Titusian









ORDINATION



Pentecost Celebration

JUNETEENTH

What is it? When is it?



From Our Rector

Dear Friends,

We have all been responding to the threat of COVID 19 since March of last year. You don't need me to remind you of how much we have given up in order to keep ourselves, and each other, safe. Here at St. Titus', all our decisions we have been based on information from the CDC (Center for

Disease Control), the State of North Carolina, and from our bishops, Sam Rodman and Anne Hodges-Copple. Some of you felt the Diocesan guidelines were too restrictive. Others felt they were not strict enough. I respect your opinions and urge you to do what feels safe for you and your family. The good news is that, at long last, the pandemic appears to be coming under control. The CDC and the governor have lifted mask and social distancing guidelines. Because of this, effective June 1, our Diocese will move to Stage 3 of the diocesan coronavirus response plan. Churches will have the option to further loosen some restrictions, based on local conditions. The bishops are asking local leadership, in our case the vestry and me, to decide whether some restrictions will remain in place here at St. Titus' once we enter Stage 3.

- Some restrictions are not optional. Sadly, we're still not allowed to touch when we pass the Peace and there's still no sharing of the common cup. Here are some options that are open to us:
- ♦ Congregational singing can return, with masks if we are inside and without masks if we're outdoors.
- ♦ Coffee hour following the service can happen with individually wrapped food items.
- ♦ Small groups like the vestry or the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) may meet in person in the church building.

The vestry and I will discuss these and other options when we meet in June. Of course, we will share any decisions that are made. What I can tell you for now is that we will continue to do all we can to keep you safe. We will continue to welcome all, knowing that some cannot or will choose not to be vaccinated. We intend to keep this a safe place for all, vaccinated or not vaccinated. For this reason, we ask that those who have not been vaccinated continue to wear masks and practice social distancing when on church property.

Lastly, you should know that your clergy have all been vaccinated. Sarah and I are available to make pastoral visits, wearing masks and social distancing. If you would like a visit, please let one of us know, or emailto:emai

Remember, whether we are together or separated we are still the church and we are still St. Titus'. Not even a pandemic can take that away from us. Thanks be to God! Faithfully,

Stephanie +

Farewell to the Rev. Philip Zoutendam

We give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Philip Zoutendam. Philip's one-year term as St. Titus' curate ended on May 31. Philip has moved on to become curate at The Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. On June 1 Mawethu Ncaca will become our curate, again for a one-year period. Mawethu will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 5. We will welcome him and his family on Sunday, June 13.

One aspect of the curacy program that Philip and Mawethu are part of is that they learn how to both enter and leave a congregation in a healthy way. To that end, Philip will not be able to attend parish functions at St. Titus' for at least a year. A Diocesan function, such as the Pauli Murray service, would be an exception. Church members are asked not to call or email Philip or to discuss church business



with him. This is to emphasize that the bond between Philip and St. Titus' as priest and people has been dissolved. This dissolving of the bonds of a pastoral relationship is an expectation throughout the Episcopal Church. It allows the congregation and the priest to move on and to form healthy relationships in their new circumstances. Philip will continue to live in Durham so you are likely to see him from time to time. Please understand that Philip will need to maintain appropriate boundaries when he sees you. Saying hello and chatting as friends is fine. Anything further is not. Please join me in giving thanks for Philip's time among us.

Rev. Stephanie +

Vestry Zoom Meeting Highlights



April 18. The meeting started at 11:30 am. via Zoom

Vestry members present: Althea Alton, Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Meisha Davis, Mark Perrone, Keith Bishop, Marguerite Peebles, and Gloria Drew, Also present: Rev. Sarah Woodard, Rev. Philip Zoutendam and Deborah DeBourg-Brown

Welcome and Orientation for New Vestry Members

Introduction of new members Orientation Session for new members Filling open vestry positions

- Althea agreed to continue to serve a Senior Warden.
- Keith Bishop indicated a willingness to consider the Junior Warden's position.
- Mark Perrone mentioned that he would be willing to assist Keith.
- Rev. Stephanie stressed the need to eventually consider establishing a committee and then she reviewed issues associated with the Junior Warden's role.
- Althea moved to accept Keith Bishop as the Junior Warden and Gloria seconded the motion.

Consent Agenda

Rev. Stephanie asked that the vestry review the minutes and agenda. Althea moved to accept the consent agenda and Keith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

March 2021 Treasurer's Report: Deborah DeBourg-Brown

- Overview of current contracts, how they are handled and who has the responsibility.
- Highlighted the role of the treasurer and shared the Financial Report: mentioned that due to COVID, has assumed additional roles.
- Marguerite inquired about Pancake Supper expenses to be paid out of the ECW restricted account: additional expenses would be charged to the account in April.
- Rev. Stephanie wants to take a sabbatical this year; the dates not yet determined.
- Highlighted the moving expenses for the curate leaving at end of May; a new curate will arrive; There may be additional expenses at that time.
- Church audit will start soon, and she will provide necessary documents; because of our size, we have a review by a CPA prepared annually, rather than an audit.
- Maintenance: ongoing weekly cleaning of the church, painting to some areas, lawn cutting.
- Rev. Stephanie discussed the discretionary funds and support provided by the congregation; noted that it has been unusual and a blessing! The church has been able to help families and people in need. Thank you notes have been sent to those who provided the rector and deacon's funds.

- Keith asked about the construction fund. Deborah explained how it was used in the past.
- Rev. Stephanie thanked Deborah for her work!

Rector's Report -Rev. Stephanie Yancy

- Rev. Yancy: report is in the Dropbox; one item was omitted from the agenda.
- Need to vote on the easement issue.
- Worship: The season of Lent was holy at St. Titus', and very busy. Special thanks to Sarah, Philip, and Susan for their work in making the season meaningful for the congregation.
- In addition to our usual services of online Morning Prayer on Sundays and Evening Prayer on Wednesdays, during Lent we had online Morning Prayer every Tuesday and Thursday. People in the congregation led the service and offered meditations in rotation with the clergy.
- Throughout Holy Week Philip created and posted individual Stations of the Cross. They can be viewed on our Facebook page or our YouTube site.
- We held Zoom services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- We met for an outdoor Eucharist on Palm Sunday and for two services on Easter Day. At the 11:00 service we baptized three siblings, the children of Ozella and Marcellus Bowman. Keith Bishop is the children's grandfather.
- Going forward we plan to hold an outdoor service on Sundays at 9:00 am. I have been asked when we will move the service indoors. We have permission to worship indoors now. We can have roughly 25 people in attendance. I will stay outside if the weather permits as that is a safer environment during COVID times. Also, it's lovely to hear the birds worshiping with us.
- Susan is hard at work preparing for the Pauli Murray service, which will be pre-recorded service held on Thursday, July 1, Pauli Murray's day on the Episcopal calendar of saints. Our preacher will be the Rev. Kim Jackson. The Rev. Jackson is an Episcopal priest and in November was elected the first state senator of Georgia from the LGBT+ community.
- We held a private funeral for Mozella McLaughlin, Ms. Mac, on Monday, April 12. Philip recorded the service and added music from Susan Stedman, Nnenna Freelon, and Preston Philips to the recording. You can view the service on Facebook, and also on our YouTube channel. As you can see, Philip has been very busy. Please thank him for his work when you are able.
- Theresa, the new parish administrator, needs to resign due to family matters. She plans to be available until May 18th. Carol Dorsey has volunteered to coordinate the hiring of a new parish administrator.
- St. Titus' has been invited to join in a Prison Ministry project with the Abiding Savior Lutheran Church and to provide storage for items collected. We are waiting

Vestry Zoom Meeting Highlights April 18, 2021

for more information before deciding whether to take on this new commitment.

Deacon's Report Rev. Sarah Woodard

CC Spaulding continues to hold monthly meetings and vestry members are encouraged to participate, if possible.

- Plans are underway for a Teacher & Administrator's Appreciation activity during the first of May. Volunteers and donations are needed. Marguerite suggested that she contact the ECW because they supported the teacher appreciation day in the past.
- Diapers continue to be accepted. Size 6 has been requested.
- Efforts are underway for a Youth Explosion Virtual Conference. Individuals with thoughts and ideas regarding fellowship and prayer should contact Sarah.

Other activities include:

- NCCU Campus Ministry The End-of-Year Transformation Tuesday zoom session will be held next week,
 April 20th. The NCCU students have matured spiritually. A couple of the students are discerning a call to ministry.
- El Buen Pastor Food Ministry our last food distribution at El Buen Pastor was held on April 3rd to approximately 100 people. The experience was shared with parishioners from St. Luke's. The next distributions will be held on May 1 and 29th. Please consider volunteering to help others who are hungry and in need.
- Good News Garden Our garden is expanding to include new plantings. No experience is necessary and all are welcome to join this collaborative effort with St.
 Luke's

Senior Warden's Report Althea Alton

- Althea indicated that her main emphasis is on communication with the congregation and the diocese.
- Rev. Stephanie mentioned that we do have an active communication committee and that it is vital for us to communicate with the congregation and each other. Althea serves on the Communications Committee.

Curate's Report Philip Zoutendam

- His report highlighted an emphasis on "digital ministry" and how St. Titus' continues to do on-line services.
- He reviewed the current technology process used and explained the goal for the future. He spent time researching various options and outlined recommendations to St. Titus' for streaming services now and in the future. Philip presented three options.
- One company submitted an estimate that would cost approximately \$16,000.00.
- The two other options were considerably less expensive and would allow us to move forward in steps. After the recommendations were presented, it was agreed

- that we would move forward with the less expensive options.
- Philip will move forward with purchasing equipment and will charge it to the Innovation Grant. It is Philip's hope to have the project completed prior to leaving St. Titus', and to establish a team of vestry and church members to train. If interested vestry members are to contact him.
- Stephanie thanked Philip for his work! Marguerite also thanked Philip for the advancements he has been able to provide. The vestry agreed.

The Easement Issue: Rev. Stephanie Yancy

- What follows is background information on the easement issue provided by Rev. Yancy:
- "On January 11, 2021, Dedric Polite, president of Be Polite Properties, LLC, wrote to say that his company owned a 1.9-acre wooded lot adjacent to the church property. He wrote that they were seeking a 30 foot wide easement and that they were willing to "swap some of their land in exchange for the easement."
- I referred the matter to then Jr. Warden Preston Edwards. I copied Lew Myers on the email. Lew wrote that he would follow up. Preston offered to make himself available if help was needed with the initial conversations.
- On February 8, I wrote the vestry to ask approval to engage attorney Keith Bishop to represent St. Titus' in negotiations regarding the easement. Five of the seven vestry members voted to engage Keith. I did not receive responses from the other two vestry members.
- On March 17 Keith wrote Mr. Polite to say he was authorized to offer a non-exclusive easement for a total of \$25,000.00. Mr. Polite wrote back to say that his company would be able to pay \$10,000.00 to purchase the parcel that belongs to the church.
- This matter is mentioned in the Vestry minutes of the February and March meetings."
- The proposal for \$10,000.00 was discussed at the March Vestry meeting. During the discussion some felt the price offered was too low. Others were not sure the property should be sold at this time, no matter how much was offered. The vestry asked Keith to attempt to negotiate a higher price and to bring back information during a call meeting, which will take place prior to the May zoom meeting. Rev. Stephanie thanked Keith for his work!

Sarah provided a closing prayer. The meeting concluded at 1:43 p.m

New Administrative Assistant.

We are delighted to welcome Jack Peterson. He and his family have worshiped at St. Titus' for the last two years. Jack will work Monday through Thursday from 9 to 1:30. He can be reached at the **church**, 919-682-5504.



C+E+L+E+B+R+A+T+1+O+N

Our curate, Philip Zoutendam, will end his one-year rotation at St. Titus' on May 31. Philip will be moving on to the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill. On May 23, after the in person otdoor service, parishioners drove by, exchanged good-byes and well-wishes. He was presented with a framed photo of the Palm Sunday Service and his inaugural service as Celebrant.



News Bits About Titusians



By the Grace of God and with the consent of the people The Right Reverend Anne E. Hodges-Copple Bishop Suffragan of North Carolina will ordain

Angela Cheri Compton-Nelson
Alice Graham Grant
Mawethu Ncaca
and
Marisa Anne Sifontes

to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church
Saturday, the fifth of June
two thousand and twenty-one
at half past ten o'clock in the morning at
St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Rt. Rev. Samuel S. Rodman Bishop Diocesan, will celebrate.

You are cordially invited to view the livestream broadcast of the ordination via the Facebook page of the Diocese of North Carolina at https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC/



Alice G. Grant



Mawethu Ncaca



Mawethu Ncaca will join the St. Titus' clergy staff as curate, effective June 1. Mawethu will succeed the Rev. Philip Zoutendam, who has moved to The Chapel of the Cross. Mawethu and Philip are in the same curacy program in which three curates rotate through three parishes, St. Titus', The Chapel of the Cross, and St. John's in Wake Forest. The curates will each spend a year at each of the three parishes.



Mawethu will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 5. He will likely be ordained to the priesthood in December. Many of us know Mawethu and his family from the internship he spent at St. Titus' while he was in the discernment process.

Mawethu was born and raised in South Africa, where he did a Master of Philosophy (Religion and Culture) at Stellenbosch University. Mawethu and his wife, Lisa Noelle, and twelve and ten-year-old sons, moved to North Carolina six years ago to be closer to his wife's family. Mawethu enjoys spending his spare time running marathons and coaching his sons' soccer team. We look forward to welcoming him back to St. Titus'.



You are invited to a Drive-By Celebration on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 3-4 pm in the church parking lot!

Please plan to decorate your car if you wish or simply drive-by and wave! Mawethu and his family will be there and look forward to seeing YOU!

St. Titus' is known for many things, particularly for the radical welcome that we extend to others.

The Invite.Welcome.Connect Committee:

Chuck Hennessee Lorie Ann Lee Pat Valentine Pam Howard Deacon Sarah Woodard





Susan Stedman, Music Director

In March we began preparations for our annual Pauli Murray service. We knew that, due to the pandemic, the service would need to be virtual. We wanted you to see and hear the choir participants who represented area churches in this celebration, so we decided to create a "virtual choir" to offer the anthem. Virtual choirs have been all the rage during COVID. We've all seen them: the computer screen is filled with squares of people's faces in different locations magically singing the same song at the same time. We invited local church choirs to participate and the "Pauli Murray Virtual Choir Project" was begun.

The challenges were daunting: Learning the music without in-person choir rehearsals; assisting the singers who didn't read music; asking choir members to sing alone in front of a camera without the support and camaraderie of their choir friends. Possibly the most daunting of

al, mastering the technology needed to record and upload video recordings. in uncharted territory. definitely out of our comfort zones!

St. Titus' Choir members met those challenges with determination and faith. A couple of members were ill, but were determined to participate—and they did. Other members struggled to follow the complicated layout of the printed music, so they used word sheets and memorized the musical notes in their vocal part. Another member offered to sing more than one part and do "whatever was needed." Someone else provided technical help in setting the camera and the lights for recording sessions at St. Titus'. Someone had be the first person to record—a brave act!

Our choir members were being asked to do something they had never done before, and the path to achieve the final product was not entirely clear. But each St. Titusian stepped out in faith: A faith that believed that a voice, however weak, could still praise; a faith that changed an anxious look into a smile for the camera; a faith that inspired confidence to sing alone; a faith that dedicated time to learn the music and to record; a faith that believed that though the challenges were daunting, together we could "do whatever was needed" to get this done. And together, through faith, we did.



The Pauli Murray Feast



Preacher: the Rev. Kim Jackson

https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/04/23/atlanta-priest-takes-her-place-at-the-well-of-state-politics/



The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray (1910 – 1985) was a nationally and internationally known advocate for human rights and social justice who grew up with her grandparents Robert and Cornelia Fitzgerald on Carroll Street in Durham. In 1977 at age 66, she was the first African American woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest, offering communion for the first time at Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill where her grandmother had been baptized as a slave.



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY DAD.

Father's Day is an occasion to mark and celebrate the contribution that your own father or father figure has made to your life. In the United States, Father's Day is on the third Sunday of June. It celebrates the contribution that fathers and father figures make for their children's lives. Its origins may lie in a memorial service held for a large group of men, many of them fathers, who were killed in a mining accident in Monongah, West Virginia in 1907

Here's what some Titusians said....



Dana Peebles

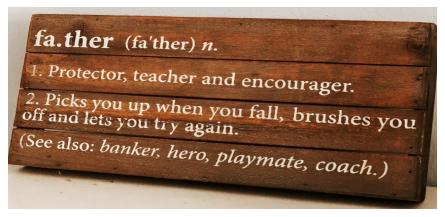
Dwight Peebles Sr - You are the best father and grandfather we could ever have. Thank you for being so supportive of our dreams and helping us to become the best people we can. You are a wonderful role model in showing us how you love us and how you love Mom/ Grandma. Your laugh and smile brighten our day. Your motivational text messages and cards with a little money let us know that you think of and pray for us daily. Thanks for being you - loving, hard-working, fun, and just special. We love you more than words can ever express. Thanks for being here with us! Love - Dwight Jr, Tiffany, Dana, Haile, Davis, Makenna, and of course - Marguerite! :-)

First off, I would like to say that I am the luckiest person in the world to have Dwight Peebles Sr as my father. He is supportive, caring and kind. He has taught me life's lessons that I didn't know that I needed. He has listened when no one else cared. He demonstrated how to be a father and a husband. He also taught me that being imperfect is what makes you strong and those strengths help you become more perfect. I would like to say thank you to him for being an inspiration, a role model, a husband, a father and a grandfather; and most of all I would like to thank him for always making my wife feel as much a part of our family as I am.

My hero as always is Dwight "pop-pop" Peebles.



Marguerite Peebles









Dobbin O. Bookman, Jr., great-grandson of Mozella McLaughlin and grandson of Gwendolyn Bookman. Graduated on Sunday, May 16, from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA with a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology, magna cum laude.





Dr. Jenifer Alexandra Brown





Jenifer Alexandra Brown is the daughter of Deborah DeBourg-Brown and the late Calvin Brown, and a graduate student in Biophysics at Stanford University. Jenifer is a member of the Li Lab, Laboratory of Chemical Immunology, under Dr. Lingyin Li, the chief investigator. Jenifer successfully defended her thesis on Monday, May 17, 2021. The title of her talk was "Crystallographic studies of ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase 1 (ENPP1)". She studied a protein that is a key player in the body's immune response to viruses. Her lab's goal is to use this part of the immune system to fight cancer. Jenifer will graduate from Stanford University in June 2021. After graduation she plans to hike the Continental Divide Trail, beginning in Montana. Jenifer's family is so very proud of her strength and perseverance. The old proverb that it takes a village to raise a child is true in our case. We are thankful for our St. Titus family that has always supported

us and we celebrate Jenifer's achievement with you. Here is a link to her lab's website if you would like to learn more: https://lingyinlilab.stanford.edu/

Rheaya Willis, Doctor of Medicine

Daughter of Dr. Carol Willis and The Late Robert Willis graduated from Duke University School of Medicine. She will begin her residency training in psychiatry at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.







What is it? When is it?

June 19-Juneteenth

Date When Celebrated: Always on June 19

Juneteenth day celebrates and symbolizes the end of slavery in the United States. President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. It was not until June 19, 1865 that all slaves were finally freed. That concluding event was when General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas with his troops and issued Order Number 3 which finally freed the last of the slaves.

The formal end of slavery was marked by the passing of the 13th amendment of the constitution.



The 16th Annual NC Juneteenth Celebration will be held in Durham, NC on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 1 pm to 10 pm on East Main Street (between Roxboro and Dillard Streets). This fun-filled, educational, and uplifting event includes entertainment throughout the day featuring national recording artists & local performers, food & merchandise vendors, health fair, kids zone, exhibitors, fashion show, & more!

Creating Prostate Cancer Awareness in our community.

Pass this information along to all of your colleagues in ministry and in general to fight this disease which is recking havoc in our communities. Please plan to attend this event Free online and on-site registration is available. Knowledge Is Power...

06/25/2021 The Black Walnut

Register for this event on <u>Eventbrite here</u>. Terravizion Entertainment Network & Emmanual Health Education, Inc. present Terrance Afer-Anderson's The Black Walnut. The film is very educational. It shows cooperation, determination, love, hope, and how prostate cancer affects the entire family."

06/26/2021

We Are One EHE Prostate Cancer Awareness Walk, Run, Ride

Register at <u>BikeReg.com for this event</u>. Help raise funds in support of Emmanual Health Education's continuous efforts to provide public awareness about prostate cancer incidence and mortality rates; especially among African American men in Edgecombe County, North Carolina and beyond.



Our St. Phocas Garden

April was a busy month at Saint Phocas Garden. We have planted 2 Wineberry raspberries, 2 currant bushes and 1 bayleaf tree in the shady area by the church.

We've also created two new garden beds. The soil in the new area looks nice, but is still very new and clearly hasn't started much in the way of microbial life. It will be interesting to see how our plants fare this year. Even if they do not do well, they will help build soil for a better garden next year. Building soil is like putting savings in the bank. At first it might not seem like much, but over time interest (microbes and dead plant matter) builds until you have some serious capital (healthy soil) with which to do mighty works (grow plants that feed many people).

In the new beds we have planted 7 different varieties of heirloom tomato, green and banana peppers, scallions, onions, leeks, cosmos, marigolds, sunflowers and radishes (for the flowers).

We also cleared out the old bed and sprinkled it with a cover crop of buckwheat which will attract pollinators and help improve the soil.

We have begun and/or ended most of our gatherings with a prayer support as we strive to create a garden that builds community and feeds people. Please come and join us if you can. We meet on Fridays at noon, weather permitting. We will start thirty minutes later on May 7 as we are visiting CC Spaulding first for teacher appreciation day.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries		
01 Demi West	21 Alicia Estes	15 Philip & Shelia Bond
02 Dadryon Edwards 02 Vivian Rogers Patterson	22 Lauren Brooks Parker 22 Jori Simone Wilks	17 Leslie & Jean Walton
04 Andraya Marie Alexander 04 Miles M. Exum Musinguzi	23 Kenneth Valentine III	18 O. Ray & Lafayette Lipscomb
Ub Maπnew Jenkins	24 Charles Hall 27 Niquita F. Brown 23 Kenneth Valentine III	19 K. Jefferies & Williette Adorker
•	29 Derek R. Matthews 30 Delores S. Eaton	20 Philip & The Rev. Brenda Harewood 20 Charles & Carol Johnson
10 Julius Hoff 12 Patricia Gaddy 12 Leslie Walton	June Anniversaries:	20 Dwight & Marguerite Peebles 20 David Stanford & Althea Alton
13 Kenneth Valentine, Sr. 14 Xavier D. Lipscomb	03 Spike & The Rev. Stephanie Yancy	26 Mike & The Rev. Sarah Woodard
	11 James & Lisa Barnes, Jr. 11 Ahmed & Betty Finoh	
16 Valerie Colbert 16 Henrietta Thomas 16 Trinity A. Richardson	12 Julius & Lauriette West Hoff	
18 Keambi Matthews		

The Titusian News Digest

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