



April 2018

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

Hallelujah! He is Risen!



Easter Morning Celebrations

Yes, the calendar will read April 1, April Fool's Day, but it's no joking that Christ Jesus has been victorious over death and that is what we and the rest of the universal church will be celebrating at Easter!

Easter Worship will be at 8am and 10:30am with celebrations of Holy Eucharist. **Remember to bring flowers to "flower the Cross,"** before the service begins that morning. Following the 10:30 liturgy, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn with refreshments. Members, **please also bring pre-**

filled Easter Eggs to the church office anytime before or on Easter morning. The older youth will hide the eggs for the younger ones to find.

Also, new to the whole church this year, the Great Vigil of Easter will be on Saturday evening, March 31 at 7:30pm in the backyard of the Warren Home (1102 Rhem St). The Lenten Journey to Easter officially ends on Saturday evening with one of the most ancient and exciting liturgies of the Christian Church. The Great Vigil of Easter is a celebration of the transition from the darkness of Holy Saturday into the light of Christ's Easter Victory. It starts with the lighting of a "new fire," recalling stories & songs of God's promises of salvation throughout history, renewing our Baptismal identities, and being fed with Christ's Body & Blood. Bells are rung, cheers are raised, water is splashed, and God's people are renewed! Cinnamon rolls will be served afterwards. Lawn chairs, book lights, and bells to ring would be good things to bring, but some will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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

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

Sr. Warden Mr. Jon Sargeant

Jr. Warden Mr. Walter R. Poole

News at St. Mary's



Save the Date!

ECW Gathering

For all women of St. Mary's

Sunday, April 22

2:00 p.m in Moseley Hall

Please join us for tea, fellowship, and fun!



Celebrate the
BAPTISM of Audrey Means on Sunday, April 8 at 10:30am!



Wednesday Night Suppers



Although the Lenten Wednesday Programs have ended, there will be a supper on the Wednesday in Holy Week at 6:15pm in Moseley Hall. This

will give you the perfect amount of time to eat and walk over to the church for the Tenebrae service at 7pm.

The regular Wednesday Night schedule will resume on April 11 with Holy Happy Hour at 5:45 and supper at 6:15. The last Wednesday Night Supper of the program year will be May 23.

Pastoral Announcements

Mary Bryan Cooper, wife of **Ed Cooper**, died on February 17, 2018

Russell Houston, III died on March 5, 2018

Harper Ballard and Kaeden Franklin were married on March 24, 2018 in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Congratulations to the new couple!

2018



Attention graduates!

If you are graduating from high school or an institution of higher learning this spring, please contact Lori Kelly at lkelly@stmaryskinston.com by May 15 to let us know. Please give us your school's name, the degree you'll receive, and any plans following graduation.

We will celebrate our High School graduates on May 27 at the 10:30 a.m liturgy. God bless you in your studies!!

From the Rector



Among the many blessings that this Lent has brought me has been sharing Wednesday evenings with you. I've re-capped the evenings in our mid-week emails to give a sense of what the season has offered, but words fall short. My soul was nourished through the wonderful Evensong liturgies led by our choir members, the table fellowship surrounded by the warmth of Christian

hospitality, and engaging conversation about how we sense God's call in our lives.

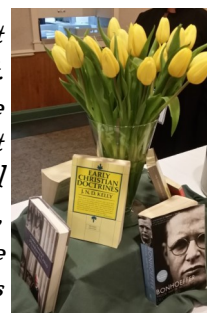
A highlight of the program series was hearing Whitney Grady's delightful adaptation of the story of St. Mary's Church, most of which is printed below. Flowing somewhat beneath the surface of our Lenten activities was an impressively quick and effective mini-Capital Campaign through which 48 households gave nearly \$60,000... enough to purchase and clear the adjoining property to our West Lawn. THANK YOU! As you read the story below, I hope that you will have a strong sense about how God is alive and moving powerfully through this church family for the purpose of deepening the Gospel of Jesus within us and spreading it beyond us. What will this next chapter of the St. Mary's story look like? As we walk in faith with Him, it will be good!

Fr. Tom+



"Once upon a time, in 1832, a group of people in Kinston, North Carolina had enough love in their hearts for God to come together to worship him. The first ever recorded meeting of "St. Mary's" church in Kinston happened 186 years ago on the corner of Queen and Caswell Streets. To set the timeframe for you, in 1832 Andrew Jackson was the President, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence dies at 95, Americans in wagons were expanding the US to the West and wars with Native Americans ensued.

