



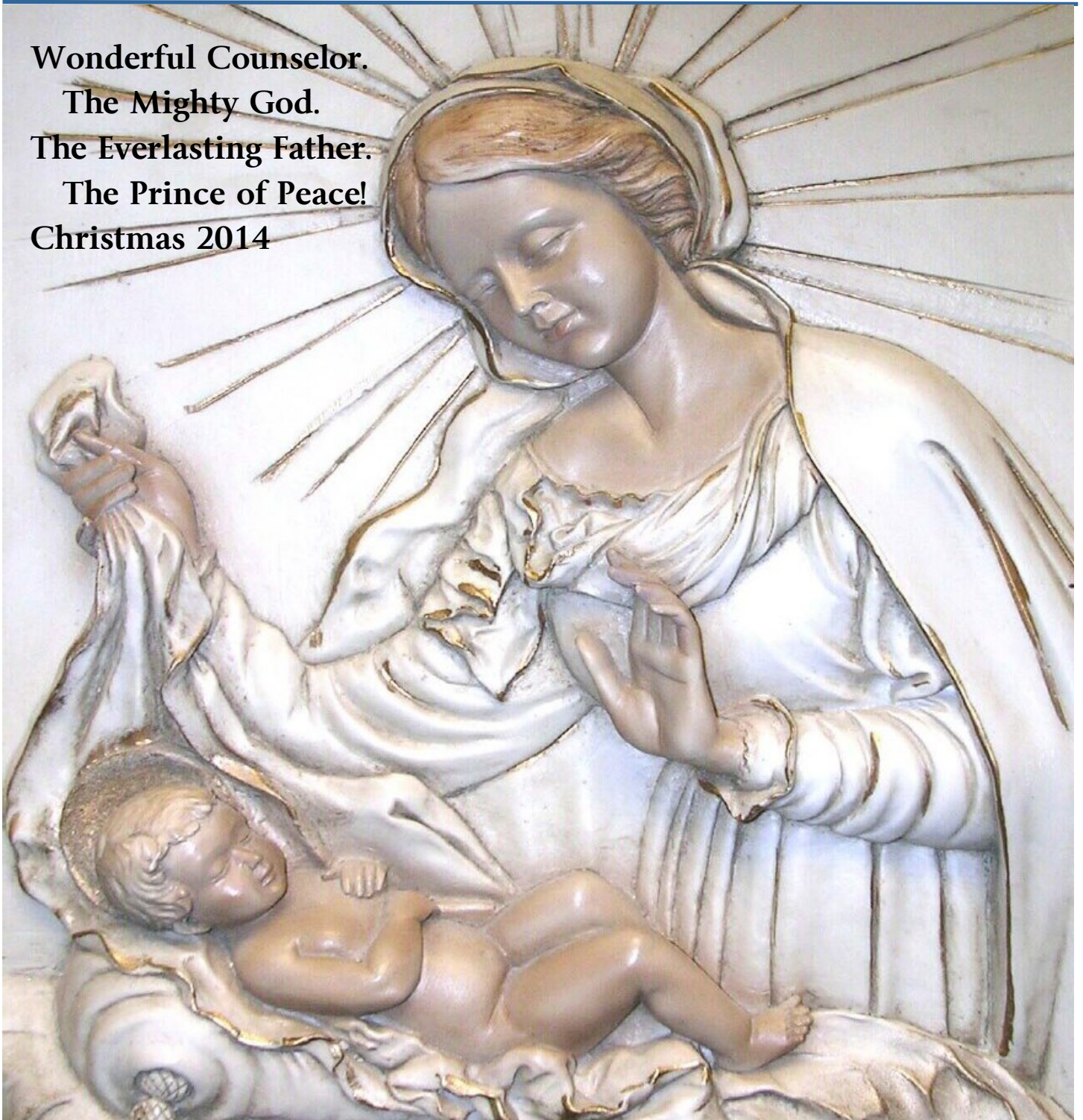
December 2014

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Bell Ringer

Online at www.stmaryskinston.com

**Wonderful Counselor.
The Mighty God.
The Everlasting Father.
The Prince of Peace!
Christmas 2014**



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 2 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

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 73 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving - Bishop

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

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

A church of 411 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

Rector	The Rev'd A. Michael Singer
Assistant	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Director of Music	Mr. Nick Voermans
Parish Administrator	Ms. Joan Bradshaw
Secretary	Mrs. Linda M. Johnson
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough
Sr. Warden	Mr. P. C. Barwick, Jr.
Jr. Warden	Mr. William L. (Bill) Connolly, III

Up coming events

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 many 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 19th 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 7, 2014 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: Earl Harper, Mark Herring, John John, Adrian King, Ron Michalowicz and Sandy Shimer. A short biography and photo of each is found in this newsletter. See you at the meeting!

