

St. Mark's Grace

Moving from Membership to Discipleship



A publication of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC •••• Volume 5, No. 2 •••• March - April 2026

VESTRY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

After welcoming new members, Denise McGregor Armbrister, Grace Byrd, Chris Jarrett, and Paul Kane the Vestry began the new year with the theme "Maintaining the Momentum" which includes,

- Continue the Improvements in the Church's Infrastructure
- Increase membership in the Church, and
- Reestablish Traditions and Church Structures

There are also several on-going projects and some new initiatives that will be announced during the year. However, we are looking forward to our 167th Anniversary celebration in April. Check out "Notes From The Vestry" for additional information.

We would also like to thank the many anonymous Angles who, through the Vestry or Rev. Dr. Walker have personally taken on church projects. Their efforts are sincerely appreciated by the Vestry and Church.



New Vestry members installed by Rev. Dr. Walker at Sunday service. Pictured from left are Sr. Warden, Clarence Armbrister, New Members: Paul Kane, Denise McGregor Armbrister, Grace Byrd, and Chris Jarrett.

St. Mark's 157th Anniversary Weekend

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH - JAZZ CONCERT - JACKSON HALL - 7PM

FEATURING - REV. SKIP WALKER'S JAZZ ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH - CHILDREN DAY AND CLOTHES SALE - JACKSON HALL

FEATURING - CHILDREN'S GAMES, GREAT FOOD AND MORE- 11AM

SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH - ANNIVERSARY SERVICE - CHURCH SANCTUARY - 11AM

GUEST SPEAKER: KENNETH CHESTNUT, CHURCH HISTORIAN

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY CLARENCE ARMBRISTER SR. WARDEN

Greetings, My Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Wishing each of you a prayerful and solemn journey this Lenten season as we progress toward the Resurrection of our Savior! Your vestry continues to be hard at work on your behalf and I thought I would share with you a few tidbits about our activities:

Retreat with Rev. Walker- On Saturday, February 7, the Vestry, along with Deacon Wagoner met in Jackson Hall for a half-day retreat. Rev. Walker, who facilitated the retreat, helped the vestry to think positively about the future. The retreat included two outside presenters, one who has agreed to help St. Mark's seek more foundation grants and another presenter who shared with the Vestry an opportunity to bring a signature service to St. Mark's that could benefit the greater community. I will let Rev. Walker share more details about that opportunity with the congregation.

Filing of Parochial Report- St. Mark's Parochial Report for 2025 was filed before the March 1 deadline. I thought it would be interesting to share just a couple of facts with you contained in the Report: Total In-Person Attendance for the year, 1,964; and the three highest attendance figures/Service, Easter Sunday (65), Anniversary Sunday (70), Christmas Eve (56).

Foyer Improvements- Please take note as you enter St. Marks. We now have a much more welcoming entrance thanks to the new plastering and paint job, along with a brand new welcome mat emblazoned with the shield of the Episcopal Church and the name "St. Mark's". Thanks to our Jr. Warden, Debra McRae, for initiating this project.

Re-Keying of the Church- Under the direction of Karl Boykin, every external lock of the Church was re-keyed. Those individuals requiring keys have been issued keys and a list is being maintained so that access is limited to only those individuals who require or are otherwise authorized access to the Church. Thanks Karl for taking on this project.

St. Mark's Anniversary Celebration- St. Mark's will celebrate its 157th Anniversary on Sunday, April 26, 2026. Grace Byrd, along with Karl Boykin and Ms. Darlene Fulton are leading the planning for this celebration. Please support them in their efforts.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the Consecration and Installation of Bishop-Elect Sarah Fisher as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese will take place on May 23, 2026 at the Riverfront Convention Center in New Bern North Carolina. I have been advised that the Diocese would like an estimate of how many parishioners from each parish might attend. If you plan on attending, please let me know by sending me a note. Also, we will need to identify someone to carry our banner in the procession. If you are interested in bearing our banner, please let me know as well.

On behalf of your active Vestry, I thank you for your prayers and support!

God Bless, Clarence D. Armbrister

Happy Birthday 

March

Edith Beatty-2nd Grace M Byrd- 9th
Julian T Fulton- 12th Nicole Pierce- 21st

April

Sandra Spool- 2nd Sherell T Fulton- 5th
Kamille Atkinson- 5th Legend Holiday-10th
Windell Hicks- 10th David M Logan- 14th
Louise Outler- 17th

Let's Hear From You!!!

The deadline for the next issue of *St. Mark's Grace* is Friday, June 3, 2026. Submissions can be emailed, to the church at stmarkschurch600@yahoo.com or Karl Boykin at karl.boykin@gmail.com. So let's hear from you. Your letters to the editor/ideas/articles/comments/information/questions can also be emailed to karl.boykin@gmail.com.

