



# The MESSAGE

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

108 N. King Avenue • Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024 • 731-285-3522  
www.stmarysdyersburg.org • office@stmarysdyersburg.org

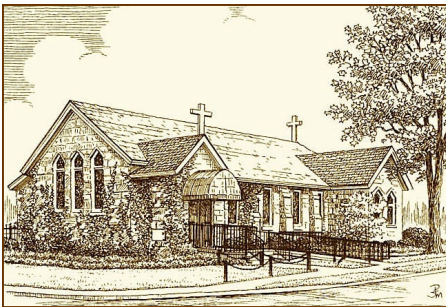
### WORSHIP TIMES

#### 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

*The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

— 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

As I write this note, it feels like it's been raining for 40 days and 40 nights (okay, so it's only been a few days, but I *am* feeling a bit soggy). And the weather forecast calls for more rain — up to three inches in the next couple of days, and the saturated ground surely cannot soak up any more water.

That is how God's blessings are supposed to be experienced: flowing down upon us in such an unceasing and endless cascade that it seems we cannot absorb even more of God's grace and care. And while we can in our minds acknowledge the many ways God's love is made real (for example: the rain which makes crops grow, the sun which warms our faces, friends who love us, and surely the salvation made ours by the love of Christ), we may not always *feel* quite so blessed. After all, it is easy to list the difficulties and challenges of our lives, the things that so easily occupy our minds and schedules.

Perhaps that is why Jesus grounded our most sacred communal act of Holy Eucharist in something as ordinary as the evening meal. Note the beginning of the action of the Eucharist as reported by Paul, and as repeated in our prayers on Sunday mornings: Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks. Even with something as ordinary as bread, there is occasion for thankfulness.

As we prepare to celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving on November 26, I invite you to remember all the ways — ordinary and otherwise — that you are blessed by God and for which you ought to give our Lord thanks and praise. I'm sure you can name many ways your life is blessed.

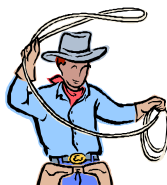
For my part, I am so grateful for my family, especially my sons J.R. and Adam, and for the parish family that is Saint Mary's. Your care for me and mine is one of the sources of God's blessing, pouring down on in quantities beyond generous and measure.

Your grateful servant in Christ,

*Gary+*

Father Gary

### McIver's Grant Public Library Rodeo Round-Up



Kids ages 3 to 10 come join the fun on November 7 from 2-4 p.m.! There will be cowboy games, snacks, and a trick horse! Admission will be \$5.00 to cover costs and help raise money for the library. Please call 731-285-5032 for more information.

The Episcopal Church:  
home to thoughtful  
Christians since 1785



## New Bible Study Announced

What can the Old and New Testaments teach us about who we once were? What does our faith find in new scholarly understandings of these texts? Find out in these two courses that shed new light on the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. In **The Old Testament**, award-winning Professor Amy-Jill Levine uses interesting or prominent passages from the Old Testament as examples of how to apply particular methods of interpretation to the Bible. We will not only probe the content of the biblical books of the Old Testament, but we will also explore debates over their meaning, the historical and cultural situations they reflect and address, and the critical methods used to interpret them.

Then, draw on modern biblical scholarship, recent archaeological discoveries, and careful literary analysis to trace the history of the New Testament and the early Christian community in **The New Testament**. Taught by expert religious scholar and Professor Bart D. Ehrman, these 24 lectures will provide us with a carefully reasoned understanding of the New Testament. We will study the entire canon—from the Gospel of Mark to the Book of Revelation—from a respectful and scholarly perspective. At the end of both of these illuminating courses, we will strengthen our appreciation of what these two texts say and their enormous impact on both Western civilization and the daily lives of so many people.

This course will be offered on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. We will view the 30-minute lecture on DVD, then have time for our discussion. This course will start this Advent and will continue for the next year.

## Our Building is *Not* Falling!

As you may recall, last spring engineers from Forcum-Lannom Construction placed a number of small devices around our building to monitor the larger cracks in our cinderblock construction. After a number of months, the engineers have detected no movement in these devices, indicating that our building remains structurally sound. This good news is tempered somewhat by the reality that we will need to seal the outside of the building against continuing the deterioration common to the rather porous cinderblock construction. We will, of course, keep you informed as we consider our options for best preserving our historic and lovely church building.

On Thursday, November 5 at 6:00 pm, St. Mary's will be joining together with 5 other local churches to help those adversely affected by these hard economic times. Please come to an evening of **H.O.P.E.** (Helping Our People Endure) hosted at Holy Angels Church. It will be an evening of prayer, information and refreshments. A session on "Controlling Holiday Spending" will be offered, and there will be a drawing for Wal-Mart gift cards. If you would like to help cook, serve, or make a dessert for that evening, please contact Pat Viar at 285-1013.



## Make Your Own Advent Wreath



Sunday, November 29 is the First Sunday of Advent. To mark the day, and to help us prepare for the Christmas season,

please come to an Advent Wreath-making event in the Parish House following the 10:30 am service. We'll provide all the supplies, including candles, though we will need a few people to gather and bring a selection of greens.

## *the Power of a Simple Gift*



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 61 million shoe boxes have been packed, shipped, and delivered across the globe. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ. National Collection Week is November 17-24. There are pamphlets in the back of the church if you are interested in participating in this special project!

## November Birthdays

**4:** Tiffani Glass. **6:** Phil Crihfield. **7:** Jack Anderson. **8:** Logan Dykes. **14:** Martha Donner-Borthwick. **18:** Ray Ashley. **24:** Mallory Brunson. Sarah Lannom. **25:** Sandi Akers. **26:** Adam Ward.



