



August, 2017

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church

## The Bell Ringer

Online at [www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Back in 2009, Bob Dylan sang "I feel a change comin' on!" And here at St. Mary's, we too are feelin' a change comin' on!" August is often a time for looking ahead and preparing for the upcoming events and activities of a new program year. So, with this edition of The Bell Ringer, we are looking ahead and seeing some really exciting times in the life of this parish.

**Sunday Schedule Change:** As we look ahead to fall, we see a change in our Sunday School and worship schedule coming on. This is a big change! But, the desire to try a schedule change has been voiced across the parish by many individuals and many ministry groups. And, since interim times are times to explore and experiment, that is what we will do! Starting on September 10, 2017, we will move Sunday School to 9:15 -10:15 am with worship following at 10:30 am. The 8:00 worship service will not change. We will try this new schedule through Advent and then the Clergy and Vestry will decide whether to keep this schedule or return to the old schedule.

**New Younger Adult Formation Class:** Also beginning on September 10th, there will be a Sunday School class for the younger adults of our parish. This "age and stage" class will explore the role of faith in dealing with the challenges of marriage, parenting, careers and other issues that affect young families in today's world. The class will be held in the Bookstore (close to the Nursery!). Father Tom and Holly Warren will facilitate what no doubt will be a lively study and discussion.

**Education for Ministry:** If you yearn to grow in faith and discipleship through a deeper exploration of scripture, tradition and theology, Education for Ministry (EfM) is for you! This is an exciting addition to our Adult Formation programming. Victoria Brown, Audra Haddad and Gilda Hollar have completed the mentor training and will be facilitating the class. This program does require quite a commitment: it consists of four 36-week program years and there is a cost of \$275.00 for the first year and \$375.00 for subsequent years. The cost covers the books and other materials used by EfM participants. This may sound a bit pricey to you, but, there are generous financial scholarships and cost should not keep anyone who is interested from participating in EfM. Our mentors will be sharing more information and helping with the registration process during the month of August. The day and time for the EfM class is to be determined.

**Greeters Ministry Team:** Holy hospitality is at the very heart of Christianity and here at St. Mary's we want visitors and newcomers to our parish to feel Christ's own welcome and care. Sandy Shimer, the chairperson of the Fellowship Commission, along with Jessica Shimer are re-starting the Greeter Ministry and they have an awesome team of Greeters! Perhaps you would like to join this awesome ministry team?!

**Communications Ministry Team:** Adrian King is leading this new ministry group here at St. Mary's and their overarching goal is to identify new ways of communicating the many blessings of Christian community and opportunities for spiritual growth found here at St. Mary's. In today's world there are many new ways of communicating—e.g., video, social media: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. and this team of disciples are exploring ways to make St. Mary's more visible, more inviting, more accessible to our surrounding community.

**Eucharistic Visitors Ministry Team:** The canons of the Episcopal Church allow lay persons, acting under the supervision and training of a priest or deacon, to take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend the worship services. This ministry does not take the place of the ministry of the priest, but allows our home- or hospital-bound members to receive the sacrament on a more frequent basis. We are very grateful to Ike Hines, who has taken on the oversight and leadership of this ministry team. There are several folks who have been trained and visits will begin this month. Eucharistic Visitors always say that this ministry is deeply meaningful to those who serve as well as those who are served. I hope that you will consider participating in this wonderful ministry. *Continued to page 2*



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

[www.episcopalchurch.org/](http://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](http://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](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)

The Rev'd Judith Foster Reese, Interim Rector

Sr. Warden

Mr. P.C. Barwick, Jr.

Jr. Warden

Mr. Walt Poole

Assistant Rector

The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren

Parish Administrator

Mrs. Lori Kelly

Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough

## News at St. Mary's

*Continued from page 1*

Yes, here at St. Mary's, we are feelin' a change comin' on! And, our ongoing programs are also more and more exciting as more and more people are stepping up and participating in the ministries of the church—Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Sunday School teachers, participants in our Outreach Ministries – each and every one of you are essential to the mission and ministry of Christ Jesus here at St. Mary's. Sometimes, it's easy to sit back, thinking that somebody else will do the work of the church. But, a vigorous and growing congregation requires all of us. If you're not actively participating in the life of the church, I pray that you will consider stepping up and jumping into one or more of the wonderful ministries of this parish.

