least once this Lent.

Lenten Quiet Day and The Merton Prayer

LENT

A journey of
opening,
receiving,
rejoicing.

St. Mary's will offer a Lenten Quiet Day on **Saturday, March 28th, from 9:30am-3:30pm**. During this time, you can expect Morning Prayer, quiet Lenten reflections from Merton, questions to help shape your Lenten experience, stillness, laughter, sacred conversation, and the Holy Eucharist. A light lunch will be provided as well. Led by Lisa Richey, ObjN, we hope you will accept the invitation of the Lenten season to enter into a deeper relationship with God through prayer and reflection. For more information or to register, contact the church office at 252-523-6146 or email tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com.



Evensong

Lent Choral Evensong

Wednesday evenings in Lent will begin with Choral Evensong at **5:30pm in the church (except for March 4th and April 1st, when healing prayers will be offered)**. Choral Evensong refers to the daily office

liturgy of Evening Prayer, whenever most of it is set to music and accompanied by a choir. Since the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, Choral Evensong has been an evening offering in cathedrals and churches throughout the Anglican Communion. There is no better way to begin our Wednesday evenings together than to gather for worship, to hear God's Word, to pray for ourselves and on behalf of others, and to sing God's praise.

Then, on **Sunday, March 29th, from 5:30-6:30pm**, St. Mary's invites you to experience a Choral Evensong *featuring the Schola Cantorum of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina*. The Schola Cantorum began in late 1990 as a way to form a temporary choir of singers pulled from their respective parish choirs to provide music for a choral evensong for the Diocesan Convention the following February and has grown to include members not only from the Diocese of East Carolina but from the Diocese of North Carolina and other dominations as well. The name "Schola Cantorum" means school of singing, and its mission is to sing music in the Anglican tradition at the service of Evensong around the Diocese and beyond. It is with great "JOY!" that we welcome Schola Cantorum to St. Mary's and we hope you will include this as part of your journey through Lent.



Christian Education

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

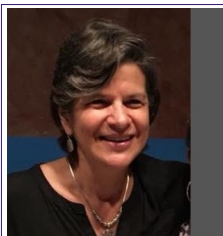


This Lent, the Adult Forum series will direct our attention towards servant ministries. Jesus said that He came not to be served but to serve (see Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, and John 13:1-17) and we, His disciples, seek to follow His example. Accordingly, the speakers this Lent will help point us towards ways of service to and with others as a way of discipleship to Jesus. Speakers will include the Rev. Deacon Janet Rodman (Archdeacon of the Diocese of East Carolina), the Rev. Chris Jenkins (Executive Director of Hope Restorations), Donna Hardy (Executive Director of The Gate of Lenoir County),

Jim Godfrey (Executive Director of Mary's Kitchen), and more.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL

Serve the Lord
Joshua 24:15



Archdeacon Visits St. Mary's

We are delighted to have a visit from the Archdeacon of the Diocese of East Carolina on the **Sunday, March 1st**. The Rev. Deacon Janet Rodman will join us that morning to teach at the Adult Forum about servant ministry (particularly about the ministry of deacons in the church) and will preach at both liturgies. Please join us as we give her a warm welcome on this **first Sunday in Lent**.

Lent guest speakers pictured below left to right:

Rev. Christ Jenkins (Hope Restorations)

Mrs. Donna Hardy (The Gate)

Mr. Jim Godfrey (Mary's Kitchen)



the
prayer
course

prayercourse.org

#prayercourse

Come to "**The Prayer Course**" on Wednesday nights this month! Throughout the Lenten season until Holy Week, the Prayer Course will meet every Wednesday evening. Similar to ALPHA and Life Shared, the **Prayer Course** will begin with a shared meal

at 6pm, followed by the program and small groups at 6:30pm. As we contemplate our relationship with Christ, we are invited to consider **prayer** in a deeper, more meaningful way.

JOURNEY IN
FAITH

- ♦ March 1st at 2:00 pm
- ♦ March 15th at 1:30 pm
- ♦ March 22nd at 1:30 pm
- ♦ March 29th at 1:30 pm

ECW News

Wednesday Night Hospitality During Lent

The ECW has the pleasure of helping provide hospitality for Wednesday Night Suppers during Lent. Help will be needed to:



- set up
- clean up
- provide salad and dessert
- provide flowers/table décor.

It can be very simple and sweet! There is a sign up sheet on the ECW bulletin board next to the parlor with dates available. We hope you will consider sharing your gift of hospitality for the glory of our Lord during this season.



ECW Lent Bible Study

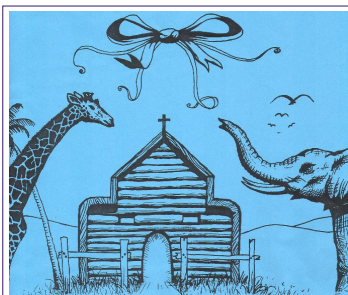
Are you interested in Bible study as a part of your Lenten discipline? Join the ECW Bible study **beginning, Tuesday, March 3rd at 4pm** in the parlor. No homework, no hassle. Just bring a Bible and an inquiring mind and heart and invite a friend!



