

St. Mary's Church 2024 Highlights

December 2023:

- At the Annual Parish Meeting on December 3, Roxanne Marshburn and Daniel LeClair concluded their terms on the Vestry. Danny Buck and Kim Davies were elected to fill the two positions.
- The Christmas Luncheon was held on Sunday December 10 and was attended by 32 parishioners.
- Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, so only one service was held at 11:00 AM, which was attended by 27 parishioners. There were 14 poinsettia dedications.

January:

- At its meeting on January 10, the vestry elected Jim Hayes as Sr. Warden and Karl Hammers as Jr. Warden. They also appointed George Francis as Treasurer, Pam Anthony as Clerk of the Vestry, and Daniel LeClair as the parish Webmaster.
- A new Bluetooth speaker system and microphones for the lectern and pulpit were purchased and installed in the church sanctuary.
- Kimon Davies donated two art pieces that now hang in the Narthex above the table.
- The Epiphany service was held on January 7th and was attended by 27 parishioners.
- On January 28, about 30 parishioners gathered in the Fellowship Hall to give a baby shower for Johanna and Daniel LeClair.

February:

- Music at St. Mary's hosted "Echoes of America" on Sunday, February 4, at 4:00 p.m. The proceeds were donated to Matthew 25 of Burgaw.
- Jim Hayes attended the Diocesan Convention in Greenville on February 9 - 10.
- The Ash Wednesday service was officiated by the Rev. Dan MacGill and was attended by 20 parishioners.
- William Penn Marshburn's funeral was held on Saturday, March 24 and was officiated by the Rev Phillip Craig and the Rev. Nancy Jose. The service was attended by 98 people.

March:

- Jim Hayes attended the Project Resource conference at Diocesan House on 15 and 16 March.
- Willow Hermina LeClair was born March 16 at 10:24 PM. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 22 inches long.

- Evensong was celebrated at St. Mary's Church on March 17 at 5 PM, with the choir of St. James offering their musical ministry. It was attended by 38 people from both St. James and St. Mary's parishes.
- Palm Sunday service was officiated by the Rev. Nancy Jose and was attended by 29 parishioners.
- Maundy Thursday service was officiated by the Rev. Nancy Jose and was attended by 14 parishioners.
- Easter Sunday was Willow LeClair's first time at St. Mary's. The service was officiated by the Rev. Dan MacGill and attended by 43 people.

April:

- St. Mary's hired Milam Landscaping Inc. as its new grounds maintenance provider. Their contract began on April 1.
- At the Vestry meeting on April 10, Karl Hammers was appointed treasurer after George Francis requested to relinquish the position. Kim Davies succeeded Karl Hammers as Junior Warden, leaving one vacancy on the vestry.

May:

- Bishop Rob Skirving visited on Sunday May 12. The service was attended by 34 parishioners.
- Willow Hermina LeClair was baptized by the Rev. Beth Lilly on Sunday, May 19. Heidi and Jimbo Robbins were named as her God Parents.
- A donation of 30 lbs. of food was provided to Pender County Christian Services on May 23.

June:

- Rev. Cheryl Brainard, longtime celebrant at St. Mary's, decided to retire and move to Athens, Georgia to be closer to family. St. Mary's presented her a monetary gift and a framed picture of the church at her farewell on June 2 at Lebanon Chapel.
- Johanna LeClair started as the new secretary for St. Mary's succeeding Pam Anthony in the position.
- A new printer was purchased for the church office.

July:

- A new desk and shelving were purchased and installed in the church office.
- New chairs and tables were purchased for the Parish Fellowship Hall using the Marshburn Fund.

August:

- The vestry held its annual retreat at the River Landing Club House on Saturday, August 17. The theme was
- Jack Stocks' funeral was held on Saturday, August 24 and was officiated by Rev. Ron Abrams. It was attended by 110 people.
- The transition of St. Mary's website to a new platform was completed by Common Vision. It now has several new features making it more accessible and easy to use.

September:

- Don O'Connell passed away on September 2. His memorial service was held on Friday, September 13 and was officiated by the Rev. Ron Abrams. It was attended by 70 people.
- A potluck event to benefit Pender Adult Services was held on Wednesday September 25th, Jennifer Matthews was there to speak about the services and opportunities they offer.

October:

- The ECW sponsored its Chili Bingo Night on Friday, October 18. It was attended by 54 people, who donated \$718.00 for outreach programs.

November:

- Donations were collected for Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry by the ECW.
- Blankets and clothing donations were collected by Danny Philemon for victims of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.
- Rev. Canon Stephanie Allen visited on November 10. She met with the vestry prior to the service to inform them that the partnership agreement with St. James parish would expire on 31 December, necessitating the search for solutions to clergy support.
- Stallings Florist, St. Mary's longtime florist, announced they will close at the end of November 2024, necessitating the search for a new florist.
- Jim Hayes participated in the Diocesan Convention by Zoom on November 16.