A PRAYER FOR ST. MARK'S

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for St. Mark's, Wilmington. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, restore the penitent, draw the seekers, and increase our numbers. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your Holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We are
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Wilmington, NC

Serving our community for over
156 years (1869 - 2026)

Mission Statement

We are an Episcopal community of faith located in Wilmington, NC, proclaiming GOD and striving to be disciples of Jesus's love, justice and hope. All are welcome.

The Rev. Dr. Skip Walker, Priest-in-Charge
Cheryl Wagoner, Deacon

St. Mark's Vestry

Clarence Armbrister - Senior Warden
Debora McRae - Junior Warden

Denise McGregor Armbrister- Recorder
Karl Boykin
Grace Byrd
Chris Jarrett
Paul Kane, Jr.
Henry Spool
Thomas Warren

St. Mark's Staff

Mark Hellmann, Chuck Lindler, **Choirmasters**
Darlene Fulton, **Treasurer**
Amanda Grady, **Administrative Asst.**
Henry & Sandra Spool, **Sextons**
Jacquelyn Warren, **Clerk**

Services

Church Service - Sunday - 11am

Zoom optional (see page 6)

- Adult Sunday School - 10 am
- Youth Sunday School - 10 am
- Bible Study - Wednesday - 6:30 pm

St. Mark's Grace

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St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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Phone: 910-763-3858 Fax: 910-763-3292

The Rev. Dr. Skip Walker, Priest-in-Charge
Diocese Of East Carolina

Newsletter Editor: Karl R. K. Boykin
Newsletter Committee: Amanda Grady, Clarence Armbrister, Jacquelyn Warren, Gail Fulton,

Articles, comments, letters and suggestions can be submitted to the Church Office (stmarkschurch600@yahoo.com) or karl.boykin@gmail.com



Rev. Dr. Skip Walker

FROM THE PULPIT

Beloved St. Mark's Family, Lent invites us into something both honest and hopeful.

In a world that rarely slows down, Lent gives us permission to pause. It is the Church's sacred "reset button" - a season to breathe deeply, examine our hearts, and realign our lives with the steady, transforming love of God. We enter these forty days not to dwell in guilt, but to embrace grace. Not to shame ourselves, but to open ourselves. Lent is not about spiritual punishment. It is about spiritual preparation. We pray more intentionally. We fast or give something up not as deprivation, but as discipline. We give generously - not just financially, but with our time, our attention, and our compassion. In doing so, we clear space. We make room. We prepare the soil of our souls. Because resurrection does not come randomly.

Easter Sunday is not simply a celebration on the calendar; it is the culmination of a journey. Resurrection power meets prepared hearts. The wilderness of Lent readies us for the garden of Easter morning. Every year we walk this road again because every year we need renewal again. We need to reset our priorities. We need to remember who we are. We need to release what weighs us down. And we need to rediscover that death - whether disappointment, failure, grief, or fear - never gets the last word. At St. Mark's, we walk this season together. We confess together. We pray together. We hope together. And when Easter dawns, we will rise together -singing, proclaiming, and living the truth that Christ is risen, and because He lives, we live also.

So let this Lent be intentional. Let it be honest. Let it be hopeful. Hit the reset button. And ready your heart for resurrection. With prayer and expectation, Rev. Dr. Skip Walker, St. Mark's Episcopal Church

DEACON'S JOURNAL



Cheryl Wagoner

Greetings beloved of St. Mark's

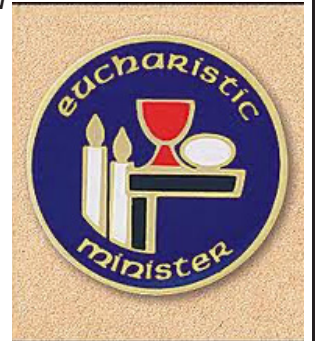
The season of Lent is upon us. How many of us have given up chocolate, red meat, wine, or some other physical thing before? What if we looked at Lent a bit differently? What if we considered fasting to be refraining from things/practices that take us further away from God or at least don't bring us closer? What if we also considered feasting during Lent? By this, I don't mean feasting on a large meal. I am talking about feasting upon practices that bring us closer to God or strengthen our relationship with God? For example, I have decided to feast by adding noonday prayer to my daily prayer life and fast by letting go of the anger/hurt I feel from people being unkind and to forgive them instead. I invite you to consider what you might feast/fast from to further build your personal relationship with God. God's Peace be with us today and everyday.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV) "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Lay Eucharistic Minister and Visitors continue to visit shut-ins. to request a visit for a member, contact Jacquelyn Warren or Deacon Cheryl. Thank You to our dedicated LEMS.

Jacquelyn Warren, LEM



Lord, we realize that we have not protected your creation. We were blind and content, and we failed to appreciate all that you have given us. Forgive us, Lord, and give us the strength and clarity to see our potential and to be your stewards in repairing your creation.

