



December, 2015

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church*

# The Bell Ringer

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



## Follow the star

### Christmas at St. Mary's

#### Christmas Eve, December 24th -

**5:00 p.m.** - Family celebration of the Holy Eucharist

This special service welcomes families with children. It will feature the children's Christmas drama and music by the children of St. Mary's - through the 5th Grade.

(A nursery will be available for children through three years of age.)

**11:00 p.m.** - Festal celebration of the Holy Eucharist welcomes us into Christmas morning.

#### Christmas Day, December 25th -

10:00 a.m. - Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Chapel - (no music)

When we think of stars at Christmas, we usually mean the star of Bethlehem; it is a very popular Christmas tree topper. According to Christian tradition, it is the star, which revealed the birth of Jesus to the Magi or the 'Three Wiseman'. The star not only revealed the birth, but also led the Magi to Bethlehem. (Matthew 2:1-12)

The star is one of the most famous symbols of Christmas, and it is used to decorate, trees, homes, cribs and cards, among other things. The star is not just an ornament for decoration, but also a symbol for hope, happiness and joy. The star is also seen as a miraculous symbol, to mark the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Magi were inspired by the shining star, to travel to Jerusalem. Upon receiving the information that a messiah will be born in Bethlehem, they started moving towards that direction. They followed the star and reached the place where Jesus was born. They commemorated His birth, worshipped Him and gave Him gifts, before returning back to their own country.

The star is a very popular symbol, with Christians all over the world who celebrate Christmas. According to theologians, the star fulfilled a prediction, which is known as the Star of Prophecy. (Numbers 24:17)

Modern astrologers have varied explanations for the star. Some say it is a comet, a planet, a nova and a conjunction among other explanations. Another argument is that the Christmas star was fiction, which was created by the author of the Gospel of Mathew. However, the biblical accounts say that the visit of the magi happened several months before the birth of Christ.

It is noteworthy, however, that God did in fact announce Jesus' birth through miraculous means. On the very night of Jesus' birth, an angel appeared to a group of shepherds and announced the birth of a "Savior." The angel also provided directions so that the shepherds could visit Jesus. Then a multitude of angels appeared and proceeded to praise God. (Luke 2:8-14) God used these angels and not the star to inform people of Jesus' birth.

To notice the star, you have to be looking for it. I encourage you during this Christmas season to look for Jesus, by following the star.

# News at St. Mary's

## 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.dfms.org/](http://www.dfms.org/)

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### In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 69 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 407 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)

Rector	The Rev'd A. Michael Singer
Assistant	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Director of Music	Mr. Nick Voermans
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Latonya Smith
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Linda Johnson
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough
Sr. Warden	Mr. W. Scott Newton, II
Jr. Warden	Mr. J. Mark Herring

## Flowers for Christmas



Each year for the Christmas liturgies the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones.

On Christmas Day some of the flowers are delivered by the members of the Cherished Member Committee to our homebound and ill members.

If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please use the enclosed offering envelope. Send a check to St. Mary's Altar Guild, c/o St. Mary's Church. **December 21st is the deadline** for submissions to insure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletin.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Mary's Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 11:20 a.m. in the church. At that time, we will hear various reports, vote for members of the Vestry, and Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve on the Vestry: P.C. Barwick, Clifton Carey, Becky Darst, Ron Michalowicz, Trent Mooring, and Dee Warner. A short biography and photo of each is found in this newsletter.

## Caroling for Christmas

An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll meet at the church in Moseley Hall at 4:00 pm, before venturing out to spread good news and cheer to the home-bound and shut-in members of our community.



We will return to the church around 5:30 p.m. for soup, sandwiches and dessert. All those attending are asked to bring a soup, sandwiches, or dessert to share. Bring good voices as well!

## The date is set!

St. Mary's Church will again this year, send a mission team to Divina Gracia in Mosovi, Dominican Republic. The trip is scheduled for July 17-24, 2016.

If you would like to go, the cost, which includes, air travel, housing and meals while in the DR is \$1,500. After January 15, 2016, the trip will be opened to people outside St. Mary's. If you are interested, please contact Laury Sargeant.

## From the Rector - Father Michael Singer

### Follow the Star . . .

A wise person recently said to me “change management is an oxymoron . . . you cannot manage change.” The season of Advent is the time of year we prepare to enter the mystery of Christmas. It could be said that mystery-management is also an oxymoron. We cannot manage mystery.

The Bible readings traditionally used in churches during the season of Advent, the four weeks that lead us to Christmas, include many that suggest the “Son of Man” meaning Jesus, will come when we least expect it, like a thief in the night. It’s not the most comforting imagery, but that’s not its purpose. The language is meant to invite us to be prepared, to be awake and make ready to experience the mystery of Christ’s coming at any time, in any place. It’s language that begs the question, how do we prepare to be surprised? And, what does it mean for Christ to come anyway?

I only remember being completely caught off guard once in my life, and it too was about a baby. Months before our daughter Rachel was born Teresa had made everything ready . . . the nursery was painted, the crib and changing table were put together and in place. There were cute hangings on the walls.

Teresa made sure all the things necessary to prepare for our baby was in place., powders, lotions, wipes, etc. On the final morning of Teresa and Rachel’s stay

in the hospital, Teresa and I received instructions on how to bath Rachel and then the nurse said, “Ok, it’s time to go home.” A new outfit was put on, and off we went. We just got in the car when Rachel let out a cry. She kept crying all the way home. She was hungry and she needed a diaper change. We got home . . . all the bottles were new . . . but they hadn’t been opened or washed. Her diaper needed changed . . . none of the powders, lotions, wipes and new outfits were ready to use. We were expecting this, but we weren’t ready.

The thing that remains with me from that experience is how completely unprepared we were for that experience. It makes me wonder how often Christ does come in my life, or in the world, in the form of light in dark places, to people in need, in unexpected grace and wisdom that changes our lives for the better. How often do we completely miss the moment and the mystery?

This Advent, be watching and waiting for those places and experiences in which the coming of the Christ child is most likely to be experienced. Those places, as described in the Bible will most likely be in the places where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are fed, where peace is found and joy springs forth. Following a star, we hope, opens us to mystery that cannot be managed, but can be missed.

### Where is God leading you?

God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose.

There has been a buzz going around Kinston for several weeks regarding *Perspectives*. What is *Perspectives*?

*Perspectives* is a fifteen week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" – Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose.

The **Biblical** and **Historical** sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day.

The **Cultural** and **Strategic** sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.



#### Perspectives Course info

**Dates:** Jan. 12th - April 26, 2016

**Time:** Tues. from 6:30 -9:30 p.m.

**Place:** Grace Fellowship Church,  
327 Academy Heights Rd.

**Cost:** \$299 - \$30 off if you register  
by 12/1/15

**Cost includes:** All course materials, workbook and a reader articles

**Contact:** Katie Maloney, 252-286-6000 by email:

[perspectiveskinston@gmail.com](mailto:perspectiveskinston@gmail.com)

## Worship

### The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival 2016

In January we will hold our 27th Annual Boar's Head and Yule Log festival on Sunday, January 10th, at our traditional 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. times. A banquet will follow the 5:00 p.m. performance. Tickets for the banquet are \$30 per person. Tickets will go on sale Monday, November 2nd.

We would also like to thank some new volunteers who have accepted leadership positions. Most notably, we would like to thank Frances Herring for taking over the role of The Keeper of the Time. Glenn Potter had previously served in that role for many years and expertly tutored Frances during last year's Boar's Head. We would like to thank Susan Hines for leading our casting this year, assisted by Holly Warren and Jean Culbreath.

### Yule Sprite

Every year, a special second grade girl is cast for the part of the Yule Sprite of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. In order to be eligible, that Second Grade girl must be a member of St. Mary's Church and have been a part of the festival for two years. Girls interested in the position are asked to notify our Parish Secretary, Linda Johnson, by Sunday, November 29, 2015. The names of those interested will be placed in a hat and the name of the Yule Sprite will be drawn from the hat at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, December 6th.

There will be a community performance of Handel's *Messiah* on Saturday, December 5th, at 7:00 p.m. This



community performance will take place at First Presbyterian Church, 2101 N. Herritage Street, Kinston.

First Presbyterian Church is asking for a donation of \$7 at the door.