*I imagine starting a church must have been a great leap of faith. I imagine people trying to recruit members, working hard to show others why St. Mary's was a church worth joining. The people of St. Mary's must have had such faith and conviction as they continued to build and grow their church. Luke 1:37 says faith doesn't make things easy, it makes them possible. And their faith was tested. Not one, but two of the original church buildings burned to the ground in fires (one in 1873, another in 1900). Would you have wanted to give up? Neither fire stopped the people of St. Mary's from worshiping. Clearly, from the beginning, St. Mary's Church was more than just a worship space. **The people** met at the courthouse after both fires to continue their worship. And so from early on we can see that St. Mary's was as much a place in the hearts of its members as it was a physical space.*



In 1948, our current property was purchased and the groundbreaking was September 15, 1957. The first service at our current church was Easter Sunday, 1959. What a joyous occasion it must have been and how fitting that we now are remembering the history of our church as we experience Lent together on the path to Easter.



The building and property, while an important part of the history of St. Mary's, is not the entire story. St. Mary's church is a place in the hearts of all of us. Is it the place where you were married? Or the place where you were baptized? Is it the place where you first received communion? Or the place where you said goodbye to a loved one as they ascended into Heaven? Is it the place where your children were baptized? Or the place that strengthened you when life became too much? Is it the place that welcomed you when you felt alone? Is it the place that fed you when you were hungry? Is it the place that called on you when you were sick? Is it the place that forgave you or taught you forgiveness? Is it the place where you learned to truly rejoice in God's blessings? Or the place where you learned you could keep going even though pain or suffering made you doubt? Is it the place where you have loved or been loved?

St. Mary's is your story and my story. It is made of prayers and smiles and tears. It is made of "amens" and "hallelujahs." It is sounds of the heavenly voices of the choir and light through the stained glass. It is "Peace Be With You" and flowers in the garden. It is quiet and reverent and full of joyous noise. It is tiny praying hands and wrinkled knees at the altar. It is organ music and stone. It is candlelight and silent night. It is Mary's Market and Mary's Kitchen. It is the block party and cherished member luncheons. It is the Nursery School and the ECW. It is Glory Ridge and The Dominican Republic. It is Northwest School and ICOR. It is The Boar's Head Festival and Sunday School.

The story of St. Mary's is simple: it is our story for God. And we are all a part of it."

~Whitney Grady

Worship



Many people are able to recall that Lent is a season of 40 days (not including Sundays), but it's a lesser-mentioned fact that Easter is not only a full season, but a longer one than Lent, ringing in at 50 days! While Lent is a season marked by fasting and self-denial, Easter is a season marked by feasting and many Christians find it helpful to take on a spiritual

practice during this time as well. For example, Episcopalians nationwide are continuing the [Good Book Club](#) by reading the Acts of the Apostles during this Easter season.

Our Easter season liturgies at St. Mary's will also have some changes. Flowers will return to the altar and more candles to the altar, we'll sing the Gloria at the beginning of our liturgies, and we will also be learning a joyful "Alleluia" Gospel Acclamation each Sunday at the conclusion of the Gospel reading.

The Easter season will end on Sunday, May 20 with the celebration of Pentecost where the church recalls God's gift of the Holy Spirit. This will be an especially joyful Sunday as it will also be the occasion of Bishop Skirving's biannual visit to St. Mary's Church. Confirmations and Affirmations of Baptismal Vows will be made this day. Please mark your calendars and plan to be here!



The Canterbury Cathedral Choir is coming to Eastern North Carolina



The Canterbury Cathedral Choir will perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, NC on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30pm.

The Cathedral Choir is made up of 12 lay clerks (professional singers), 25 boy choristers aged between 8 and 13 years, and a Girls' Choir consisting of 24 members aged between 12 and 18. They sing daily in the cathedral, which is the worldwide seat of the Anglican Communion. Their repertoire ranges from the medieval to the modern. The choir has toured France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Malta, Canada, and the USA, and also

produced numerous CD recordings, television shows, and radio broadcasts. Tickets to the performance cost \$25 and may be purchased online at www.opus126.com.

An Invitation to the Rite of Reconciliation: *All may, some should, none must.*

"Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Penance, is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution."

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 859

The Rite of Reconciliation, also known as Confession or Penance, is a sacramental rite in the Episcopal Church. In the Episcopal Church, penance is not mandatory before receiving Eucharist as it is in some traditions, though a corporate confession of sin is part of every service of the Holy Eucharist, with an absolution of sin following.

