



The MESSAGE

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

108 N. King Avenue • Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024 • 731-285-3522
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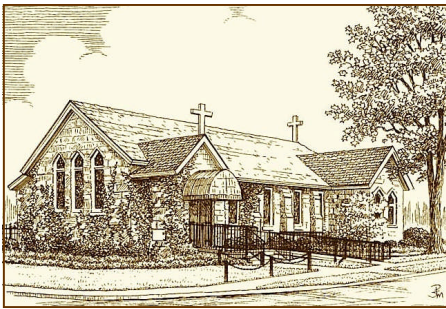
WORSHIP TIMES

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

*"I will praise the Name of God in song; I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving."
 — Psalm 69:32*

As a child, I learned that our Thanksgiving celebrations began in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts as European Pilgrims shared the bounty of fall harvest. History also records that those many of those Pilgrims would likely have starved to death without the assistance of the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans who gave them native seeds and instructed them in how to fish successfully.

Those Pilgrims were not the first, of course, to celebrate the harvest; this was a tradition they brought with them from Europe. On arrival, I wonder if they were surprised to learn that celebrating the harvest was also a Native American tradition.

People of faith have been celebrating a good harvest for thousands of years. We have evidence of this in the book of Leviticus and the Festival of Booths (or Festival of Tabernacles). God commanded, "when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall keep the festival of the LORD, lasting seven days; a complete rest on the first day, and a complete rest on the eighth day. On the first day you shall take the fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days" (Lev. 23:39-40).

In the New Testament we are given a new reason for thanksgiving: the new life that is ours through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Every week when we gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist we remember and give thanks anew for Christ's redeeming work. In fact, the word "Eucharist" comes to us from the Greek word for "thanksgiving." Thus, the service is also known as the Great Thanksgiving.

In the Psalms, we read of God's greatness amidst the proclamations of thanksgiving for God's saving hand. While the portion I quoted above is very positive, Psalm 69 actually begins with a lament: "Save me, O God, for the waters have risen up to my neck. I am sinking in deep mire, and there is no firm ground for my feet" (Ps. 69:1-2). The Psalmist catalogues his woes but declares his trust that God will save him from his troubles. In fact, the Psalmist is so confident that he gives thanks for God's rescue even *before* it happens!

As Christians, we have every right to give thanks to God for all our blessings. For even though we face challenges in our lives, we are also supported by the God of love and grace and mercy who hears our petitions and delights in our praise. As scholar Stephen Farris once wrote, thanksgiving is "the human response to the grace of God."

Every year we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. Every week we Episcopalians celebrate the Great Thanksgiving. Every day we Christians should raise our voices in praise to God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

For what do you give thanks and praise to God not only this year on Thanksgiving Day but also each day of your life?

Your servant in Christ,

Gary+

Father Gary

The Episcopal Church:
 home to thoughtful
 Christians since 1785





The 2012 Community Thanksgiving Service will be offered on **November 20, 6:00 pm** at Dyersburg First United Methodist Church. Music for this service will include a mass choir under the direction of Chris Davis, vocal music faculty at Dyersburg High School. Members of this choir will include participants from many different area churches. The music to be sung by the mass choir will be an arrangement of four hymns: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; We Gather Together; Come,

Ye Thankful People Come; and Now Thank We All Our God. One verse of each hymn will be sung, and there will be a bridge between each verse played by the Brass Ensemble from Dyersburg High School.

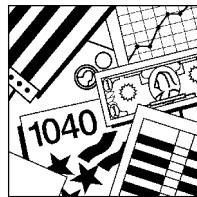
If you would like to represent Saint Mary's in this choir, please join Chris Davis for a rehearsal to be held at 5:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Music will be provided for each participant the evening of the service. Contact Dyersburg First UMC, 285-6454, for additional information.

Please join Fr. Gary for this wonderful opportunity to share in an evening of worship, prayers, song, and thanksgiving with fellow Christians in our community.

Tax Preparation Help Needed

Each year Dyersburg State Community College helps provide tax preparation assistance for low-income individuals. This year they are in need of volunteers for this work. The work is important but not especially difficult; the taxes that are prepared at this site are for basic returns only. Volunteers will need to take an IRS test for intermediate taxes, but no prior knowledge in taxes is necessary. The test is taken on-line and will take one to two hours. The test will be available in November. Assistance will be offered at DSCC beginning in mid-January through mid-April on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, either from 4 to 7 or 5 to 8 pm.

This is a tremendous service to the individuals and to the county. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Gary or Debbie Todd with the United Way of West Tennessee. Debbie may be reached at 731-422-1816 or email her at dtodd@unitedway.tn.org.



≈ TAX DAY ≈

Still Opportunities to Visit St. Columba This Year

As Episcopalians, this is *your* retreat center. Bring your business, bring your family, bring yourself...there are so many ways you can use this beautiful sanctuary only 20 minutes away.

Get off site- plan your next club or committee meeting at St. Columba

Get out of the office- suggest your company come for a conference/meeting/training

Get out of the house- plan an anniversary, reunion, birthday or wedding

Get outside- plan a family or company picnic or hike the St. Columba trails

Get away- plan personal time away using the Retreat Hermitages

Dedicated in 1982, St. Columba Conference and Retreat Center has been an important resource and ministry to Episcopalians and others in West Tennessee for nearly 40 years.



Operation Christmas Child



Share God's love and the joy of Christmas by packing a gift-filled shoe box for a hurting child overseas. Your simple gift can make an eternal difference! Please pick up a form in the back of the church or donate online by going to samaritanspurse.org/occ. Shoeboxes should be dropped off in the office by **November 11**.

Make Your Own Advent Wreath





Sunday, November 27 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. If you can help provide greens for the wreaths, please let Fr. Gary



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

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</p>		1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 All Saints' Sunday 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study 12:00 pm: Advent Wreath-making</p> <p>Chalice: L. Thurman Lector: J. Reed Prayers: W. Heathcott Acolyte: A. Hawkins Usher: J. Hawkins Vestry: J. Grunert</p>	7 7:00 pm: Diocesan Budget Presentation	8	9	10	11	12
<p>13 The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm: Sunday Evening Worship</p> <p>Chalice: M. S. David Lector: B. Milligan Prayers: A.A. Moore Acolyte: E. Glass Usher: B. Dean Vestry: B. Dean</p>	14	15 6:00 pm: Men's Group	16	17	18	19 9:30 am: Diocesan Convention
<p>20 The Last Sunday after Pentecost 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm: Community Thanksgiving Service Third Sunday Luncheon</p> <p>Chalice: B. Reed Lector: D. Palmer Prayers: D. Davis Acolyte: T. Hopper Usher: P. Viar Vestry: J. Reed</p>	21	22	23	24 Church office closed 	25 Church office closed	26
<p>27 The First Sunday of Advent 8 and 10:30 am: Holy Eucharist 9:30 am: Adult Bible Study 5:30 pm: Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm: Sunday Evening Worship</p> <p>Chalice: M. Hudson Lector: B. Smith Prayers: B. Milligan Acolytes: S. Emery Usher: J. Emery A. Kilzer Vestry: B. Emery C. Randolph</p>	28	29	30	<p style="text-align: center;">Happy Thanksgiving!</p> 		

Summary Budget Report for September 2011

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Regular Income (pledges, plate, etc.)	8,426.00	11,669.57	3,243.57
Income from Endowment	16,000.00	5,000.00	11,000.00
TOTAL	\$24,426.00	\$16,669.57	7,756.43
Expenses — Operating	13,901.98	15,212.70	1,310.72
Expenses — Outreach	3,361.74	1,425.55	-1,936.19
TOTAL	17,263.72	16,638.25	-625.47
Income Less Expenses	\$7,162.28		
Value of Endowment (as of 9/30/11)	\$1,095,524.06		

OUR PRAYER LIST

Those with immediate needs:

James Allen
Rebecca Allen
Ray Ashley
Sue Burks King
Glenn O'Bryan
Jamie Owens
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
L. D. Gant
Lechia Holbrook
June Lannom
Teresa Layne
Beverly Magee
Joyce Moore
Patti Murphy
Amy Nance
Linda & Darrell Parker
Pat Roberts
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

