Titusian



Fall Worship Schedule

Sundays	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite Two, registration required, see below. This service is in person and will be inside the church
Sundays	9:30 am	Christian Formation for Youth and Adults. See elsewhere in this newsletter for information about the study of Christianity's Jewish roots, facilitated by Catechist Donna Smith. The study will begin on September 19
Sundays	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Rite Two, registration required, see below. This service is in person and live streamed on <u>Facebook Live</u> followed by coffee hour <u>via Zoom</u>
Wednesdays	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer, Join on Facebook Live or participate via Zoom.
Thursdays	5:30 pm	Coffee Hour <u>via Zoom</u> . Check in with other members of the congregation and let us know how you're doing.

Register HERE for In Person Services



Often, when a congregation has gone through a transition period, they look back at the end to evaluate what they have learned. If the period is especially long, they might even look back at the midpoint or once they have reached a specific mile-

stone. They ask questions like, what went well? What do we wish we had done differently? How will what we learned affect what we do going forward?

Make no mistake about it, the church is in a COVID-induced transition period. We will not go back to the way we were once COVID is controlled. I don't know whether we are near the end or in the middle or someplace else. But we are moving into September, which is traditionally the beginning of the program year for churches. This seems like a good time to look back over the last 17 months. I can share what I've learned. I'd love to hear what you have learned. Together we will plan the way forward.

One thing the pandemic made clear is that the church is not the building. Many of you have not been inside the church since March of 2020. And yet St. Titus' is still our home. It's the community from which we are sent out to be the light of Christ in the world. Even when we are apart, we feel the support of one another. I give thanks for the way you have continued to be the church during the pandemic.

At the same time, we have learned how much we need to be in community. That is how we are made. I miss you, and I know you miss each other. My heart breaks when someone tells me that exchanging the Peace, or receiving the bread in their hand, was sometimes the only time they felt another human's touch all week. Whatever happens after COVID, we have got to find safe ways to be together in community again.

I have learned that technology can be our friend! One of the true blessings of this time is that folks who are not able to come into the building have been able to join us in worship. We've also been able to continue to hold Bible study sessions and Vestry meetings. Your clergy and lay leaders have been able to meet weekly with our bishops to discuss the latest COVID protocols. Right now, the technology piece as it pertains to worship is a lot of work for a small number of people. We still have work to do to figure it all out. We will get better at it as we involve more people in this ministry. Can you help?

This transition period, also known as COVID-time, has been a stressful time for all of us. I've learned that the need for each of us to be patient with others is as great as it has ever been. We simply have no idea what another person is carrying. We don't know who is struggling or lonely; who has lost a loved one, or several loved ones; whose income has fallen; who can't, or is afraid to, get the vaccine. We need to be patient with ourselves, with the people we know, and even with strangers. The commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves is especially applicable during COVID times.

What are your thoughts, friends? What have you learned? What can we do differently? What would you like to see as we go forward? Please talk to me or to a Vestry member or another member of the clergy. We want to hear from you. We are all in this together. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully, Stephanie +

Highlights of Vestry Zoom Meeting

Highlights from the July 21, 2021 Vestry Meeting

- Ourate Mawethu is now leading Wednesday evening prayer and Thursday Coffee Hour. He shared his plans for broadening Wednesdays by adding a neighborhood walk from 6:15-7pm for six weeks, as well as hosting drumming and games on Thursday evenings at 6-pm.
- **A Visit from Bishop Anne:** Bishop Ann Hodges-Copple will be visiting St. Titus' on September 5. The Invite. Welcome. Connect team is making preparations for welcoming her..
- **St. Titus'** volunteers participated in a beautification day at CC Spaulding Students Elementary School to prepare for the return of students.

- Church Campus Improvements: Jr. Warden Keith Bishop shared the continuing effort to beautify and maintain St. Titus' campus including power washing, decluttering, managing wires and cables, and replacing the park benches and picnic tables in Delany Park. In addition the church has hired a new cleaning service after the former service resigned.
- **Diocesan Convention Delegates:** Keith Bishop and Diane Hundley were elected as delegates to the Diocesan 2021 Convention.
- **St. Titus' will host a National Night Out** event on August 3, and has invited neighbors, the sheriff, police, the mayor and other elected officials.

Meet Another Vestry Member



Diane Hundley retired to Durham in January, 2019, after living in Salisbury, NC since 1981. She moved to be closer to her older daughter and her 2 granddaughters. Diane spent most of her working life at several nonprofit organizations including a homeless services program, the Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, a retirement community and the local hospital.

