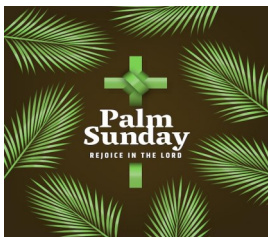


April 2023

The Titusian



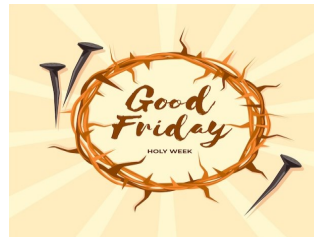
Our Holy Week Services



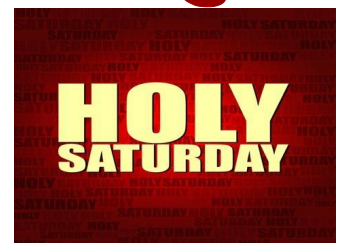
Sunday, April 2, The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
One service-
9:30 am



Thursday April 6, Agape Meal
at 6:00 pm,
Holy Eucharist
at 6:30pm



Friday April 7
Stations of the
Cross at
12-Noon



Saturday April 8
Holy Saturday
Liturgy at
10 am



Easter Sunday
April 9, 8:30am & 10:30am

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH **St. Titus' ECW will sponsor an** **Easter Egg Hunt**

Please bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to church on Easter Sunday. We will celebrate Spring with our annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately after the 10:30 service. All are welcome!



St. Titus' is a diverse and growing community committed to walking with Christ by serving others, pursuing justice and welcoming all.



“We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.” The greatest gift of Easter Sunday is our hearing and experiencing God’s amazing love for us. Jesus’ rising from the dead is our hope of resurrection. This amazing love of God gives us everything and never abandons us. Since that first Easter morning, we continue to celebrate the power of God to open the chains of death so that we might see life in its fullness.

No matter what we experience now we must say “Alleluia anyhow!” Never let your problems get you down for it is Christ who will help us to rise above our circumstances to be rooted again in the love of God that comes to us through Christ Jesus.

Out of the darkness, Christ shows his light to the world. His resurrection changes the history of salvation and gives our suffering purpose. We have the freedom to live our lives as God intended and experience real joy and happiness. Even when we are buried in our sorrows, we can hold onto the hope that eternal joy is coming and God shall comfort us in our sufferings.

As Christians, we have seen and heard the comforting words of the Lord. Do we really believe the Word of God that tells us that we will rise again? Throughout this experience of the Coronavirus pandemic, our concerns for the environment, and the struggle for racial justice, we hear God calling us to faith and hope. It is God’s initiative that brings us hope in spite of all our fears and worries. We have come a long way from where we started. When we look back over our lives and just recall where God has brought us, we will begin to tremble!

Our concern for the people of Ukraine and the other parts of our world where people suffer unjustly is only one example of our Easter faith. Our faith is put into action when we, like Mary Magdalene, see the empty tomb and begin our search for the Lord. We hear the lord calling our name and we tell the world, “Jesus is alive!” and we will live again!

Easter is not just one Sunday. Easter is a way of life. It is a life where Christ is always at the center lifting us from the things that keep us in the grave and do not allow us to experience the life that God intends for us. As an “Easter people”, we know what it means to rise from the grave and experience life as God has prepared for us. When life’s problems come your way, lift your head up high and say, Alleluia anyhow!

May we continue to experience what a relationship with GOD is all about as we celebrate the new life that comes from the Risen Lord Jesus.

<https://spiritans.org/daily-readings-weekly-reflections>

Four Signs That It's a Scam

1 Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.

Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations.



They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2 Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.

They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an

emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer.

Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information.



Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

3 Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story.



They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4 Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.

They often insist that you pay using cryptocurrency,



by wiring money through a company like MoneyGram or Western Union, or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

How To Avoid a Scam

► Block unwanted calls and text messages.

Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

► Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.

Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your

personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

► **Resist the pressure to act immediately.**

Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

► **Know how scammers tell you to pay.**

Never pay someone who insists you pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

► **Stop and talk to someone you trust.**

Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Report Scams to the FTC

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, tell the FTC at

[ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)



**FEDERAL TRADE
COMMISSION**

July 2022

How To Avoid a Scam



CONSUMER ALERT

Be Aware of Brushing Scams



Attorney General

Josh Stein

Our office has been alerted to reports of “brushing” scams. Brushing scams occur when a person receives a package from a business containing various items that they never ordered. The packages will be addressed to your residence, but usually do not have a return address or have the return address of a retailer. The scammer typically orders the merchandise using a third-party seller like Amazon or eBay. Their aim is to pose as a verified buyer of that product so they can post a fake positive review online to boost their product rating and popularity.

Although this type of scam seems victimless, **it likely means that your personal information has been leaked and is available somewhere online.** This information may be your name, address, or phone number. While you may not face any immediate harm from a “brushing” scam, your leaked personal information could set you up for another type of scam or identity theft in the future.

If you receive a package that you did not order yourself, follow these guidelines to protect yourself:

- **Notify the retailer.** Most businesses encourage you to report fraudulent activity for security purposes. You should let them know that you received a package based on a fraudulent purchase so that they can take the appropriate steps to prevent it from happening again.
- **Do not send money for an unsolicited package.** Contact the retailer directly and ask whether they are willing to pay for the return to them or let you keep the product at no cost to you. You should not pay for any return.
- **Change your passwords.** It is very likely that your personal information has been compromised. You should immediately update your security settings and passwords for accounts you may have with various retailers.

Monitor your accounts. Keep an eye on your bank statements and credit reports to be sure that your more sensitive personal information has not been leaked. Consider putting a free security freeze in place as well – learn more at www.ncdoj.gov/securityfreeze.

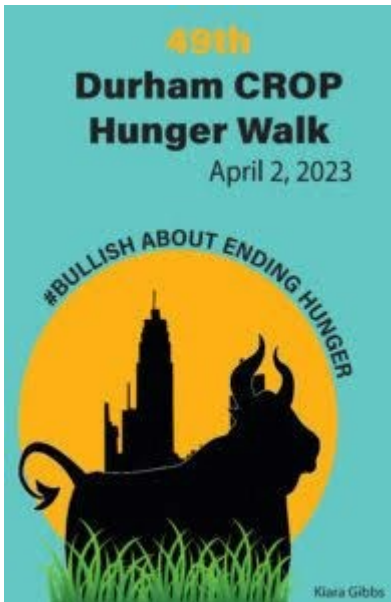
If you think that you or somebody you know has been affected by a brushing scam, contact our office’s Consumer Protection Division at 1-877-5-NO-SCAM or file a complaint online.

Dear Friends at St. Titus,
Many thanks for your
prayers, cards, and kind
thoughts on the death of
my brother John. Thanks
also for the generous gift



Stephanie Yancy

from the Benevolent Ministry.
It will be donated to the
Colorado Blood Cancer Institute,
where John was treated.
Thank you again. Yours in
Christ,
Stephanie



49th

Durham CROP Hunger Walk

The CROP Hunger Walk is a family-friendly walk that links the Durham community together in solidarity with our neighbors all around the world who have to walk long distances daily for food and water. Funds raised from the walk provide food and other resources for families in Durham and across the globe.

This will be an in-person, outdoor Walk on April 2, 2023. Virtual participation is still an option.

Sunday, April 2nd

- 1:30 pm. Registration, Music, Greetings, Global Village Activities
- 2:30 pm – Walk Starts in front of Duke Chapel

Donations to the 49th Durham CROP Hunger Walk

You can make contributions to Durham CROP Hunger Walk via check to **St. Titus' Church-Memo-Crop Walk**.



St. Titus' website [parish calendar](#) is being regularly updated now and includes St. Titus' services and other events. If you have an event or meeting to schedule, please contact the parish administrator at st.titussecretary@gmail.com.

2022

BUDGET

Performance

REVENUES YTD DECEMBER 2022

Operating Income Gen-Fund Pledged Gen –Fund Unpledged Loose Plate offering 298,587.65 - YTD 272,637.00 - Budget (25,950.65) - Remaining	Other Income Interest Income Sprint Lease Investment Income Campus Ministry Facilities Use (4,931.46- YTD 14,172.00 - Budget 19,103.46 - Remaining	Total Revenues Actual 293,656.19 - YTD 286,809.00 - Budget (6,847.19)- Remaining
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EXPENSES - YTD DECEMBER 2022

Diocesan Related Assessment/Asking Theo. Support Dio. Conv. Delegates 26,818.08 - YTD 25,383.00- Budget (1,435.08) - Remaining	Missions/Outreach Community outreach Campus Ministry Discretionary Funds 5,319.12 -YTD 8,250.00 - Budget 2930.88 - Remaining	Personnel Rector, Deacon Ministry Staff Other staff 144,099.58 - YTD 146,879.26 - Budget 2,779.68 - Remaining
Administration Office Expenses Utilities Building Maintenance 52,992.93 -YTD 53,592.26 - Budget 599.33 -Remaining	Ministry and Worship Stewardship/Formation Worship Supplies, Flowers Parish Life, Newsletter, Music Benevolence, Youth Ministries 10,909.78 – YTD 10,900.00 – Budget (9.78) - Remaining	Net Total YTD Actual - 53,516.70 Annual Budget - 41,804.48 Remaining - (11,712.22)

3 Myths About Church Growth

Maybe God's inspiring your church through a season of outreach or evangelism, or perhaps growth is a very practical imperative. Whatever the reason you want to grow, you will need a perspective reset.

You want a great harvest, but the first order of business is to plow up the soil and get rid of the current crop of weeds, exposing the rich soil you need to plant. Every wrong idea about growth is a barrier to this harvest and hampers your long-term ministry success. A lot of churches struggle to grow because they subscribe to some of these common growth myths:

1. GROWTH IS ALWAYS A SIGN OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

Sure, someone can make the argument that healthy things grow, but unhealthy things grow, too. Increasing in size isn't a sign that everything's good. There are plenty of churches who could tell stories about church growth strategies that seemed to work, but only created larger unhealthy churches which eventually imploded.

If you want to grow, great! But it's critical that you don't do so because you think a larger church is healthier than a smaller one.

2. POOR LEADERSHIP IS ALWAYS THE PROBLEM

This myth has probably landed more pastors in counseling than anything else. Church leadership is important, but it's not the make-it-or-break element in church growth. When your ministry is growing, a lot of internal and external factors are coming into play—leaders aren't the only piece of the puzzle.

When churches struggle to make growth happen, they often begin to question those who are in charge. Thinking that the pastor was the obstacle to growth, many churches have made the disastrous decision to replace a great leader—many ministries have never recovered as a result..

3. CHURCH GROWTH IS ABOUT FOCUSING ON HOLIDAYS

While it's true that Easter and Mother's Day bring in lots of traffic, your growth isn't contingent upon having perfect services on those holidays. It's about creating a culture that's consistently dedicated to taking advantage of every opportunity for outreach. While holidays offer you unique opportunities to reach larger numbers of visitors, most growth is won or lost during the remainder of the year. By developing consistent church-wide habits and attitudes, you'll be in a better position to take advantage of those special days anyway.

So How Do You Grow Your Church?

When you start looking at church growth manuals or checking the internet for strategies to increase your attendance, it's hard to vet the good suggestions from the bad. Are people actually trying the methods they're suggesting? Are they current? Do they work to attract and retain church members and younger churchgoers?

Birthdays			
01 Karen Horne-Seymour	12 Owen Peterson	27 Lyndsay Barnes	
02 Willie Covington	12 Ayanna B. Richardson	28 Malcolm Exum Musinguzi	
05 Gwendolyn Valentine	12 Sharon Taylor	28 Lew Myers, II	
07 Sheila Bond	15 Murphy D. Jenkins	ANNIVERSARIES	
09 Aaron ones	22 Wesley Abram	11 Ahmed, Sr, and Betty Finoh	
10 Keith Bishop	24 Philip Christman	17 O. Ray, and Lafayette W. Lipscomb	
11 Lisa Wilks	25 Ahmed Finoh, Sr.	17 Leslie and Jean Walton	
11 B. Thurber	25 Robyn Furges		

The Titusian News Digest

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The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Deacon—cell: 919-599-5227 -sarah.woodard@duke.edu

Parish Administrator— Kate Saunders- 919-682-5504 -st.titussecretary@gmail.com

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