The ECW Heart & Soul Dinner was a beautiful and delicious evening of LOVE! Thank you for buying tickets and bringing friends to enjoy the meal. Thank you for buying raffle tickets and orchids. A BIG thank you for the many volunteers -- cooks, decorators, waiters and waitresses, dishwashers, table setters and un-setters, orchid and wine buyers, our silent auction painter, and raffle and reservation organizers with Jesus, you are the HEART & SOUL of this event's success! And speaking of success, we are happy to report our efforts raised \$8,100 which will continue to support ECW's work within our church as well as our outreach efforts in our wider community and world. With God's help and direction, ECW will continue to LOVE and SERVE in His name.

Thanks be to God,
Laury Sargeant and Audra Haddad

In Other News



African Team Ministries

Be sure to stop by Moseley Hall **now through March 13th** to view and purchase handmade crafts and jewelry offered by African Team Ministries. This Christian ministry works to provide funding for various needs in East Africa. Through the sale of handmade crafts and jewelry, drip irrigation kits are provided to families in Kenya impacted by drought and famine. We hope you will consider supporting this outreach ministry. For more information, contact Becky Darst at rcdarst@suddenlink.net.

LENOIR COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF
SOCIAL SERVICES
IS RECRUITING
FOSTER PARENTS

YOU'RE INVITED
TO ATTEND
FOSTER PARENT OPEN HOUSE
MARCH 10, 2020 AT 6PM

TO BE HELD AT
NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
1791 NC HWY 11 ~ KINSTON, NC 28501

For more information, contact:
Shanequa Hodges
252-559-6201 ~ shodges@dss.co.lenoir.nc.us

Youth at St. Mary's



Registration is closed for this event, but St. Mary's is glad to have youth members of our parish who will be in attendance. Please keep these participants in your prayers: Chloe Albritton, Rebecca Brown, Anna Haddad, Isabel Rosa-Irizarry, Ty Wentz, and Father Tom.

Please also keep our participating middle school-aged youth from St. Mary's in your prayers as they step out in faith!



New Beginnings
March 27-29



St. Andrew's By-the-Sea in Nags Head will host an annual party and spiritual event for acolytes from the Diocese of East Carolina on **April 24-25**.

Barbara & Richard Crumbaker will serve as chaperones. The cost is \$45 (meals are included) plus the cost of lodging (TBD). If you are interested in going, please send in your payment to the Church office **by Sunday, March 8th**, and with "St. Andrews" or "Acolyte Festival" on the memo line. We are excited to join this event this year!



FESTIVAL



**CONFIRMATION
RETREAT**

St. Mary's will offer a special Confirmation Retreat at **The Refuge on May 1-2**. This event is for those who will be confirmed at St. Mary's when Bishop Skirving visits on May 17th. The cost is \$55 and covers lodging, Friday supper, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. Please notify Fr. Tom by email at tomwarren@stmaryskinston.com if you plan to participate. Payment is due to the church office by Sunday, March 8th with "Confirmation Retreat" written on the memo line of your check.

EYC Girl's Pilgrimage to Seattle

Holly Warren and Pam Mazingo are excited to lead this trip **July 17-22**, which is to include worship in five unique Episcopal parishes and an exploration of numerous "Creation Care" ministries. The group will be sleeping and serving a meal at a parish which is known to have 2-3 dogs present each Sunday morning! :)

Please reach out to Holly or Pam ASAP

to express interest in the trip, since we hope to have airline tickets purchased within a couple of weeks.

Info will be posted soon regarding our fundraisers which will include a Mother's Day Tea coordinated by Frances Herring, and some Parish Family Movie Nights!

Thanks to all for your support and prayers for this amazing journey!!!

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

**Cherished Members
 & Friends**
 are invited to attend the Cherished
 Members Luncheon
 on Thursday, March 5th
 at 11:30 am
 in Moseley Hall .

Please RSVP by
 Tuesday, March 3rd,
 by notifying the church office or by
 using the sign-up sheet in the
 Narthex.



The Dominican Republic Mission Trip will
 be Sunday, August 9 - Saturday, August 15.
 The Commitment deadline (with \$500
 deposit) is March 1st, 2020.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist: Rite I
 9:00 am. – Parish Breakfast
 9:30 am Christian Formation for All Ages
 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
 Wed. 12:15pm – Contemplative Prayer
 Wed. 5:30 pm – Evensong/Healing Prayers
 Fri. 5:45pm – Way of the Cross

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2020	2021	2022
Jess Edwards	Jimmy Ballard	Bill Connolly
Gerry Fox	Sam Gilmore	John John
Whitney Grady	Jessica Shimer	Scott Turik
Jo Parrott	Stuart Stroud	Dee Warner

Senior Warden – Jo Parrott
 Junior Warden – Jimmy Ballard
 Clerk – Whitney Grady
 Treasurer – Billy Page

RECTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays: 9am-Noon
 Wednesdays: 9am-Noon
 Thursdays: 2pm-4:30pm
 Fridays: 9am-Noon
 *other times by appointment

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Sundays: 9am-12:30pm
 Wednesdays: 6pm-8:30pm
 *other times by appointment
 (Call 910-548-6836)