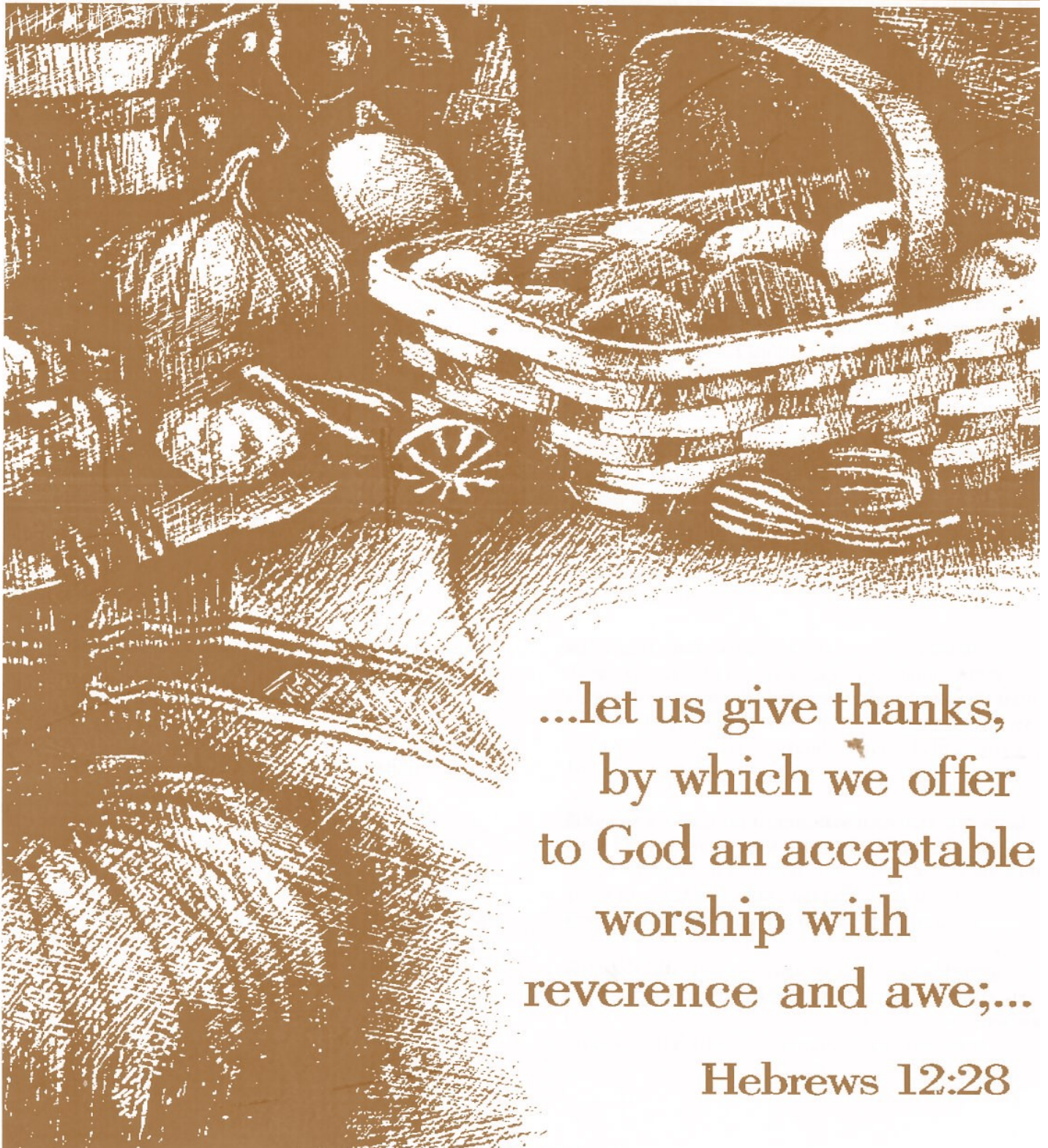


Titusian



...let us give thanks,
by which we offer
to God an acceptable
worship with
reverence and awe;...

