



The MESSAGE

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

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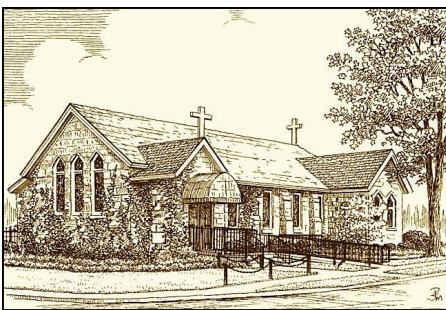
WORSHIP TIMES

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

Dudley Davis, *Senior Warden*

Bob Dean, *Junior Warden*

Tommy Hopper, *Treasurer*

Brooke Emery

Tiffani Glass

Judi Grunert

Bobbie Milligan

John Reed

Bubba Smith

Anita Toth

A Few Words from

The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

— *Psalm 98:1*

This is the season in which we bring out all the old songs, especially all the old Christmas carols. Even popular artists release Christmas albums that usually feature new versions of old songs. And who isn't moved as we gather on Christmas Eve and offer the ever-beautiful "Silent Night"? And that's just one of the great old songs we sing and play on our iPods and stereos this time of year.

But the psalmist calls the faithful to "sing to the Lord a *new* song." How are we supposed to do that? Christmas is an old holiday that is made warmer by all those great, old songs. Where are we supposed to find *new* songs to offer?

Of course I'm probably taking the psalmist a bit too literally here. Not everyone can write a song. But we can all take some time in this holy season to contemplate anew the "marvelous things" that God has done for us. And of all the things that God has done, none is as marvelous or as amazing as the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For me, the great miracle of Christmas is this: that God, the creator of all that is, the ruler of heaven and earth, chooses to come to us not in fire and majesty but in flesh and humility. Why should our Lord do this amazing thing? Because of his equally amazing love for each of us.

This is the season when we are invited to find opportunities to set aside the "busy-ness" of all the holiday doings and stop to contemplate once more how God's love is made real for us and how God set aside all the glories of heaven for mess of life on earth. This is our opportunity to reflect once more on the truth that Jesus comes into our world so, as John wrote, we could all "become children of God" (John 1:12).

We are not all songwriters, yet each of us can find some way to celebrate God's love incarnate as we celebrate one more time the miraculous arrival of Jesus, God's Son and our Savior. May you know the blessing of God's holiness and happiness this special season.

Your servant in Christ,

Father Gary

The Episcopal Church:
 home to thoughtful
 Christians since 1785



Pledging to Support Saint Mary's

Please take a moment this December to consider how you can support the ministry of Saint Mary's by making a financial pledge. Doing so will help your Vestry determine an operating budget for 2012. Also, pledges are not promises: you are welcome to change your giving at any time and for any reason. Pledge cards may be found in the pews or on our website.



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 20.

Advent Service of Choral Evensong



On Sunday, December 4, the Parish Choir of St Elisabeth's Church will travel to Ripley, TN to share an Advent service of Choral Evensong with the Immanuel Parish and the community of Ripley. The service will be held at First United Methodist Church in Ripley, an effort

on the part of Immanuel Church to offer the service to the wider Ripley community in the wider worship space at First UMC. The service will begin at 5 p.m.



**Trim
the
Tree**

Following the 10:30 am service on December 18, 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!

Are You Called to Serve?

We will be electing three new members to the Vestry at our Annual Meeting on January 15. 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.



December Birthdays

4: Jorge Cruxent; 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; Gleya Twilla, Jr. **17:** Ben Akers. **18:** Keith Burns; Nancy Godsey.

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

Christmas at Saint Mary's

Sunday, December 18

11:45 am: Decorate the church for Christmas. Gary will be providing pizza and drinks for all!

Saturday, December 24

5:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist and special music offered by the children.

10:30 pm: Join us for Christmas hymns

11:00 pm: Festival Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25

11:00 am: Holy Eucharist (replaces normal Sunday morning services)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center">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>			<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am and 6:30 pm: The Benedictine Journey</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 The Second Sunday of Advent 10:30 am: Morning Prayer</p> <p>Officiant: B. Reed Lector: K. Brunson Acolyte: D. Palmer Usher: J. Reed Vestry: B. Milligan</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm: Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am and 6:30 pm: The Benedictine Journey</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 The Third Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm: Vestry Meeting</p> <p>Chalice: M. Hudson Lector: J. Hawkins Prayers: B. Smith Acolyte: A. Hawkins Usher: P. Viar Vestry: B. Dean</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 pm: Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 3:20 pm: Atrium 5:30 pm: Book Club</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 The Fourth Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study <i>Pizza and Decorating Party</i> <i>No Third Sunday Luncheon this month</i></p> <p>Chalice: B. Milligan Lector: J. Reed Prayers: D. Davis Acolyte: A. Kilzer Usher: E. Glass Vestry: D. Davis</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm: Men's Group (Dinner at Reelfoot Lake) 6:30 pm: Advent Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers 7:00 pm: Burns/Tarpley Wedding</p> <p>No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service 10:30 pm: Christmas Eve Special Music 11:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 Christmas Day 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist No Adult Bible Study</p> <p>Chalice: B. Smith Lector: B. Reed Prayers: M. S. David Acolyte: B. Smith Usher: B. Reed Vestry: J. Reed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:05 pm: Eucharist & healing prayers</p> <p>No Atrium No Book Club</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p align="center">New Year's Eve</p>

You Are Invited to a Wedding!

Katelin Burns and Justin Tarpley will be joined in holy matrimony at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, **December 21 at 7:00 pm. A reception follows in the Parish Hall.** The couple hopes you will join them on their special day.



Liturgical Schedule for Christmas Eve

5:30 pm

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

11:00 pm

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

OUR PRAYER LIST

Those with immediate needs:

Brandy Box
Madeline Kate
Marshall Mayfield
Delmer and Tripp McNeil
Russell Lomas and family
Tiffani
Bob and Donna Turner

Those with ongoing needs:

Aaron Joshua
Adam
Andy
Chloe Bird
Kaitlyn Cash
Steve Crouch
Dianne Donner
Allen Freemont
Johnnie Faye Hawkins
Beau Hefner
L. D. Gant
Lechia Holbrook
Sue Burks King
June Lannom
Teresa Layne
Beverly Magee
Joyce Moore
Patti Murphy
Jamie Owens
Amy Nance
Linda & Darrell Parker
Karen Swift and family
Amber Tinsley
Ewell and Margaret Ruth Tucker
Ginger Voss

Names will be removed from our list of immediate needs after one month unless specified otherwise. Names from our list of long-term needs will only be removed upon request. To add yourself or another to this list, please complete a Prayer Request Card in the pew. You may also call or email the office.

FOR ANY PASTORAL CONCERNS

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

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108 North King Avenue
Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024

