



January, 2015

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church*

# The Bell Ringer

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

## St. Mary's Boar's Head Festival a gift to all

St. Mary's has been offering the Boar's Head Festival as its annual gift to the city of Kinston since 1990, the 650th anniversary of the festival. This Boar's Head tradition originated at Queen's College, Oxford, England, in 1340, and is probably the oldest continuing festival of the Christmas season.

One moment, merry teenagers are skipping down the church aisle, the next, the Three Wise Men are making their slow progress toward the altar. The Boar's Head Festival is a moving mix of mischiefs and grandeur, telling a tale right out of the Middle Ages.

The performances are at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11, 2015 and mark St. Mary's 26th retelling of the tale. Entrance is free and open to everyone.

Approximately 150 people dress up as peasants and nobility, as beggars and kings, for the spectacle's two performances. They bring the ancient morality play to life, the triumph of good over evil, with plenty of music, costumes and pageantry. And yes, jesters and jugglers may very well hop over you or tickle you with feathers.

The head of a real boar, an animal which once terrorized people in the forests of Europe, is carried high for all to see. The pageant of killing the boar is ancient: The Romans served boar as the first course at their banquets. As Europe became Christianized, the boar continued on the plates at medieval feasts, but the message was different. Now, the procession of the boar's head meant that evil had been destroyed by the power of the Christ Child.

The musicians and choir set the feast's tone, sometimes somber, sometimes having a little fun. British Beefeaters march in to begin the festival and soon the giant boar's head arrives to its own carol. A long, gift-laden company trails behind the beast, including King Wenceslas and the Plum Pudding Company. Soon the audience is invited to chorus in on "Deck the Halls," "Good King Wenceslas" and "We Three Kings." The plum pudding and mince pie look delicious.

Next, darling little waits, some of the youngest children of the congregation, prance in with their green-and-red costumes to accompany the massive Yule log. Waits were a castle's guards-in-training, who marked the hours and days as part of their job. Shepherds enter with live animals and start to follow a star. They're soon joined by three kings, and all stand reverence and humility before "The Holy Family".

Everyone files out to "O Come All Ye Faithful," and the doors close on a remarkable glimpse into the Middle Ages and the beautiful mystery of Immanuel—God With Us—for another year.

Following the 5:00 p.m. performance a banquet of delightful faire is offered. For the banquet you will need to purchase a ticket, which costs \$40 per person. The banquet offers a full meal of wonderful offerings set in the king's hall with decorations and wine is offered. To purchase your ticket, contact the church at 252-523-6146.



## 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 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 74 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 Ms. Joan Bradshaw

Director of Children's Ministries

Mrs. Shelly L. Yarbrough

Sr. Warden Mr. P. C. Barwick, Jr.

Jr. Warden Mr. William L. (Bill) Connolly, III

## News at St. Mary's

### New Lay Leadership

Members of the Vestry of St. Mary's Church, newly-elected at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, December 7th, were: Earl Harper, Mark Herring, John John and Sandy Shimer. These Vestry members will officially begin their ministry on Sunday, January 18, 2015, as they are installed during the 10:00 a.m. liturgy. Thank you to everyone who allowed their name to be placed in nomination to run for Vestry.

The Vestry Planning Meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, January 23 - 24, 2015.

We thank outgoing Vestry members: P.C. Barwick, Bill Connolly, Anne Lindley and Sandy Shimer for serving St. Mary's faithfully the past three years as members of the Vestry.

### From the Parish Register

Funeral -

Rachel Weyher Dillard

December 13, 2014

**St. Mary's extends sympathy** to Bruce Rafferty and family on the death of Bruce's sister, Debi Shepard. *Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

### The Bell Ringer deadline

Groups or organizations who have articles to appear in The Bell Ringer, must have them to Linda Johnson, parish secretary by the 15th of the month.



### Take The Bible Challenge!!

Make 2015 a year of strengthening your faith by reading God's word. As you review new year resolution options, consider a commitment to reading some of the Bible every day. Possible goals for the year include reading the New Testament, the Psalms, or even the whole Bible! Reading plans are available in the narthex to help you meet your goals.

Additionally, all who take this challenge are invited to gather and discuss what they've read each Sunday at 9am. **The first meeting will be Sunday, January 4, in the bookstore/vestry room.**

Visit [www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org](http://www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org) for more information on The Bible Challenge and join us!

## From the Rector - Father Michael Singer

### Can you tell your story?

When driving through Kinston, or almost any community in many parts of the world, you'll find homes decorated for Christmas. Almost all of those homes, in one fashion or another, will have a Christmas tree.

It can be an arduous task selecting the family Christmas tree. At different stages of my life, my family and I have climbed hillsides in the snow and frigid cold to select the perfect tree, spending an hour sawing on it and dragging it down the hillside. We've also stopped to buy one from a vendor at a road side stand. One year we were so late selecting a tree, we stopped by the local grocery store to get one of only five remaining. The Singer family Christmas tree truly reflects who we are. We seldom select a tall slender tree. It's usually a short "stocky" tree.

For a period of time our family was ecologically friendly and had an artificial tree. But one year when our daughter was probably 7 or 8, she cried out, "Why can't we get a real tree this year for Christmas?"

One of my best childhood memories were the years we had an aluminum Christmas tree with a color wheel. My brother would sit on the floor, for what seemed like hours, in amazement, as the tree changed colors from yellow to red to green to blue.

When Teresa and I are in our 80's we'll probably be looking for a ceramic tree that has various colored lights on the tips of the branches. They stand about a foot tall. We'll stick it on our dining room table as we look at each other while eating dinner.

When visiting in people's homes this time of year, what I enjoy is looking at their tree. In some cases there are homes with more than one tree. Every tree has a story and everyone has their own ideas for decorating it. There are trees which look like they were taken from the website of Neiman Markus. Every decoration appears to have been placed on the tree by the staff of Downton Abbey, measured with precision. There are trees with family mementoes maybe with decorations which have been handed down for generations.

As Teresa was busy doing something for school recently, this year Rachel and I decorated the family tree. We pulled out our collection of Christmas ornaments. In previous years there may have been a theme for the tree but this year, maybe just to complete the task, we pulled out the first ornaments we could see. There were ornaments Rachel made as a child. We found ornaments Teresa has received from

piano students over the years, ornaments that were gifts from family and friends.

Some of the ornaments are worn or faded by time, others may have been bent or chipped. As we hung them, Rachel and I laughed and remembered stories of the people who gave us the ornaments.

We also remembered the ornaments that didn't make it. There was the year Teresa and Rachel made gingerbread stars for our tree. LARGE, HEAVY, gingerbread stars. At the time we had a Cocker Spaniel named Freckles. Teresa taught piano lessons in our home and as students entered the house, they had to walk by the tree. Freckles was very protective of that tree with the gingerbread men. He didn't want anyone getting too close to the tree. Any ornaments that fell to the ground were his.



As you decorate your tree, or when you decide to take it down, I hope you will remember your stories or create new traditions.

As we remember the Holy Family gathered that first Christmas, may we all have family traditions that help us capture earlier memories of why we celebrate this time of year.

# Worship

## The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

On Sunday, January 11, St. Mary's will celebrate our 26th anniversary of offering celebration of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. It will be a truly memorable event.

There will be two performances that day, 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Tickets to the Renaissance Banquet, following the 5:00 p.m. performance, are still available. Please contact Joan Bradshaw at 252-523-6146 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. What a great Christmas gift, tickets for your friends and loved ones to the banquet. Purchase your tickets today.

## Sharing Our Voices

This Christmas, one of the greatest gifts we can give is free! The wonderful music of the Episcopal Church is an opening through which God's grace flows into us, and through us. When we sing together, we are declaring our openness to God's abundant grace, our willingness to be instruments of God's immeasurable love. This is an open secret about the choirs: they don't spend extra time at the church because they have nothing else to do; they are committed to share in the joy of letting the Love through! When we all participate to the fullest extent, the liturgy isn't better because it's louder, it's better because it is more welcoming to the work of the Holy Spirit, more vibrantly alive! No one else has your voice!

## Open Dress Rehearsal on January 10

Members of St. Mary's are strongly encouraged to attend the open dress rehearsal for our annual Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on Saturday morning, January 10, at 9:00 a.m. to make available additional seats for our out-of-town guests for the Festival on Sunday. We are truly blessed to offer this profound celebration as a gift to our community, and enjoy sharing the wonder of Olde Christmas at St. Mary's.

## Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival - rehearsal schedule

**Sunday, January 4 - 2:00 p.m.** – Wassail Spot, Waits, Jugglers & Apprentices, Puppeteers, Sugar & Spice Girls, Wizard, Tinker

**Monday, January 5 - 7:00 p.m.** – Nativity Spot Star of the East, Angels, Torchbearers, Tintinnabulum, Balthazar, Kaspar, Melchior and their pages, Shepherds

**Wednesday, January 7 - 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 8 - 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 9 - 7:00 p.m.** – Full Cast Walk-Thru

**Saturday, January 10 - 8:00 a.m.** – Building Open

**9:00 a.m.** – Full Dress Rehearsal

**Sunday, January 11 - 2:00 p.m.** Sign in and costumes

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

**Open Dress Rehearsal on January 10, at 9:00 a.m.**

## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Advent and Christmas celebrations here at St. Mary's. You made the parish look beautiful, you added your voices to make our worship joyous, and you served in ways that many have appreciated.

May God grant you a joyous Christmas season and may you and your family have a happy New Year!



# Christian Formation



begins again on  
 Sunday, January 4!!!  
 Childrens' Chapel will also  
 meet on Jan. 25!

## ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

*This winter and spring we will be using lessons from "Whole Christianity", a book of instruction in the Teaching and Worship of the Episcopal Church., by The Rev. Hugh Edsall.*

*We will attempt to adhere to the following schedule but lessons may last longer than one week, based on discussion of the participants.*

**January 18th** -This will be a foundational lesson of faith - We know many, who claim to be Christians and practice their religion all the time, who don't deal with these two important questions: *Is Belief in God Rational?* and *Is Jesus Who He Said He Is?*

**January 25th** - *Wholeness: The Way Out of Chaos* - How can I be sure my church is teaching me the truth? How can I be sure that the Episcopal Church is for me?

## Journey In Faith Classes To Begin January 25

As we look ahead to Bishop Skirving's first Episcopal 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 programs: *Journey In Faith* and *Youth Journey in Faith*.

*Journey In Faith* is a series of interactive sessions with St. Mary's clergy & catechists 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 for the adult course which covers the course outline and schedule will take place on Sunday, January 25, at 11:15 am in the parish Bookstore/Vestry Room. *Youth Journey in Faith* will meet during the Christian Formation hour throughout the year.

## "My Name"



Jan 1 is the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus & we'll renew our Baptismal vows on Jan 11, The Feast of the

Baptism of Jesus. Let this activity open up great conversations at home about our identity I Christ:

- 1 - Begin with a prayer like: "God, you have called us each by name, bless us in our conversation today. Amen."
- 2 - Read aloud these Bible passages: Luke 1:31-32 and 2:21.
- 3 - Invite each person to share what their names mean and how they were chosen. Learn meanings of names in a book or online at a place like [babynames.com](http://babynames.com).
- 4 - If children are present, share how their names were chosen. How long did it take to decide? Who were the first to know their names? Be ready for "WHY?" questions! If there's a biblical connection to their names, share the passage as well.
- 5 - Read aloud 1 John 3:1.
- 6 - Share about the day of your baptism (what you remember or what you've been told). Do the same for the children if they are present. What did it feel like to become or have your child become a "child of God?" What was the day like? Who was present? How did you celebrate? How do you continue to celebrate this special day?!

Above all, enjoy your fellowship together and praise God for knowing us all by name!

# Youth Community News

## Mark Your Calendars!!

Sunday, January 4 6-7:30

*EYC Old Christmas Party @  
Warren home (901 Rountree)!*

Sunday, January 11

*Glory Ridge Registration is due!!*

*Live into the Nativity Story in  
the Boar's Head Festival!!*

*EYC will not meet tonight.*

January 16-19

*EYC Pilgrimage to Washington,  
DC with St. Paul's (Beaufort)*

*EYC will not meet at St. Mary's  
on Sunday, Jan 18*

Sunday, January 25

*Regular EYC Schedule*

*Jr. & Sr. EYC @ Church*

*Jr. EYC 5:30-6:15pm*

*Sr. EYC 6:15-8:00pm*

*Both groups eat together from  
6:15-7:00pm*

Sunday, January 25

*Youth Council Meeting &  
Lunch @ Church, 12:00pm*

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



What does it mean to be a pilgrim? The word 'pilgrim' might bring to mind images of the first Thanksgiving meal or the colorful characters from The Canterbury Tales or maybe the more recent movie The Way. A common thread in all of these images is being a traveler away from home. Another common thread is a desire to draw nearer to God through an experience. This month, young people from St. Mary's will join a group from St. Paul's (Beaufort) to be pilgrims in Washington, DC. In traveling away from home and what is familiar, we will sharpen our senses to notice God's presence in new and hopeful ways. For those of you remaining at home, please pray for the pilgrims from St. Mary's & St. Paul's as we travel. We will be praying for you, that God's presence would be made abundantly clear in your life and that our community together will be strengthened in Christ by this time.

*Fr. Tom+*



**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 2014!!!



## Other news

### Ingathering of Gifts

What a joy it was to see the church with brightly wrapped Christmas gifts on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, as gifts for 25 children in Lenoir County Foster care were blessed and distributed to the



Department of Social Services. A special thank you to Jane Newton for organizing this year's event for the ECW. Thank you to everyone who took a name, purchased and wrapped gifts for these children. Thank you also to those who helped deliver the gifts to DSS on Monday, December 15th.

### The 132nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

The 132nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina will be held at the New Bern Convention Center in New Bern, NC, February 5-7, 2015.

“BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING...” ISAIAH 43:19

Delegates representing St. Mary's are: Adrian King, Ike Hines and Jo Parrott. The Alternate Delegate is P.C. Barwick. The Youth Representative from St. Mary's is Melissa Glen. Will Sargeant will serve as a Convention Page. We thank these individuals for serving the larger church.

Delegates will be attending a pre-convention meeting in January. The date, time and place have yet to be announced.

### Congratulations

Margaret Evelyn “Molly” Darst born on November 7, 2014, to Maggie and Michael Darst.  
The proud grandmother is Becky Darst.

Anderson “Beckett” Finnin  
born December 15, 2014  
to Nathan M. and Kaitlin Barker Finnin  
Proud grandparents are Jay and Vicki Barker  
The Rev. Nathan Finnin was the one-time  
Assistant at St. Mary's

### Year end financial Statements

Financial statements for 2014 will be mailed out by mid-January. If you have a discrepancy in your statement, please contact Joan Bradshaw, Parish Administrator by the end of January. The Vestry wishes to thank everyone who contributed. Thank you for your gift which enabled St. Mary's to minister in our community and beyond.

### Altar Guild training session

The Altar Guild has the responsibility and privilege of preparing the Holy Eucharist for all worship services as well as for special



services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Altar Guild members also care for and maintain linens and vestments, polish silver and brass.

Members serve about once every six weeks and also help with seasonal preparations for special services at Christmas, Easter, and during Lent.

Serving on the Altar Guild is not difficult, however it is a commitment and an investment of time. All members, both men and women, are invited to join the Altar Guild and serve in this rewarding.

An Altar Guild training session will be held on Saturday, January 31st, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All guild members are invited to attend. Father Michael will be present for this training session to be held in Moseley Hall.

Refreshments will be available. Bring you questions!

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

## Returning in January 2015

### January 5th

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer  
 (each Tuesday & Thursday)

### January 7th

6:45 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast

### January 18<sup>th</sup>

11:15 a.m. - Christian Formation  
 classes for all ages

### January 21st

5:30 p.m. - St. Cecilia's Choir



6:00 p.m. - Wednesday Night Dinner

7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir

## Mary's Market & The Cookie Walk

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and supported Mary's Market & The Cookie Walk. Profits of \$9,022 and \$2,476 were gained, respectively. A special thank you to Anne Lindley (Mary's Market- Chair) and Laury Sargeant for their leadership!

### 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 John
Stuart L. Stroud	Kevin M. Zoltek	John "Sandy" Shimer, Jr.

Senior Warden – P. C. Barwick, Jr.

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

Clerk – Cyndi Rafferty

Treasurer – D. Stuart Lindley