Caroling for Christmas

An afternoon of Christmas caroling is planned for Sunday, December 14th. 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 12-19, 2015.

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, 2015, the trip will be opened to people outside St. Mary's. If you are interested, please contact Laury Sargeant.

From the Rector - Father Michael

And so this is Christmas

Merry Christmas to all. Yes, it is a bit early. But tis the time of year to hear and sing Christmas music. Of all the music you'll hear on the radio or on television specials, one of my favorites is not one you may be familiar with, *Happy Christmas (War is Over)*. *Happy Christmas* was written in 1971, by John Lennon and Yoko Ono. Ostensibly it was a protest song about the Vietnam War, it has become a Christmas standard, appearing on several Christmas albums. The lyrics are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. "So this is Christmas
And what have you done?
Another year over
And a new one just begun | 6. A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear |
| 2. And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear ones
The old and the young | 7. And so this is Christmas
And what have we done?
Another year over
And a new one just begun |
| 3. A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear | 8. And so this is Christmas
I hope you have fun
The near and the dear one
The old and the young |
| 4. And so this is Christmas
For weak and for strong
For rich and the poor ones
The world is so wrong | 9. A very merry Christmas
And a happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one
Without any fear |
| 5. And so happy Christmas
For black and for white
For yellow and red ones
Let's stop all the fight | 10. War is over
If you want it
War is over... |



This song is special to me because I find that the reality for many people is, the war is not over . . . not only the wars in Vietnam, or Iraq, or Afghanistan or other turbulent places in the world, but many people fight their own private wars each day. It may be the war of addiction; depression; relationships, maybe with members of their own family, sometimes with family members with whom they share the same living space. There are people fighting personal wars over issues related to health, be it physical or psychological, some have suffered the death of a loved one. Whatever their war, they want peace in their lives.

So, amidst all the lights, tinsel, presents and celebrations this Christmas, make time to remember the purpose of our celebrations, God came into our world in the form of a baby, Jesus. Jesus, the Savior of the world, offers us peace, his presence and strength in the midst of wars we all face.

Some will find it difficult to celebrate Christmas, as they are fighting their own battles. They are searching for a peace that the world cannot give. And so for this Christmas, what have we done? Have we prayed for their war to be over? Have we prayed for them to have peace? Have we reached out in compassion to the suffering? Have we been the hands, feet and heart of Christ on earth bringing peace and goodwill to all?

“So have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Let’s hope it’s a good one without any fear.”

Vestry nominations 2014



Earl Harper

Earl is currently in insurance sales; East Carolina Council, BSA Board member; Lenoir County Historical Assoc. Trustee; Kinston Community Health Center, Advocate; Kinston Evening Rotary; Lenoir County Community Foundation

He was confirmed at St. Mary's in 2009, and attends the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Service. Earl married Carol at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, NC in 1969.

Earl is running for Vestry because he feels that is what God is calling him to do.

His favorite flavor of ice cream is chocolate.

Mark Herring

Mark resides in Kinston and is married to Frances Herring. Mark and Frances have two children, Jane and Jack, and have been members of St. Mary's since 2001.

Over the years Mark has assisted with EYC and has served on the Vestry once before.

Recently, Mark served as a member of St. Mary's *RenewalWorks* Committee. He serves as an usher and has been a loyal Beefeater for several years in the Boar's Head festival.

Mark works in Kinston with White & Allen, P.A. and is a partner in the firm's litigation section.

His favorite flavor of ice cream is chocolate chip.



John John

John works as a physician with Physicians East serving the Kinston community for past 14 years. He is married to Rekha. John and has two sons, Joseph and Jacob.

While at St. Mary's, John has been involved with teaching Sunday School for 6 years. He was a pilgrimage chaperone (Quebec 2012), and has played on the parish' softball team.

John's motivation for serving on the Vestry is to extend his service to the Church and draw closer to the Lord.

John's favorite flavor of ice cream is vanilla.



Vestry nominations 2014



Adrian King

Adrian is the Executive Director Pride of Kinston. Current involvement includes: Board of Directors Lenoir Memorial Hospital, Kinston Rotary Club; Greene-Lenoir United Way board; Lenoir Committee of 100, Lenoir Transportation Committee, Lenoir County Historical Association; member of the City of Kinston's land planning task force and others.

