



December, 2019

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

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24

5 pm in the Church

Holy Eucharist: Rite 2

Christmas Pageant

(Staffed Nursery open)

11pm in the Church

Holy Eucharist Rite 2

Traditional music and choir

(No Staffed Nursery)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Wednesday, December 25

10:30 am in the Chapel

Holy Eucharist: Rite 2

(No Staffed Nursery,

but "kids" of all ages in pajamas
are most welcome!)

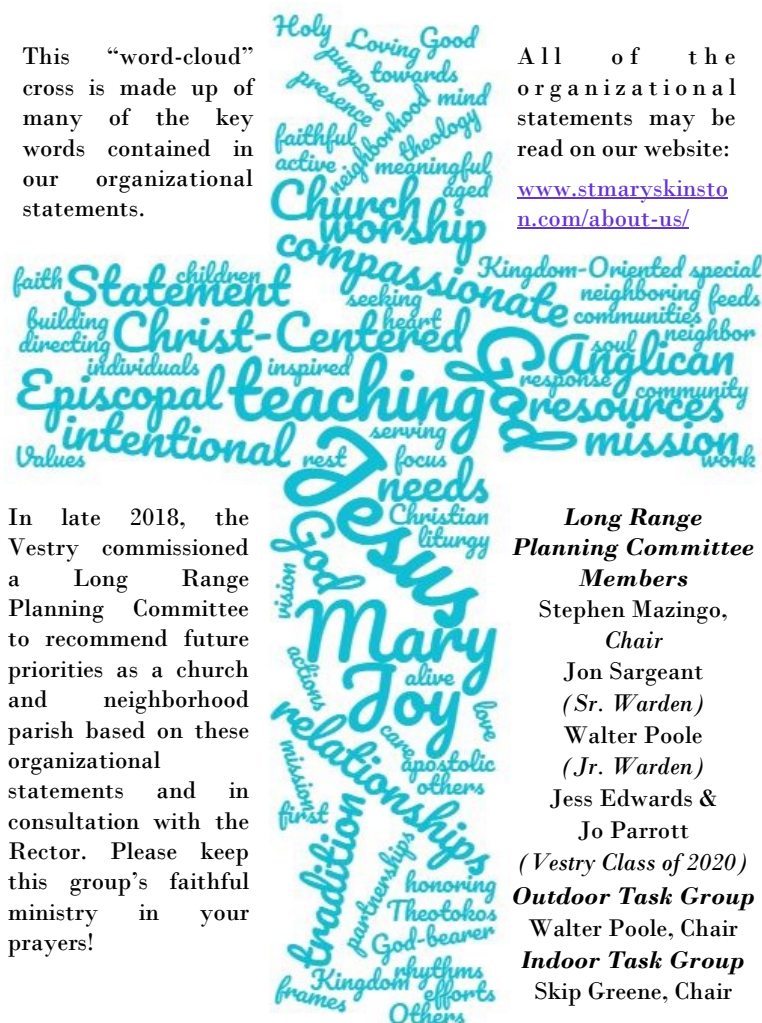


to the world

From the Rector

Each of the 12 elements of our organizational statements are being featured in our BellRingers as a way of explaining and celebrating how we hear God calling us into JOY-ful service in this time. In this edition, we look at the 5th part of the Vision Statement...

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



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

www.stmaryskinston.com/about-us/

“**With** may be the most important word in the Christian faith.”

- The Rev. Dr. Samuel Wells, Vicar of St. Martin’s in the Fields (London)

Christianity is relational.

This begins with how we understand who God is: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - relational in character within the Triune godhead. And that relational starting point flows out into everything else. Christians are meant to have three areas of relationship in mind at all times: Our relationship with **God** (through prayer, Scripture reading, worship, etc.), our relationship with **each other** (our families, friendships, neighbors, and all members of the human family), and our relationship with the **rest of creation** (we have, after all, been called to be careful stewards of this earth). When all of our decisions and actions are filtered through these three areas, the Church offers a beautifully *unique* witness to what good living looks like.

