



The MESSAGE

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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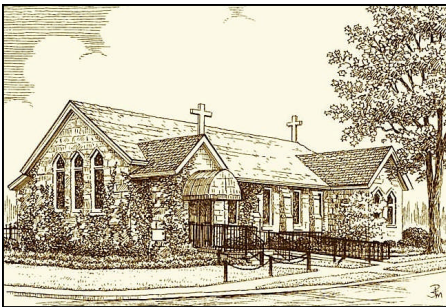
WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays: Holy Eucharist

8:00 am: Traditional Rite I without music
 10:30 am: Contemporary Rite II with music
 (sung Eucharist on the first Sunday)

Wednesdays

12:05 pm: Holy Eucharist & healing prayers
 3:20 pm: Atrium



CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Don E. Johnson,
Bishop of West Tennessee

The Rev. Gary Meade, *Rector*
 Dr. Scott Roberts, *Organist*

Mrs. Melissa McLaughlin, *Parish Secretary*

VESTRY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

John Lannom, *Senior Warden*

Dudley Davis, *Junior Warden*

Tommy Hopper, *Treasurer*

David Akers

Karen Bowyer

Mary Stuart David

Bob Dean

Agnes Ann Moore

Bubba Smith

Teresa Stavely-Hawkins

A Few Words from

The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

— Luke 2:8

Watching sheep at night would seem like a pretty simple and uneventful job. These were ordinary people carrying out an ordinary task: keeping the flock safe. To many of Luke's listeners, this pastoral scene would have been very familiar indeed.

And then, of course, the most extraordinary of all things happens: angels appear in blinding glory with amazing proclamations and songs of praise to God. And so it was that on the night of Christ's birth the first witnesses to the miracle of the arrival of the Son of God were these humble servants. They quickly find the baby Jesus, lying in a manger just as the angels had proclaimed.

The image of this powerful scene captured the imagination of a former soldier named Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone. Francesco asked a wealthy friend of his to build a manger scene to be filled with live animals and persons playing the parts of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. The year was 1224, and the first known nativity scene had been created at the direction of a man better known as St. Francis of Assisi.

In the years that followed, of course, this depiction of a group of shepherds gathered in awe around a newborn boy has been portrayed in many ways. It stands as an important witness not only to Christ's arrival in a stable in Bethlehem so many years ago but also that we, like those shepherds of old, are called to bear witness to the miracle of Christ's birth.

St. Athanasius, one of the early church's greatest theologians and defenders of the faith, described this miracle in these terms: "He became what we are that he might make us what he is." As we move through these days of Advent and into the season of Christmas, may the Holy Spirit ever be at work in our hearts and lives that we may indeed become more and more Christ-like in our love and service.

Your grateful servant in Christ,

Father Gary

The Episcopal Church:
 home to thoughtful
 Christians since 1785



It's Time for Your Pledges

I invite you to join me in participating in the 2010 Stewardship Campaign for Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, and I encourage you to consider how God has blessed us at Saint Mary's and how we can respond in gratitude. For example, how has God been at work in your life and in the life of our parish? How do you respond to the blessings God has brought into your life?

I invite you to prayerfully consider these questions and ask: how is God calling *you* to support the work and ministries of Saint Mary's? Traditionally there are three pledges we make: to share our *time*, *our talent*, and our *treasure*. While I do encourage you to share of your treasure, please note that this is last on the list. It is every bit as important that you share, as you are able, of your time and talent by participating in the life of our church in liturgy, hospitality, outreach, education, or any of the other areas of our common life in Christ.

However you can give, please do so. Our church, our community, and indeed our world will be richer because of your participation and generosity. How can you pledge? Just fill out a pledge card, found in the pews, in the rack at the back of the church, in the church office, and on our web-site. We will also gladly mail you one if you prefer. You may mail in your completed card or drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday between now and year's end.

A pledge is merely a statement of what you intend to give in the coming year. You are welcome to change your financial support at any time and for any reason. But I will say that having your pledge will make our financial planning for 2010 both easier and more accurate. If you have not yet pledged in the past, please consider doing so this year.

Also, please remember that if you deduct charitable giving from your income taxes, you may wish to make any final donations for 2009 by December 31. In January we will prepare statements for each giver of record. You are welcome to contact Melissa directly about your pledge or donations. I also welcome any concerns, comments, questions, or suggestions you may have.

Finally, thank you for *all* the ways you support Saint Mary's. Our parish depends so much on so many people who give in so many ways.

"...she...put in everything - all she had..."

Mark 12:44



Are You Called to Serve?

Governance in the church is given in no small measure to the laity. Early next year we will be selecting three new members of the Vestry as well as delegates to help Fr. Gary represent Saint Mary's at the annual Convention of the Diocese of West Tennessee.

The next Convention is scheduled for March 4-6, 2010. At its January meeting, in accordance with the canons (or laws) of the diocese, the Vestry will elect four lay delegates and four alternates. If you would like to represent Saint Mary's in this important role, please let Fr. Gary or a member of the vestry know at your earliest convenience. Likewise, please feel free to nominate any person you think would be appropriate.

We will also be electing three new members to the Vestry at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 17 following the 10:30 AM service. If you feel called to serve in this important leadership role in the life of the parish, please let Fr. Gary or a current member of the Vestry know. You are also invited to nominate others for this important ministry.