Adrian became member of St. Mary's upon moving from Atlanta to hometown Kinston in 2003; Co-chair of the 175th anniversary program at

St. Mary's, a participant in Boar's Head program for 10 years; regular participant in Sunday's Adult Education sessions; regular participant in Wednesday evening dinners and program, organizer of Lenten program in the past; and regular member of the Wednesday morning Men's Bible Study group.

Adrian believes that living a complete life is reliant not on all the answers, but how one deals with all the questions. He says "St. Mary's has fundamentally changed my way of approaching many of those questions. I love this church and treasure its impact on my life . . . and if I have a talent or two to advance its mission, particularly in Kinston, then I want to help." His favorite flavor of ice cream is Blue Bell Butter Pecan.

Ron Michalowicz

Ron volunteers at Lenoir Memorial Hospital as a patient representative; Active driver in the American Cancer Society's 'Road to Recovery' driving cancer patients for treatment; participant in the Susan G. Komen race for the cure, participant in the survivors walk for cancer past 2 years, formerly participant in the 10K walk sponsored by the American Heart Association to eradicate heart disease, former president of Kinston Toastmasters Club 962, awarded title of Able Toastmaster in that organization, chaired safety committee for facilities at East Carolina University for 3 years.

Ron has been a member of St. Mary's for 8 years, usher and reader at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service, Eucharistic Minister at that service, usher at Boar's Head. He regularly attends Men's Prayer Breakfast and bible study, chaired the discernment committee for a prospective candidate for the priesthood. He

served at Mary's Kitchen for more than 5 years until his cancer surgery prevented him from continuing.

Ron feels that his experiences as a maintenance supervisor and building inspector can be of use within the parish. He believes he possesses the necessary listening skills that can be a valuable asset as a member of the vestry. His favorite flavor of ice cream is Cookies and Cream.



Sandy Shimer

Sandy has been an Usher at St. Mary's since 1978, served on the vestry from 1995-1998 and was Junior Warden from 1997 -1998. He is currently serving a vacated seat on the vestry. He has been active in the community as a volunteer baseball, basketball, and soccer coach for Kinston/Lenoir County Parks and Recreation. He was the Assistant Coach for Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Baseball and named the Coach of the Year for Kinston Youth Baseball in 2001. He has also served on the Ace Hardware Merchants Advisory Board and been the President of the East Carolina University's Alumni Association of Lenoir County. Sandy was also a member of the Kinston/Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce, Membership Committee.

Sandy was born in Kinston and raised at St. Mary's. A personal ministry of his is to welcome new visitors and coach the church's softball team. He often helps with various meals and other activities.

Sandy's desire is to increase membership at St. Mary's, mostly, through youth. His favorite ice cream is butter almond.



December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>St. Andrew</i>	2 8:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Staff Meeting 8:00p A.A. - Al-Anon	3 6:45a Men's Prayer Breakfast 3-7pm Board's Head Fitting 5:30p St. Cecilia's Choir 6:45p EYC Jam Session	4 <i>John of Damacus</i> 8:30a Morning Prayer 11:30a Cherished Member Lunch 6:00p Boy Scouts	5 <i>Clement of Alexandria</i>	6 <i>Nicholas of Myra</i> 10a-4p - Cookie Bake Day
7 2 Advent 8:00a H.E. - Rite I 10:00a H.E. - Rite II 11:15a Annual Parish Meeting 5:30 Jr. EYC	8 5:30p <i>God Is In The Manger</i> Advent Book Study Group Pot-Luck 6:00p Boy Scouts	9 8:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Staff Meeting 8:00p A.A. - Al-Anon	10 6:45a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30p St. Cecilia's Choir 7:00p Adult Choir	11 8:30a Morning Prayer 5:30p Youth Choir	12 Cookie Walk set-up and delivery	13 11:00a - 1:00p Cookie Walk
14 3 Advent 8:00a H.E. - Rite I 10:00a H.E. - Rite II 11:15a Sunday school 11am-2pm Board's Head Fitting	15 NW School— Moseley Hall 3-7pm 6:30p Finance Comm. 7:00p Vestry meeting	16 8:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Staff Meeting 8:00p A.A. - Al-Anon Meetings	17 <i>Ember Day</i> 6:45a Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 7:00p Adult Choir	18 8:30a Morning Prayer	19 <i>Ember Day</i> 10:00a Decorate the church for Christmas Deadline for <i>The Bell Ringer</i>	20 <i>Ember Day</i>
21 4 Advent 8:00a H.E. - Rite I 10:00a H.E. - Rite II 11:15a Sunday school & 5:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 4:00p Lessons and	22	23 8:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Staff Meeting 8:00p A.A. - Al-Anon Meetings	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00p Christmas Eve Family Service 10:40p Music 11:00p Traditional	25 <i>The Nativity of Jesus Christ: Christmas Day</i> 10:00a Holy Eucharist Office Closed	26 <i>St. Stephen</i>	27 <i>St. John</i>
28 Christmas 1 8:00a H.E. - Rite I 10:00a H.E. - Rite II	29 8:30a Morning Prayer 9:00a Staff Meeting	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		Office closed	

2014	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24 5:00 pm	December 24 11:00	December 28
Acolytes	Cr: Melissa John T.Br.: Kirby Ballard Anne Grayson Lindley Gospel: Anna Scott Newton	Cr: Lilli Wooten T.Br.: Seth Ling Will Connolly Gospel: Harper Ballard	Cr: Joseph John T.Br.: Lillian Warner Matthew Glen Gospel: Dee Warner	Cr: Thomas Grady Tr.Br.: Anne Grayson Lindley Levi Wentz Gospel: Will Sargeant	Cr: Harper Ballard T.Br.: Dori Ballard Azyah Brookman Gospel: Wilson Archie	Cr: Lilli Wooten T.Br.: Kirby Ballard Brandon Zoltek Gospel: Raelynn Sheffield
Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers	8 a.m. Ron Michalowicz 10 a.m. OT: Joe Saracino Ps: Joe Saracino NT: Diane Bowen Prayers: Teresa Singer EM: Joe Saracino Dick Archie	8:00 a.m. Greg Gridley 10 a.m. OT: Terah Archie Ps: Terah Archie NT: Ike Hines Prayers: Sandra Warren EM: Ike Hines Terah Archie	8 a.m. Scott Turik 10 a.m. OT: Ron Albertson Ps: Ron Albertson NT: Anne Cooper Prayers: Kelli Stroud EM: Kelli Stroud Adrian King	5:00 p.m. OT: Stephen Hill Ps: Stephen Hill NT: Cyndi Rafferty Prayers: Frances Herring EM: Stephen Hill Adrian King	11:00 p.m. OT: Jay Barker Ps: Jay Barker NT: Dee Warner Prayers: Stuart Stroud EM: Stuart Stroud Jay Barker	8 a.m. Marvel Turik 10 a.m. OT: Bill Connolly Ps: Bill Connolly NT: Lesa Cunningham Prayers: Jessica Shimer EM: Dick Archie Kelli Stroud
Ushers	8 a.m. Ron Michalowicz 10 a.m. Mark Herring Mark Hollar Randy Holton Randy Jones	8 a.m. Earl Harper 10 a.m. Richard Lane George LaRoque Stuart Lindley Armistead Mauck	8 a.m. Scott Turik 10 a.m. Scott Newton Jimmy Parrott Jess Edwards Dan Sale	Jon Sargeant Blake Rouse Bruce Rafferty Dee Warner	Dee Warner Harry Wooten Kevin Zoltek Sandy Shimer	8 a.m. Bill Summer 10 a.m. Corey Williams Jim Purnell Gerry Fox Greg Turner
Altar Guild	Lorraine Spader Dianne Stadiem Jo Parrott Marvel Turik Cathy Beasley	Emily Exum Tempe Younger Beth Webster Judy Sanders	Diane Bowen Anne Lindley Sarah Warner Jane Newton	Cyndi Rafferty Kelli Stroud Teresa Singer Lilli Wooten Crystal Wooten Audra Haddad	Emily Exum Tempe Younger Beth Webster Judy Sanders	Susan Fox Pat Patrick Louise Mauck Sarah Turner Carrie Dale Purnell
Bookstore	Becky Darst	Linda Page	Jessica Shimer	Closed	Closed	Closed

Worship

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival Sunday, January 11, 2015, 3 PM and 5 PM



Attention: Kings, noblemen, serfs, men, women, and children! It is that time of year again when we prepare for The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. After a successful 25th Anniversary performance last year, we look to build upon our success. That success comes in preparation by getting fitted for your costume. If you have not been fitted yet, please stop by the Boar's Head closet on Wednesday, December 3rd from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, December 14th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Rehearsal dates and times as well as further fitting dates will be added and announced at a later time.

Christmas Sprite

Plans are underway for the annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. One part in the festival is given each year to a Second Grade girl. That part is for the Yule Sprite. For girls to be considered, they must be: in the Second Grade, 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 December 2, 2014. 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 7, 2014.

Christmas Lessons and Carols



St. Mary's will be holding its annual Christmas Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 21st at 4 p.m. We will have a mass choir representing St. Mary's and other churches within the community as well as a string quartet. We hope you will join us for this wonderful service!

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)

We need angels, shepherds . . . and a few wise men



Again this year, children three years of age through the Fifth Grade are encouraged to participate in the annual Nativity Play, which will be part of the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th. There are no lines to learn, just a willingness to share the Good News of Christ's birth. Children are encouraged to invite their friends who may want to participate too.

Play rehearsal times are Wednesday, December 17th, at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 21st, 11:45 a.m.

Christian Formation

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

December 7th - 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 14th - Watchful Expectancy - The scripture for the First Sunday of Advent looks forward to the final coming of Christ and the consummation of history. The fulfillment of history spells disaster for those who have ignored God and God's will. It is, however, deliverance for the community of people who live their lives alert to the daily demands of the will of God.

December 21st - John the Baptizer - John, as the one who announces the Messiah's arrival, and as the one who outlines the necessary preparations for the first Advent, occupies time and thought during this season. John proclaims the need both for repentance and the evidence of repentance.

December 28th - Time will be spent in worship celebrating the birth of Jesus, singing favorite hymns.

Journey In Faith Classes

To Begin in January

As we look ahead to Bishop Skirving's first official visit to St. Mary's in January of 2016, at which time he will offer to **confirm** those Christians who are ready to make a mature confession of faith or **receive** confirmed members of other Christian traditions into the Episcopal Church, we are excited to announce the beginning of our preparatory program: *Journey In Faith*.

Journey In Faith is a series of interactive sessions with St. Mary's clergy through which members will explore the fundamentals of Christianity, Anglicanism, and the Episcopal Church.

Everyone is welcome to participate in *Journey in Faith* even if they have already been confirmed/received or are not sure if they desire to be. *Journey in Faith* is also an ideal program for anyone curious about baptism or joining St. Mary's.

An informational session covering the course outline and schedule will take place on Sunday, January 25, at 11:15 am in the parish Bookstore/Vestry Room.

Advent & Christmas Devotional

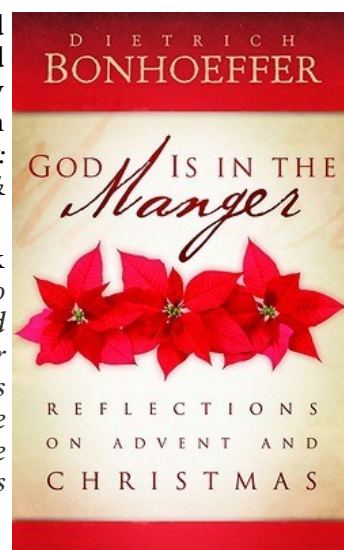
This Advent and Christmas, you are invited to join Fr. Tom in daily devotional reading from *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent & Christmas*.

From the book's back cover: "There are only two places where the powerful and great in this world lose their courage, tremble in the depths of their souls, and become truly afraid. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ."

"No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle of Bethlehem. And yet, all Christian theology finds its beginnings in the miracle of miracles, that God became human."

These stirring words are among forty devotions that guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Advent and Christmas, from waiting and mystery to redemption, incarnation, and joy. Supplemented by an informative introduction, short excerpts from Bonhoeffer's letters, and passages from his Christmas sermons, these daily devotions are timeless and moving reminders of the true gift of Christmas.

Those reading are also invited to a **pot-luck shared meal to discuss these reflections on Monday evening, December 8, at 5:30 pm in the Parlor**. A limited number of copies of the book are available in the parish book store for \$13.



Advent wreath making



Plan to join us for an intergenerational Advent wreath making session on Sunday, November 30, at 11:15 am in Moseley Hall. No prior experience is necessary! A limited number of Advent calendars are also available in the narthex for you and your family to use during this season of preparation.

Youth Community News

Mark Your Calendars!!

Wed. December 3, 6:45-8pm
EYC Jam Session! (in sanctuary)

Sunday, December 7
Jr. & Sr. EYC @ Church
Jr. EYC 5:30-7:00pm
Sr. EYC 6:15-8:00pm
Supper for all from 6:15-7:00pm

Sunday, December 14
Caroling around the neighborhood!
Meet in Moseley Hall @ 4pm
Pot-Luck supper to follow

Sunday, December 21, 4pm
Festival of Lessons & Carols
Reception to follow.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

EYC will not meet on
 Sunday, December 28

Tuesday, January 6, 6pm
2nd Lighting of Warren Family Christmas Tree

Sunday, January 4
Jr. & Sr. EYC @ Church
Jr. EYC 5:30-7:00pm
Sr. EYC 6:15-8:00pm
Supper for all from 6:15-7:00pm
Bring a friend!!!!

Halloween Carnival & Campfire



THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you so much to the wonderful adults of St. Mary's whose gifts of hospitality have allowed the EYC to enjoy food and fellowship together in November: Vicki & Claude Kennedy, Sarah & Greg Turner, and Elizabeth Maxwell & Dennis Tracz!!!



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 on our partner church of Divina Gracia in Mosovi, Dominican Republic
- works to bring a clean water source to Mosovi



St. Mary's 3rd Annual Cookie Walk
YOU-select Christmas Cookies: \$8/pound
Saturday, December 13th
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 2014 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 everything 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... or see Cookie Baking Day Invitation!!

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

You can bring your cookies to church on Sunday, December 7th (if they can be frozen) or you may drop your cookies during office hours with church staff beginning Monday, December 8th--Thursday, December 11th (if they can be frozen) Beginning Friday, December 12, 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.

WHAT IF I JUST DON'T BAKE?

then this day is for you....
(this day is for you even if you do bake)

St. Mary's
COOKIE BAKING DAY!

Come Cook with an Expert!

Grab your recipes
Gather your ingredients

and

**DROP BY THE KITCHEN
AT ST. MARY'S**

**ANYTIME BETWEEN 10AM-4PM
ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH**

**An experienced Baker will be there to greet you
and help you make some yummy
Christmas Cookies for the Cookie Walk!**

Building LOVE--one cookie at a time!

Other News

From the Parish Register

Baptisms: Frankie Whitlow Foster
Lyla Marie Wade
Gracelyn Ann Quinn
Derick Alan Shaw - Nethercutt
November 2, 2014

James Carstarphen "Bo" Purnell, VI
November 16, 2014

Offering envelopes

For years we have used using offering envelopes as a way of tracking contributions. What we have found at St. Mary's in recent years, is that fewer members are using envelopes for contributions. This year we will not be mailing out boxes of envelopes. Everyone will still be assigned a number and the Parish Administrator will track contributions.

There will be individual offering envelopes on tables in the narthex for those who make cash contributions. **If you contribute by cash you must include your name and address on the envelopes.** That is the only way we will be able to track your contributions. Those who contribute by check may also use the offering envelopes.

*Explore your faith.
Experience God in new ways.
Be transformed.*

Opportunities are available for Episcopalians ages 21-30 to live and serve Anglican/Episcopal communities around the world with the Young Adult Service Corps.

For more information, missionary blogs, and applications are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/yasc.

The 2015 TASC application deadline is **January 2, 2015**.

Diocesan Convention

The Diocese of East Carolina will hold its annual convention February 5 - 7, 2015, at the Convention Center in New Bern. If you wish to represent St. Mary's at convention, please make it known to Joan Bradshaw prior to December 7, 2014. 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.

St. Nicholas to make visit on December 7th



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 St. Nicholas is December 6th.

On Sunday, December 7th, 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.



Decorating for Christmas

The Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Christmas on Friday, December 19th, at 10:00 a.m. If you can help, they would love to have you!

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

**Cherished
 Member
 Christmas
 Luncheon**



Thursday, December 4th
 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 2nd
 to make a reservation.
 Special entertainment of
 Christmas music
 to be provided by children from
 Northwest Elementary School.

Year end contributions

All contributions to St. Mary's Church for 2014 must be received in the church office no later than 12:00 p.m. on December 31, 2014 to be credited for 2014. 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

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

ST. MARY'S VESTRY

2014	2015	2016
P. C. Barwick, Jr.	W. Scott Newton, II	Stephen B. Hill
William (Bill) Connolly	Cyndi L. Rafferty	Isaac (Ike) C. Hines
Anne B. Lindley	Joseph V. Stark	Barbara A. LaRoque
John (Sandy) Shimer, Jr.	Stuart L. Stroud	Kevin M. Zoltek

Senior Warden – P. C. Barwick, Jr.

Junior Warden – William L. (Bill) Connolly, III

Clerk – Cyndi L. Rafferty

Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley