



# The MESSAGE

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A Few Words from

**Amanda McGriff, Seminarian**

I am a bit of a planner. I am a diligent calendar-keeper and schedule manager, always knowing where everyone has to be and when. I like an orderly progression, step A leading to step B leading to step C. But these strange times revealed my illusion of control as just that – an illusion. So, I have begun to ask myself every day what it is that I *can* control. I cannot know how Darwin’s school schedule will change next week or whether we will be back to in-person worship next month or even if those I love will remain well.

But I can control the small things I can do to care for those around me. I can check in with those who are isolated because of vulnerability. I can choose to see in someone else’s anger a manifestation of the anxiety and fear we are all feeling. I can help to create a community of kindness, a culture of compassion, as I move through the world.

A friend shared this poem recently, and it has helped me to see the small everyday moments we share as the “dwelling of the holy.”

### Small Kindnesses

I’ve been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say “bless you” when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. “Don’t die,” we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don’t want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, “Here, have my seat,” “Go ahead – you first,” “I like your hat.”

-Danusha Lameris

God’s peace,

Amanda

### OUR PRAYER LIST



We pray for the following with immediate needs:

- Bobbie Kolwyck
- Charlotte Moody
- Carla, Gary & Caitlin Rollins

We pray also for those with long-term needs:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Marilyn Beck       | Jamie Owen           |
| Johnny Burks       | Dennis Palmer        |
| Mary Margaret Case | family... Sherry,    |
| Sue Cochran        | Haley, Gavin,        |
| Steve DeClue       | Lillian, Addison,    |
| Cannon Doan        | Elyssa and Tyson     |
| Donna Emery        | Donna Palmer         |
| Phil Everman       | Vicki Peery          |
| Polk Glover        | Elizabeth Ann Pinion |
| Gordon Haight      | Sonny & Gracie       |
| Mike Harris        | Strawn               |
| Trevor Henley      | Jerry Tweedy         |
| Murray Hudson      | Pat Viar             |
| Louise Jackson     | Mona Walker          |
| Bobby Lee          | Shirley West         |
| Tom & Linda        | John White           |
| MacDonald          | Ken White            |
| Agnes Ann Moore    | Don Williams         |
| John E. Moore      | David Willard        |
| Eleanor Nunn       | Betty Young          |

Names will be removed after a month unless specified otherwise. Add a name to this list by calling or emailing the office.

### WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays: Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am: Morning Prayer via Zoom

Wednesdays:  
12:00 pm: Noonday prayers via Zoom

### CLERGY AND STAFF

- The Rev. Gary Meade, Rector
- Amanda McGriff, Seminarian
- Doris Davis, Parish Administrator
- Carolyn Burnett, Musician

### VESTRY AND LAY LEADERSHIP

- Joe Emery, Senior Warden
- Alicia Langford, Junior Warden
- Brooke Emery, Treasurer
- David Akers
- Joyce Crihfield
- Tiffani Glass
- Betty Hammond
- Jimmy Hawkins
- Yvonne Johnson
- Sherrri Lyons

### FOR ANY PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please call Father Gary at 589-3370.



## Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church

108 North King Avenue • Dyersburg, Tennessee 38024



The Week of Sunday, September 6

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, 10:30 AM

Officiant The Rev. Gary Meade  
 Homilist The Rev. Gary Meade  
 Lector David Akers  
 Prayers Scott Haight

Wednesday, September 9  
 12:00 pm Noonday Prayers

The Week of Sunday, September 13

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 AM

Officiant Amanda McGriff  
 Homilist Amanda McGriff  
 Lector Phil Crihfield  
 Prayers Dudley Davis

Wednesday, September 16  
 12:00 pm Noonday Prayers

The Week of Sunday, September 20

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 AM

Officiant The Rev. Gary Meade  
 Homilist The Rev. Gary Meade  
 Lector Lynda Thurman  
 Prayers Bob Dean

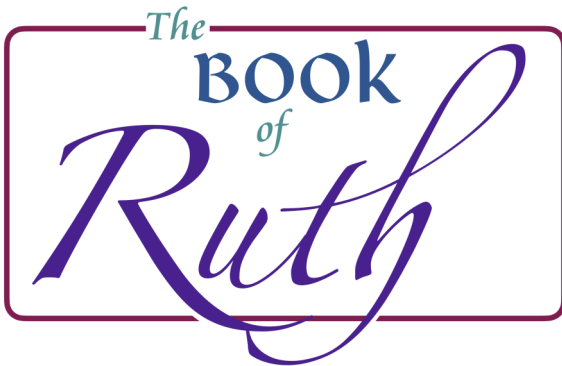
Wednesday, September 23  
 12:00 pm Noonday Prayers

The Week of Sunday, September 27

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 AM

Officiant Amanda McGriff  
 Homilist The Rev. Gary Meade  
 Lector Murray Hudson  
 Prayers Mary Stuart David

Wednesday, September 30  
 12:00 pm Noonday Prayers



**Coming this fall:**

**Who's in the Family? A Study of Ruth**

Saint Mary's will be offering a new **Bible Study** this fall on the short, beautiful, and important book of Ruth. We will explore themes of family, loyalty, belonging, trust, connection, and more during this four-week course. We'll meet using our new friend Zoom starting on **Sunday, October 4** from **9:15 to 10:00 am**.

**When Will We Resume Public Worship?**

On August 16, the Vestry heard from Dr. Mary Stuart David and considered the current numbers regarding the coronavirus pandemic and especially the relevant numbers regarding Dyer County. There was a clear consensus that (1) although we really, *really* want to resume public worship (2) it's just not safe yet for us to do so. We will revisit this question at our next meeting on September 20. If, however, the numbers change dramatically before then we will certainly reconsider when we open the doors for worship.

Until then, keep joining us on Zoom by computer, tablet, or phone. And if you miss any Sunday or Wednesday service, I'm posting a recording of each service later that same day on our website, [StMarysDyersburg.org](http://StMarysDyersburg.org).

Also, don't forget that I am offering "**Porch Prayers**" in which I will bring you an individually sealed portion of the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and we will spend a few minutes of safe and socially distanced time together in prayer.

— Fr. Gary

**September Birthdays:** 3: Anna Claire Wright; 9: Connie Donner; 22: Sarah Emery; 25: Troy Wright; 28: Dudley Davis, Jimmy Hawkins; 29: Anna Glass; 30: Chris Moses

**September Anniversaries:** 1: Jennifer and Joshua Meyer; 2: Martha and John Lannom; 21: Angela and Kenny Brunson