Lead us into action by the guide of your hand. Amen.

Pray for Archbishop of Canterbury: Justin

Presiding Bishop: Michael

Bishop Diocese of East Carolina: Robert and All Interim

Rectors Pray for our Parish, especially our Staff, our

Vestry and its Officers, and our Ministries and Commit-

tees. Keep all our members in your prayers and especially the

Homebound: **Edith Beatty, Marilyn Burrell, Marlene**

Frazier, Kimberly Kane, Ida King, Louise Outler, Julianna

Reese, Bernice Shaw, Gloria Williams, William and Dolores

Smith, John Chisolm, Robert T Chestnut



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELP WITH SARAH FISHER'S ORDINATION

SIGN UP TO HELP ON
SATURDAY, MAY 23
AT THE NEW BERN
RIVERFRONT
CONVENTION CENTER

- ACOLYTES
- USHERS
- VERGERS
- PARKING ATTENDANTS
- HOSPITALITY
- CHORISTERS

SCAN ME



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/ORDINATIONVOLUNTEER](https://bit.ly/ordinationvolunteer)

Greetings from the Youth Ministry

In January we attended the Burnett-Eaton Museum Foundation Day of Service Celebration in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday in Jackson Hall. We enjoyed breakfast, Civil Rights stories and a Magician who entertained us with magic tricks, balloon animals and lots of humor that thrilled all who participated. As we enter the Season of Lent, we are following the lectionary with stories of Jesus' light, love, and His care for us. We look forward to the Joy of Easter Day which will include our Easter Egg Hunt after service!



Until then, have a Blessed Lenten Season!

Did You Notice...

DETERIORATING STUCCO

BEFORE REPAIR



Exposed brick visible due to deteriorating stucco

REPAIR COMPLETE



Did You Notice...

FRONT DOOR & FOYER REPAIR

DURING REPAIR



REPAIR COMPLETE



Black Family Wellness Expo



**Saturday, March 21, 2026
11:00AM-2:00PM**

**Derick G.S. Davis Community Center
1101 Manly Ave; Wilmington, NC**

Wellness for Every Generation

A fun, empowering community event focused on mind, body,
and family wellness for all ages!

FREE FOOD AND DRINKS!

RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS!

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Event questions?

Looking to become a vendor?

Email: hhsfacet.links@gmail.com

Phone: (910) 616-3944

**SESSIONS, SPEAKERS &
VENDORS WILL SHARE
INFORMATION ON:**

**MENTAL HEALTH &
EMOTIONAL WELLNESS**

YOUTH IMMUNIZATIONS

**FIT FOR LIFE
FUN PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES**

HEALTHY EATING

**HAIR & NAIL CARE
THE HEALTHY WAY**

**FINANCIAL WELLNESS
(TEENS & ADULTS)**

**SENIOR PLANNING
& LIFE RESOURCES**

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT
& RESOURCES**

Music vibes provided LIVE by: Sandra "The Midday Miss" McClammy

March/April 2026 Schedule & Events

Date	Season/Event	Reader	Priest	Time
Sun, March 8	Daylight Savings Time	Yolanda Warren	Rev. Dr. Walker	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, March 15	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Lekeisha Jarrett	Father Papile	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, March 22	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Stephanie McGregor	Rev. Dr. Walker	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, March 29	Palm Sunday	Clarence Armbrister	Rev. Richard Elliott	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, April 5	Easter Sunday	Rodney Anderson	Father Papile	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, April 12	Second Sunday of Easter	Ron Fulton	Rev. Dr. Walker	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Sun, April 19	Third Sunday of Easter	Betty Fulton	Father Papile	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
St. Mark's 157th Anniversary Weekend				
Fri, April 24	Friday Night Jazz @ St. Mark's	7:00 pm St. Mark's Jackson Hall		
Sat, April 25	Church Fun Day	Great Food with Fun Indoor & Outdoor Activities		
Sun, April 26	St. Mark's 157th Anniversary Service	Barbara Armstrong	Guest Speaker Kenneth Chestnut	Sunday School-10am Service - 11am
Note:	<i>Coffee Hour follows all Sunday Services unless otherwise announced.</i>			



• **May 16: Celebration** of Bishop's Skirving's ministry at the beach pavilion at Trinity Center. Everyone in the diocese is invited.

• **May 23: Ordination/Consecration** of Bishop elect Sara Fisher in New Bern (If enough are interested we might get a van to take a group to the ordination?). Everyone in the diocese is invited AND encouraged to attend.

• **Need Volunteer(s)** to bring and carry the St. Mark's banner in the procession to represent the congregation. Please let Deacon Wagoner Father Walker or Sr. Warden Armbrister know if you are interested in this exciting opportunity to participate in the ordination.

• **The Diocese** is looking for volunteers to help in all sorts of ways with the ordination. Here is the link if you would like to volunteer to help with the ordination.