It is an exciting time to be at St. Mary's Episcopal Church! May God bless us as we seek to faithfully and joyfully continue the work of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

*Judith<sup>+</sup>*



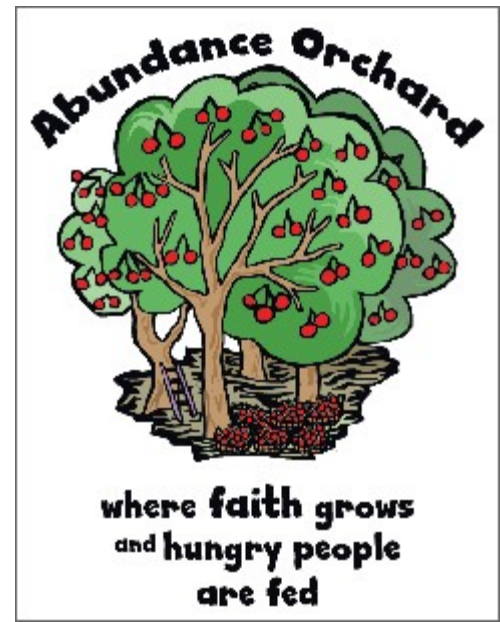
## ONLINE GIVING

Beginning in August, another option for fulfilling pledges or other contributions to the ministries of St. Mary's Church will be possible. St. Mary's has partnered with two secure and reputable church-software companies (ACS and Vanco) to enable credit card contributions through the ['online giving' section of our website](#). Options for one-time donations, recurring giving schedules, and contributions toward designated funds will be available. You may also access your giving statements online through the ["Member Log-In" link on our website](#).

Please contact the church office if you have any questions. May God continue to bless others through the giving that comes through St. Mary's Church.



# VBS Highlights



2017 Vacation Bible School Collaboration with Kinston First Presbyterian

# Worship

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** will be Sunday, August 13.



What do you carry with you in order to get your work done? For students, backpacks are the norm. Others carry tool bags, briefcases, doctors' bags, gym bags, etc. The Lord calls us all to good work that honors Him and so we ask God's blessing on these tools of our various trades. Students and all others are encouraged to bring their bags of choice to the service where they will be blessed **along with the school supplies that are**

**CALLING ALL ACOLYTES!!** St. Mary's is blessed to have a very strong group of 5th - 12th graders who serve as acolytes each Sunday. If you would like to join this group, please speak with Mo. Judith or Fr. Tom. Two acolyte training sessions have been planned to ensure that every server is on the same page heading into our Fall liturgies. Every acolyte needs to attend one of these training sessions: Sunday, August 27 after Lemonade on the Lawn or Wednesday, August 30 at 5:30pm. Thank you!!



Mary's Kitchen is a blessing to Kinston. Many of us have taken pride in volunteering our mornings to work in the warm kitchen as our duty to outreach. I thought about Jesus breaking bread, seated with the others. Sharing time and humanity shoulder to shoulder. I wondered how many of us stayed behind the counter of Mary's Kitchen, watched folk file in, run the course, help put-up, clean, and head out to lunch with the other volunteers after having spent the morning never leaving the kitchen's boundaries. How much do you spend a week on lunch out? \$50, \$70 with tip? I talked about this article with Father Tom. My daughter's shoes, Toms Brand, came to mind. Buy a pair of shoes give a pair of shoes to those in need. That was the new idea for my lunch date at Mary's Kitchen. Skip the Peach House, head to Mary's, and leave a \$20 in the plate come Sunday. Lunch for me, lunch for Christopher. Sit, listen to, talk with, and enjoy a hot meal with new friends, shoulder to shoulder. I wanted to blend a bit, and wore my jeans to the Diocesan House job with a pocket T under the oxford. What I wear on Saturday. Drove to make the 10:30 early lunch cut off, parked ole truck, and jogged in. The room was full of hushed conversation and quiet faces. Hotdogs, beans, chicken with squash soup, PB&J, and a nice slice of watermelon. I flipped a tray around onto the cafeteria rails and motioned for the soup, sandwich, and Summer melon. There was a table of three with an inside empty seat calling my name. I introduced myself to half glances and nods. Figured better to eat and relax. Finally, I asked for their names, Christopher across from me, Eddie beside. Eddie had a bad ankle which severely effected is gate. Christopher was slim with du-rag, and short answered conversation about the food while clearing his tray systematically. Eddie was quiet too. I thought maybe I'll do the same. Stopped prying for story material and thought about the food, the peace in routine, the shared space and table with three guys from Kinston. Christopher and his friend finished and said good bye. The next round of gentlemen sat down, I stuck to the quiet way of the table. Maybe I made one comment just in case and conscious of being 1 of 3 white folk this side of the kitchen wall. Someone had a radio with soft hip-hop playing, young women caught up, and old friends touched base. I finished off my melon, and readied to stand and leave. The new fella across from me hadn't said a word, big sunglasses, street tough as they come, looked up, grabbed hold of his watermelon and offered it across the table to me. Reckon he saw that I had enjoyed mine. I said Thank you