While in Salisbury, she was an active member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Since coming to Durham, she has been an active participant at OLLI@Duke (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) and until COVID, was a volunteer at Duke Gardens and the Durham Community Food Pantry. Retiring and moving to a much larger area within a 6-week time span made Diane realize that there is much to be learned in these life transitions. With some of the volunteers she has met, she will co-teach a course this fall for OLLI focused on understanding your gifts and inter-

ests and using them to get involved in the community that is both useful and satisfying.

A member of St. Titus' since July, 2019, she has been in the choir, volunteered for food sorting at El Buen Pastor, helped on the Communications Committee and is now a Vestry Member, currently serving as Clerk. She was elected as one of St. Titus' delegates to the 2021 Diocesan Convention. Diane also has a daughter living in Cambridge, MD

Save the Date: September 5, 2021 Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple Visitation

Bishop Anne will preach and celebrate the Eucharist at St. Titus' on Sunday, September 5, 2021. **There will be one service only at 10:30 am.** Registration is required to attend the service in person. Following the service we will have social time with the bishop outside, to comply with COVID precautions. The service will also be live streamed for those not able to attend in person.





Invitation for Feedback: Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Diocese of North Carolina set five Mission Priorities soon after Bishop Sam's arrival.

- 1. Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice
- 2. Congregational Vitality
- 3. Collaboration and New Communities
- 4. Formation
- 5. Creation Care

Since then, people from all over the Diocese have been at work on these priorities. Recently The Mission Strategy Task Force shared a starting framework for the <u>diocesan mission strategy</u>. You can view a summary of the mission strategy here: https://www.episdionc.org/uploads/images/video-accompaniment_826.pdf. A fuller video presentation is available here: https://vimeo.com/579173593.

The task force wants your feedback on what has been accomplished so far. They invite you to join one of the many discussion gatherings or you can send your feedback to missionstrategy@episdionc.org. Please take a look and share your thoughts.

Helping in a Hurting World

Help for Haiti and Afghanistan

If you have been reading the headlines out of Haiti and Afghanistan of late and are wondering how you can help, two Episcopal organizations are already hard at work: Episcopal Relief & Development is in close contact with long-term development partners in Haiti after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the country on Saturday, August 14, 2021. The earthquake killed over a thousand people, caused structures to collapse and triggered landslides and flooding in the western part of the nation. Please pray for our siblings in Haiti and all those affected by this earthquake. Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's Haiti Fund will support the organization's continued emergency response efforts in Haiti. https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-cando/give/donate-now/individual-donation/ or make your check to St. Titus' Church-Haiti Fund.

<u>Episcopal Migration Ministries and its affiliates are mobilizing to respond</u> to an expected increase of people fleeing from Afghanistan to the United States after the Afghan government fell to the Taliban on August 15, expediting the end of the 20-year American war in the country. As the Church continues to find ways to assist our brothers and sisters abroad, we will keep you posted on the work in progress and how you can help.







Greetings St Titus'

Thank you so much for the wonderful congratulations and encouraging words that I have received from my St Titus' family in the celebration of my retirement from North Carolina Central University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD).

The virtual/Zoom celebration hosted by my department gave me the opportunity to reflect on the past 27 years at NCCU where I had worn many hats; as professor, researcher, department chair, ATIPP clinic founder and director, mentor, colleague, and friend. Now, seven weeks into my retirement, I am still processing the significance of this life changing transition, saying good-bye to my Eagle family.

My retirement celebration was an amazing send-off with remembrances of special moments, timeless relationships, and joyful accomplishments. Reflections from family and friends reminded me of where I had come from and the promising future that lies ahead. Having the opportunity to see friends I have known since college, professors and mentors from early in my career, and recent and long-time friends and associates was very special. The virtual celebration was full of surprises, shared reflections and heartfelt appreciation from administrators, colleagues, friends, family, and former students.

The planned hour for the virtual celebration went by so quickly, that there was not sufficient time left in the program for me to express my gratitude and share my reflections. So, here is an abbreviation of what I had wanted to share.

With deepest gratitude, I thank God for all that I have, and all that I am. I could speak volumes of the many ways in which God has blessed my life. If I have blessed anyone else's life in return, it came from a place of love and gratitude. The goodness and grace of a loving Heavenly Father has blessed me with ancestors, upon whose shoulders I stand, and who made a way at a time in this country's history when there truly was no way. But they found that way through the grace of God.