The community chorus of 50 voices will be joined by soloists Louise Toppin, Bryan Pollock, Michael Vetrano and Walter Swan and will be accompanied by the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

For more information, contact John O'Brian (252-367-1892) johnobrien@suddenlink.net

### The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival Rehearsal Dates

**Sunday, January 3 - 2:00 p.m.** – Wassail Spot, Waits, Jugglers & Apprentices, Puppeteers, Sugar & Spice Girls, Wizard, Tinker

**Monday, January 4 - 7:00 p.m.** – Nativity Spot Star of the East, Angels, Torchbearers, Tintinnabulum, Balthazar, Kaspar, Melchior and their pages, Shepherds

**Wednesday, January 6 - 7:00 p.m.** - Yule Log Spot Poor Man, Red & Green Skipping Sprites, Log Sprites, Yule Log Co., Woods Co., Wenceslas & Pages, Holly Bearers, Choir in Choir room

**Thursday, January 7 - 6:30 p.m.** – Church Banner Bearers [St. Augustine's, St. Mary's, I AM, Diocesan]

**7:00 p.m.** – Manor Spot, Banner Bearers & Trencher Bearers for Boar's Head, Mince Pie & Plum Pudding; Chief Herald, Huntsman & Apprentices, Scholar, Cooks' Co., Manor Ladies, Manor Children, Bishop, Pilgrims, I Am Banner Bearer, Dame Julian & Orphans

**Friday, January 8 - 7:00 p.m.** – Full Cast Walk-Thru

**Saturday, January 9 - 8:00 a.m.** – Building Open  
**9:00 a.m.** – Full Dress Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 10 - 2:00 p.m.** Sign in and costumes

**3:00 & 5:00 p.m.** Festival

Open Dress Rehearsal on January 9, at 9:00 a.m.

### Costume Fittings

We encourage everyone to see Marion Classen in the Boar's Head closet to be fitted for your costume, regardless of how many years you may have participated. Costume fitting dates and times for December are: **Wednesday, December 2nd from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** and **Wednesday, December 9th from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** as well.

### Lessons and Carols

The parish will celebrate the Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols during the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on January 3, 2016. If you are willing to read a lesson, please contact Linda in the Parish Office.

## Vestry nominees



**P.C. BARWICK** is married to Nancy. They have two sons, Collins and Scott. He has been a member of St. Mary's for more than 50 years. He is a regular at the 8 o'clock Sunday morning service where he is often serving as a Lector. P. C. is the Friday morning Crew Leader at Mary's Kitchen. He has served on past vestries and has also served as Senior Warden. He is an attorney in Kinston at Wallace, Barwick, Landis and Stroud.

**CLIFTON CAREY** has been a member of St Mary's for 65 years. He says St. Mary's served as a playground for he and Howard Reed. They played "Hardy Boys" in the hidden attics and crawl spaces. He learned how to skate backwards on the side walks.

His moment of belief in God came when he first read the Psalm 24. For Clifton, it was so descriptive to Christ's suffering on the cross that he became confused. He knew that the psalms were a part of the Old Testament - how could this New Testament stuff be in the Old Testament? Ever since that moment, he knew that Christ was our Savior.

He believes in the meaning of the Nicene Creed and the Holy Trinity. He believes in the transubstantiation of the bread and wine to the body and blood of Christ; otherwise, the Holy Eucharist is just a play.

Clifton is a traditionalist. He wishes we could throw away the Sunday bulletin forcing ourselves to use the "prayer book". He enjoys Bible Study and proposes that we offer more opportunities for group Bible Study. He wants to see our church grow. Even as a traditionalist, he knows we must have offerings that attract the young as well as others that are looking for a church family. We need to adapt - which doesn't necessarily mean change.

He thanks you for his nomination and would appreciate your vote.



**BECKY DARST** has been a member of St. Mary's since 1973. She has two sons, David and Michael. Becky has seven grandchildren. For 24 years she was married to Peter Darst, before his death.

Becky is very involved at St. Mary's: Baptismal Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, served three terms on the Vestry, Past Senior Warden, aught Sunday School and Confirmation Classes for children and youth, Team Member for Cursillo Retired Reading Recovery Teacher; Coordinator for Volunteer Reading Program at Northwest School since 1999 as part of Hand in Hand Ministry.