There may be times in our lives when we feel the need to more fully experience God's grace and forgiveness. At these times a private confession to a priest can be helpful. God already knows our sins even before we speak them, but it is a helpful practice for our spiritual formation to spend time contemplating our sins and confessing them in the presence of others as it helps us to have greater clarity about our thoughts and actions. To share our confessional liturgy with a priest can be a very healing experience and the season of Lent, which is a penitential season, is a good time to do this. Anything disclosed to the priest in this confession is completely confidential.

Father Tom will be available to hear confessions by appointment in Holy Week and beyond as desired.

Christian Formation & Other News



Ministry at the Time of Death & The Christian Funeral

In Easter, the faithful celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. It is through this Easter faith, that Christians are able to approach death with dignity, assurance, and even peace. On **Wednesday, April 18**, Fr. Tom will lead a special Wednesday Evening program about the church's ministry at the time of death that will include ways for every Christian to approach this stage of life and prepare a funeral liturgy. This evening will begin with the return of the **Wednesday Worship liturgy with Healing Prayers at 5:45pm** in the church, followed by **supper and program in Moseley Hall at around 6:15.**



A new study series on the Book of the Acts of the Apostles will begin on Sunday, April 8 for the Young Adults Christian Formation Class. The

Young Adults class meets in the Vestry Room/Bookstore at 9:15am during the Christian Formation hour. Childcare and breakfast are provided!

Ministry Scheduler Pro coming soon!!!

Schedule, manage, and communicate with church volunteers.

Connect

Automatic Reminders
Email and SMS Blasts
Mobile App



Journey in Faith class schedule

- Sunday, April 8 immediately following the 10:30am liturgy
- Sunday, April 22 at 1:30pm
- Wednesday, May 2 from 6:15-7:30 pm
- Sunday, May 6 at 1:30 pm



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

will be here soon!

Gordon Street Christian Church
June 18-21

Contact Shelly Yarbrough
syarbrough@lenoir.k12.nc.us



A Flower and Food Ministry is developing, offering another beautiful way of sharing Christ's love!

The following is offered by Audra Haddad and Marylindley Wilson who are organizing this Pastoral Care ministry:

*Our mission is to share God's love through visiting our sick and homebound parish members.

*With each visit, we will bring flowers and a meal.

*Our plan is to meet in the Church Kitchen on the 1st Monday of each month to prepare nutritional meals to be kept on-hand in the church freezers until delivered.

*Flowers that are provided to the church for Sunday worship will be transformed into smaller arrangements by Marylindley Wilson and any others who would like to participate in this ministry.

*Marylindley will also gladly receive any small vases that you may wish to donate. Pickle jars, caper jars, and such make perfect vases too!

*Eucharistic Visitors: please know that food and flowers are available to take when you take Holy Communion to parish members.

For more information or to ask any questions, please contact Audra Haddad - 5haddad@suddenlink.net or Marylindley Wilson - marylindleyw@yahoo.com

Youth Community News

Mark Your Calendars!!

Sunday, Apr. 1

Happy Easter!! Youth hide eggs for the children's Egg Hunt.

Wednesday, Apr 4

No Programs in Easter Week

Sunday, Apr 8

Celebrate Audrey Means' Baptism!

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

Wednesday, Apr 11

3:00pm Homework Hangout
EYC Hosts the Wednesday Night Supper!

6:15pm Parish Family Night

Friday Apr. 13– Sunday, Apr 15

New Beginnings #53! @ Trinity Center

Sunday, Apr 15

Same schedule as April 8

Wednesday, Apr 18

3:00pm Homework Hangout
5:30pm EYC Meets!
6:15pm Parish Family Night

Sunday, Apr 22

Breakfast is served in Moseley Hall at 8:45, then the same schedule as April 8

Wednesday, Apr 25

Same schedule as April 18

Sunday, Apr 29

Same schedule as April 8

Please come and bring a friend!!!!

Dear Youth of St. Mary's Church: Spring has finally arrived! The weather is back-and-forth quite a bit, but trending warmer. School work is relentless and exams are getting closer. For some of you, a thought of summer break might invade your studies before you push it back saying "it's not time yet!" As you enter into the final months of this school year, I pray that you will work hard and be proud of the work that you do. God wants us all to honor Him by using the talents and skills that we've been given to the best of our abilities. I pray that you will support one another in your lives of faith and be gracious to your neighbor and to yourselves. I pray that God will protect you from all harm or danger in every place. And above all, I pray that you will trust in God's love, presence, and guidance for you... no matter what.

