



May, 2016

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

A Taste of Hope



An exciting evening of food, drink, and cooking will take place in Moseley Hall on Monday, May 16th, with Chef Vivian Howard of *Chef and the Farmer*. Vivian will be at St. Mary's for a cooking demonstration and food tasting. Ticket holders will also be able to enjoy two complimentary glasses of wine. The wine will be selected by Vivian. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. in Moseley Hall of St. Mary's. The doors will open at 6:30.

For those who wish an alternative to wine, Dennis Tracz, Founder & CEO of *Carolina Wild*, a 100% muscadine juice, will provide juice for this event.

If you wish to be a sponsor for this event, please contact Father Michael, by May 1st. A minimum \$100 contribution will ensure that you are listed amongst the sponsors and you'll receive one ticket to the event.

Proceeds from the food tasting will go toward St. Mary's mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer. Mission team members pay for their own

transportation, room, and meals. The mission trip will take place July 16-23. The team will go to the village of Mosovi, which has a population of approximately 400 people. While there, the group will offer Vacation Bible School, perform minor repairs to the Episcopal Church, repair the original church in the village, work to provide clean drinking water to the community, and provide school supplies for children of the village. The team's ultimate goal is to establish long-lasting relationships and to let the people of this remote village know they are loved.

Purchase your ticket(s) today. A limited number to tickets remain. What a great Mother's Day or birthday present. Invite your friends.

We Sang to the Lord!!

Around 70 joyful voices were raised at the Hymn Sing on April 17 in the Tap Room at Mother Earth Brewing. Visiting musician Wendell Kimbrough led the crowd in singing hymns, ancient and new. It was wonderful to see a great mix of St. Mary's members, members of other area churches, and several who said they have no church home. Everyone heard the Good News of God in Jesus Christ!



Want more (or missed out)? Come to a hymn-sing at St. Mary's, open to any musician (bring your instrument!) or singer, on Wed. May 4 at 7pm, preceded by a pot-luck at 6.

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 1783.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

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

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 394 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. P.C. Barwick, Jr.

Jr. Warden Mr. J. Mark Herring

News at St. Mary's



Cherished Members and Friends Luncheon

Senior members of St. Mary's and their friends are invited to the May 5th, Cherished Members and Friends' Luncheon. The luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m.

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

Those planning to attend are asked to sign up in the Narthex or contact the Parish Office.

The luncheon is a ministry of the ECW of St. Mary's Church.

Mary's Kitchen undergoes renovations



In late March and early April, Mary's Kitchen underwent renovations. With the work on Independence Street, crew members met at St. Mary's to prepare bag lunches for the approximately 10 days the kitchen was closed.

A thank you to Crew leaders: Dell Nix, Mark Hollar, Mary Hosea, Rosa Chaney, Marvel Turik, P.C. Barwick, Jane Vernon, Dick and Terah Archie for having your teams gather at St. Mary's during this time to create bag lunches and for distributing them at Mary's Kitchen.

A special thank you to Mary Hosea for doing the shopping for each day to make sure we had an adequate food and water supply to hand out and to Mary's Kitchen Director, LaTonya Smith, for making sure everything ran smoothly. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding, especially our clients.



Mary's Kitchen is open 7 days a week and feeds on average 131 people a day. Anyone is welcome to eat at Mary's Kitchen. Come down for lunch some day - donations gladly accepted.

From the Rector - Father Michael Singer

Churches are dying a slow death because of this

I recently came across an article written by Melanie Tubbs, who describes herself as a Southern pastor, author, mother, Mimi, and true Arkansas woman. It is well worth the read.

“Church numbers are dwindling today. Pews are empty, and many churches struggle to keep their doors open. Christian organizations hold conferences and give workshops on how to draw people back into the church. But it seems to me the answer is pretty clear.



There are simply too many Christians who don't act like Christ.

Acting like a Christian doesn't happen within the walls of a church building. It isn't about what type of music you sing, which version of the Bible you read, or the gender of your preacher. Acting like a Christian never involves treating anyone like an outcast or pointing out anyone's sin. It isn't about the name you use to represent God or how well you can quote scripture from memory. It isn't about building a better church website.