Hebrews 12:28



From Our Rector

Dear Friends,

It's hard for me to believe that it's already November. We're coming to the end of another "year like no other." Covid is still with us. We haven't gone back to the old normal and we still can't see what the new normal will be. Some of us are starting to wonder whether there will ever be a new normal. We are all living with uncertainty, change, and loss. But we have not lost hope. Just as our ancestors did in uncertain times, we continue to hold on to the things that are most important – our loved ones, our health, and above all, our faith in God. We believe God always travels with us, even when we can't see the road ahead. I am inspired by you, St. Titus' members and friends, by the way you continue to trust in God, to walk in faith, to support each other and to support this church. You continue to shine the light of Christ in the world. I thank God for each one of you.

I recently came across a prayer attributed to St. Brendan the Navigator, who lived from 484-577 AD. It's an ancient prayer that seems especially appropriate for today. Perhaps it will speak to you.

PRAYER OF ST. BRENDAN

Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.

Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with you.

Christ of the mysteries, I trust you to be stronger than each storm within me.

I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in your hand.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my obedience count for you. Amen



Alice Grant



Mawethu Ncaca

I am delighted to share that transitional deacons Alice Grant and Mawethu Ncaca have been approved for ordination to the priesthood. Their ordinations will take place on Saturday, December 11, at 11:00 am at the Church of the Holy Family in Chapel Hill. Please pray for Alice and Mawethu and their families as they prepare for ordination.

Stephanie +



I am pleased to announce that Ramon Holloway has accepted the position of music director/organist at St. Titus'. Many of you will remember that Ramon held the same position several years ago. We are delighted to welcome Ramon and his

fiancée April Chavis back to St. Titus'

Stephanie+

A native of Goldsboro, North Carolina, Mr. Holloway is a graduate of Goldsboro High School. While in his Junior year of High school, he received a scholarship to attend Appalachian State University's summer music program for select students from across the nation. After graduation, he received the Frazier Memorial Scholarship and continued on to North Carolina

Agricultural and Technical State University to pursue a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a concentration in Piano, under the instruction of Dr. Paula Harrell. While in his first year, he was the accompanist for the University's Touring Choir and accompanied other music students in solo performances.

He has also studied at North Carolina Central University where he was the accompanist for the University's Touring Choir, under the direction of Mr. Grover Wilson. While at North Carolina Central University, he was a Piano Major and organ minor, under the instruction of Dr. Paula Harrell.

- ♦ Accompanist (Piano) for THE ELEANOR L. HARRIS CHORALE, Goldsboro, North Carolina
- ♦ Founder/ Conductor of THE VOICES FOR CHRIST CHORALE, Goldsboro, North Carolina
- ♦ "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" with The North Carolina Symphony Orchestra (Chorus)
- ♦ Dr. Louise Toppin, Soprano
- ♦ Barbara Conrad, Mezzo-Soprano - African-American opera star.
- ♦ Dr. Joyce Johnson – D. M. A. Organist, Spellman College
- ♦ Herdon Spellman, Organist
- ♦ Margaret Tynes
- ♦ Awadagin Pratt, Classical Pianist
- ♦ Denice Graves, Soprano
- ♦ Mark Rucker, Baritone



Welcome Baby Ace Joby Wall-Williams

Here is a message from Brandon & Maranatha:

We are overjoyed to share that our son, Ace Joby Wall-Williams, arrived on Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 12:47am EST. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and is 21.25 inches long. Both mom and baby are doing well.

We're so grateful for all of your love and support. We may be slow to respond to texts and calls over the next few weeks but look forward to connecting as we establish our new household rhythm.

With Love, Brandon & Maranatha

Clergy Scams: How Impious Impostors Prey on the Faithful

Fraudsters with sob stories cajole worshippers for gift cards — and keep the loot by Katherine Skiba, [AARP](#), April 1, 2021

They lie, cheat and steal — like all scammers — but devout victims no doubt believe there's a special place in Hades for this rogue's gallery. To pull off their misdeeds, they pose as pastors, preachers, and priests. Rabbis and rectors. Even bishops. These impostors cajole unsuspecting congregants into spending hundreds of dollars on gift cards, supposedly for people in need, then abscond with the loot.

Believed to be a growing problem, clergy scams occur across faith groups and across the U.S. They've besieged Christians and Jews, Catholics and Protestants, Buddhists and Muslims

Predators rely on the same playbook

The deceit unfolds like this:

1. The bad actors hijack the identity of a religious leader or, say, an administrative staffer at a house of worship.
2. They text or email congregants with a sob story: A cancer patient is hurting for cash. A man was tossed out of work. A family's home has flooded after the pipes burst.
3. There's always an excuse as to why the religious leaders can't help at that moment. That they are unavailable is often the rationale for seeking outside help.
4. If, as instructed, the victim of the scam buys gift cards, the cards' serial numbers and PINs are handed over to the impostor through a call or digital photo.
5. The criminals disappear, leaving their victims reeling.

Widow thought cards destined for cancer patients

Sabrina Price, 60, a widow living near Hattiesburg, Mississippi, got an email one evening in February from a criminal masquerading as her Christian pastor. She thought it was legit because the email address

looked like his. The “pastor” said he was out of town and needed a favor: \$100 gift cards for five women undergoing cancer treatment. He specified eBay or Amazon cards, and Price says he assured her “he'd pay me back, cash or check.”

She snapped up \$500 in Amazon cards at Walgreens, took photos of their numbers and texted them. The numbers gave the impostor instant access to the funds. But he didn't stop there. That same evening, he texted, asking for more cards; the next morning, he said he wanted 10 cards worth \$100 each. That's when Price smelled a rat and fired off a text: “You are a thief and a liar. God sees what you did to me and are doing to others,” she fumed.

Price, who works for an accounting firm, says the \$500 loss will delay her dream of buying a home. “I've had lots of opportunities to be scammed, but this is the first time that I was suckered in,” she says.

Clergy scams. Often, they begin with an innocuous message: “Can you do me a favor?” The message comes from con artists posing as clergy. Often the “favor” is buying gift cards for a phony need.

AARP: Clergy Scams on the Rise

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) puts clergy scams in the larger category of impostor frauds, which triggered nearly a half-million complaints nationwide — and nearly \$1.2 billion in losses — in 2020. The category includes impostors posing as relatives, romantic interests, government employees, computer technicians and others.

Neither the FTC nor the FBI keeps statistics on clergy scams, but AARP's Fraud Watch Network says that preying on the prayerful has emerged as a growing nuisance during the pandemic.

They lie, cheat and steal — like all scammers — but devout victims no doubt believe there's a special place in Hades for this rogue's gallery. To pull off their

misdeeds, they pose as pastors, preachers and priests. Rabbis and rectors. Even bishops. These impostors cajole unsuspecting congregants into spending hundreds of dollars on gift cards, supposedly for people in need, then abscond with the loot.

Nationwide scourge

Many people can say the same. Facebook is full of posts from religious leaders warning their flocks to ignore sham messages sent in their names. In April 2020, the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ urged vigilance about emails from a clergy member, conference minister or staffer asking for “some kind of unusual action,” such as buying gift cards or wiring money. “A number of congregations across our conference and the country have been hit with an email scam,” the Phoenix-based organization said.

According to news accounts, Catholic parishes in Ohio have been targeted, along with synagogues in Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina and Tennessee. In Delray Beach, Florida, an 80-year-old woman bought \$10,500 in gift cards for a man she thought was her pastor. In Madison, Wisconsin, a 78-year-old man purchased \$900 in cards for someone he was led to believe was his pastor.

'Dirty trick'

In 2019, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton warned that churches throughout the state had been hit by “a dirty trick” targeting people of faith. He said the scammers were believed to be using information taken from church websites and online bulletins. Others, though, suspect that clergy email accounts have been hacked and had their contacts stolen.

The FTC also issued a nationwide alert in 2019 about scammers pretending to be pastors, rabbis, priests, bishops and imams. The FTC's Colleen Tressler, who wrote the alert, told AARP recently that her own Episcopal church is the target of clergy scams “at least a half-dozen times a year.” The church regularly collects gift cards at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter to be placed in food baskets for the needy, Tressler says, so it may not seem out of the ordinary that a church leader is soliciting cards.

Preying, not praying

AARP's Amy Nofziger, who oversees its free, toll-free [Fraud Watch Network Helpline](https://www.aarp.org/fraud-watch-network/helpline/) (877-908-3360), says there's been an uptick in clergy scams during the pandemic as millions of people worship remotely. “We see and hear these horrible stories about people not having food on their table or seeing loved ones sick,” she adds, “and our love for our community and church compels us to help.” Nofziger says complaints about clergy scams used to trickle in to the Helpline once or twice monthly; since the global health crisis, there have been five or six reports weekly.

A Hawaiian man in his 70s called the Helpline in February to report that he lost \$500 in Apple cards to a man pretending to be a Buddhist bishop. The victim realized it was a hoax only when the scammer asked for \$500 more, this time in eBay cards. “I was just angry at myself for just being so gullible,” says the victim, who asked not to be identified.

Elliott Greenblott, 73, coordinator of AARP Vermont Fraud Watch, has been delivering Zoom presentations on staying safe from these scams to synagogues in New England — including Aronson's — to eliminate what Greenblott calls affinity fraud. Such frauds see people exploit the trust and friendship within a group — whether a religious, professional, ethnic or other sort of alliance — to rip people off.

Aronson says he may ask Greenblott back. Grateful for the insights, the rabbi remains pained that people are preying on others rather than praying for others. “Unfortunately, we live in a world where unscrupulous people will do anything to make a buck, even if means hurting others,” he says. “And we just have to be very, very careful.”

[AARP's Fraud Watch Network](https://www.aarp.org/fraud-watch-network/) can help you spot and avoid scams. Sign up for free [Watchdog Alerts](https://www.aarp.org/fraud-watch-network/watchdog-alerts/), review our [scam-tracking map](https://www.aarp.org/fraud-watch-network/scam-tracking-map/), or call our toll-free [fraud helpline](https://www.aarp.org/fraud-watch-network/helpline/) at 877-908-3360 if you or a loved one suspect you've been a victim.

Orientation Workshop Presented to the Vestry



Orientation Topics

Characteristics of Healthy Vestry/Clergy Relationships

Clergy in Charge in the Episcopal Church

Responsibilities of Clergy in Charge

Responsibilities of Vestry

Responsibility of Priest as Informed by Ordination Vows -Mutual Ministry Review vs. Performance Review

The Collective Responsibilities of Vestry Members

The Individual Commitment of Vestry Members

Ethical Responsibilities of Vestry Members

Suggested Agenda for Clergy-Wardens Meetings

Expectations For Conducting Vestry Meetings

The Rev. Canon Gregory

(Greg) Jacobs comes to

us from Newark, New Jersey where he served as Canon to the Ordinary & Chief of Staff in the Diocese of Newark until his retirement. In that capacity, he served as the principal advisor to the Bishop for 11 years on matters involving policy, transition ministry, and program concerning clergy and congregations in the diocese.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1995 after practicing corporate employment/discrimination law for 18 years in Cleveland. He is a trustee of Bexley Hall Seminary, a member of the Board for Clergy Deployment of the national church, and has served on many diocesan, national church, and interreligious boards and committees. His ministry passion is equipping, empowering, and enabling congregations and clergy for urban ministry

Canon Greg has served on the Standing Committee on Constitution & Canons, the Board for Transition Ministry, co-chair of General Convention committees, and on several boards, committees, and commissions of the Episcopal Church and in the dioceses in which he has served. He has been elected clerical deputy to General Convention four times. He is a lifetime member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and has also served on antiracism committees of every diocese in which he has worked. Greg enjoys a passion for music of all kinds; has visited all but 5 U.S. states. In retirement, he enjoys gardening and cooking.



St. Titus' got together to eat cake, discuss the history (thank you, Mary Hawkins) and reimagine NCCU campus ministry.