I have been gifted with a family that not only is made up of my biological family, my mother and father, my sisters, aunts, and uncles, but also the Bridges-Bond family that bridges and bonds us through marriage. I am blessed to be married to a loving husband whose faith, kindness, and generosity have touched the lives of many. My extended family includes those who have parented me, loved, taught, advised, and protected me, who enriched my life to make me a better person.

I thank you all for having prepared me for my life's journey, which led to this amazing profession, speechlanguage pathology, which I love, and is certainly the path that I was meant to follow. It led me to faculty and students who are my Eagle family.

My St. Titus' family has embraced me since my arrival here in Durham 29 years ago. It certainly was no coincidence that my office upon my arrival at NCCU was literally just down the street from St Titus'. St Titus' was the inexplicable confirmation that I was indeed home, and this was where I was meant to be. There has been a lot of history that I will continue to cherish. The welcoming arms of my St Titus' family have inspired me, nurtured and sustained me.

As I look back at my 27 years at NCCU I marvel at the growth of our CSD department. We have not simply grown in numbers but grown in our outreach, to our commitment to diversity, to excellence in teaching, clinical training, cutting edge research, grant writing and service. The faculty has established a bar that students not only strive with determination to reach but reach because of their trust and faith in a supportive faculty who hold an even higher standard for themselves. As a helping profession, our free clinic has expanded to serve an increasingly wider range of needs, serving children and adults with communication disorders. Our students emulate what they witness in our faculty, who are their mentors, advocates, and future colleagues.

My thank you to you all is sent with love and deep appreciation. You are the shining light that speaks and emulates God's word. May God continue to guide your lives, enrich your experiences, bless you and keep you.

With love, gratitude, and best wishes always, *Sheila Bridges-Bond*



Dear Friends.

Every ministry has a beginning and an end. After many decades of serving as a church musician, I believe the time has come for me to move from a position of music leadership each week to becoming more fully engaged in worship from the pew. Therefore, I am retiring from church music and will be leaving the position of Music Director at St. Titus on September 12.

I have served many churches throughout my career, but I feel especially blessed to have been a part of the St. Titus family. I do plan to visit and hope you will invite me to supply on the bench from time to time.

Please keep me in your prayers and know that I will keep you in mine. St. Titus holds a very special place in my heart and I will always give thanks for "every remembrance of you."

Keep singing, and God's Peace be with you Susan Stedman

NB- Susan says she's been a church musician for 45 years. She thinks it's time for her to move from the (organ) bench to the pews. We are grateful that she has spent some of those years with us. As you are able, please thank Susan for her contributions to St. Titus'. We will say goodbye on September 12.

JOIN US ——— FOR ——— FALL WORSHIP



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Invitation to share in St. Joseph's breakfast ministry

St. Joseph's breakfast ministry for our unhoused and hungry neighbors is a long-standing tradition. After a period of distanced meal distribution, they have returned to in-person gathering and are extending an invitation to parishioners of St. Titus' to again join in this ministry.

Breakfast casseroles, grits, and coffee, together with a snack bag are served from a table in St. Joseph's courtyard from 8-9 am. Chairs are placed in a circle in their driveway (socially distanced) so that neighbors, volunteers, and congregants can again gather in conversation, while breaking bread together. There are a couple of ways in which you can help:

- First, a casserole ministry, where you would bake casseroles monthly.
- Second, you could become active participants through a variety of volunteer opportunities.
- To volunteer, or to find out more, please contact Monnie Riggin.



Good News Garden

New Summer Hours: Gardening on Fridays from 8:30 - 9:30 am. No experience necessary.

El Buen Pastor Food Drive: The regularly scheduled food drives on the first Saturday of each month will continue. Our next date: September 4, 7:30 am-12:00 pm.

NCCU St. Titus' Campus Ministry - Calling all volunteers to welcome the students back to campus.

NCCU St. Titus' Campus Ministry - Transformation Tuesdays, each Tuesday, beginning August 31 at 8 pm. (over zoom). Please contact Deacon Sarah Woodard for information on how to join.

CC Spaulding First Community Partners Roundtable - Tuesday, Sept. 7, 3:30-4:30 pm. (Zoom link forthcoming)- let me know if you are interested

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Deacon Sarah Woodard Cell: 919-599-5227

Email: sarah.woodard@duke.edu



An Intergenerational Christian Formation Offering

Catechist Donna Smith will lead a study on Christianity – Our Jewish Roots & Heritage on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am until 10:20 am. The program is for both youth (10 years and older) and adults. The study will begin on September 19. Registration is required. You may register by following the Registration Link, or by emailing Rev. Yancy or Jack, our administrative assistant. We will need to limit the number of participants, so please register quickly. Please see Donna Smith or Rev. Stephanie with any questions.