Acting like a Christian literally means striving every day to act a little more like Christ, and too many Christians have forgotten what that looked like. Jesus walked among the people. He talked to them, he dined with them, and he taught them in the streets. Jesus loved the sinners; he literally sought them out. He didn't

scream at them about hell or try to shame them about their failings. He simply spoke to them, reached out to them, and showed them love.

There was only one group of people that Jesus ever got mad at or rejected: the Pharisees. Jesus said that these religious leaders were so focused on following the letter of the rules, that they had forgotten about the spirit of the people. He pointed out their hypocrisy, and defended sinners who were brought before them for punishment. One can only imagine how Jesus would respond to the sanctimonious, judgmental hypocrisy of so many Christians today.

So what does a real Christian look like? I honestly don't know. I am just a poor sinner myself who begins every day amazed that the grace of God is still mine even though I will never be able to earn it or deserve it. I know that I am commanded by Christ to love God and to love all of creation, everyone in it, no matter how different they are from me and even if I consider them my enemy. I am commanded to not just love God, but to strive to love LIKE God, and in doing so, be a vessel of God's love in the world.

Why are people leaving the church? Maybe it is because of the way they are treated when they go there. Churches should not be courts of damnation; they are called to be havens of hope.

Imagine if all Christians simply did the one thing Christ commanded us to do, love. What if instead of pointing out what everyone else was doing wrong, churches became the one place where love and acceptance were always guaranteed? What if it became incredibly easy to spot a Christian on the street because they were always the one lending a hand or protecting others from hate and attack?

My guess is that the churches would fill up, and more importantly, Christians would be acting like the disciples Jesus called us to be.

Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. You'll receive the same judgment you give. Whatever you deal out will be dealt out to you. Why do you see the splinter that's in your brother's or sister's eye, but don't notice the log in your own eye? *Matthew 7:1-3*

What are a couple of things you can do this week to show that you are a disciple of Christ? How can you reflect Christ's love to the world? *They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they will know we are Christians by our love.*

Worship

Holy Spirit mobile returns



On Pentecost Sunday a large Holy Spirit mobile offered by the children of St. Mary's Church will return to the chancel in celebration on Pentecost (May 15th). The dove is an ancient, Biblical symbol of God's Holy Spirit and is a reminder of God's wonderful ever-present gift in and around us.

The mobile first appeared in 2008, created by the children during Sunday school. Over the years the doves have been lovingly cared for by Laury Sargeant. This year Shelly Yarbrough will have the children from Sunday school create a few new doves to fly with the existing flock.

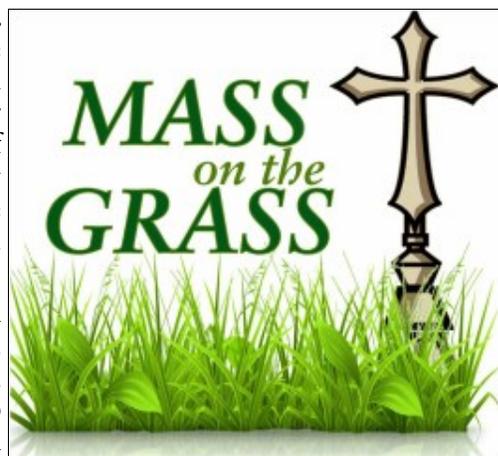
Special thanks to Bill Anderson for creating and repairing the structure that will hold the doves in flight.

The mobile will remain in the church until the beginning of the next church year on Advent I, November 27th. Please enjoy the doves!

Join us on Sunday, May 15th for Mass on the Grass

On Sunday, May 15th, we will have an outdoor celebration of the Holy Eucharist we call, Mass on the Grass.

Mass on the Grass is an informal worship experience on the grass



located on the west side of the church. We hope you will come in relaxed and comfortable clothing. As you arrive before the 10:00 a.m. gathering time, you will be greeted by music from members of Twisted Knott, an ensemble that specializes in Celtic music from Greenville, NC. Our worship for the day will take on a Celtic flavor. Please be sure to bring chairs or a blanket to sit on.

This is also the day when we will honor our high school graduates.

The day is also Pentecost, we hope everyone will wear red, to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given to the Church.

Following our time of worship, there will be a picnic. The church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks, and paper products. You are asked to bring a LARGE dish to share. We will be having guests and we want to have enough food for everyone. You can eat inside or if you sit outside you can enjoy more Celtic music and the (hopefully) beautiful day! Come in comfortable and leisurely clothes.