Becky's hobbies are spending time with my family, golf, travel, Bridge, and reading.

## Vestry nominees



**Ron Michalowicz** was born in Detroit, MI in 1946. He and his wife Kitti were wed at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in New Berlin, NY in June of 1969. They lived in California and Washington State and moved to Kinston in 2006. They became members of St. Mary's in 2006. He was received on April 22, 2007 at St. Mary's. Ron retired from East Carolina University in March of 2011. In July of that same year he learned that he had developed bladder cancer. He had several complications after surgery but he is happy to say that he is now healthy and devotes much of my time to volunteer activities. He is serves as an usher, Eucharistic Minister, and lector at the 8:00 AM service. He participates as a driver in Road to Recovery, driving cancer patients for treatment. Ron also performs Radio Reading for the Blind and he volunteers as a Patient Representative at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. He resides in Kinston, NC, with his wife of 46 years and their beloved cat, Demichat. He is proud to be a member of St. Mary's and honored to be selected to run for a position on the vestry.

**Trent Mooring** was born in LaGrange, NC. He spent much of his childhood in Kinston, as a student at Arendell Parrott Academy for 13 years, graduating in 1995. Trent is a 1999 graduate of Barton College in Wilson, NC, where he received a B.S. in Business Administration and Finance. Trent worked in the banking industry as Vice President of Commercial Lending with The Little Bank in Kinston before co-founding Mother Earth Brewing and Spirits with his father in law, Stephen Hill. He currently serves as President of Mother Earth Brewing and Mother Earth Spirits in Kinston. Trent also serves on the boards for the Kinston Community Council for the Arts, Kinston-Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, and Discovery Insurance Company. Trent has been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 2008.

Trent lives in Kinston, with his wife Caroline, daughters Eva and Amelia, and son Britt.



### **Dee WM. Dale "Dee" Warner, Jr.**



Dee has been with Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC and its predecessors since 1996. Dee graduated from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, VA and then received a B.A. from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dee is currently Chairman of The Board of Arendell Parrott Academy. He is past Chairman of The Caswell District for Boy Scouts of America, as well as a board member for the East Carolina District and Assistant Scout Master for Troop 41

Dee and his wife, Sarah, have two children, Dee and Lillian. He enjoys spending time with his family at the beach, on the water and other sporting activities. Relaxation is found in hunting, fishing and playing golf.

# Cookies Save Lives



Be a part of the  
Mission--right in your  
own kitchen!



## *Why do we have a Cookie Walk?*

"It is so much fun! I would never miss it. I've already told all my friends. It is on the calendar. I look forward to it every year!" Jean Culbreath-- community member

Provides financial support to St. Mary's very own outreach efforts: Hand in Hand program and Dominican Republic missions

## *What does the Cookie Walk Money do?*

- fuels education by providing 600 snacks a week at Northwest Elementary School
- delivers 500 new books to Northwest Elementary students to encourage summer reading
- pays full scholarship for Dominican Republic children to get a better quality education
- buys school supplies for the entire Mosovi village in the Dominican Republic
- helps Alexander, an 8 year old Dominican boy from Mosovi, walk again
- repairs a leaky roof and painted our partner church of Divina Gracia in Mosovi, Dominican Republic,
- currently digging a deep well to begin bringing clean water source to Mosovi



**St. Mary's 4th Annual Cookie Walk**  
**YOU-select Christmas Cookies: \$8/pound**  
**Saturday, December 12th**  
**11am-1pm**  
**Moseley Hall**  
**Cookie Cafe Lunch available: \$6**

**Do not miss the fun-- Join this mission from the comfort of your own kitchen! Bake up some life-saving Cookies for our 2015 Cookie Walk**

## **COOKIE WALK FAQ's (frequently asked questions)**

### ***What is a Cookie?***

A cookie is anything sweet, delicious, fits in your hand, and does not require a fork to eat!

We welcome bar cookies, brownies, candies, spiced and roasted nuts, chocolate covered pretzels, fudge, etc.