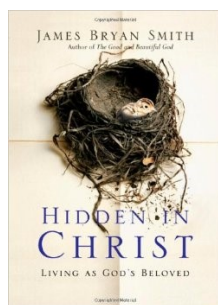
-Ben Harper



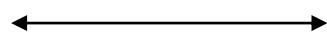
# Christian Formation

Your Christian Formation leaders are gearing up to make 2017-2018 an engaging year for every generation at St. Mary's. Here's a glimpse of what's to come. Stay tuned for more details!

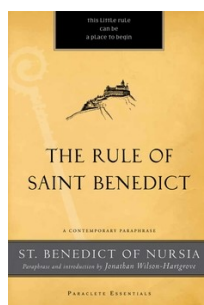
## For Adults



Wednesday  
Evening Adult  
Bible Study



resumes Sept.



It's time for another  
Epic, Extreme year of

**E.E.Y.C!**

A charismatic program that invites  
2nd-5th graders to  
explore, engage, and enjoy their faith together.



**Date:** Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 14

**Time:** 5:30–6:15 pm

**Place:** next door to St. Mary's nursery room

**SEE You THERE**

Pre-school through 5th Graders:

*HAND IN HAND Partnership  
with Northwest Elementary School*

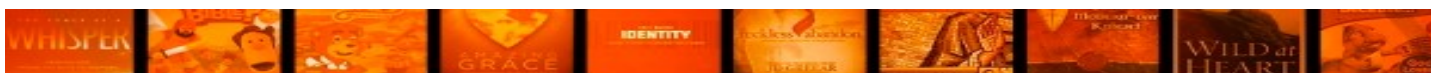
School begins soon, offering St. Mary's the incredible opportunity to reach out to our neighborhood school, Northwest Elementary, to show Christ's love. For St. Mary's, our Hand-in-Hand partnership is not about meeting a single need, but a commitment to collaborate for the purpose of making a long term impact and building lasting relationships.

As volunteers develop relationships with staff and students, this outreach program goes well beyond buying boxes of crayons to a passion to partner with Northwest in caring for her students. Our partnership with Northwest has meant everything from providing snacks for children to purchasing books for the library; praying for staff and students in church on Sundays or as a part of the prayer team; volunteering to spend time reading with students or serving as a math tutor; replenishing school supplies in classrooms or distributing books to students for summer reading and much more. Through these simple acts of kindness, we are sharing God's love and changing lives.

Being a part of St. Mary's Hand in Hand ministry with Northwest Elementary School is as easy as 1,2,3:

1. Pray for the students & staff of Northwest and our Hand in Hand ministry
2. Volunteer your time: whether you have an hour a week, a month, or occasionally, we have a place for you
3. Donate money to support this ministry

Please contact Laury Sargeant at [jsarg4@suddenlink.net](mailto:jsarg4@suddenlink.net)



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# Youth Community News

## Mark Your Calendars!!

**Acolyte Training:** August 27 after Lemonade on Lawn and August 30 @ 5:30pm

### July 31-August 5

*Mission Trip to Glory Ridge!!*

### Wednesday, August 9; 6pm

*Come to the Block Party!!!*

### Tuesday, August 31

*Happening Team Registration Deadline*

### Sunday September 10

*St. Mary's Day*

**NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE starts!**

*9:15am THE STORY for Middle School and SEALED & SENT FORTH for High School*

*10:30am Worship*

*YouthREACH registration due*

### Saturday September 16

*YouthREACH at Christ Church, New Bern (Diocesan Youth Event for grades 6-12)*

### Wednesday, September 13

*Our Wednesday Schedule Starts*

*3:00pm Homework Hangout*

*5:30pm EYC!!!*

*6:15pm Parish Family Night*

### Friday, September 15

*Happening Candidate Registration Deadline*

## St. Mary's Youth in The JESUS MOVEMENT

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry teaches that "The Way of Jesus will always turn our worlds and the world upside down, which is really turning it right side up!... Now is our time to go. To go into the world to share the good news of God and Jesus Christ." Summer 2017 has seen St. Mary's Youth engage their Christian faith locally through a book study, worship and fellowship times, and also much more widely through mission trips to the Dominican Republic and to Glory Ridge, and EYE. Like any experience with the Living God, these times change us in some way and help us to see the world 'rightly,' even if that's 'upside down' from our expectations! Read below Rebecca Brown's experience at EYE this July and her engagement with The Jesus Movement.

The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) takes place every three years at different locations. At this event Episcopal youth all across the United States come together and spend a week together. This year I was able to attend with the delegation from the East Carolina Diocese consisting of 17 youth, four adults and Bishop Skirving. The event was held in Oklahoma and around 1400 youth and adults attended.

I loved my experience at the EYE. It was wonderful to realize how big and amazing the Episcopal Church is in the United States. It was wonderful to experience such an awesome, open, and loving community. I got to know people from across the country, and I love that! The worship was extraordinary as well. It was a memorable experience to take communion from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry and listen to him preach on the Jesus movement. He preached about how youth can move the world forward in the way of the Jesus movement and can be an integral part of the path to peace.

This is an experience that I will never forget and hope other youth will get the opportunity to attend. I am thankful for the privilege of being able to represent St. Mary's at this event. This experience opened my eyes to see how amazing Episcopalians are.

*(Rebecca Brown is pictured below, second from the right)*



## Other news



Dear Charity Administrator,

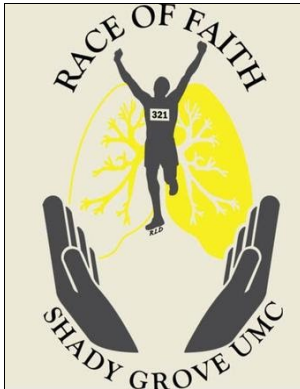
This email is to notify you that Marys Kitchen C/O St Marys Episcopal Church (EIN: [REDACTED]) has been issued a \$140.20 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between January 1 and March 31, 2016. The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before May 15, 2016. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

Did you know that you can support Mary's Kitchen through your regular shopping activities on Amazon if you simply log on to "smile.amazon.com" instead of the usual "amazon.com" and select "Mary's Kitchen C/O St Mary's Episcopal Church" as your charity of choice?

See how Mary's Kitchen has already benefited?!

Thank you to all who have signed up and to you who will in the future!

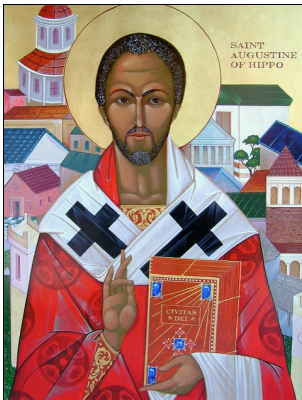
**THE RACE OF FAITH** is a running/walking event hosted by Shady Grove United Methodist Church as a fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The race will be on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 9am. In this 3rd year of the race, the following events will be offered: 5k Run, 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, and a 5x1k Relay Race where each member of a 5-member team will run 1k. If you are interested in being on a relay team representing St. Mary's, contact Fr. Tom. [For more information about the race, click here.](#)



**ST. MARY'S 6TH ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY** is only ONE WEEK AWAY!!! We anticipate a joyful celebration on **Wednesday, August 9th, 6-8pm**. Randy Holton and Ron Albertson will be cooking a couple pigs again and the church will be providing drinks, plates, cups, and utensils. Have you decided what you'll be bringing to serve at the feast?! Please bring a 'LARGE' dish to share with our neighbors. [Please ask Holly Warren](#) any questions you may have. May God bless this ministry!



**A CELEBRATION OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH** - Our brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (707 E. Lenoir Ave) have invited the people of St. Mary's to join in celebrating their Patron Feast Day on Sunday, August 27 at 9:00 am. Fr. Tom has accepted an invitation to preach and a reception will follow the liturgy in their parish hall. All are welcome to join in this great celebration.





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

## Lemonade on the Lawn

Follows 10:00 am liturgy this summer. Light refreshments and fellowship will be offered in the breezeway near the St. Francis Garden. Hosts provide lemonade and something to eat. A sign-up sheet may be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



## NEW TRIAL SUNDAY SCHEDULE IN THE FALL -



In consultation with the clergy, wardens, and vestry, St. Mary's is going to try a new Sunday morning schedule as a trial beginning in the Fall. These changes are the result of many recommendations that have been fielded from a great variety of groups within our parish family. It is our hope that the result of this trial will be either a new rhythm of life together that is helpful as we nurture a stronger sense of community, or a confirmation that we should stick with our existing Sunday schedule. **Beginning on Sunday, September 10**, our Sunday schedule will be:

**8:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, spoken**  
**9:15 am - Christian Formation for all ages**  
**10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, with choir**

This trial will run through, to the end of, the season of Advent, at which time the church leadership will decide whether to keep the new schedule.