CELEBRATING AN
Anniversary

*Happy Anniversary
to Ray and Betty Ashley
on December 22!*

Liturgical Schedule for Christmas Eve

5:30 pm

Chalice: **Bobbie Milligan**
Lector: **Kenny Brunson**
Prayers: **Sarah Emery**
Acolytes: **Taylor Hopper (cross)**
Shelby Hopper (torch)
Caley Randolph (torch)
Usher: **Tommy Hopper**
Vestry: **Bob Dean**

11:00 pm

Chalice: **Lynda Thurman**
Lector: **Agnes Ann Moore**
Prayers: **Mary Stuart David**
Acolyte: **Bubba Smith**
Usher: **John Lannom**
Vestry: **John Lannom**



December Birthdays

4: Jorge Cruent; Mac Hudson. **5:** Alicia Langford. **6:** Eric Hawkins. **8:** Murray Hudson. **9:** Louis Anderson, IV. **11:** Taylor Hopper; Ruth Tucker. **13:** Mary Stuart David. **14:** Betsy Kienitz; Brian Klinkhammer; Lynda Thurman. **16:** Karen Bowyer; GleyN Twilla, Jr. **17:** Ben Akers. **18:** Keith Burns; Nancy Godsey.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>REGULAR WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</p> <p>Sundays: Holy Eucharist 8:00 am: Traditional Rite I without music 10:30 am: Contemporary Rite II with music (sung Eucharist on the first Sunday)</p> <p>Sundays: Christian Education 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Wednesdays 12:05 pm: Holy Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium</p>		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 The Second Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: K. Brunson Lector: B. Milligan Prayers: W. Heathcott Acolyte: T. Hopper Usher: T. Hopper Vestry: M.S. David</p>	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>13 The Third Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study <i>No Third Sunday Luncheon this month</i></p> <p>Chalice: D. Palmer Lector: M. Hudson Prayers: A. A. Moore Acolyte: A. Hawkins Usher: J. Lannom Vestry: T. Hawkins</p>	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study <i>Pizza and Decorating Party</i></p> <p>Chalice: M.S. David Lector: D. Palmer Prayers: D. Davis Acolyte: E. Glass Usher: B. Dean Vestry: D. Davis</p>	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>27 The First Sunday after Christmas 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist No Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: B. Smith Lector: D. Davis Prayers: W. Heathcott Acolyte: S. Emery Usher: B. Smith Vestry: B. Smith</p>	28	29	30	31	<p>Christmas Celebrations at St.Mary's <i>Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24</i> Family Service & Eucharist, 5:30 pm Choral Prelude, 10:30 pm Festival Holy Eucharist, 11:00 pm <i>Christmas Day, Friday, December 25</i> Holy Eucharist, 11:00 am</p>	
		<p>6:00 pm: Men's Group (Dinner at Reelfoot Lake)</p>	<p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The Old Testament</p>		
			<p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The Old Testament</p>		
			<p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The Old Testament</p>		
			<p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p>5:30 pm & 11:00pm: Eve of the Nativity 10:30 pm: Special Music No Bible Study</p>	<p>11:00 am: The Nativity of our Lord</p>	
		<p>5:30 pm: Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p>No Bible Study</p>		

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd-Level I Training

A new adult formation course will begin in January 2010. This Catechesis of the Good Shepherd course for **Level I (for working with the 3-6 year old child)** will begin with sessions at the Good Shepherd Center at St. Philip Episcopal Church on **January 21-23**. Please e-mail Mary Claire Hopper at **tommymary@bellsouth.net** if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity!



OUR PRAYER LIST

Aaron Joshua
 Aden
 Alison
 Chuck Broyles
 Virginia Brunson
 Judy Burks
 Kaitlyn Cash
 Genenda Clark
 Pauline Dittmer
 Dianne Donner
 Max Green
 Peggy Hodges
 Lechia Holbrook
 Martha Horn
 Nickalene Johnson
 June Lannom
 Teresa Layne
 Marty Moody
 Patti Murphy
 Glenn O'Bryan
 Jean O'Bryan
 Jamie Owens
 Ted Owens
 The Randolph Family
 John Redman
 Hank Rice
 Earl Roberts
 Pat Roberts
 Robbie Scott
 Nicole Stephenson
 Bob Toth
 John Viar
 Ginger Voss

Names will be removed from our list after two months unless specified otherwise. To add yourself or another to this list, please call or email the office.

FOR ANY PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please call Father Gary at home, 882-4925; or on his cell phone, 589-3370.

Free Pizza Party!

(Oh, and We'll be Decorating the Church for Christmas, too)



Following the 10:30 am service on December 20, please join us to decorate the church for Christmas. We'll be decorating the tree, arranging the poinsettias, and setting up the nativity scene. We'll also be serving free pizza for all who stay after the worship service to help out!



If you would like to order a poinsettia this Christmas season in honor or in memory of a loved one, please pick up one of the special envelopes located at the back of the church and complete the information on the front of the envelope and enclose your check or cash for \$12.50 for each poinsettia. Place the envelope in the offering plate or turn in at the office by December 17.

Christmas Celebrations at St.Mary's

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

Family Service & Eucharist, 5:30 pm

Choral Prelude, 10:30 pm

Festival Holy Eucharist, 11:00 pm

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

Holy Eucharist, 11:00 am

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