### ***What kind of Cookies do you want?***

We would love to offer a variety of cookies to our shoppers. They love the festive cookie. We welcome every thing from the cookie jar favorites of chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin to the specialty type Christmas selections. We encourage creativity. Bake up your family favorite. If you can offer something that is not the expected---please do! If chocolate chip is your specialty--please do!

### ***How many Cookies do I need to make?***

We would love to have a DOUBLE batch of whatever you bake, but we welcome whatever quantity you can bring us! We welcome 1 dozen as gladly as we welcome 6 dozen.

### ***I'm very busy that week--can I bake ahead and freeze?***

Absolutely! We know it is a busy time of year!! Please do not feel like you must bake your cookies the day before the Cookie Walk or even the week of. Bake at your convenience and freeze your delicious cookies. If it works better for you, make and freeze your dough ahead of time and then just bake closer to the date. We encourage you to make this fit your schedule.

### ***What if I just don't bake?***

We understand that not everyone is a baker. It's ok to seek the help of an expert. Brown's Sweet Treats on Vernon Avenue makes some absolutely beautifully decorated sugar cookies. LeRaine at Queen Street deli has some wonderful sweet offerings. Buy the ingredients and bake with a friend who knows how (makes for a good excuse to get together). Just a few ideas...

### ***How and When do I get my cookies to the Cookie Walk?***

You can bring your cookies to church on Sunday, December 8th (if they can be frozen) or you may drop your cookies during office hours with church staff beginning Monday, December 7th--Thursday, December 10th (if they can be frozen) Beginning Friday, December 11, you may drop your cookies off with a Cookie Walk volunteer in the parlor from 9AM-7PM.

### ***What do I bring my cookies in or on?***

Bring them in anyway you can--Ziploc bags, Tupperware, etc. If it is a container you need back, please label with your name. We welcome them on a pretty platter, but that is absolutely not necessary. Please label your sweet offerings with the "name your cookie" and let us know if they contain nuts or no nuts.



# Christian Formation

## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**December 6th - Annual Parish Meeting** - Following 10:00 a.m. worship we will remain in the church for the Annual Parish Meeting. Those attending will hear various reports, elect members to the Vestry and elect delegates to Diocesan Convention.

**December 13th – *The Story* - (Chapter 4) Deliverance** - in Moseley Hall - led by Mike Ling

“This book tells the greatest, most compelling story of all time: the story of a true God who loves His children, who established for them a way to salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in the 31 chapters reveals the God of grace -- God who speaks; the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for His people culminated in His sacrifice of Jesus. His only Son to atone for the sins of humanity.”

**December 20th - *The Story* - (Chapter 5) New Commandments and a New Covenant** in Moseley Hall - led by Stuart Stroud

**December 27th** - Time will be spent in worship celebrating the birth of Jesus, singing your favorite carols.

## Calling all angels... shepherds, animals, and a few wise men too!

All children three years of age through the Fifth Grade are invited to be a part of the Nativity Play, which will be part of the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th. There are no lines to learn, just a willingness to share the Good News! Children are encouraged to invite their friends who may want to participate too!

Play rehearsal times are Sunday, December 20th, at 11:15am and Wednesday, December 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact Shelly Yarbrough with any questions.



## The Little Free Library

You may notice something new at St. Mary's! It's a "Little Free Library". The James and Whitney Grady family poses with the "Little Free Library" they have donated to St. Mary's. The "Little Free Library" is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. In its most basic form, it's a wooden box of books where anyone may pick up a book or two, or bring a book to share. If this were just about providing free books on a shelf, the whole idea might disappear after a few months.

The "Little Free Library" book exchanges have a unique, personal touch and there is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community. These aren't just any old books, this is a carefully curated collection. The Library is for emerging readers through adults. The Grady family will be monitoring the box on a regular basis.

Whitney says, "The 'Little Free Library' is a free community take a book, leave a book movement we are happy to start in Kinston. We hope it will catch on and we'll see more pop up in Kinston. Literacy reduces crime, promotes community involvement, builds dreamers, and excites the imagination. Stop by our little free library anytime and enjoy a book!"

The Library itself is a piece of neighborhood art that acts like a mini-town square. As of September 2015, there are over 32,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in all 50 U.S. states and over 70 countries around the world. Tell your friends. Stop by the "Little Free Library" to take a book and share a book today. We thank the Grady family for their gift to St. Mary's.



St. Mary's will host a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 22 from 2-6pm in Moseley Hall. All donors will be entered in a raffle to win free movie tickets! To make your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at the Red Cross website or call the church office!

# Youth Community News

## Mark Your Calendars!!

Wed, Dec. 2, 5:30-6:15pm

*It's an EYC Advent Wednesday!*

Sunday, Dec. 6

*Steven Curtis Chapman Concert & Supper at ECU. Meet at church at 4. No morning EYC.*

Wed, Dec. 9, 5:30-6:15pm

*It's an EYC Advent Wednesday!*

Sunday, Dec. 13, 11am-noon

*Morning EYC meets!*

*Then, caroling around the neighborhood...Meet in Moseley Hall @ 4pm with Pot-Luck supper to follow.*

Wed, Dec. 16, 5:30-6:15pm

*It's an EYC Advent Wednesday!*

Sunday, Dec. 20, 11am-1pm

*EYC Sunday Brunch*

*Jr. & Sr. EYC meets during Christian Formation hour to prepare brunch for the whole church to be served after classes.*

EYC will not meet on

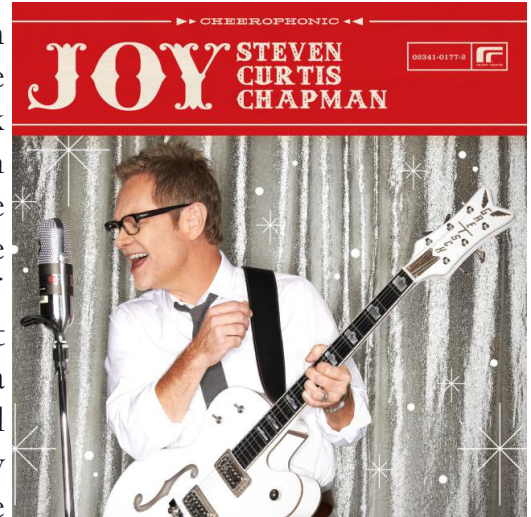
Sunday, Dec 27 or

Wednesdays, Dec 23/30...

Merry Christmas!!

*Please come and  
bring a friend!!!!*

Hey EYC!! Soon and very soon, it will be Advent - a 4-week season during which Christians prepare spiritually and otherwise for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. It is also a time that our EYC will be getting together a few times to celebrate the JOY of our lives together in Christ.



One of these JOY-FILLED get-togethers will be a concert by Steven Curtis Chapman at ECU on Sunday, December 6 followed with supper together... both the concert and the supper will be FREE for the EYC! We have 20 tickets. Let me know if you'd like one! On November 29, a week before the show, any leftovers will be offered to others outside of the EYC, so don't delay!

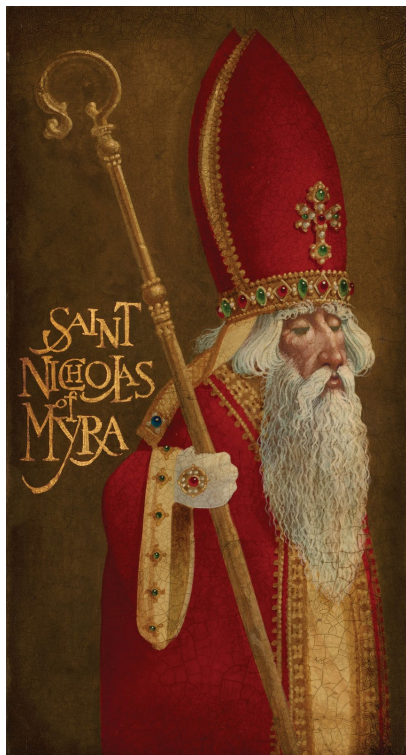
A bit about Steven Curtis Chapman He has sold nearly 11 million records, including two platinum albums and eight gold albums. Along with his five GRAMMY® awards and 16 nominations, Chapman has won an American Music Award, recorded 48 No. 1 U.S. radio hits and been awarded 58 Dove Awards—more than any other artist to date. He has performed at the White House and has appeared on multiple national programs via CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, MSNBC, CMT, FOX News, and E!

We look forward to this joyful time with you! *Fr. Tom+*



## Other news

### Saint Nicholas to make visit on December 6th



Saint Nicholas lived sometime during the first half of the fourth century (ca. A.D. 300-350). He was bishop of a town called Myra, located in what is now southern Turkey.

Nicholas loved children very much even though he didn't have any children of his own. Legend has it, one day, Nicholas heard about a poor man in his town who had three daughters. The man could no longer take care of his daughters. He had no money to feed them or buy them clothes. This made Nicholas so sad that he made a plan. Nicholas waited until it was dark. He filled a bag with money and secretly

left it at the poor man's door. The man was surprised when he found the bag of money at his door in the morning! He wondered who left it there. The next night, Nicholas filled another bag with money and secretly left it at the man's door. Again, the man found the money in the morning and wondered who left it there. The third night, Nicholas filled still another bag with money and placed it at the man's door. But the poor man saw Nicholas and came to the door before Nicholas could leave. The poor man was so happy that his children would have food and clothing. He was so happy that Nicholas had been so kind.

Nicholas always found time to look after the children and poor in his town. One reason we give gifts to one another at Christmas is to remember the kindness Saint Nicholas had for those around him. The Feast of Saint Nicholas is December 6th.

On Sunday, December 6th, Saint Nicholas will make a visit to St. Mary's Church and will have a gift for all children at the 10:00 a.m. service.

### From the Parish Register

**Death:** Eleanor Grant "Lea" Jeffress  
November 5, 2015

### Diocesan Convention

The Diocese of East Carolina will hold its annual convention, February 4 - 6, 2016, at the Convention Center in New Bern. If you wish to represent St. Mary's at convention, please make it known to LaTonya Smith prior to December 6, 2015. To serve as a delegate you must be confirmed in the Episcopal Church and a member of St. Mary's. If you have questions, please see one of the clergy.

### Pastoral items

#### Deaths:

Elizabeth (Betty) Mauck - mother of Armistead Mauck  
October 4, 2015

James C. Walker - father of Sarah Warner  
October 26, 2015

Mary Anne Ballard - mother of Jimmy Ballard  
November 9, 2015

**Marriages:** John Shimer and Kristen Lindsey  
October 30, 2015

proud parents are Sandy and Jessica Shimer

Jay Agsten and Heather Oziemblo  
October 31, 2015

proud parents are Joe and Nancy Agsten

#### Births:

Ayla Elise Lytle  
October 16, 2015

to Hollie and Brandon Lytle

proud grandparents are Mike and Margaret Butler

Emma Wolfe Mazingo  
October 29, 2015

to The Rev. Stephen and Abigail Mazingo  
proud grandparents are Steve and Pam Mazingo

### Please pick up

There are a number of casserole dishes, platters, baskets and other household items found on a credenza in Moseley Hall. If they belong to you, please stop by and pick up as soon as possible. (They would be great to refill for our next parish dinner. **Those items left into the New Year will be donated to the Salvation Army Thrift Store!**

They're waiting for you.

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

### **Cherished Member Christmas Luncheon**



Thursday, December 3rd  
 at 11:30 a.m.

All men and women of retirement age are  
 invited to attend.

Those planning to attend are asked to  
 contact the Parish Office by  
 December 1st to make a reservation.

Special entertainment of

Christmas music

to be provided by the Elementary Chorus  
 from

Arendell Parrott Academy.

### **Year end contributions**

All contributions to St. Mary's Church for 2015 must be received in the church office no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 31, 2015 to be credited for 2015. Statements will be mailed in mid January.

### **SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:15 a.m. – Sunday School

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer

### **ST. MARY'S VESTRY**

2015	2016	2017
W. Scott Newton, II	Stephen B. Hill	H. Earl Harper
Cyndi L. Rafferty	Isaac C. Hines	J. Mark Herring
Joseph V. Stark	Barbara A. LaRoque	John K. John
Stuart L. Stroud	Kevin M. Zoltek	John "Sandy" Shimer, Jr.

Senior Warden – W. Scott Newton, II

Junior Warden – J. Mark Herring

Clerk – Cyndi Rafferty

Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley