

MISSIVES



From The Senior Warden

BY JAMES HAYES

At a recent Lower Cape Fear Deanery Council meeting, we were asked to reflect on the abundant blessings that define St. Mary's and make us truly unique and inviting. Let us consider the exceptional qualities that make our parish shine, as we recognize the collective efforts that have brought us to this point.

A Warm Welcome for All: One of St. Mary's most cherished strengths lies in our unmatched ability to make everyone feel like family. Our welcoming atmosphere is a hallmark of our parish, drawing visitors and newcomers into our fold with open arms. During our services, we extend heartfelt invitations to join in, and our coffee hours provide a warm space for Christian fellowship to flourish. Our

delicious treats have become synonymous with our hospitality, leaving a lasting impression on all who step through our doors.

Empowering Outreach: St. Mary's stands as a beacon of compassion through our active outreach initiatives. Our commitment extends beyond our parish boundaries, touching lives both locally and within the broader diocese. From the lively Chili/Bingo Nights and Potluck Dinners that raise substantial funds for charitable causes to our captivating concerts that intertwine art and community support, our outreach programs resonate far and wide. We are particularly proud of our partnership with Burgaw Middle School and the Episcopal Farm Workers, reflecting our dedication to fostering positive change in our community.

Continued on pg 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Senior Warden

Vestry Retreat

Music Conference

Poem to Ponder

Announcements

Service Schedule

Senior Warden continued from page 1

A Model of Collaboration: In 2009, we embraced a visionary partnership with St. James. This innovative collaboration has proven to be a testament to unity and cooperation. The Rector of St. James, our liturgical guide, plays a pivotal role in our parish life, ensuring our spiritual needs are met. From sacramental support to pastoral care visits, our partnership stands as an exemplary model of shared purpose and support.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW):

Behind every success story is a group of dedicated individuals, and the women of our ECW exemplifies this truth. Despite their small numbers, the ECW's impact is significant. Their steadfast commitment and support has enabled us to create meaningful change both within our parish and the broader community. From ensuring children experience the joy of summer camp to active participation in the Diocesan ECW organization, our ECW's dedication is a testament to the power of collective action.

As we reflect on these blessings, let us be reminded that strength lies within our unity. Together, we are able to achieve remarkable feats, extending our reach and making a positive impact in the lives of those who we touch. Our journey is a testament to the limitless potential that resides within a community driven by love, compassion, and a shared vision.

May the coming months continue to be filled with the boundless blessings that have shaped our parish's identity. Let us join in embracing these strengths, nurturing our connections, and igniting a spirit of service that echoes beyond our parish.

A Fruitful Retreat

BY JAMES HAYES

The vestry held its retreat on August 26, 2023. The theme was "Equipping St. Mary's for the Future."

As the legal representatives of the parish the vestry is entrusted with the financial and physical well-being of the parish. Accordingly, the retreat provided an occasion for focused discussions on strategic planning, spiritual reflection, unity, and effective teamwork.

Participants explored how St. Mary's mission priorities aligned with those of the diocese (Lead, Learn, Serve, and Heal). Everyone agreed that there was a close alignment which strengthens the parish and nurtures the broader diocesan objectives.

Central to the retreat was the verse Galatians 6:9, that emphasizes perseverance and patience. The passage urges participants not to waver in the face of challenges, underlining the importance of consistent effort. The analogy of an harvest highlights the significance of long-term vision and that results require dedication. The concepts of unity and shared purpose play an important role as St. Mary's looks to the future.

The heart of the retreat revolved around three essential questions that guided the participants' discussions. The first question pondered leveraging technology to amplify community outreach and engagement. Ideas ranged from proactive partnerships with neighboring churches, strategic website utilization, and multimedia content creation to fostering online dialogue through a "suggestion box." The second question involved

continued on page 3

"Therefore, my beloved, stand firm, steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

Retreat continued from page 2

fostering partnerships within the community, suggesting avenues like inviting nearby churches, establishing new connections, and expanding the visibility of St. Mary's through various means. The final question centered on encouraging parishioner participation in acts of service, evangelism, and fellowship. Suggestions encompassed surveys, Bible study programs, and deeper involvement in diocesan and deanery events.

