



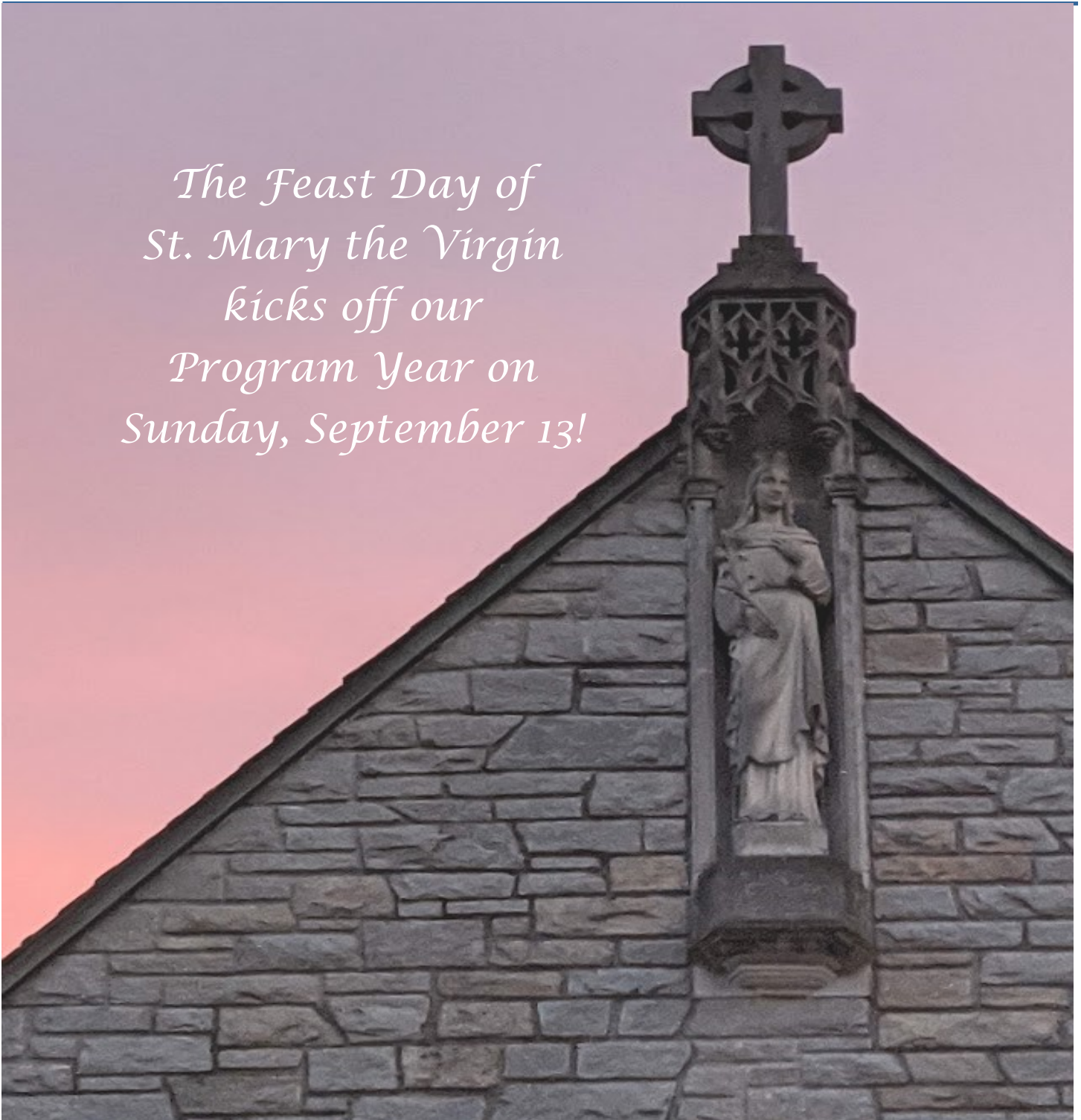
September 2020

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

*The Feast Day of
St. Mary the Virgin
kicks off our
Program Year on
Sunday, September 13!*



From the Rector

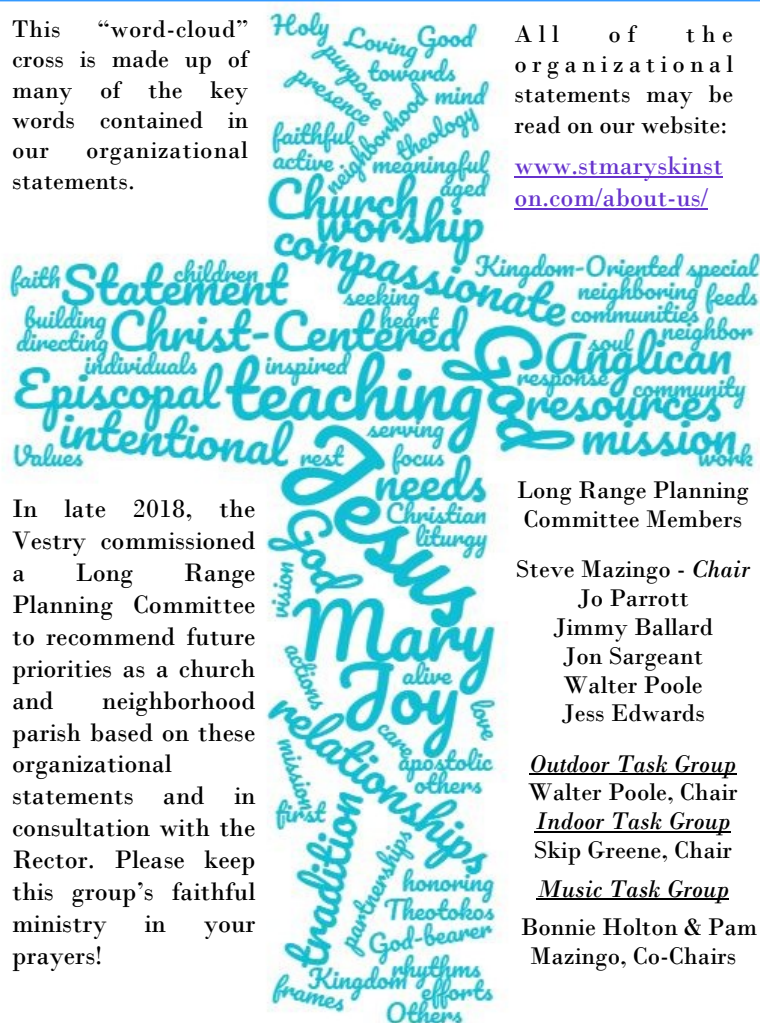
New Beginnings

Dear Friends,

As is my family's custom, we vacationed for some time at Myrtle Beach last month. Naturally, we didn't do many of the things we usually do, staying away from crowds and frequenting the pool and beach during less-popular times. We watched some great movies, became Beatles Rock Band enthusiasts, read books, and rented kayaks, jet skis, and even a slingshot for excellent outdoor social-distancing fun. It wasn't "the same," but it was wonderful and one of the best vacations we've ever enjoyed. I'm grateful for the staff and leadership at St. Mary's, as well as our visiting clergy, who kept the parish's proclamation of the Gospel going strong while our family was away. Thank you, and we're glad to be back with you!

Upon our return, it was so good to see many of you again at our in-person liturgy, and to connect in other ways with many who worship with St. Mary's online. We are stepping together into a season of new beginnings as the Fall approaches and it has been good to talk with many of you about these new starts... and hear from you about the things that excite you as well as the things that give you concern in these times.

This "word-cloud" cross is made up of many of the key words contained in our organizational statements.



In late 2018, the Vestry commissioned a Long Range Planning Committee to recommend future priorities as a church and neighborhood parish based on these organizational statements and in consultation with the Rector. Please keep this group's faithful ministry in your prayers!

All of the organizational statements may be read on our website:

www.stmaryskinston.com/about-us/

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

Music Task Group

Bonnie Holton & Pam

Mazingo, Co-Chairs

As you read this edition of the BellRinger, you'll learn about some of the ways that we, as a church family, are taking steps together to bear the Good News of Jesus, adapting to current realities and stepping out in faith. This month, we celebrate **Liz Hengst** becoming the newest staff member of our church as she begins her ministry with our children, youth, and families. We are thrilled to welcome her and her family to Kinston! And, Sunday, September 13 will be a great blessing for us: we plan to observe **the Feast of St. Mary, celebrate the Eucharist together with physical elements** (consuming bread only and continuing to offer Spiritual Communion online), **begin our program year** with classes and other ways of engaging, and even **celebrate a baptism** (pg. 6)! While these things may not be "the same," they will be GOOD, because God meets us in the sacraments of the Church and wherever (and however) two or three are gathered in Jesus' name. I am excited about these new beginnings, friends, and I look forward to sharing in them with you.

May God bless you and your ministries in service to Him,

Tom +

The Rector's Forum weekly book study on [Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America](#) resumes this month - and it's not too late to join! The book is a compilation of essays curated by Dr. Catherine Meeks, the Director of the [Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing](#) and offers the reader a theological lens through which to view the racial dynamics of our country. The weekly discussion of the book is held on **Tuesdays at noon via Zoom**. The link was shared in an email to the church on June 19. Contact the church office if you need to receive the link.

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

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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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

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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](#)

Ministry Coordinator (Youth/Families) [Mrs. Liz Hengst](#)

Organist & Choirmaster [Mrs. Sharon Veitch](#)

Communications Director [Mrs. Sherry Tanner](#)

Mary's Kitchen Executive Director [Mr. Jim Godfrey](#)

News at St. Mary's

Vestry Transition



The Connolly Family (Bill, Deb, & Lexi) has recently moved to Morehead City and we pray God's blessings over their new home. With the move, Bill has resigned his



Vestry position and we are grateful that **Harry Wooten** has accepted the invitation to fill Bill's un-expired term through the end of 2022.

The new address for Bill, Deb, and Lexi Connolly is:
1511 Arendell Street; Morehead City, NC 28557

Pastoral Announcement

We also extend our sympathies to Mary Banner on the death of her son, Mark.

Let us pray:

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding; Deal graciously with the Banner family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, September 7, 2020** in observance of Labor Day. We would like to wish you a safe, happy holiday and may the Lord's presence refresh, renew, and restore you!



F3 Kinston Nation



F3 is new way to look at **Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith (F3)** right here in Kinston. This group is peer-led, outdoors, free of charge, and open to men of all ages. The workouts are at Bill Fay Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30-6:15 am, although additional workout days/times/locations will become available based on participants' desires. Find F3 on Twitter @F3Kinston or on [Facebook](#), or contact Chris Jenkins (phone 252-341-7042 or [email](#)) or Jay Surles (phone 252-347-9774 or [email](#)) for more information.

"Leave no man behind, but leave no man where we found him."

Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, & Their Families

With prayer, thoughtful consideration, and the dedicated work of the Discernment Committee, St. Mary's is excited to announce a new season of ministry for our youth! Mrs. Liz Hengst has accepted the call to be our Ministry Coordinator for Children, Youth, and their Families beginning this month!

Liz grew up in Garden City, New York enjoying gymnastics, theater club, beaches, hiking, anything outdoors, and adventuring with friends. In high school she moved to Arizona with her mom, where she met her husband, Chuck. In 2010, Liz and Chuck moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, and Liz began volunteering in youth ministries where her oldest son, Christian, attended. Immediately she knew she found her passion and has been active in children and youth ministries ever since. Liz loves Godly Play stories, mission trips, camp, creating space for deep connections with God, and hearing what all ages wonder about the Bible and the world. In her own words, she sees this area of ministry as a well of *"opportunities to grow, change lives, and help children and youth to understand they are loved by God and discover who they are called to be in their Christ-like life."*

Chuck and Liz have moved back and forth between Arizona and North Carolina since then, with the most recent relocation to Kinston, where they will live at the church's 801 Rountree Street home. Chuck is a general contractor who loves renovating old homes and taking on new building projects. They have three children: Christian (18 year old son), Madison (12 year old daughter), and David (9 year old son). The family enjoys nature (especially beaches and lakes), travel, family game time, food (cooking and eating), and helping to create the community in which God calls our world.

We hope you will introduce yourself to Liz and the Hengst family, and give them a warm welcome as they become a part of our St. Mary's parish. Her email address at St. Mary's is lhengst@stmaryskinston.com.



St. Mary's Episcopal Church offers thanksgiving for the work of the Vestry and the Discernment Committee. The Vestry sensed that God has been calling us to take this step in the creation of this position for the families of this parish. The Discernment Committee assisted Father Tom in prayerful and thoughtful consideration of applicants from all across this country who sensed a call to enter into discernment with us.

The committee members were:

- Terah Archie (Christian Ed teacher)
- Dacie Edwards (Parent of 2 pre-school-aged children)
- Whitney Grady (Chair of the Christian Formation for Children & Youth Committee; parent of middle & high school-aged children)
- Audra Haddad (Christian Ed teacher; parent of two high school-aged children)
- Stuart Stroud (Chair of Personnel Committee)
- Holly Warren (current EYC leader; parent of two elementary school-aged children)

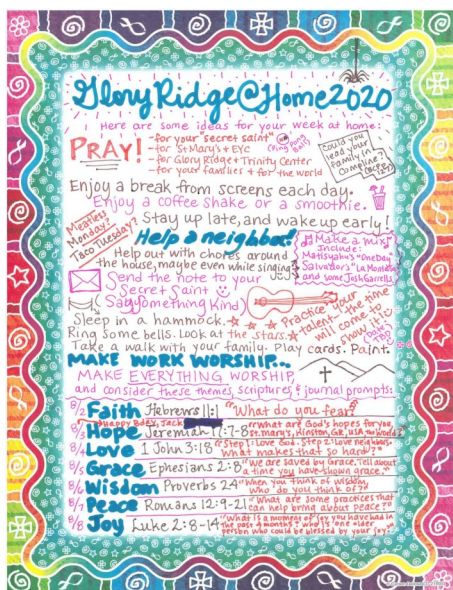
Your devotion to this process has been a true blessing to our parish family. God bless you all!

News at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Reusable Water Bottles



Through the creativity of St. Mary's member Ginger Dixon, you can now order a reusable water bottle with your name and the St. Mary's logo! Are you looking for ways to be a better steward of the earth? Using reusable items can help. Do you need a clever gift idea for a friend, new member, or college student? This would make a perfect gift. **Now through October 15th**, preorder your personalized water bottle for \$20, payable by cash or check to St. Mary's Church. Be sure to specify the name you want on your bottle, and specify "personalized bottle" on the memo line if paying by check. Ginger will be placing one bulk order (more than 3 bottles) which will allow us free shipping, so don't miss out on this opportunity! Thank you Ginger for blessing us with your time and talents to make this happen!!!



Glory Ridge @ Home 2020

Even though we weren't able to go to Glory Ridge together this year, our Youth were given some staples of Ridge Life: Invitations to prayer, reflection, & service, gift bags, miniature golden plungers, and some delicious tiramisu! We are praying for you all and hopeful for a return to the Ridge next year!



With Many Thanks

Through the hard work of some St. Mary's young people, our church grounds have received some recent care and attention. Thomas Grady, son of Whitney & James Grady, recently painted parking lines and handicap parking space symbols to improve visibility to parish members and guests. In addition, Jude Warren, son of Holly & Tom Warren, continued to make progress on pressure washing throughout the church campus begun by Junior Warden, Jimmy Ballard. We are so thankful for these faithful stewards of St. Mary's Church!



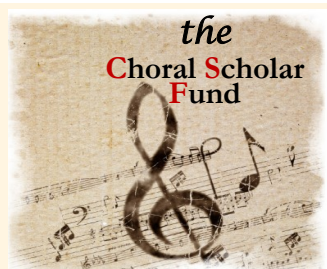
Mary's Kitchen

Bread Drive & Service Date

Our next loaf bread drive for Mary's Kitchen will be Sunday, September 27th. Our goal is 65 loaves of bread, enough to supply a week at the Kitchen. Please drop off your bread to the church during business hours during the week of September 21st-25th or bring it on Sunday the 27th at the morning liturgy. The bread will be taken to the kitchen that week to coincide with our next quarterly service date on Sat., October 3rd. The ECW is scheduled to serve. If you would like to volunteer for this date, please contact [Audra Haddad](#) or [Jessica Shimer](#).

Worship

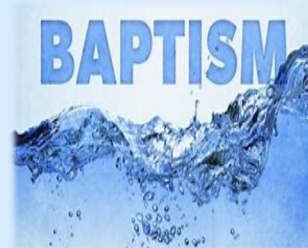
On Sunday, September 13, we will celebrate the Feast Day of St. Mary the Virgin - our parish's Matron saint day. It is one of the highlights of our calendar every year. This Sunday will be especially wonderful as it will mark our return to celebrating the Eucharist with physical elements, following our Diocesan Guidelines which currently allow for consumption of the bread, not the wine. More information will be shared in a Pastoral Letter from Fr. Tom. Spiritual Communion will continue to be offered online.



A Choral Scholar is a student who receives funding in exchange for singing in our choir. This past year, we were able to begin

this program thanks to the Sitterson Music Fund, and Michael Adams was a great blessing! St. Mary's Church is now pleased to announce that an official Choral Scholar Fund has been established that anyone can contribute to in order to build up the ability to sustain **multiple** Choral Scholars each year. If you would like more information on this fund and learn how to contribute, please contact [Sharon Veitch](#), [Sam Gilmore](#), or our Treasurer [Billy Page](#).

"We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood."



- The Peoples' Response at the Baptismal Liturgy (BCP, Pg. 308)

We are thrilled to have a baptism planned for **Chansley Poole**, daughter of Diane & Carson Poole, on **Sunday, September 13 during our 9:30am outdoor liturgy**. Please keep Chansley and her family in your prayers, and plan to be present in body and spirit as we welcome the newest member into the household of God!



Thank You, Michael Adams!

St. Mary's has been blessed by the vocal ministry of our first ever Choral Scholar, Michael Adams. August 2nd was her last Sunday at St. Mary's before beginning her undergraduate studies at UNC-Greensboro's School of Music. Michael continued to be present in our pre-recorded liturgies through the end of August, thanks to her willingness to sing more and thanks to the benefits of technology! Michael, we are grateful for you and pray God's blessings over your continued ministry wherever life takes you! You will be missed at St. Mary's!



Welcome, Marcus Jones!

St. Mary's continues its Choral Scholar program with the addition of Marcus Jones. Marcus was a student in the AFA Music Department at Lenoir Community College and has worked with the Walt Disney Company. He began with us in-person Sunday, August 9th, and will begin our digital services in September. Marcus, we are excited to have you as part of our worshipping!

Christian Formation



ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

An eight-week "Study of the Gospels" led by the Rev. Dr. Randy Spaugh will kick off the Program Year this September. Stay tuned to our weekly emails and Facebook posts for more information about how this class will be meeting.

Randy writes: We have always assumed that Matthew, Mark, and Luke are basically the same, with John being just a little bit different. While they all have the same message, each one is different, written to a different audience. That is what this study is about. Why does Luke never use the term "Rabbi"? Why is the favorite word of Mark the conjunction "and"? Why does Peter walk on the water in Matthew but not in Mark? Why is 92% of John not found in the other gospels?

Today, we have greater archeological evidence supporting when these gospels were written than we had just 40 years ago, and we hope you can join us as we learn about each of the unique perspectives of the Good News of Jesus!



A NEW Efm CLASS BEGINS!

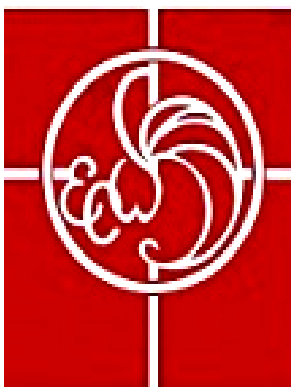
Education for Ministry is a rich and wonderful opportunity for diving deeper into your life of faith. You can be a part of a new class that joins with others who are continuing their Efm experience this Fall. Visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu/> to learn more about Efm, and feel free to email Jon Sargeant (jonsargeantattorney@gmail.com) to register or ask any questions. The new Efm season begins August 11th - sessions will be **Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm** via Zoom.

Do not conform to the *pattern of this world*,
but *be transformed* by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to *test and approve* what GOD's will is
—his *good, pleasing and perfect* will.

Romans 12:2

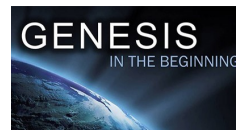


Episcopal Church Women



The ECW has many opportunities for faith and fellowship in the upcoming season:

- **The ECW Bible Study returns each Tuesday at 4pm beginning September 15th.** Leader Pam Mazingo will guide us through a 10 week journey in the book of Genesis. Invite a friend or neighbor and join us!
- **The ECW serves at Mary's Kitchen on Saturday, October 3rd.** Contact Audra Haddad if you are interested in serving.
- **The ECW Bulb Sale Fundraiser is coming.** Look for order forms to be available soon.



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



Ministry Fair

We are excited to offer our yearly Ministry Fair on **Sunday, September 13**. This year, we will showcase our available ministries in-person as well as online to help you find ways to plug in and stay connected with your faith community at St. Mary's! Stay tuned for more details to come....

WORSHIP WITH ST. MARY'S

8:00 am

Online Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion)
 posted to [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

9:30 am

Outdoor Liturgy of Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 (Spiritual Communion)
 West Lawn, Weather Permitting

This service is offered following the guidelines described in Fr. Tom's [Pastoral Letter to the Church](#) from May 14. Please read it, especially if you plan to attend outdoor liturgy.

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

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

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