Wish These Friends a  
"Happy Birthday!"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1 All Saints' Sunday</b>  <b>8 and 10:30 am:</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: <b>B. Milligan</b>      Lector: <b>A.A. Moore</b>            Prayers: <b>L. Thurman</b>      Acolytes: <b>S. Emery</b>            Usher: <b>J. Emery</b>              <b>A. Hawkins</b>            Vestry: <b>A.A. Moore</b>              <b>C. Randolph</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>12:05 pm:</b> Eucharist &amp; healing prayers  <b>3:20 pm:</b> Atrium  <b>5:30 pm:</b> Book Club</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> H.O.P.E.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>9:00 am:</b> "Stop Hunger Now" Food-Packaging Event</p>
<p><b>8 The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</b>  <b>8 and 10:30 am:</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: <b>L. Thurman</b>      Lector: <b>D. Palmer</b>            Prayers: <b>D. Davis</b>        Acolyte: <b>E. Glass</b>            Usher: <b>J. Lannom</b>        Vestry: <b>J. Lannom</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>6:00 pm:</b> Men's Group</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>12:05 pm:</b> Eucharist &amp; healing prayers  <b>3:20 pm:</b> Atrium  <b>5:30 pm:</b> Book Club</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15 The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b>  <b>8 and 10:30 am:</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study  <i>No Third Sunday Luncheon this month</i></p> <p>Chalice: <b>M.S. David</b>      Lector: <b>M. Hudson</b>            Prayers: <b>W. Heathcott</b>      Acolyte: <b>D. Palmer</b>            Usher: <b>B. Dean</b>              Vestry: <b>M.S. David</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>12:05 pm:</b> Eucharist &amp; healing prayers  <b>3:20 pm:</b> Atrium  <b>5:30 pm:</b> Book Club</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22 The Last Sunday after Pentecost</b>  <b>8 and 10:30 am:</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: <b>M. Hudson</b>      Lector: <b>K. Brunson</b>            Prayers: <b>K. Horn</b>        Acolyte: <b>E. Glass</b>            Usher: <b>B. Dean</b>              Vestry: <b>K. Bowyer</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>5:30 pm:</b> Vestry Meeting</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>12:05 pm:</b> Eucharist &amp; healing prayers</p> <p>No Atrium            No Book Club</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>10:00 am:</b>            Thanksgiving Day Service</p> <p>Chalice: <b>D. Palmer</b>            Lector: <b>A.A. Moore</b>            Prayers: <b>A.A. Moore</b>            Acolyte: <b>D. Palmer</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29 The First Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>8 and 10:30 am:</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: <b>B. Smith</b>        Lector: <b>W. Heathcott</b>            Prayers: <b>D. Palmer</b>      Acolyte: <b>B. Smith</b>            Usher: <b>J. Lannom</b>        Vestry: <b>J. Lanno</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>REGULAR WORSHIP &amp; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b></p>		<p><b>Sundays: Holy Eucharist</b>  <b>8:00 am:</b> Traditional Rite I without music  <b>10:30 am:</b> Contemporary Rite II with music (sung Eucharist on the first Sunday)</p> <p><b>Sundays: Christian Education</b>  <b>9:30 am:</b> Adult Bible Study</p> <p><b>Wednesdays</b>  <b>12:05 pm:</b> Holy Eucharist &amp; healing prayers  <b>3:20 pm:</b> Atrium</p>		

## Expressing Our Thanksgiving (And, yes, we're talking about money)

I hope that your list of the blessings in your life includes Saint Mary's. We do gather to worship our Lord in an exceptional parish: we gather with a caring congregation in a beautiful space filled with God's glory manifest in stained glass, in gorgeous music, and in our shared worship.

We share, too, in great involvement in our community. I have seen that so clearly just in the last few days as I have attended important meetings for the YMCA, the Dyersburg Recovery Services board, and at a presentation regarding health care reform. In each case, Saint Mary's members had leadership roles and were present in numbers greater than any other church in Dyersburg.

Last weekend a number of our flock gathered under Dudley Davis' leadership to work on the grounds: cleaning, trimming, weeding, and more. And every week members of our dedicated Altar Guild tend to our worship space, preparing the linens, vessels, candles, and flowers for our Sunday worship.

These are just a few examples, of course, of what makes ours a special church family. These are just of the things for which I give thanks. I hope you do, too.

One way I show my thanks is in my giving, by which I support our church's ministry. Many of you, of course, share with me in giving to support Saint Mary's. But, as we hear so often in the news, the economy is tough these days. This is certainly reflected in our giving. According to our projected budget, we had hoped to receive \$125,000 in pledges and other donations by the end of October. In fact, we have received \$103,410 — a difference of \$21,590. I know I am likely behind in my pledge, and I will catch up soon. Perhaps you, too, need to catch up on your pledge. Perhaps, instead, you may want to make a special offering to help us close our budget shortfall.

I invite you to pray about how you are giving to Saint Mary's and how you can help us close the gap between our actual giving and our budget. Thanks.

—The Rev. Gary Meade

## OUR PRAYER LIST



Aaron Joshua  
Aden  
Virginia Brunson  
Judy Burks  
Kaitlyn Cash  
Genenda Clark  
Pauline Dittmer  
Dianne Donner  
Max Green  
Peggy Hodges  
Lechia Holbrook  
Tommy Hopper  
Martha Horn  
Nickalene Johnson  
June Lannom  
Teresa Layne  
Marty Moody  
Patti Murphy  
Jamie Owens  
The Randolph Family  
John Redman  
Hank Rice  
Earl Roberts  
Pat Roberts  
Robbie Scott  
Anita Toth  
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.

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

108 North King Avenue  
Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024

