



# The MESSAGE

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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

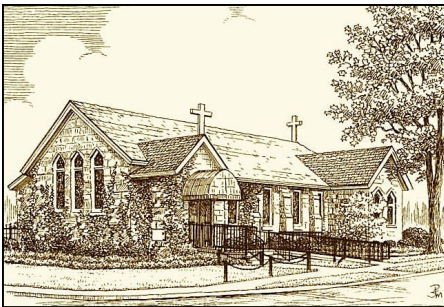
### WORSHIP TIMES

#### 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

Dudley Davis, *Senior Warden*

Bob Dean, *Junior Warden*

Tommy Hopper, *Treasurer*

David Akers

Mary Stuart David

Brooke Emery

Judi Grunert

Bobbie Milligan

Bubba Smith

Teresa Stavely-Hawkins

### A Few Words from

#### The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector

*"They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

— Mark 12:44

I invite you to join me in participating in the 2011 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 2010 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.

Your grateful servant in Christ,

*Gary+*

Father Gary



Trim  
the  
Tree

Following the 10:30 am service on December 19, 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 lunch for all who stay after the worship service to help

The Episcopal Church:  
home to thoughtful  
Christians since 1785



## How We Can Get More People in Church


The following list comes from Tamie Fields Harkins who served for four years as an Episcopal chaplain to young people. While she writes specifically about reaching youth, her ideas are worth considering for potential members of all ages. You can read this in her blogpost at: <http://owlrainfeathers.blogspot.com/2010/11/ah-church.html>

Here is a step-by-step plan for how to get more young people into the church:


1. Be genuine. Do not under any circumstances try to be trendy or hip, if you are not already intrinsically trendy or hip. If you are a 90-year-old woman who enjoys crocheting and listens to Beethoven, by God be proud of it.
2. Stop pretending you have a rock band.
3. Stop arguing about whether gay people are okay, fully human, or whatever else. Seriously. Stop it.
4. Stop arguing about whether women are okay, fully human, or are capable of being in a position of leadership.
5. Stop looking for the "objective truth" in Scripture.
6. Start looking for the beautiful truth in Scripture.
7. Actually read the Scriptures. If you are Episcopalian, go buy a Bible and read it. Start in Genesis, it's pretty cool. You can skip some of the other boring parts in the Bible. Remember though that almost every book of the Bible has some really funky stuff in it. Remember to keep #5 and #6 in mind though. If you are evangelical, you may need to stop reading the Bible for about 10 years. Don't worry: during those 10 years you can work on putting these other steps into practice.
8. Start worrying about extreme poverty, violence against women, racism, consumerism, and the rate at which children are dying worldwide of preventable, treatable diseases. Put all the energy you formerly spent worrying about the legit-ness of gay people into figuring out ways to do some good in these areas.
9. Do not shy away from lighting candles, silence, incense, laughter, really good food, and extraordinary music. By "extraordinary music" I mean genuine music. Soulful music. Well-written, well-composed music. Original music. Four-part harmony music. Funky retro organ music. Hymns. Taize chants. Bluegrass. Steel guitar. Humming. Gospel. We are the church; we have an uber-rich history of amazing music. Remember this.
10. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
11. Learn how to sit with people who are dying.
12. Feast as much as possible. Cardboard communion wafers are a feast in symbol only. Humans can not live on symbols alone. Remember this.
13. Notice visitors, smile genuinely at them, include them in conversations, but do not overwhelm them.
14. Be vulnerable.
15. Stop worrying about getting young people into the church. Stop worrying about marketing strategies. Take a deep breath. If there is a God, that God isn't going to die even if there are no more Christians at all.
16. Figure out who is suffering in your community. Go be with them.
17. Remind yourself that you don't have to take God to anyone. God is already with everyone. So, rather than taking the approach that you need to take the truth out to people who need it, adopt the approach that you need to go find the truth that others have and you are missing. Go be evangelized.
18. Put some time and care and energy into creating a beautiful space for worship and being-together. But shy away from building campaigns, parking lot expansions, and what-have-you.
19. Make some part of the church building accessible for people to pray in 24/7. Put some blankets there too, in case someone has nowhere else to go for the night.
20. Listen to God (to Wisdom, to Love) more than you speak your opinions. This is a fool-proof plan. If you do it, I guarantee that you will attract young people to your church. And lots of other kinds of people too. The end.