St. Mary’s has been in our current neighborhood since the late 1950’s, and while there are already many good examples of wonderful relationships, our leadership has noted that the relationships with our literal neighbors is incredibly important and will be a priority of our efforts in the coming months.

Especially at Christmas, we celebrate that God is **with** us in every part of our lives. May we always follow Jesus’ example to truly be **with** our neighbors, sharing life **with** one another and drawing closer to our God together.

Tom +

The Vision Statement of St. Mary’s

Through the love of Jesus, St. Mary’s will be a joy-filled Christian community for all individuals through:

- inspired joy-filled worship in the Anglican tradition
- faithful apostolic teaching that feeds the mind and soul
- compassionate response to the needs of all, with special focus on the needs of the aged, children, and those in crisis
- partnerships with neighboring faith communities and others
- **meaningful relationships with the neighborhood**
- honoring God in rhythms of work and rest, and in the intentional use of all resources

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

α

In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 70 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

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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

Fax: 252-523-5134

www.stmaryskinston.com

Rector	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Sr. Warden	The Hon. Jon Sargeant
Jr. Warden	Mr. Walt Poole
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Organist & Choirmaster	Mrs. Sharon Veitch
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

News at St. Mary's



From the Parish Register

Burial:

Barbara Bowen
October 28, 2019

William Arthur Sumner, Jr
November 10, 2019

Brandon Scott Holton
November 27, 2019

Baptism:

Bennett Lewis Whitfield
November 3, 2019



Cherished Members and Friend's Luncheon



Senior members of St. Mary's and their friends are invited to the next luncheon to be held on **Thursday, December 5, 2019. The luncheon gets underway at 11:30 a.m. in Moseley Hall.** Those planning to attend are asked to sign up in the Narthex or contact the Parish Office by Tuesday, December 3rd. The luncheons are a ministry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church Women.

FOSTER CHILDREN CHRISTMAS GIFTS

For decades, members of St. Mary's have generously supported the foster children in our community by providing Christmas gifts. Please consider choosing a child and making Christmas more meaningful for both you and that child. Several names are posted on a bulletin board in the hall closest to the nursery.

The gifts will be blessed during the **10:30 liturgy on Sunday, December 8th.** You may also consider making a donation to cover the cost of the gifts. Please contact Becky Darst at rcdarst@suddenlink.net for more information or with any questions.



M E R R Y
CHRISTMAS

Administrative Offices Closed

December 24, 25, 26



Advent Quiet Day

Advent Quiet Day

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. We contemplate the First Coming of Jesus as Savior and look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season in our everyday lives. Contemplation and reflective prayer encourage us during this season, and we hope you will join us at St. Mary's on **Saturday, December 21 from 9:30am-Noon** for a contemplative Advent Quiet Morning under the leadership of the Reverend Mary McKnight.

Reverend McKnight was raised in Ohio but spent childhood summers in North Carolina with family. Following her undergraduate studies in Chicago, she entered Seminary at Union Theological Seminary in NYC and was ordained in 1981. During her years in ministry, Rev. McKnight initiated the LOGOS program, Kerygma Bible Study, Disciple Bible Study, Stephen Ministry, and the Unbinding the Gospel series. Rev. McKnight has retired from full-time pastoral duties but continues to be very interested in spirituality, preaching, adult education, small group ministry, community building within churches, and carrying the gospel to those outside the church. Rev. McKnight resides in Wilmington with her husband Tom (also a pastor) and is an active contemplative leader at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Wilmington) where she offers contemplative mini-retreats and spiritual direction.

On our Advent Quiet Morning, we hope to pause ... to be still ... and listen to God's voice.

Advent Wreath Making

Mark your calendars and plan to join us **Sunday, December 1st in Moseley Hall from 9:30 am ~ 10:15am** as we celebrate the first Sunday of the Advent season by making Advent wreaths. All ages are welcome, and there will be a special wreath craft for children!