The retreat concluded with each vestry member making a personal commitment to move St. Mary's forward by working on specific objectives.

All in all, a successful retreat that underscored that equipping St. Mary's for the future goes beyond short-term gains and requires a steadfast commitment to the parish's enduring growth.

Music Conference

BY JENNINGS TRAWICK

The Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina 33rd Annual Conference on Church Music was held at the Trinity Center on Aug.17-20 and was attended by 75-80 singers. Heidi Robbins and I were thrilled to be there to represent St. Mary's. Music Leader for the conference was David Flood, retired organist and master of cathedral choristers at Canterbury Cathedral. Time included many music reading sessions, Morning Prayer, Compline, topical workshops and Evensong present by the Schola Cantorum (they still remember St Mary's food!). I forgot to mention many delicious meals and FUN! The conference concluded with Sunday morning worship at St. Francis By the Sea Episcopal Church where we served as the choir. Quite a glorious time!

Parking Lot

If you haven't noticed, the parking lot has been repaved! On 22 and 23 August, New Hanover Paving repaired areas where the pavement had failed, then added an inch and half layer of asphalt over the entire lot. The biggest change is that the parking lot is now level with the sidewalk in front of the church, which eliminates a tripping hazard and makes access to the church easier. As of this writing, the striping and wheel stops have not been completed, but will happen shortly. This is a long overdue maintenance project that will extend the life of the parking lot and improve the appearance of St. Mary's.



"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

1 Numbers 6:24-26

Listen and Be Present

BY JAMES HAYES

"Listen carefully, my child, to your master's precepts, and incline the ear of your heart." RULE OF ST. BENEDICT

Listen –
and be present in the world,
not dwelling in the past,
nor anxious about the future,
for the Kingdom of God is within us now.

Listen –
and be attuned to a holy rhythm,
not preoccupied with busyness,
nor distracted by concern,
for regular work, study, and prayer nurture our souls.

Listen –
and let loving kindness guide our actions,
not the search for comfort,
nor the fear of failure,
for the Holy Spirit is our inspiration.

Listen –
and begin each day with joy,
not dreading our work,
nor squandering productive hours,
for God is present in everything we do.

Diocesan Happenings

Christian Formation Events & Opportunities 2023-2024

Formation Leader Gatherings
Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30 PM or
Wednesday Afternoons @ 3:00 PM
August • 1st & 2nd October • 3rd & 4th
January • 16th & 17th April • 16th & 17th

Fall Conference for Middle Schoolers
November 17-19, 2023
6th - 8th grades
Trinity Center

REVIVAL
With Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
October 21, 2023
Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

Youth at Convention
February 9-10, 2024
9th - 12th grades
Greenville

Winter Retreat
January 12-14, 2024
8th - 12th grades
Trinity Center

Happenings
March 1-3, 2024
9th - 12th grades
Trinity Center

Creation Keepers
Children, Youth & Adults
Saturday, April 27, 2024
Mary's • Kinston • 10 - 3

Amazed & Astonished
Luce 240-52
Faithfully navigating relationships with your teen
Three Part Series
Tuesday Evenings
Late Fall
with Susan Peek, LSCW

Continuing Ed Opportunities
Weaving Our Gifts
Center for Children & Theology
October 27 - 28 • Online or
Local Watch Retreat
Forma Conference
Forma & Virginia Theological Seminary
January 22 - 25, 2024 • Online
Watch Retreats Available

New Beginnings
April 12-14, 2024
6th - 8th grades
Trinity Center

Questions?
Contact:
Emily Gowdy Canady
Missioner for Lifelong
Christian Formation
egowdy.canady@diocese-eastcarolina.org

Adult Formation
Adult Series for Lent
February - March 2024
via Zoom
Epiphanytide 2024
via Zoom

For more info

*"Blessed be the
God and Father
of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
who has blessed
us in Christ
with every
spiritual
blessing in the
heavenly
places."*

Ephesians 1:3

Jazz and Race Symposium

Saturday, Sept 16, 2023 | 1:30 PM | St. James Episcopal Church

Jazz and Racial Healing intersect in many ways. Listen to Jazz and learn more about its history from The Rev'd Skip Walker. Dr. Catherine Meeks will share from her extensive involvement in Racial Healing in the larger Episcopal church and beyond.

Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, Sept 19, 2023 | 5:30 PM | Parish Hall

Join us for an engaging session with Rev. Craig, when he will discuss collaborative ministry opportunities between St. James and St. Mary's. Don't miss out. A sign up sheet will be posted.

Community of Hope Training

Tuesday, Sept 5, 2023 | 5:30 PM | St. James

For those who are interested in the Community of Hope, Rev. Cheryl Brainard will be conducting a multi-session training program in September. The training equips lay persons to provide pastoral care and is spiritually fulfilling. Many St. Mary's parishioners have completed the program. Talk to Donna Anderson or the Senior Warden for more information.

From the Editor

This is the second issue of St. Mary's reimagined monthly newsletter. We ask for your patience as we overcome the glitches that inevitably arise when embarking on a new venture. While we can't guarantee a consistent flow of exceptional prose, our aim is to create a newsletter that informs and interests you each month. Perhaps it might even inspire you to share it with a friend. Your support is important, so we invite contributions for upcoming editions.

A few guidelines ...

First, express your thoughts exactly as you'd like them to appear. For activities, please include the date, time, venue, and a designated point of contact. We're also pleased to receive pictures, although the available space each month might limit how many can be included.

Second, be mindful of the length of your submission. A concise announcement, like the one highlighting the Jazz and Race Symposium, should be around 40 to 50 words. A brief article, similar to the piece by Jennings, should be approximately 100 words. If you're crafting a more in-depth thought piece or reflection, like the Senior Warden's Remarks, we suggest about 500 words.

Third, every submission will be reviewed for content, length, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. That's what an editor does.



Birthdays

Pam Anthony 9/1

Pat Casaw 9/3

Connor Corcoran 9/4

Susan Milholland 9/4

Isabelle Marshburn 9/12

Cody Starling 9/17

Marion Clark 9/22

Anniversaries

Karl and Angel Hammers 9/7

Danny and JoAnn Buck 9/23

Key Parish Events

Lutheran Sunday
September 3

Vestry Meeting
September 13
6:00 PM

Potluck Dinner
September 19
5:30 PM

St. Mary's Parish

EST. 1908

Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend C. Phillip Craig Jr.

Vestry

Senior Warden | Jim Hayes
Junior Warden | Karl Hammers
Treasurer | George Francis
Clerk | Pam Anthony
Outreach | Daniel LeClair
Finance | Roxanne Marshburn
Pastoral Care | Armin Jancis

Visit or Contact Us

Street Address:
506 S. McNeil Street
Burgaw, NC 28425

910-259-5541
stmarysburgaw@gmail.com
www.stmarysburgaw.org

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 841
Burgaw, NC 28425

Those Who Serve

Vestry Person of the Month	George Francis	
Sunday September 3 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 AM	Celebrant	Pastor Bill Milholland
	Lay Assistant	Pam Anthony
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Kayla Marshburn
	Oblations & Usher	Valde & Helle Jorgensen
	Organist	Jennings trawick
	Altar Guild	Pam Anthony
	Coffee Hour Angels	Brenda and Bill Starling
Sunday September 10 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 AM	Celebrant	The Rev. Nancy Jose
	Lay Assistant	Kayla Marshburn
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Pat Casaw
	Oblations & Usher	Jimbo and Heidi Robbins
	Organist	Jennings Trawick
	Altar Guild	Heidi Robbins
	Coffee Hour Angels	Jennings and Gary Trawick
Sunday September 17 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 AM	Celebrant	The Rev. Nancy Jose
	Lay Assistant	Karl Hammers
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Emily Smith
	Oblations & Usher	Danny Buck and Armin Jancis
	Organist	Jennings Trawick
	Altar Guild	Donna Anderson
	Coffee Hour Angels	Terri and Jim Hayes
Sunday September 24 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 11:00 AM	Celebrant	The Rev. Cheryl Brainard
	Lay Assistant	George Francis
	Acolyte/Crucifer	Danny Buck
	Oblations & Usher	Daniel and Johanna LeClair
	Organist	Jennings Trawick
	Altar Guild	Pat Casaw
	Coffee Hour Angels	Cathy and Al Weisser

IMPORTANT: If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and inform Pam Anthony of the change as soon as possible.