Have a blessed and happy Easter and I can't wait to see you all soon. Peace!

Fr. Tom+



Erasing the Lines ~ an overnight Kinston/Lenoir County local mission trip, will be June 18-22. Registration will be through St. Mary's. Forms will be available soon!

Next Year Will Be Here Before You Know It!...
Save the Dates for:

FALL CONFERENCE for Middle Schoolers
November 16-18, 2018 @ Trinity Center

yOUTHREACH 2018

Saturday, September 22 ~ Location TBA

HAPPENING #72

9-12th Graders

October 19-21, 2018 @ Trinity Center

Team & Candidate Forms can already be found [at the Diocesan Website!](#)



Other news

We were shocked and saddened to hear the report that on Saturday, March 10, the home of Bert & Carol Eaton (priest and deacon at St. Peter's By The Sea in Swansboro) burned. Thankfully all lives are well and safe, but the home is a total loss. The following morning, the loose-plate offering at both liturgies at St. Mary's was dedicated to helping the Eatons through this difficult time and St. Mary's responded generously. May God's peace and blessings surround the Eatons and their parish and God bless you for your generous response.



African Team Ministries coming to St. Mary's on Sundays April 15 & 22

African Team Ministries (ATM) is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, ATM provides funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. The support ATM receives is sent directly to our partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. Handmade crafts and jewelry will be on sale at St. Mary's in April and would make wonderful Mothers' Day gifts while contributing to ministry in Africa. To learn more about ATM, visit www.africanteamministries.org. Questions? Contact the Outreach Committee Chair, Becky Darst, at rcdarst@suddenlink.net.



St. Mary's serving at Mary's Kitchen



Mary's Kitchen only operates because volunteers answer the call of the Holy Spirit to prepare and serve meals to anyone desiring a meal here in Kinston. There are many members of St. Mary's Church who serve weekly at Mary's Kitchen. In addition, our church as a whole is asked to provide the meal on a Saturday, once per quarter ~ only four times per year. **Our next Saturday is April 21. At this time, we need volunteers to make this happen.** Would you consider serving this day? Please contact Dick Archie if you can. His email is dickarchie@whiteandallen.com.

Our remaining dates in 2018 are: July 21 and Oct 20.



Trinity Center is hosting an Open House on Sunday, April 15th (2-4pm)! They will provide tours, information, games, and more! A *Friends of Trinity* presentation will be at 4PM in the Beach House. In the presentation, they will, both, explain the *Friends of Trinity* initiative and provide information about how to become a *Friend of Trinity*. A complimentary picnic dinner on the Pavilion will follow. This event is free and open to the public!



Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

*Serving migrant and
seasonal farmworkers
in the fields,
on the farms, and at home.*

Many thanks to all who participated in the special Lenten Almsgiving Project. To date, nearly \$400 has been raised, providing 11 water bottle holders for migrant farmworkers in our state and more support for this dynamic ministry.

This is a project of the [Episcopal Farmworkers' Ministry](http://www.episcopal-farmworkers.org). Farmworkers shared their need for a way to keep drinks readily accessible while working in the fields. This project meets that need. The cost of each holder is \$35. Contributions may be made through Easter Sunday and should be marked "Lenten Offering."



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

Cherished Members and Friend's Luncheon



Senior members of St. Mary's and their friends are invited to the last luncheon before summertime. It will be held on Thursday, April 12th. The luncheon gets underway at 11:30 a.m.

If you've not been before we urge you to attend. It's a great time to get together with existing friends and to make a new friend or two.

Those planning to attend are asked to contact the Parish Office at 523-6146.

The luncheons are a ministry of St. Mary's ECW.

We send a special **THANK YOU** to the many people who have and will contribute to make the liturgies of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful: a special thank you to the ECW, Altar Guild, EYC, Fellowship Committee, Adult & Youth Choirs, Ushers & Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Acolytes. Your ministries at St. Mary's are appreciated so much!

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICE

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

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2018	2019	2020
P.C. Barwick, Jr.	Juliet S. Barrus	Jess Edwards
Clifton W. Carey	Walter R. Poole, Jr.	Gerry Fox
Becky C. Darst	Jim Purnell	Whitney Grady
Milton D. "Dee" Warner, Jr.	Jonathan L. Sargeant	Jo Parrott
	Senior Warden – Jon Sargeant	
	Junior Warden – Walter R. Poole	
	Clerk – Becky C. Darst	
	Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley	