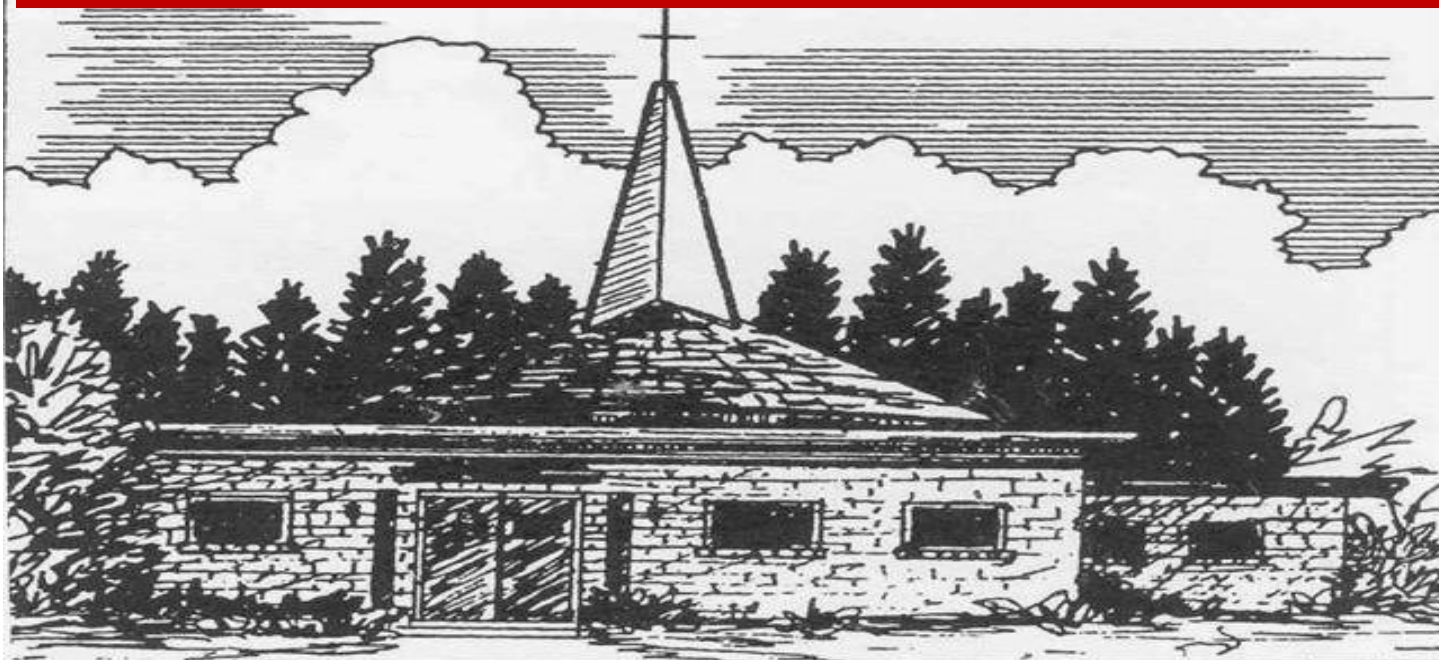


The Titusian



**Congratulations
Graduates!!!!**

2023

**Thank You for your
support and contribution
during your time with us.**

Farewell!



Rev. Alicia (pictured 3rd from right in the front row) has been attending the 55th Annual Business Meeting and Conference of the Union of Black Episcopalians in Montgomery, Alabama. The conference ended July 27th, and Rev. Ali-

cia is grateful to have represented St. Titus' Church. She reported in that one of the highlights for her was the Opening IMANI Worship Service with Memorial Commemorations at St. John's Episcopal Church in Montgomery. The Rev. Dr. Maurice Wilson, the preacher, reminded us that in the beginning, God told us we are "Good." At The Litany of Libation in Honor of Our Ancestors, Saints, and Elders, the names read included Monroe Freeman, Jr. Rev. Alicia will report more on the conference at the July 30th services.



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

Hannah Bowman

Master's of Theological Studies and Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, Theology and Ministry
Duke Divinity School

Alicia Drew Estes

Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Management
University of Mount Olive, Tillman School of Business

Rebekah Lester

Master's in Education in School Counseling
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Valencia Quiett

Completion of Residency Program
Washington Hospital Center, Washington DC

Dawson Edwards

Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College 2022
Guilford College Greensboro NC

Veronica Quiett

North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics



Alecia Drew Estes



St. Titus' Family
Greetings Congregation.

My name is Dawson Edwards. I am 19 years old and was born and raised in Durham, NC. Before attending Guilford College (where I am currently in school), I was a student at Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College high School while playing varsity basketball for the fourth consecutive year. While attending Josephine Dobbs Clement Early College I was fortunate enough to accumulate 59 college credits as a high school student! Thanks to my hard work throughout my high school career, all 59 of my college credits transferred as dual enrollment credits my freshman year at Guilford. So, in short as a freshman in college, I had already accumulated the credits of a junior! After the completion of my freshman year at Guilford College, I now have 92 college credits, am on track to graduate in May of 2024 and have been recognized for my academic achievement as a 2x Dean's List recipient.

As an uprising Senior at Guilford College, I am majoring in Business Administration.

During Sunday School years ago, I learned that following Christ means walking blindly with faith rather than relying on sight. Today, I walk by faith and I thank St. Titus' for always offering me a strong foundation. The blessings that are yet to come may not be visible, but I trust that God has a plan for all of us, and our blessings will show up when the time is right.

Thank you St. Titus' Family



Call for A Season of Pentecost for Gun Violence Prevention

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

The “Knotted Gun” sculpture at the United Nations Headquarters

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) calls The Episcopal Church to *A Season of Pentecost for Gun Violence Prevention*. This is a call to deepen our commitment as people of faith to confront the epidemic of gun violence through action at the grassroots level, in our parishes and dioceses. It is time to build on the work of [Bishops United Against Gun Violence](#), as well as EPF’s *Gun Violence Curriculum* and our other resources and campaigns. This is an invitation to open the church doors to the winds of the Pentecost Spirit, pledging to engage in specific actions for gun violence prevention in the Pentecost season, from Whitsunday to Advent 2023.

Why now? None of us can avoid the horrific news: one hundred mass shootings in the first 65 days of 2023. And it is not just mass shootings: an average of 114 Americans are losing their lives daily by firearms, many overcome by suicidal despair which takes the lives of 28,000 adults and children every year. As we struggle against numbness and hopeless surrender to a new normal, we realize this is not just “news” for many of our neighbors. African Americans suffer from poorer health, premature aging, and shorter life spans from the stress of “living while Black,” including the trauma of gun violence plus lethal policing in many communities. Gun-related deaths are eight times higher for Black men than White men. These grim statistics are mirrored in other minority communities.

And then there are the children. Shockingly, the number one cause of death for our children and adolescents is not disease or automobile accidents, but death by firearms. In 2020, 30% of child deaths by firearms were suicides, 5% were unintentional deaths, and 65% were by violent assault. “Living while a child” now includes active shooter drills in school. What was a safe space for many has become a new source of fear and anxiety.

Living this reality, we are torn between feelings of rage and powerlessness to stop the epidemic of gun violence that has taken over 40,000 lives each year since 2020. Yet as people of the Jesus Movement, we can find power to act in the Spirit of Pentecost, which is the Spirit of Life, abundant life,

for ourselves and our neighbors. The Spirit of Pentecost challenges the Spirit of Death at work in our nation that promotes widespread access to guns, rooted in the fear-based assumption that guns will make us safe. The idolization of firearms has led us to a dystopia of death for 40,000 people each year, as well as the tragedy of wounds, both physical and emotional, for many thousands more.

Where will the Spirit of Pentecost take us? In each parish, in each community, a commitment to act for gun violence prevention will be unique. EPF has compiled a resource page on our new website, episcopalpeacefellowship.net, offering user-friendly options for action. This initial list is designed to grow as parishes share their effective actions for gun violence prevention. The page is organized in three categories: liturgical action, public witness and legislative advocacy. Visit the website to find ideas and ‘how-to’ instructions, such as: incorporate gun violence into the Prayers of the People; organize a civic resolution to support “National Gun Violence Awareness Day” in June; partner with advocacy groups in your area, such as [Brady United](#) or [Moms Demand Action](#), to promote common sense gun laws.

We urge you to visit the website and study the options for action as a first step into your parish’s Season of Pentecost for Gun Violence Prevention.



Actions for Parish and Families

Liturgical Actions to Raise Awareness and Nurture Hope:

*Observe #WearOrange Sunday, June 4TH, in support of National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend. Wear orange for worship, the color hunters wear for safety. Visit www.wearorange.org for sample fliers and other ideas and resources.