Laiana Danielle Moore

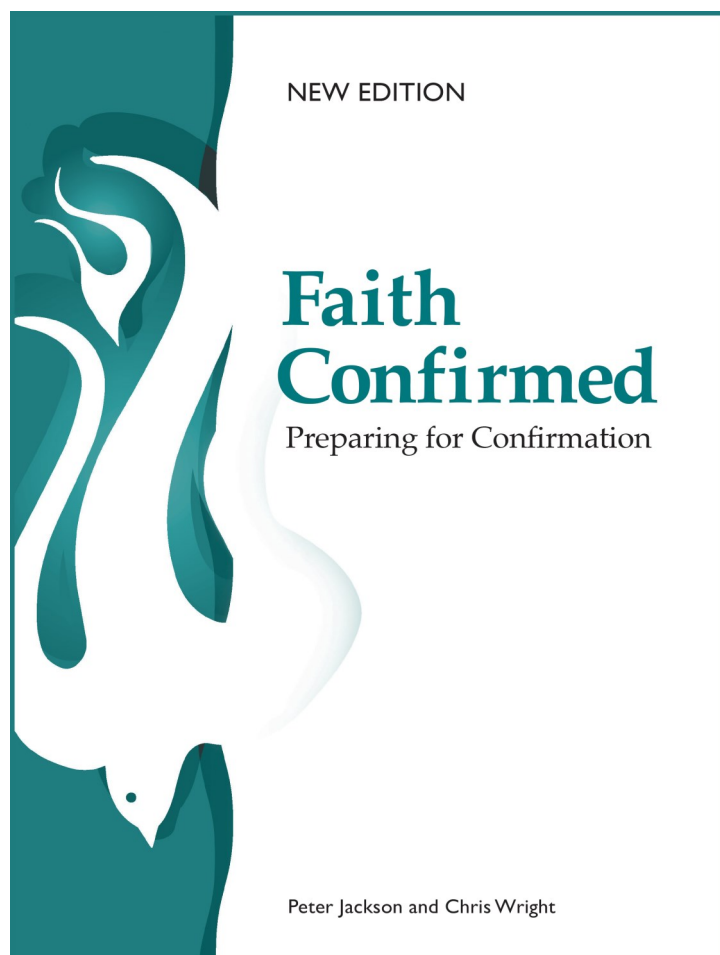
received the Sacrament of Baptism on October 2, 2021. Her brother, **Landon Donell Moore**, watches the ceremony.

Parents

Larry Donell Moore, Jr and L. Danielle Parker-Moore

Grandparents

Frieda and Larry Donell Moore, Sr. Lionell Parker and Danita Parker



The Baptism of Landon Donnell Moore above, was captured in a photograph by Vincent Quiett and featured in Faith Confirmed, June 1, 2019.



FIRST, WE CHRISTIANS WERE JEWS!

Learn more in the on-going intergenerational catechesis study on the Jewish roots and heritage of Christianity-each Sunday!

Shalom, Chaverim (Peace, my friends in Hebrew).

Let's think Jewish for amoment and realize that before the birth of Christianity, the Jewish peoples began our journey of faith in the One God, creator and covenantor with all of creation.

During our time together in the intergenerational catechesis, we are learning that essential components of our Christian formation are rooted in the history and heritage of the Jewish people. We have a rich inheritance: the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament); the Shabbat (Sabbath); the Shema (the foundation of the Great Commandment), mitzvot (God's Torah commandments); and sanctuary (altars, tabernacles) to begin the list.

Thus far, our studies have included seeing the Holy Bible as gift with an introduction to the **Torah**; Jewish Prayers and Blessings; the reading and discussion of the two creation stories in Genesis; the celebration of the Jewish Friday ritual called "**Welcoming Shabbat**" with challah (bread) and grape juice/wine, and lighted candles to receive (*Kabbalat*) **Shabbat**. **Shabbat is delight (oneg)!**

"If you turn back your foot from the sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the LORD..." Isaiah 58: 13-14a.

The month of October concludes with biblical typology of the creation stories and redemption; the reading of Genesis 3 (the Fall/Sin). Biblical typology is the theory that the New Testament is "**enfolded**" in the Old Testament; the Old Testament is "**unfolded**" in the New Testament. "The New is in the Old contained; the Old is by the New explained." ~ St. Augustine ~ For many Christians, typology is not a legitimate methodology of biblical study; for others it is. Throughout our studies, we are asking this question: "*What have the biblical writers given us to believe in and to live by?*" Does typology correctly assume what St. Augustine and St. Paul believed to be definite connections of similar patterns in both the Old and New Testaments? We become theologians as we entertain these questions.

During November our subjects include discussion of "when things went wrong" (Genesis 3) and sin typology. We shall also observe All Saints and All Souls Feast Days. Creativity is on the agenda for several Sundays as we write/draw/paint Hebrew words and phrases plus dabble in creative writing techniques of

Cinquain and Haiku poetry. Learning more about **Shema Yisrael** ("Hear, O Israel" in Deuteronomy 6: 4-9); the mezuzah ("doorpost" in Hebrew) and tallit (Jewish prayer shawl will round out our Jewish emphasis for the month. On the 28th, we shall observe the beginning of Advent with a wreath and lighting of the first candle while listening to Messianic Prophecies from Isaiah and Micah.

December will continue our Advent observance and begin our study of Noah(**Noach**) and The Flood story in Genesis 6: 5 - 9:1-17. Following, we'll consider flood typology. **Havdalah** ("separation" in Hebrew) is the Jewish Saturday Sunset Ritual that we will observe as closure to the restful, refreshed, and peaceful harmony(**menuha**) of *Shabbat*. It marks the separation between the end of *Shabbat* and the week; the separation of holy and commonplace that is marked with blessings over the wine, spices, and candle. At the end of the month, we'll take a little break and enjoy a world religions game.

We will begin the New Year 2022 with Abraham (**Abram**) and biblical geography. The study of Moses (**Moshe**) and *the Exodus* is the February - March plan of study. **Lent begins on March 2**, which we will observe together with Moses and the Israelites' sojourn in the desert. Specific activities will be "The Gift of the Torah" and "Reading of the Torah" (**Aliya** - the calling of someone to read from the Torah).

Our Lenten study will be reading the book, **Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist** -- Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper by Brant Pitre. As **April** approaches, the Jewish Passover Seder will be observed. On **Palm Sunday and Easter**, we'll participate with the full congregation in our observance and celebration. During the catechesis hour, we'll discuss the book and look at the typology of the Exodus, Redemption, and Eucharist.

If participants wish to continue our time together, there will be May options for study and a June 5 Pentecost observance.

Submitted by Donna Smith, Catechist.



FIRST, WE CHRISTIANS WERE JEWS!

Learn more in the on-going intergenerational catechesis study on the Jewish roots and heritage of Christianity-each Sunday!



Learning together as we prepare for "Welcoming Shabbat or Kabbalat Shabbat (Receiving Sabbath)" Jewish Friday ritual

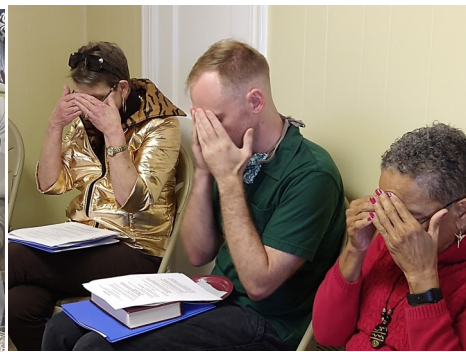
Preparations for "Welcoming Shabbat." The table is readied with the challah (bread) cloth that says "To honor Holy Sabbath" in Hebrew, the vessels for the grape juice, candles, and flowers.



Lighting the Candles. The First act of receiving Shabbat



Covering one's eyes while blessing the Shabbat Candle



The Blessing for families and friends

Safely, touching and reciting the blessing (b'rakhah): "Merciful One, bless us and all our dear ones; as You blessed our ancestors Abraham, Issac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel, so bless us, one and all and let us say; Amen"



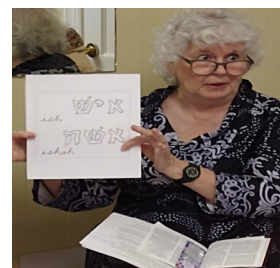
Sharing the "Welcoming Shabbat" meal.



Kiddush for Shabbat
The Blessing and pouring of the wine/grape juice



Enjoying the challah and wine of Shabbat



Singing Shalom, "Chaverim" (Peace, my friends)

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. TITUS' 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 7

Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign!

Thanks to your generosity, we have exceeded our pledge goal of **\$190,000**. We will be celebrating God's provision at our Stewardship Campaign Celebration Sunday, November 7th

NOVEMBER 21

The Fall United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering will take place on November 21, 2021. UTO is a way to show thanks for our many blessings. By contributing, we combine our donations with funds gathered at Episcopal churches throughout the USA. Funds are then given as mini-grants supporting projects around the world helping to spread Christ's love through works. UTO envelopes and mite boxes along with additional information will be available in the narthex leading up to the date. If you make a contribution by check, please write "UTO" on the memo line

NOVEMBER 22

The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina is one of six dioceses awarded a grant from the Episcopal Preaching Foundation to pilot the Foundation's Lay Preacher Training Initiative (LPTI). The goal of the program is to develop a robust cadre of lay preachers drawn from within their local communities who can supplement ordained clergy in the pulpit. By training and supporting lay preachers in The Episcopal Church, the program aims to establish lay preaching and lay leadership as a fourth dimension of diocesan leadership in the Episcopal Church alongside bishops, priests and deacons.

If you are interested, please follow this link to find out about how to apply, informational sessions, and additional details about the initiative. Applications are due by **November 22**.

NOVEMBER 29-Dec 20

Advent Study

St. Titus' member Syrena Williams will lead us in a 4-week bible study series on Dangerous Prayers during the Advent season. We will meet via Zoom on Mondays from 7 - 8pm each week beginning Monday, November 29th and ending Monday, December 20.

The study will use the YouVersion bible app (available on phones, tablets and computers) for free. If you are interested in joining the study group, please email Syrena at snwtoo@gmail.com so that you can receive the link to the study, the reading agenda, discussion questions and zoom link. We look forward to you joining us.

OCTOBER 28-DECEMBER 02

Drumming is back by POPULAR DEMAND! Our summer djembe drumming circle in our parking lot was full of laughter, had us pushing ourselves a bit, and created space for fun and visibility. Because of the summer heat, some missed out. Therefore, we are hosting a second edition of this drumming circle. Please bring your drum, if you have one, and your camp chair. As the weather permits, we will play on Thursdays from October 28 until December 2nd, from 5pm until 6pm. Our gracious drumming instructor, neighbor Elisha Harris, will be leading us again.

On-Going CC Spaulding Needs

- Masks (for adults and children)
- Clothing sizes includes Size 5, 6, 7, 8, Youth 12; Juniors: 14-16
- Tutors
- Handiwork (assembling cabinets for clothing)
- Mentoring

**GIVE
THANKS**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

CrossCards



ST. TITUS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Halloween TRUNK OR TREAT



Afghani Resettlement Opportunity St. Joseph's Casserole Ministry

St. Titus' is partnering with St Luke's and St Joseph's, as the Durham Episcopal Coalition, to help settle a refugee family in Durham.

Church World Service, Durham, which will be the resettlement agency we work with, will help train us. Sponsorship requirements include a financial commitment, securing and furnishing an apartment, helping find schools, assistance with grocery shopping and appointments, and to be companions in the resettlement journey.

As volunteers, our group will give approximately fifteen hours a week to supporting the family while they are settling in Durham.

We are in the process of ironing out specifics and training requirements but in the meantime, if you are interested in being a part of this journey or have items you would like to donate, please let us know.

Mawethu Ncaca and Yvette Matthews are spearheading St. Titus' part. Please reach out to either if you are interested in helping (st.tituscurate@gmail.com)

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church provides a casserole breakfast to those who need it each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning after Morning Prayer from 8-9 am.

Robyn Furges and Diane Hundley have agreed to provide a casserole each week of the month, Robyn for the first and third and Diane for the 2nd and 4th. Diane will be delivering the casseroles during the 2nd week.

If you would like to provide a casserole (your own recipe and products), Diane will be happy to pick it up and deliver it for you. Contact Diane at dianehundley@bellsouth.net or 704-433-1382.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

01 Janee' Davis
04 Dwight Peebles, Jr.
04 Philip Zoutendam
07 Carol B. Richardson
07 Donna Davis
11 Sandra C. Daniels
14 William McLaughlin
15 Wayne Alexander
16 Kayla Clement
18 Diane Hundley
19 Eudine C. Harewood
21 Yvette McMiller

22 John Harris
22 Cecilia Horne
23 Nikabuije (BJ) Maduike
26 Xavier Jibril Goudeaux
26 Adam Lipscomb
28 Valencia Quiett
29 BradLee Armstrong
29 Marcella Kaye Sullivan
30 Carole Bond

Anniversaries

08 Laron & Valerie Colbert
22 Clifford & Carol Richardson

Saint Phocas Garden in Autumn



Good News Garden - Fridays at 3 pm.
We've expanded and will soon plant for the winter. Join us next week.

The Titusian News Digest

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The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Deacon—cell— 919-599-5227 -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.