Christian Formation



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: DECEMBER 8TH

Please make every effort to join us on **Sunday, December 8th** for the Annual Parish Meeting in Moseley Hall at **9:30 am** with breakfast being served at **9:00 am**. At that time, you will hear updates on various ministries of the parish, vote for the next class of 4 Vestry members, and appoint 3 delegates to represent St. Mary's at the next Diocesan Convention (February 6-8 at the Hotel Ballast in

Wilmington). The candidates for the next Vestry class are Bill Connolly, John John, Scott Turik, Dee Warner, Harry Wooten, and Kevin Zoltek. A short biography and photo of each is found on the Bell Ringer insert. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for these members who are willing to serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL

Serve the Lord

Joshua 24:15

Worship

Join us for our **30th Boar's Head & Pule Log Festival** on Sunday, January 5th at the traditional 3p.m. and 5p.m. times. There is no cost to attend the festival itself. A ticketed banquet follows the 5p.m. performance. Tickets for the banquet are \$30 per person and are on sale now! Tickets may be purchased in the church office or online at www.stmaryskinston.com. Be sure to include your telephone number and email address for any online purchase.

BOAR'S HEAD EVENTS

Planning Committee Meeting:

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 11:45am

Choir Practice:

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 2-3:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 4-5:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 2-3:30pm

Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 6-8pm

Wednesday, Jan. 2nd, 6:30-8:30pm

Saturday, Jan. 4th, 8:45am

Costume Fittings:

Sunday, Dec. 1st, 11am

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 11am

Dress Rehearsal:

Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 6-8pm

Friday, Jan. 3rd, 6-8pm

Saturday, Jan. 4th, 9am

SERVICE OF

Lessons & Carols

St. Mary's will celebrate the First Sunday in the Christmas Season with Lessons & Carols during the 8 and 10:30 a.m. liturgies on Sunday, December 29th.



The community performance of Handel's Messiah will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7pm. The performance will be under the direction of Dr. John O'Brien and will feature the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Choir rehearsal:

Sunday, Dec. 1st, 2-3:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 5:30-7pm

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 2-3:30pm

Monday, Dec. 16th 3:30-6pm



The music ministry at St. Mary's has many updates to share. Here are just a few:

- ◆ Chancel Choir added two new choir members, Ann Moran and Michael Adams (our first Choral Scholar)
- ◆ Robert Beck, previous St. Mary's Chorister, joined the Burlington Boys Choir in the opera Pagliaccio in November
- ◆ Sharon Veitch will sing Handel's Messiah in Carnegie Hall in NYC on December 1
- ◆ St. Mary's will host the December concert for LCC Associate of Fine Arts music majors on December 5

Seasonal Events



Calling all donkeys, camels, shepherds, wise men, angels, and the like to be a part of St. Mary's Best Christmas Pageant Ever!!! ALL AGES welcome! We have a sign up sheet in the Narthex, and will have **one practice following the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 22nd**. However, even if you are unable to attend the practice, or even if you are a visitor showing up at St. Mary's for the first time on Christmas Eve, you are **STILL** invited to be part of the pageant! Simply **make your way to the Chapel before the 5pm service on December 24th**, throw on some wings, animal ears, or a crown (etc.) and you will fit right in! Contact Whitney Grady at whitneygrady@aol.com for additional information or any questions.

The 8th Annual Cookie Walk

Come to Moseley Hall on **December 14th from 11am-1pm** and stock up on beautiful and delicious holiday treats. Hand-select and fill your boxes and pay \$8 per pound. All proceeds support St. Mary's Hand in Hand partnership with Northwest Elementary School and our mission work in the Dominican Republic. A homemade soup lunch is also served for \$6, so come hungry! Church members are asked to bake cookies for the sale and invite all your friends! We accept cookies in any quantities - large or small. You may drop off your cookies during office hours with church staff beginning Monday, December 9th-Thursday, December 12th. Beginning Friday, December 13th, you may drop off your cookies off with a Cookie Walk volunteer in the parlor from 9am-6pm. **COOKIES ARE LOVE!** Bake up some LOVE and share some LOVE this holiday season! Thank you for your support!



