

October, 2023

Titusian

News and Updates

St. Titus' Episcopal Church



Welcome, New Rector
The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo



Save the Date!

**141st Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women,
of the Diocese of North Carolina**

Online - Friday, November 10, 2023, 7-9 pm

To register for the Zoom Link, go to www.ecw-nc.org



*Broadcaster's
Debut*

**All included
in this issue**



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

Worth Considering

Weekly Insights

What church leaders need to know about young people, trying new things, and the internet.

Statistic of the day:

83% of young people (ages 13-39) say that when they're trying something new that they've never tried before, they research how to do it online first.

Why it matters:

Many churches, especially in mainline traditions, are seeking ways to make their congregations more welcoming to young people in the hopes of stabilizing the demographic decline of recent decades.

Since so many of these young people turn first to the internet before trying anything new (or visiting new places!), churches might consider updating their websites or providing more information online about *what* they do and *how* they do it. That way, when people find their church online, they can get a better idea of what it's actually like and what they might expect.

Though churches that are more resource-strapped might see this as just another good idea that they can't afford, **there are some low-tech things that churches can do that do not cost as much as a professional videographer and sound technician.**

For example, many churches post their Sunday bulletins online in advance so that those following along from home can do so more easily. Though often published online as a pastoral support to those who cannot physically get to church for health or other reasons, **these bulletins provide a helpful overview of the congregation's worship life and liturgy that might orient newcomers who would like to attend but are anxious about what to expect.**

Consider this:

If most young people who are considering a church visit to someplace new will check out that church's website in advance, what do our online platforms say about our community? Are we providing information about what the community is actually like, and how our rhythms of worship generally proceed? If so, how? Is it through video only, or are there other features (short, explanatory essays or links to other sources) that might help orient a curious web-visitor?

What information does our online presence share about what it means for our community to *do* and *be* church?

Try it:

Get together with congregational leaders and brainstorm some simple, low-tech ways of better introducing the congregation to curious web surfers. Consider uploading a weekly bulletin, or preparing a special, explanatory bulletin that describes the liturgy and some of the traditions of the service



ST. TITUS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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We Welcome Our New Rector, The Rev. Mayo

The Reverend Valerie J. Mayo resides in Durham, North Carolina with her 12-year-old son, Elijah. Her daughter, Valerie Victoria, is actively serving in the US Air Force, and is presently stationed at Travis AF Base in Fairfield, California.

Before accepting the call as Rector at St. Titus' Episcopal Church, Rev. Mayo served as the Director of Community Life at Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA; Urban Missioner for the Diocese of Kentucky, University of Louisville Episcopal/Lutheran Campus Chaplain & Priest-in-Charge of St. George's Episcopal Church, Louisville, Kentucky, and was the inaugural Director of Beloved Community Initiatives at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

She served as the Lead Consultant for a three-year Union of Black Episcopalians/Sacred Ground project, focusing on multicultural Sacred Ground circle dynamics and best practices.

She is an active member of the Union of Black Episcopalians and has served as a Chaplain for the Annual Business Meeting and Conference in Baltimore, Maryland and Montgomery, Alabama.

As a proponent for youth engagement and leadership within the Church, she continues to offer her gifts as the Youth, Young Adult and Children (YAYAC) UBE Chaplain. She is also a member of the Diocesan Black Leaders in the Episcopal Church through the The Episcopal Church Office of African Descent Ministries.

Rev. Mayo is a graduate of Saint Paul's College (BA), Duke Divinity School (MTS), and Virginia Theological Seminary (MDiv). She received her clinical pastoral education from Virginia Commonwealth University. Since 2022, she continues to serve as a member of the spiritual faculty with Church Pension Group's CREDO Institute.*

Rev. Mayo is passionate about justice, social advocacy, evangelism, and discipleship formation. Within her current ministry context, she seeks to cultivate intergenerational faith-based opportunities for wisdom sharing and leadership training. She strongly believes in the power of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the divine within all of God's created world. She actively seeks faith-based collaborations to empower us to live more fully in our process of becoming agents of positive change.



*CREDO began in the mid 1990s when The Church Pension Fund's (CPF) Wellness Initiatives Advisory Committee—a group charged with exploring wellness options for plan participants—recommended a program to give clergy a chance to pause their busy, demanding lives and focus on health and well-being through a discernment and wellness conference.

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The Rev. Stephen Elkins-Williams is Priest-in-Residence at St. Stephen's, Durham. He was Rector of Chapel of the Cross from 1985 to 2015. He particularly relished celebrating the 30th anniversary in 2007 of Pauli Murray's first Eucharist in the chapel there.

Program Presenters

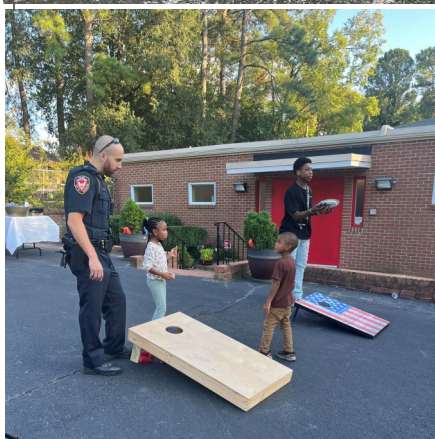


The Rev. Lindsey Ardrey has joined The Diocese of North Carolina as the New Canon for Diocesan Reparations and Restitution Ministry.



The Rev. Lisa G. Fischbeck is a Priest Associate at St. Philip's Durham. She was the launching vicar of The Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill. She is the author of the book, *Behold What You Are: Becoming the Body of Christ*, (April 2021 by Church Publishing), and is currently researching models of churches hosting deeply affordable housing. She is also a co-founder of Pee Wee Homes, Inc.

In Case You Missed the St. Titus' Activities-How We Celebrated





Broadcaster's Debut Appearance

Just in case you missed **Blayne Alexander's** debut on NBC Dateline, Friday October 20th, you will be happy to know that you can see it on the following weblink <https://www.nbcnews.com/dateline/in-the-news/watch-dateline-episode-65-seconds-now-rcna121966> The story opens with a 911 call reporting a home invasion which results in the mysterious death of Heidi Firkus. **Blayne** follows an intense, deep investigation of the young girl's death which concludes with the shocking identification of her murderer and the uncovering of the actual circumstances of her death.

Blayne Alexander, NBC News Correspondent and Broadcast Journalist, hosted the new Fall line-up of NBC Dateline. **Blayne**, reports on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, and MSNBC.

Blayne has reported on national as well as international world news. She has been honored by the National Association of Black Broadcast Journalists and the Atlanta Press Club, as well as a four-time Emmy Award nominee.

Blayne is the daughter of Annita Bridges and Robert Alexander, niece of Sheila Bridges-Bond and Kenny Bond, and grandniece of Juanita Taylor, longtime members of St Titus' Episcopal Church. Blayne is married to Jay Bailey, and they have a two-year-old daughter by the name of Sage.

**Tuesday, October 31, 2023,
5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m.**



Dress up! We'll have prizes for special categories of costumes.

St. Titus' Episcopal Church
400 Moline Street, Durham, NC 27707

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us in healing Durham Prescriptions For Repair



We believe that every person affected by **gun violence** deserves to heal and find hope. By sharing your story, you can empower us to create a better future for Durham, and join a community dedicated to making positive changes.



Interested? Contact
Azmen Johnson via 919-
358-1949 or
p4rdurham@gmail.com.
Compensation:
\$25/hour, up to 8 hours
over 8 weeks.



CREATION CARE



PURPOSE:

To educate and encourage new actions and thought processes so that Creation Care – namely, thought processes and actions that benefit the earth and its inhabitants rather than harm them – becomes a way of life, embodying our Christian call to love God and neighbor.

By Anne Hutchins

St. Phocas Garden

I don't know about you but I am very happy that cooler weather has arrived! Over the hot summer, a group of volunteers planted, nurtured and harvested lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and basil. Currently, we have greens and lettuce planted in our fall garden.

We are in the process of adding compost to beds and planting clover to improve the garden soil over the winter. Carla Knip, a St. Luke's member, continues to guide our efforts in the vegetable garden. She is an expert organic gardener and we have learned so much from her. Many thanks to **Sheila Bridges-Bond, David Ross and Greg Jacobs** for their hard work this spring and summer. We continue to meet on Friday mornings at 8:30 and welcome anyone interested in vegetable gardening(or just coming to chat with us!).

Several times this summer, we met church neighbors out for a walk or young people walking to school. It is a great feeling to meet the folks living around our church. A student from NCCU is interested in volunteer work in the garden at St. Titus and we will work to collaborate with her.

Recently, we expanded our efforts to include freshening up the grounds of St. Titus'. I am so grateful to **Mary Hawkins** for all of her hard work in planting and maintaining the beautiful shrubs and flowers around our parish for many years.

Over the last two months, we trimmed bushes, Lionell removed old shrubs, and Danita and Lionell cleaned and painted planting pots. We mulched and planted flowers in the bed by the church sign and in pots near the church.

If you are interested in helping with tasks around the church grounds, here are few that we will addressing this fall: Broken glass clean-up in Delany Park, watering the vegetable garden and flowers, filling the bird feeder and bath, and trash clean-up around the perimeter of the church property. Let me know if you have other items to add to the "to do" list this fall. If you work during the week and would like to volunteer, please let me know and we can meet on a Saturday morn-





YOKEFELLOW PRISON MINISTRY

"... AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS
LIGHT." - MATTHEW 11:28-30

Snacks needed! Yokefellows volunteers and their congregations are invited to provide snacks for about 50-60 residents who come to the Yokefellows meetings on Tuesday evenings at Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough. We are invited to provide a snack (fruit, cookies, or packaged snacks).

Open dates on the calendar are Novovember 7 and December 5.

See David Stanford (dstanford4900@yahoo.com) or Sarah Woodard if you would like to help.

Thanks, David Stanford, 773-671-6887



To celebrate passing the national exam for certification in Medical Coding, Robyn Farges packed a lunch for her and her husband, Darryl Farges, and joined in the Friday Prayers and poems at St. Philip's Episcopal Church's retreat, The Trees.

The Trees is open to the public every Friday from 12-2pm, and hosts a range of spiritual and developmental programs. St. Titus' parishioners Robyn and Darryl are pictured at right.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

03 Malik West
04 Marantha Wall
05 Joyce Cunningham
06 Margaret Quiett
10 William E, Hennessee
15 Devontay Armstrong
15 Mila-Yendela Ncaca
22 Alexine Miller
23 Lafayette A. Chavis
24 Wendell E. Graham Grant
26 Reginald Jones

**THOUGHTS
AND PRAYERS
AREN'T
ENOUGH**

**SUPPORT SENSIBLE
GUN LAWS**

The Titusian News Digest

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