*Create an orange altar cloth and stoles.

*Preach Gun Violence Prevention on Gun Violence Awareness Weekend or any Sunday of the year.

*Make us Instruments of your Peace Litany” by Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane (via Bishops United Against Gun Violence). Bishop Lane offers this litany for a congregational vigil in the aftermath of a shooting, when words are not enough but all that we have. Visit the B.U.A.G.V. website for other prayers and litanies. [This vigil](#) from the National Cathedral lifts up victims, families and survivors of gun violence.

* Invite a SURVIVOR of gun violence to be part of the worship service. Lead the prayers of the people, preach and share their story.

*Pray for the victims of gun violence regularly in the Prayers of the People. This liturgical action can take many forms, beginning with simple truths: “We pray for all the children who lost their lives this week to gun violence, the #1 cause of childhood death.” To engage in [“Say Their Names”](#) in memory of victims requires a sustained commitment to keeping a log of gun deaths in one’s town or region. The Prayers of the People can raise awareness of the magnitude of gun violence. It is more than mass shootings; it is suicides, accidents, criminal acts, lethal policing, domestic violence.

Educational Actions to Raise Awareness and Nurture Hope:

*Organize a parish “Guns to Gardens” event. Dismantle guns surrendered at community buybacks or donated privately and turn them into gardening tools. Visit www.GunstoGardens.org to begin planning. Then visit www.PresbyPeaceFellowship.org/gun-violence for the date of their next on-line training series. Contact Church of the Epiphany, Euclid, Ohio to speak with the designers of a successful “Guns to Gardens” event: epiphanyeuclid23@sbcglobal.net

*Inter-generational project: make Orange Stoles as symbolic reminders of our prayerful desire to engage in gun violence prevention. It’s a new twist on making Advent Wreaths during coffee hour!

*Study websites of leading Gun Violence Prevention organizations to learn the horrific effects of gun violence in our nation today. Visit Bishops United Against Gun Violence, Brady, Moms Demand Action for Gun-Sense in America and all the affiliates of Everytown for Gun Safety. Base your action in [facts](#).





.HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY TO VIVIAN ROGERS PATTERSON!

At St. Titus' Episcopal Church, where Vivian has been a member for more than 60 years, she has never found herself without an opportunity to serve her God and Church. Upon becoming a confirmed member of Saint Titus, Vivian was immediately assigned to serve on the Altar Guild. She performed those duties steadfastly for more than 35 years when she transitioned to 'serving as needed' which duties she still performs. She has provided leadership as President of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), resulting in increasing the visibility of the Black Church in the Diocese. She has been elected to the vestry for three 3-year terms. For more than 12 years, she served as clerk of the vestry, the legal and fiduciary agent of the church. In later years she served as the Senior Warden of the church. In that position, and with her professional background and knowledge, Vivian was a valuable resource, enabling the vestry to comply with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. She has served as the Coordinator of the Parish Benevolent Ministry for approximately 25 years, believing that charity and help should begin at home serving the sick, shut-ins and bereaved.

Vivian is the consummate greeter at Saint Titus'. As several newcomers or visitors to the parish have attested, they did not escape notice by Vivian and they credit her for influencing their decision to return and/or become members.

As a member of the Durham Congregations in Action, St. Titus' was invited to join other churches in the fight against AIDS. The rector selected Vivian Patterson to take the AIDS Care Team training and charged her to organize and serve as coordinator for the St. Titus' Team. Her skills showed brightly as she worked with AIDS CARE TEAM members individually at the beginning of Saint Titus' serving the needs of the partner assigned to the church. She served in that role from 1992 through 2004. While no longer the coordinator, Vivian is a staunch supporter of the AIDS Care Team ministry at St. Titus. She continues to share her skills in this and other ministries such as serving as usher and/ or lay reader. She can be counted on for support and assistance

with every project, except cooking for church functions! However, she is the true hostess in her home and is considered by many as A Food Angel who provides meals for parish members at times of bereavement, illness, etc. Vivian has been a silent benefactor, underwriting opportunities for youth and adults to attend programs and activities for parish development: skill-building workshops, youth and adult training opportunities sponsored by the Diocese, the National Church, etc. The parish and the community benefit when the recipients return and use their skills in parish and community development. She played a leading and instrumental role in helping the church acquire the present Delany Education Building in order to expand the community ministry at St. Titus'

Whether at the local, Diocesan, state or national level of the Episcopal Church, Vivian has been a trailblazer for diversity and inclusion in the affairs of the Church. She was the first African-American delegate to the Triennial (National) meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (1972); was elected the first African American Lay Deputy to the General Convention of the National Episcopal Church (1979). Also at the Diocesan level, she has served as a member of the Commission on Grants, the Anti-Racism Committee, member of the Committee on the Companion Diocese of Costa Rica; she was the first African American female to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Kanuga Conference Center of the Episcopal Church. All of us have benefitted from Vivian's willingness to serve in these and other areas especially at times when African American representation was not always sought or welcomed at the table.

As an ardent supporter of community organizations, she lent her business acumen while serving on Boards of Directors of many organizations including the YWCA (President), Women-in-Action for the Prevention of Violence, Scarborough Nursery School Board of Directors, Lincoln Health Center Board, and Lincoln Apans attests to her participation in leadership and community improvement. A sample of the memberships include: City of Durham Historic District Commission; Board of Visitors--North Carolina Central University School of Business; The NCCU Alumni Association; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority-Durham Alumnae Chapter (life member); NAACP; The UNC-Chapel Hill Center for Aging and Diversity; Durham Chapter of The American Red Cross; Durham Business and Professional Chain; Financial Women International; American Institute of Banking; The Lawson Street Community Club and other special projects.



7 Lessons My Dad Taught Me about Living Generously-

Lynette Kittle is married with four daughters. She enjoys writing about faith, marriage, parenting, relationships, and life. Her writing has been published by Focus on the Family, Decision, Today's Christian Woman, kirkcameron.com, Ungrind.org, StartMarriageRight.com, and more. She has a M.A. in Communication from Regent University and serves as associate producer for [Soul Check](#)

After my Dad passed away, I learned more about his generous heart. Although I experienced his generosity towards me growing up, it wasn't until later in life I discovered more about his giving heart toward others. Dad followed [Matthew 6:3-4](#):

"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

He practiced his openhanded acts of kindness quietly. So when I say *discovered*, it was because he didn't tell me or do it openly in a way for all to see or know, not even his immediate family. Instead, quietly and respectfully, behind the scenes, he gave in a way that uplifted, encouraged, and guarded the hearts of those he assisted. My Dad's giving heart taught me about my heavenly Father's generous heart. Growing up, I knew I could ask him for anything, and it taught me to understand I could ask God for anything, too. As [John 14:14](#) explains, "You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it."

Likewise, I didn't ever have to be concerned my earthly Dad would give me anything but something wonderful, which taught me the same about my heavenly Father. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?" ([Luke 11:11](#)) The following are seven lessons my Dad's tender-hearted giving taught me about living generously.

1. Be respectfully generous.

On the way to my future sister-in-law's bridal shower, my parents and I found ourselves lost on the seedy side of Chicago on a dark, cold wintry evening. Yet, even in that situation, I witnessed my Dad treat a drunken man on the street with the utmost respect as he called him over to the car to ask for directions.

As a teenager, I questioned my Dad's wisdom, praying silently in the backseat for God's protection over us. However, the respectful way he spoke to that man made a long-lasting impression on me. My Dad showed respect towards others based on God's love for them rather than society's view of what they deserve. [1 Peter 2:17](#) reminds us, "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

2. Be generous in helpfulness.

Even though I don't know *all* the ways my Dad reached out to help others in very practical and impactful ways, I do know of a few. He once supplemented a young mother of eight's income after her husband, who worked for my Dad, left her and their kids for another woman. He went the extra mile in his position as a hospital administrator, hiring a newly married young couple struggling to find jobs to work in housekeeping so that they could start their life together. Finally, he helped a young man having an awkward time moving into his place to live, providing him with an excellent job and benefits. My Dad didn't just talk the talk; he walked the walk, helping others when it was in his ability to do so. He lived out what Hebrew 13:16 encourages,

"And to not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

3. Be quietly generous.

My Dad bought groceries for those who had little, took people out to eat, gave away cars, and more things I probably haven't heard about yet. He was quietly generous, and my discoveries about his giving came from others who told me how he had helped them. Dad lived out [2 Corinthians 9:11-12](#): "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

4. Be mercifully generous.

Dad didn't seem to give based on whether or not individuals seemed deserving of receiving it. Instead, he gave when he saw a need, realizing God offers salvation to the undeserving, which is all of us. [Romans 5:2](#) discusses how, because of our faith, Christ has brought us into a place of undeserved privilege where we now stand and confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. As [James 2:13](#) reminds us, with God, mercy triumphs over judgment.

5. Be generous in serving.

God goes out of His way to help the broken, the weary, and the downcast. He helps those who can't help themselves because of physical or emotional limitations. Even though people may look down on those who are weak, God is compassionate toward them. [Isaiah 40:26](#) explains, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."

My Dad's heart expressed this compassion towards others. He understood and modeled God this way to those who needed help, consciously assisting people who others might say could have helped themselves. People sometimes don't know how to be on their own, but with the loving support of others, uplifting and encouraging them, they can learn how to walk through the process. Dad seemed to understand and follow God's example, as in [Jeremiah 31:25](#), "I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint."

6. Be generous in loving others.

Most of all, my Dad loved people out of the love he received from his heavenly Father. Growing up under a harsh earthly father, he didn't learn to love through him but through God's love for him. [1 John 4:19](#) describes how this happens, "We love because He first loved us."

Dad didn't underestimate the influence God gives us. Through loving others, we can lead individuals to reconcilia-

tion with Him. [2 Corinthians 5:20](#) reminds us, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." My Dad chose to love others; it was a joy and privilege for him to do so, not a burden. He lovingly practiced [Romans 13:8](#), "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law."

7. Be generously compassionate. My Dad helped people who didn't have anything to offer him in return. They were primarily individuals seeking to begin, start over, struggle through, or finish up in life. He taught me to make sure my heart is right when doing things for others, not expecting something in return but doing it unto the Lord. He lived out, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" ([Colossians 3:17](#)). Dad demonstrated God's heart, as described in [Luke 14:13](#), "But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Photo Credit: ©Getty Images/Fred Froese



The Rev. Pauli Murray (1910-1985), poet, writer, activist, lawyer, and Episcopal priest raised in Durham, is being honored as part of the U.S. Mint's American Women Quarters Program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States. Her quarter will be issued in 2024.



Pauli Murray Service: A service to commemorate the life and work of The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was held at St. Titus' Episcopal Church on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7 p.m. The service was also streamed on Facebook.

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson was Celebrant, and The Rev. Lisa Yebuah, Southeast Raleigh Table, was preacher. The community choir, led by St. Titus' Choir Director Ramon Holloway, provided the music. See pictures on St. Titus' FaceBook Page..



We didn't just stick to religious texts. We also explored non-theological texts and topics that were relevant to our lives, like the thought-provoking book "All About Love" by bell hooks. This discussion opened up conversations about love, compassion, and its connection to our spirituality.

Although we're Episcopalians, our discussions weren't serious and profound all the time. We had our fair share of fun too! We'd mix it up with fun nights where we'd gather for some mouthwatering dinners and let loose with exciting games. Laughter and bonding were definitely on the menu.

And guess what? We weren't a massive crowd, but we had a consistent group of at least three attendees each time, and sometimes we even grew to five! You know what they say, quality over quantity. It made for a cozy and tight group where everyone could share their thoughts comfortably.

Hi St. Titus Family,

At the beginning of 2023, Henry Kennelly and I started a Young Adults Group initiative. Our goal in starting this group was to build and foster community among the young adults at St. Titus'. We adjourned for the summer at the end of May, but I wanted to share with you all some of what we were able to accomplish during our months gathering together.

Although we weren't a massive group, we were a dedicated bunch! Every second Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:30pm, we gathered to check in with each other, share how our daily lives were going, discuss scripture, and, of course, eat snacks. Several of our discussion topics centered around scriptures, how we personally interpreted them, and how those teachings applied to our everyday lives. It was fascinating to see how the same text could speak to each of us differently.

Looking forward to the fall, I can't wait to keep the Young Adults Group going strong once folks return from vacation. If you're reading this and it piques your interest, please let me know. We're eager for more people to join us. We want this community to grow, and we're excited to connect with new people.

Speaking of growth, we're excited about the possibility of engaging in activities that bring us closer to the larger congregation. It's all about building connections and making our church community stronger.

If you're up for an exciting journey of spiritual exploration and connection, come join us. The more, the merrier!

Best,
Jenifer Brown



The Titusian News Digest
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