After the picnic there will be games for all ages. We will offer some of the games you played in the fall plus a few new games. We want people of all ages to participate. Ribbons will be awarded.

If you are willing to help with the picnic, please contact Barbara LaRoque, Fellowship Committee Chair. If you are willing to help with the games, please contact Father Michael. After all, Father Michael can't fill up all the water balloons.

In the event of rain, the worship will be moved inside and we will all eat in Moseley Hall.

Christian Formation



God's Special Time

Kairos is an inter-denominational prison ministry that shares the love of Christ through hospitality, fellowship, and worship with incarcerated men and women. Our own Mike Ling will be the up-front leader during the Kairos weekend at Maury Correctional Institution May 19-22. We can support him and this ministry by:

1. **Signing your name on a prayer chain sheet that will be placed in the narthex** and pledge to say a prayer for this ministry sometime during the Kairos weekend.
2. Help St. Mary's donate some of the 1600 DOZEN cookies that will be given away over the weekend. **Come to the parish kitchen on Wednesday, May 18 anytime between 3 and 6:30pm to help bake & bag the cookies and/or make a donation to help pay for them.** They're called "Forgiveness Cookies" because each participant is given two 1-dozen bags: one to enjoy and one to give to someone else as a sign of his request for, or offer of, forgiveness. These end up being powerful instruments of God's grace!

Contact Mike or Fr. Tom for further information.

Thank you for your consideration!

Vacation Bible School

Plans are underway and registration is OPEN for kids and volunteers! St. Mary's is hosting this year's fun adventure!

YEAR 3000

THE FUTURE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

DATE June 27—30

TIME 9:00 am—12:00 noon

PLACE St. Mary's Episcopal Church
800 Rountree St., Kinston

call 252-523-6146 or register online at

<http://shellyarbrough.wix.com/3000>



time travel tunnel * techno treats * galaxy games
imagination station * future films

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We continue with *The Story* on Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. in Moseley Hall. *The Story* is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. There are no verse references, and Scripture segments are seamlessly woven together with transition text into a single grand narrative. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by the unabridged Bible, *The Story* helps people engage God's Word more easily and in some cases understand it more fully. We will be studying *The Story* for the remainder of the program year.

Free copies (one per family) may be found on a table in the Narthex.

May 1st - "The Kingdoms' Fall" - Chapter 17 - our teacher/leader this Sunday is Vicki Kennedy

This will be our last week of classes until September. A special thank you to our teachers/leaders this year: John John, Vicki Kennedy, Mike Ling, Jon Sargeant, Stuart Stroud, Donna Wideman, and Carl Younger.

If you would be willing to help lead a session when classes resume in the Fall, please speak to John John or Father Michael.

Youth Community News

Mark Your Calendars!!

Sunday, May 1, 11:15-noon

Morning EYC meets!

Wed. May 4, 5:30-6:15pm

EYC Compline

Sunday, May 8, 11:15-noon

Morning EYC meets!

Wed. May 11, 5:30-6:15pm

EYC Compline

Sunday, May 15, 11:15 - 1pm

Mass On The Grass with Pot-Luck & Field Day EYC afterwards.

Wed. May 18, 5:30-6:15pm

*EYC Compline & Kairos
Cookie Baking!*

Wed. May 25, 5:30-6:15pm

EYC Compline

Erasing the Lines

June 20-24

Vacation Bible School

June 27-30

Mission Trip to Glory Ridge

July 3-8

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

“He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.”

Luke 24:35

It's no coincidence that churches are often known for the frequency in which they gather to enjoy food. We could say that the church began this way, about two thousand years ago, when Jesus sat His friends down for a meal in an upper room, though this particular meal was just one in a long line of important meals that the Bible describes.



Later, after Jesus had risen from death and was talking with some people on the road to a town called Emmaus, it was only after they sat down to eat together that the travelers realized that they were in the presence of God's own son and we get the line

quoted above from Luke's Gospel.

Every part of sharing food together is helpful to the life of faith: slowing down around a table in conversation where we might truly get to know the people God has placed in our lives, working with and around others in a kitchen to share in God's *creative* nature as we make beautiful (and tasty) things, getting soil



on our hands or giving our financial resources to support those who do this work of tending to God's Creation. God truly makes Himself known to us in all of these things!