Direct Aim: To learn that essential components of our Christian formation are rooted in the history of the Jewish people and to acknowledge and celebrate our Hebrew heritage.

Contents:

- Bible studies the Book of Genesis (Creation, Sin, the Flood, Abraham, Moses, and the Exodus)
- "Hands on Judaism" activities
- Reading Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Brant Pitre
- A Seder celebration
- World Religions matching game
- Writing Hebrew words/phrases; learning Hebrew words/songs
- Prayer/Reflections



This will be "hands and minds on" work. Specific presentations and/or materials will engage individual and corporate responses. Additional materials will be supplied. Each session will conclude with prayers and reflections. Come to enjoy creative, learning moments!

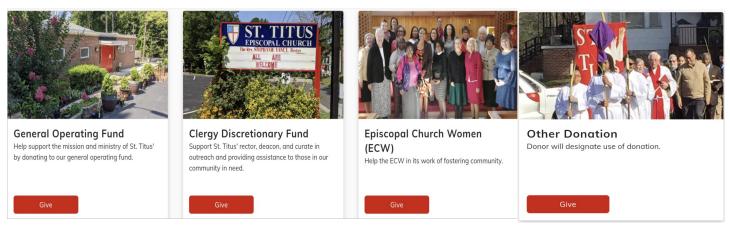
New St. Titus' Donation Website

St. Titus' has a new donation website to make it easier to make online donations. This website is replacing the website that would process donations through the diocese. If you are currently using the diocesan website for your financial gifts to St. Titus', we ask that you begin to use the new donation website instead. You can access the new donation website here: https://secure.myvanco.com/YQQT/home

You can also access the new donation website through our church website https://sttitusdurham.org/ stewardship/

You may find an instructional guide to using the new donation website here: Donation Website Instructions.pdf

We value your feedback as we make this change. Once you have taken a look at the new donation website, please share your thoughts with us through this short feedback questionnaire. It will only take a few minutes of





THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY FOR THE HONORBALE

Brian C. Wilks

Superior Court Judge 14th Judicial District



Brian Wilks will fill the vacant seat formerly held by James E. "Jim"

Hardin Jr., who retired in May. Judge Wilks is a district court judge for the 14th Judicial District. He was an assistant district attorney for the 14th Prosecutorial District and served as an assistant attorney general at the North Carolina Department of Justice. Judge Wilks was previously an adjunct professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law. He earned his Bachelor of Arts at the University of South Carolina and his Juris Doctor at the North Carolina Central University School of Law. View the ceremony service here:

https://nccourts.webex.com/nccourts/j.php?MTID=m09dbb77e53313a7e4756ac5e3a892b34

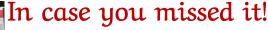


Rev. Jemonde Taylor Nominated to Bishop Slate

Congratulations to our friend, the Rev. Jemonde Taylor, rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Raleigh and diocesan Standing Committee president, who has been <u>nominated to the bishop slate</u> in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina

The Rev. R. Jemonde Taylor serves currently as the rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has filled several roles at the diocesan level including President of the Standing Committee, Discipline Board Member, and Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee of the XII Bishop of North Carolina.

Before moving into his current role, the Rev. Taylor served as part of the clergy staff as priest missioner at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas Texas as a part of the Lilly Foundation Fellowship. In addition, he worked in education and pastoral positions in New York and California. He was ordained in 2009 after graduating with a Master of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State and Stanford University respectively.













Thank you to Mary Hawkins! - The Rev. Yancy

Mary Hawkins recently stepped down after many years spent beautifying the St. Titus' campus. Please join me



in thanking Mary for her service. I interviewed Mary to get a better sense of what she's been doing over the years. She told me that she began the ministry in 2010 with just a couple of small planters on the ledge by the steps. As the work has grown, in recent years she's been spending 5-7 hours per week keeping the plants watered, pruned and fed.

What drew you to this ministry?

First, I enjoy outdoor activities. Second, there is such a large expansive area of hard uninviting concrete in front of the church; I felt that plants would soften that image. Also, when I started this ministry there was an interest in making St. Titus' a welcoming place at the time when there was a lot of crime and drugs in the neighborhood. Fortunately, the level of crime has decreased.







In 2017 I applied for a bulb grant from the Keep Durham Beautiful program. Our youth and a few adults joined me in preparing the corner at Concord and Moline Streets. Unfortunately, the bulbs were stolen, dug up from the ground, newly installed shrubs were pulled up and taken away.

Despite continued vandalism, destruction of planters, damage to the St. Titus' sign, damage to outdoor seating, theft of plants from the Columbarium, etc., I have kept going.

What are some of the ways you have decorated?

I purchased the large planters; filled each with evergreen shrubs, and then planted flowering plants according to the season. The flowering plants included pansies, tulips, lantana, mums, etc. I have used white painted pinecone wreaths for the Easter Season, Candy Canes and Red Bows for Xmas Season, wooden twig crosses with purple shrouds; laminated, Xmas Signs-Hope-Peace-Joy, etc. I have also left a row of evergreens bordering the Concord Street side of the parking lot. I was able to nurture some Lady Banks rose bushes so that they hide the view of the air conditioning unit. More lady Banks roses and butterfly bushes border the fence of the Columbarium. Succulent plants are set at the base of the Columbarium niches.

Thank you to Mary Hawkins!

What are some of the ways you have decorated?

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What are some improvements that you have considered that have not yet been accomplished?

It was my hope to have an installed raised bed planter to reduce the water requirements for the individual planters. I was also considering planting ground cover alongside the Concord Street parking lot right of way. Another dream was planting ground cover on the Dupree Street right of way of Delany Park.

Mark Perrone was quite active prior to the pandemic. Mary ended the interview by saying that this ministry has been a labor of love for her. She urges others who love gardening and working outdoors to consider taking on this ministry. I will close by saying that we don't expect any one person to do what Mary has done. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a Gardening Club that shared the work and the fun and continued to make St. Titus' a welcoming and inviting place to visit? If you are interested, please talk with Junior Warden Keith Bishop. On behalf of the St. Titus' family I say, "Thank you, Mary!"

The Rev. Yancv



Well, it won't be news to announce that August was HOT! We had various issues with the watering system that left our plants high and dry on several occasions, but they prevailed and produced quite a few cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers as well as a few sunflowers and some basil.

We are now beginning the transition to our fall beds which will be located on the Dupree Street side of Delany Park. We started by reconfiguring the large bed into two narrower long beds for easier access. Next, we'll be adding a layer of compost and planting seed as soon as the weather becomes less oppressive. We chose collards, broccoli, bunch-

ing onions and garlic as our focus vegetables for fall into winter. Once the seed goes in, we'll be back to vigilant hand watering again until we have healthy little plants.

We are waiting on approval from the vestry in hopes that we can continue adding beds along the Delany House fence until all the available sunny space is taken up. There is also some discussion of adding a narrow bed directly beneath the sunny length of the fence so that we have a ready trellis for spring and summer vining crops like sweet peas, melons, cucumbers and squash.

If you have any interest in gardening or companionship, please come and join us on Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 am. We would love to spend time with you







SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Hazel Brown

01 John Dalley

01 Chelsey Jones

01 Bradley Walton

02 Thomas Valentine

03 O. Ray Lipscomb, III

04 Ahmed Finoh Jr.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES 05 David Ross

05 Kayla Zeigler

06 Pamela West

07 Jason Freeman

07 Pamela Howard

07 Walter McMiller

08 Jean Walton

01 Vincent and Valerie

Quiett

22 Judy & Treadwell Davison

09 Dorothy Adorkor

12 Victoria Quiett

19 Williette Dennis Adorkor

19 O. Ray Lipscomb, Jr.

19 Carrie Matthews

19 Fred Williams

21 Kollin Brown

03 Preston and Lisa Edwards

30 Walter and Yvette McMiller 21 Abdul Finoh

22 Kenneth Horne

22 Jack Peterson

23 Maxwell Dorsey

23 Marjorie Freeman

29 Linda Dalley

The Titusian News Digest

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Phone: 919-682-5504 Email st.titusepiscopal@gmail.com-Website sttitusdurham.org

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The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Deacon - cell: 919-599-5229- sarah woodard@duke.edu

The Rev. Mawethu Ncaca, Curate - cell: 919-717-8144- st.tituscurate@gmail.com

Jack Peterson, Parish Administrator - 919-682-5504 -st.titussecretary@gmail.com

Mary Hawkins, Newsletter Editor - cell: 919-452-7635- pisces0835@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: REV. YANCY AND REV. MAWETHU ARE OFF ON FRIDAYS.