Poinsettias for Christmas

At 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. If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, please contact the church office. Special offering envelopes may also be found on the Narthex tables. Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church. **Monday, December 16th is the deadline** to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletin.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join our merry group of St. Mary's members who will be decorating the church for Christmas! Do you have an eye for decorating? Or maybe you are looking for a way to contribute to the beauty of worship this Christmas? Please **stay after the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 22nd**, and help us beautify St. Mary's for the season. Thank you!



An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for **Sunday, December 22nd - we'll meet at the church parking lot at 4pm**. Carolers are still welcome to drive their own cars, but this year you are also welcome to ride together in the Mother Earth Brewing bus!!! This is sure to be an afternoon of fun and fellowship as we spread good news and cheer to our homebound community.



Other News

ecw gathering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
7 PM

JOIN US FOR OUR ST. MARY'S ECW
ANNUAL MEETING

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND
LOOKING FORWARD

THE HOME OF CATHY SALE
1611 CAMBRIDGE DR
KINSTON, NC

MARY'S KITCHEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CORDIALLY INVITES ALL VOLUNTEERS AND A GUEST
TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL

Volunteer and Donor Holiday Gathering

Sunday, December 15, 2019 from 3-5pm

MOSELEY HALL
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
800 Rountree Street
Kinston, North Carolina 28501

Please RSVP by Dec. 15th:
maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com



Youth & St. Mary's



There are many special events happening around the church in preparation for and during the Christmas season, and we hope you will join with us in sharing the joy of Christ's birth with our community. Here are some of the events:

Advent Wreath Making
Christmas Parade
Cookie Walk
Christmas Caroling
Christmas Pageant
Decorating the Nave for Christmas
Boar's Head Festival

We hope to see you around for the festivities!



Parents' Night Out | Kids' Night In

Parents, do you need an evening to finish your shopping, enjoy a date night, take in a great meal, or have a moment of quiet reflection??? If so, we hope you will take advantage of an evening of snacks, games, and crafts for kids here at St. Mary's Church! On Thursday night, December 12th from 6-8pm, simply drop off your Preschool-Elementary age child to the Nursery room at the church. Heather Wentz has planned an evening of Christmas cheer for your child while **YOU** enjoy an evening of respite! For more information, contact Heather at hawentz@msn.com.



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

STEWARDSHIP

Year-End Contributions

All contributions to St. Mary's Church for 2019 must be received in the church office no later than **12pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019** to be credited for 2019. Final year-end statements will be mailed in mid-January. Here is a quarterly snapshot of our financial/pledge status to date. Please fulfill your 2019 pledge.

- ♦ Total Amount Pledged for 2019
\$422,520.00
- ♦ Total 2019 Pledged Amount
Received as of Nov. 26, 2019
\$353,033.26
- ♦ Total Amount Pledged for 2020
as of Nov. 26, 2019
\$345,876.00



Blood Drive - St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Monday, December 30th from 12-4pm** in Moseley Hall. To make your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at www.redcross.org.

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays 8:00 am – Holy Eucharist: Rite I
 9:00 am. – Parish Breakfast
 9:30 am Christian Formation for All Ages
 10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist: Rite II
 Tues. & Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2019	2020	2021
Juliet Barrus	Jess Edwards	Jimmy Ballard
Walter Poole	Gerry Fox	Sam Gilmore
Jim Purnell	Whitney Grady	Jessica Shimer
Jon Sargeant	Jo Parrott	Stuart Stroud

Senior Warden – Jon Sargeant
 Junior Warden – Walter Poole
 Clerk – Whitney Grady
 Treasurer – Billy Page

RECTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

CHOIR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

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

Vestry Nominations

BILL CONNOLLY



Bill Connolly and his wife Deb have lived in Kinston and been members of St. Mary's for over 25 years. They have two children, Will who is a Freshman at NCSU and Lexi who is in the 9th grade at Parrott Academy. Bill has been a VP and Commercial Risk Advisor with First Citizens Insurance Services for almost 15 years. He has been a member of St. Mary's Vestry and served as Junior Warden twice in the past. With regards to this position, Bill says, "I appreciate the trust and confidence the members of St. Mary's have shown in me through this nomination and allowing me the possibility to serve on our Vestry once again. If I am fortunate to be a part of the upcoming class of St. Mary's Vestry, I will be an engaged member focused on supporting St. Mary's and the ministries we offer our surrounding communities."

JOHN JOHN

John John is a Primary Care Physician in Kinston and Beulaville with Physicians East. John received his medical degree from Kasturba Medical College in India followed by completing his residency and internship at the University Hospital at Stony Brook, New York. He and his wife (Rekha) have lived and served in the Kinston area and at St. Mary's Church for over 20 years. John also has two children, sons Joseph and Jacob. John has served as a Vestry member in previous years and has chaired the Adult Christian Formation committee. John's motivation for serving on the Vestry is to extend his service to the Church and draw closer to the Lord.



SCOTT TURIK



Scott Turik, age 62, is married to Annette Turik and has two sons, Caleb (Sophomore at ECU) and Kyle (Senior at Parrott Academy). He is a graduate of Parrott Academy (1975), NCSU (1979), and Emory University School of Dentistry (1983). He has been in solo dentistry practice for 36 years in Kenly, NC. Scott has been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 1970, and since that time he has served on the Outreach Committee and been a Eucharistic Minister and Usher at the 8 am service, as well as a Lector at both services. His family has participated in the Boar's Head Festival for several years and have served at Mary's Kitchen. In addition, Scott has 23 years of experience in serving his community - 17 years as a town council member and 6 years as mayor of the Town of Kenly. Scott says, "My family and I have found great pleasure in serving our community and church. I hope you will allow me to serve you and bring my experience in business and community to the Vestry."

Vestry Nominations

HARRY WOOTEN



Harry Wooten has been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church for over 55 years. He participates and contributes to the church as an Usher and in The Boar's Head. He has served on the Vestry as Junior Warden and on the Search Committee. The love and commitment Harry has for St. Mary's began as a young child and continues to grow. Harry is a landscape contractor and has been in business for over 30 years. He married his wife, Crystal, in 1990, and they have three children, Reid, Lilli, and Ellie.

WM. DALE "DEE" WARNER, JR.

Dee Warner has been with Warner, Hood, and Culpepper 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 a Board Member of Arendell Parrott Academy, the Committee of 100, and the East Carolina Council for the Boy Scouts of America. Dee and his wife, Sarah, have two children, Dee and Lillian. He enjoys spending time with his family at the beach and boating and fishing on the water. Relaxation is found in hunting, fishing and playing golf.



KEVIN ZOLTEK



Kevin Zoltek, CPA/PFS, CGMA, received his Bachelor in Arts Degree, Accounting, from NCSU (1992) and an Associate in Arts Degree from Louisburg College (1988.) He has been in Financial Advisory practice since August, 2000. His skill sets include, but are not limited to, Fiduciary Advisor to many 401k plans and individual advisory accounts. Kevin has worked as a Staff Accountant and Division Controller for Hackney & Sons, Inc, Washington, NC from August 1992 until August 2000. He experienced two acquisitions and one refinancing under the ownership of Bain Capital, Boston, MA. Kevin's experience included ground level re-engineering support to the acquisitions, in addition to all functions of the Accounting Dept. His volunteer leadership positions include, but are not limited to, St. Mary's and St. Peter's Episcopal Churches, Kinston Rotary Club, Kinston/Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, NCSU Park Scholarship Regional Selection Committee, United Way and Pride of Kinston. Kevin was an award recipient to Kinston Free Press inaugural class

of "20 under 40."