This Month's Birthdays




4: Jorge Cruzent; 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.



Order Your Poinsettias

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 15.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>REGULAR WORSHIP &amp; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b></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) Sundays: Christian Education 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Wednesdays 12:05 pm: Holy Eucharist &amp; healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium</p>			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist &amp; healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The New Testament</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	
<p><b>5 The Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study</p> <p><i>Potluck Farewell Luncheon</i></p> <p>Chalice: M. Hudson      Lector: L. Thurman Prayers: M. C. Hopper      Acolyte: E. Glass Usher: P. Viar      Vestry: D. Davis</p>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist &amp; healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The New Testament</p>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<p><b>12 The Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: B. Smith      Lector: A. A. Moore Prayers: D. Davis      Acolyte: S. Emery Usher: J. Emery      Vestry: B. Smith</p>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist &amp; healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>5:30 pm: Bible Study- The New Testament</p>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<p><b>19 The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study <i>No Third Sunday Luncheon this month</i></p> <p>Chalice: B. Milligan      Lector: J. Reed Prayers: M.S. David      Acolyte: D. Palmer Usher: B. Dean      Vestry: B. Dean</p> <p><i>Decorating the Church after 10:30 service</i></p>	<b>20</b>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6:00 pm: Men's Group (Dinner at Reelfoot Lake)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist &amp; healing prayers</p> <p>No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p><b>24 Office Closed</b></p> <p>5:30 pm &amp; 11:00pm: Eve of the Nativity 10:30 pm: Special Music</p> <p>(Liturgical Schedule on back page.)</p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day</b></p> <p>11:00 am: Holy Eucharist</p> <p>(Liturgical Schedule on back page.)</p>
<p><b>26 The First Sunday after Christmas</b> 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist No Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: B. Milligan      Lector: A. A. Moore Acolyte: T. Hopper      Usher: T. Hopper Vestry: B. Milligan</p>	<b>27</b>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>5:30 pm: Vestry Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist &amp; healing prayers</p> <p>No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Kids' Movie Night!</p>	
	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	

## Liturgical Schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

### Christmas Eve— 5:30 pm

Chalice: **Joe Emery**  
 Lector: **Sarah Emery**  
 Prayers: **Ally Hawkins**  
 Acolytes: **Taylor Hopper (cross)**  
**Shelby Hopper (torch)**  
**Caley Randolph (torch)**  
 Usher: **John Lannom**  
 Vestry: **Brooke Emery**

### Christmas Eve— 11:00 pm

Chalice: **Lynda Thurman**  
 Lector: **Kenny Brunson**  
 Prayers: **Agnes Ann Moore**  
 Acolyte: **Bubba Smith**  
 Usher: **Bob Dean**  
 Vestry: **Bubba Smith**



**Scheduled to  
host in  
December**

Dec. 12 - Carol  
Smith  
 Dec. 19 - Jorge  
Cruzent and Tiffani  
Glass  
 Dec. 26 - Carole  
Smith

### Christmas Day— 11 am

Chalice: **Bubba Smith**  
 Lector: **Barbara Reed**  
 Prayers: **John Reed**  
 Acolyte: **Bubba Smith**  
 Usher: **John Reed**  
 Vestry: **Bubba Smith**

## OUR PRAYER LIST



Aaron Joshua  
 Adam  
 Aden  
 Andy  
 Avery  
 Chloe Bird  
 Virginia Brunson  
 Gary & Sonja Bush  
 Sue Burks King  
 Kaitlyn Cash  
 Lucy Craft  
 Dianne Donner  
 Allen Freemont  
 Johnnie Faye Hawkins  
 L.D. Gant  
 Lechia Holbrook  
 Martha Horn  
 Nickalene Johnson  
 June Lannom  
 Teresa Layne  
 Melanie  
 Michael  
 Michelle  
 Marty Moody  
 Patti Murphy  
 Amy Nance  
 Glenn O'Bryan  
 Jamie Owens  
 Donna Palmer  
 Cindy Parker  
 Neng Parsons  
 Pete Parsons  
 Penny  
 Pat Roberts  
 Ewell & Margaret Ruth Tucker  
 Vanetta  
 Vicki 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.*

## 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 3-5, 2011. 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 January. 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.

### 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