In April, the EYC Brunch featured an all out Easter-season feast with grilled salmon and roasted vegetables. Again, the generosity of the church family resulted in an unexpected profit. To date, each EYC Brunch, designed to be a *gift* to the church (not a fund-raiser), has raised money for the EYC program. THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU! May He continue to be made known to you as you break (and cultivate & make) bread.

Fr. Tom+

TO GLORY RIDGE:
62 DAYS!!

Other news

Pastoral news

Prayers of sympathy are asked for:

The Rafferty family. Bruce's brother, David Brian Rafferty, died on March 15, 2016.

The Turner family. Greg's niece, Blake Kyndall Turner, died on March, 31, 2016.

The Posey family. Stephanie's step-father, Edward Miller, Sr., died on April 20, 2016.

Congratulations to Trey and Abby Means on the birth of Charles Robert Means, IV, born April 21, 2016. Happy grandparents are Stephen and Holly Hill.

tai chi

FOR BALANCE

For six consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning May 4th, St. Mary's will be offering "Tai Chi With Me". This is a free Tai Chi class to be held in Moseley Hall. Our thanks to the anonymous donor who has paid for the classes.

The class will be taught by LaVerne Robinson, an exercise instructor, who has served Lenoir and Wayne counties for over twenty years.

Based on the ancient Chinese martial art of Tai Chi Chuan, this class will use a series of slow, focused movements and deep breathing patterns to enhance the mind-body concept. These exercises concentrate on balance, posture, flexibility, coordination and muscle strength and endurance.

Studies show that regular practice of Tai Chi reduces diastolic and systolic blood pressure, mood disturbances and bolsters one's immunity through increased T-cell production and is ideal for arthritis sufferers.

LaVerne holds national certificates and licenses from the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, National Exercise Trainers Association, the YMCA, and Zumba Fitness, LLC. *She believes exercise can benefit everyone, regardless of their skill level and she'd love for you to try this class.*

This class is being offered for men, women and children of any age. Bring a friend or two.

Rogation Sunday



Holy Innocents Episcopal Church invites everyone to their Rogation Sunday service on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. A display of farm equipment will be on the church grounds where the service will begin, weather permitting. Refreshments will follow the service.

Rogation Sunday is the day when the Church has traditionally offered prayers for God's blessings on the fruits of the earth and the labors of those who produce our food. The word "rogation" is from the Latin *rogare*, meaning "to ask." Historically, the Rogation Days (the three days before Ascension Day) were a period of fasting and abstinence, asking God's blessing on the crops for a bountiful harvest.

We hope you will be able to attend this wonderful service. We look forward to having the community come together to worship God, who feeds us physically and spiritually.

Holy Innocents is located southwest of Kinston on NC Highway 55, one-half mile west of the intersection with Hardy Bridge Road, in Lenoir County.

Giving is year round



As summer approaches many will take off for weekend excursions, or maybe longer trips to far-away places.

Your year round giving is important to the mission and ministry of St. Mary's Church. It is through your consistent giving that we can offer Vacation Bible School; that our utilities are on so that we can worship in air conditioned comfort; that our staff can be paid; that the mission of Mary's Kitchen can continue, and so much more. Please remember to pay your offering before you go away. Thanks! Be safe, and we'll miss you!

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

Lemonade on the Lawn



Light summer refreshments will be offered

on Sundays following the 10:00 am celebration of the Holy Eucharist. "Lemonade on the Lawn" is June 19th--August 21st.

Individuals or families can go together to host the refreshments. You are asked to provide lemonade and something to eat. A sign-up sheet may be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Paper products will be provided.

Linda Johnson, our Parish Secretary, will be coordinating this ministry. Should you have any questions, call Linda at 252-523-6146 ext. 21 or email her at www.ljohnson@stmaryskinston.com.

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

2016	2017	2018
Stephen B. Hill	H. Earl Harper	P.C. Barwick, Jr.
Isaac C. Hines	J. Mark Herring	Clifton W. Carey
Barbara A. LaRoque	John K. John	Rebecca "Becky" C. Darst
Kevin M. Zoltek	John "Sandy" Shimer, Jr.	Milton D. "Dee" Warner, Jr.

Senior Warden – P.C. Barwick, Jr.

Junior Warden – J. Mark Herring

Clerk – Becky Darst

Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley