

December, 2023

Titusian



December 31, 2023

**New Year's Eve
One Service at 10:30 A.M**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 A.M

BISHOP VISITATION JANUARY 7, 2024—ONE SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.



The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of North Carolina, will be visiting St. Titus' and will be joining us for worship and fellowship. There will be one service only that Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. During the service, members of the congregation will participate in a renewal of their baptismal vows. We look forward to seeing you.



DUE JANUARY 16, 2024

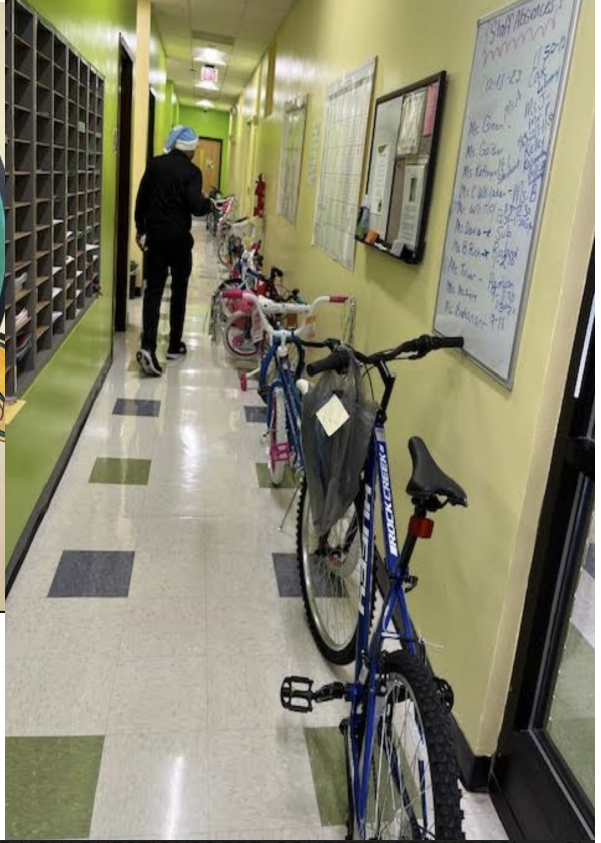
Annual Reports from Vestry members and committee chairs are due to the Parish Administrator by Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Email them to parish-administraorst.titussecretary@gmail.com.

A new year is a reminder to celebrate all the things that are good in your world—the people you love, the places you are part of, the memories you hold on to, all those unforgettable moments when you close your eyes and breathe in life with a smile. May your heart be filled with lots of little reasons to celebrate, at the new year and always.

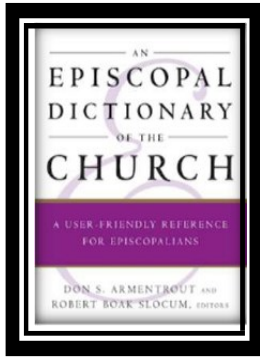


St. Titus' is a diverse and growing community committed to walking with Christ by serving others, pursuing justice and welcoming all.

Sharing Our Christmas With The Community



Vestry Nominations are coming up!



The vestry is the legal representative of the parish about all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The number of vestry members and the term of office varies from parish to parish. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a secretary or clerk may be chosen. These officers may or may not be vestry members. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finance

We need three Titusians

who will strive to the best of their abilities to:

- ♦ Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ:
- ♦ Be active in the congregation and its programs, learning more about the broad scope of parish life, while becoming more knowledgeable and active in church governance, finance, and business affairs.
- ♦ Accept responsibility as a member of the vestry as defined by the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of North Carolina.
- ♦ Be open to new ideas and people, while honoring the history and tradition of the Church and this congregation.
- ♦ Purposely strive to be a servant of the people without the need to be the one with the right answers to everything; and
- ♦ Exhibit enthusiasm and vitality for ministry as a vestry member.

If you are willing to serve St. Titus' in this vital ministry, please contact the Sr. Warden and members of the Vestry Nominating Committee who will ask that you submit a short bio and a recent photo to introduce you to the parish:

December	Birthdays	
02 Mawethu Ncaca	13 Brenda Harewood	26 Tanique Rashad
02 Arthur Anderson	13 Tracey Jones	29 Laron Colbert
04 Danielle Davis	13 Rheaye Willis	29 Emile Thompson
05 LuAnn Edmonds-Harris	14 Vaughn Patrick	30 Tari Wells
05 Mikayla Holland	15 Candace Evans	
06 Tiaree Little	15 Araba Afenyi-Annan	
07 Travis Miller	16 Gloria Drew	Anniversaries:
07 Preston D. Edwards	18 Diana Gabriella	02 LisaNoelle & Mawethu Ncaca
10 Willette Crews	18 Diana Bishop	23 Charles & Marian Thompson
10 Valerie Quiett	21 Clifton Horton	27 Brian & Lisa Wilks
11 Dawson Edwards	21 Danita B. Parker	31 Danita & Lionell Parker
12 Cynthia Height	23 Vickie Miller	
12 Dwight Peebles	24 Marrielle Myers	
12 Cynthia Height	24 Dana Peebles	
12 Carolyn White		



The Diocese Gives Thanks for the Ministry of the Rev. Joyce Corbin Allen

The diocese gives thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Joyce Corbin Allen, retiring associate rector at Good Shepherd, Raleigh. Allen has served at Good Shepherd since October 2019. Previously, she served as the interim associate rector at Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, and associate rector at St. Ambrose, Raleigh. Allen has long been active in the life of the diocese.

We give thanks for Allen and her ministry and wish her Godspeed as she enters this new chapter in her life and ministry.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Joyce, who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family; now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Guide her in the continued use of your gifts. Give her sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Editor Note: Rev Allen is one of several priests sent forth by St. Titus'.



Robert Lee Furges, (shown with parents Darryl and Robyn Furges), graduated from NCCU on Saturday December 10, 2023. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with a specialization in Media Studies. Robert graduated with honors Magna Cum Laude.



*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear:
The People Who Walked in Darkness Will See a Great Light*



*Presented by the Youth of
St. Titus' Episcopal Church*



Make the spirit of Christmas last year-round



ecf Vital Practices

By [Richelle Thompson](#)
October 2018

I've found a way to make Christmas last all year. Or at least a bit of the spirit of the season.

When I store the decorations for another year, I'm always faced with a dilemma: What should I do with the Christmas cards? It's the one time of year that folks send a snail mail card, and even if most have a simple signature, they are still a tangible connection to a longtime friend, a faraway relative, neighbors, and fellow parishioners. I hate to throw them away but I also don't want to become a Christmas card hoarder.

A few years ago, a friend (and Episcopal priest) sent me a handwritten note in the middle of the year and explained that she kept her Christmas cards for a special purpose. Each week, she would draw a card from the pile, add the person to her prayer list, and then write and mail a note.

This year, I decided to try the practice. And God has done (and continues to do) what God so often does: surprise me with serendipity.

Several times over the past eight months, I have heard from the person or family who received that week's handwritten note. The common question: How did I know that they were feeling down or had a rough week or really needed some extra encouragement? My answer, every time: I didn't. I had no idea that a friend had a rough week at work or someone was feeling estranged from his family or that depression had wrapped its claws around a parishioner. I didn't know. But perhaps God did.

I simply pulled a card at random and wrote a note, explaining that I was lifting up the person (couple or family) in prayer this week. Then I recalled something about our relationship, things that I admired or had inspired me.

I was surprised the first time someone hugged me at church, tears in her eyes, asking how I knew that she

had been having a rough time. I was surprised when I received a letter back in the mail from a friend who wanted to apologize for some comments she made 25 years ago. She had always regretted them but never felt like she knew how to say sorry. I had long ago stopped being mad or hurt but somehow my note to her and her note to me healed something in both of us.

I was surprised when a friend came up to me, weeping, and told me I could never imagine what had been going on in her mind the day the note came in the mail, reminding her that she was loved and valued.

She's right. I couldn't imagine. I didn't know.

But I have been reminded time and again of how God works in magnificent, mysterious ways. This ministry of encouragement has brought some stillness into my life, time for reflection and for expressing gratitude. And somehow, for some people, it has been a lifeline.

I wonder what it would be like to carry out this practice as a community of faith. What if we set aside ten minutes at the end of Sunday School and drew a name out of a hat and wrote a note of encouragement? What if our prayer groups committed to not only praying for people but also sending a letter that tells the person he or she was prayed for by name? What if each Sunday, we shook the celebrant's hand and then picked up a pre-addressed, pre-stamped postcard with names of community leaders, fellow parishioners, neighbors of the church, clergy of the diocese, and others?

I don't know what might happen if we engaged in such an intentional and continued ministry of encouragement. But God does.

God always does.



Another Titusian Using a Gift of Leadership Beyond St. Titus' Church

The Rev. Dr. Althea Alton

My work in the Diocese of North Carolina is focused on racial justice and reconciliation. I serve on two Diocesan committees that work closely with each other:

I am a member of the Bishop's Committee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation (RJRC) which reports to The Rev. Kathy Walker, Canon Missioner for

Black Ministries.

The RJRC co-chairs are Lew Myers (St. Titus'), and Cathy Rimer-Surles (St. Luke's, Durham). "The RJRC is the body responsible for identifying the needs and potential solutions pertaining to racial inequities and white supremacy in the Diocese and in our churches".

One of our main goals is to work with the churches in the Diocese to help them implement the Diocesan Mission Strategy of "Racial Reckoning, Justice and Healing".

Currently we are working towards pairing churches actively engaged in anti-racism work with churches that are just getting started in their anti-racism work, so that they can establish a mentoring relationship.

(For more information on the RJRC please see: <https://www.episdionc.org/racial-reckoning-justice-healing-resources/>)

I am also a member of the Bishop's Chartered Committee for Life-long Formation's Subcommittee on Race and Social Justice. The goal of this subcommittee is to plan and implement opportunities for studying, and learning about, Race and Social Justice. This committee also works closely with the Bishop's Committee on Racial Justice and Reconciliation (RJRC) to help achieve this goal.

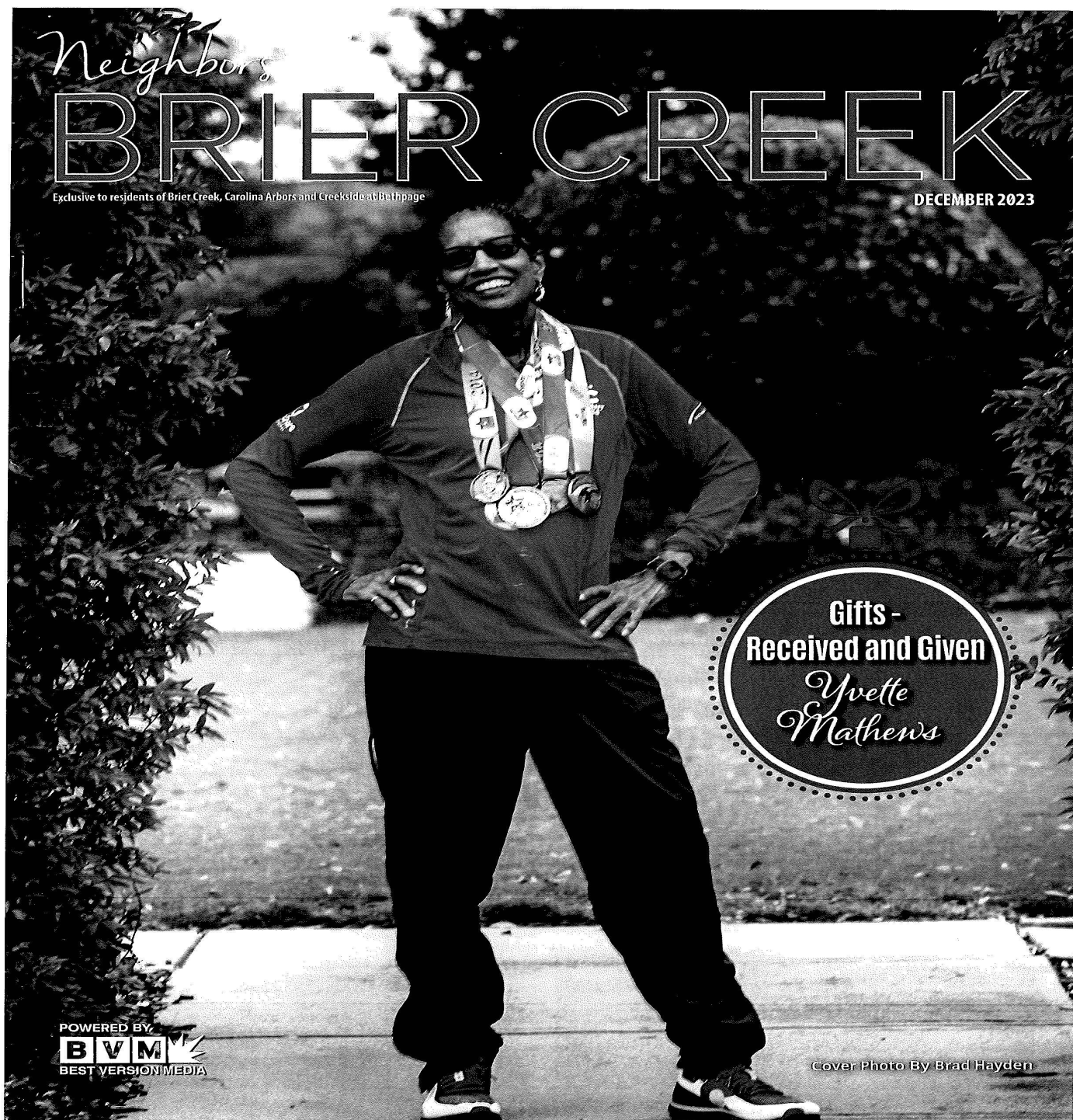
One of our popular activities is our offering of a Book Read, several times a year, on a book that deals with Race and Social Justice. The Book Read involves 6-10 weekly meetings on Zoom in which members of our committee facilitate discussions about the chosen book for participants from across the Diocese. Our most recent Book Read was based on the book "Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do, By Jennifer L. Eberhardt .

Our next offering is a Book Read on "Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy" by David Zucchino. The book tells the story of how white supremacists overthrew the predominantly African American government of Wilmington, NC and the massacre of many of Wilmington's African American population.

The Book Read will meet on Tuesdays, 12 noon-1:15 pm via Zoom
February 6, 13, 20, 27,
March 5, 12, 19, 26 .

This Book Read serves as preparation for the Diocesan sponsored Pilgrimage to Wilmington on April 12-14, 2024. Stay tuned for more information on the pilgrimage.

The Rev. Dr. Althea Alton



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BVM
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Gifts -
Received and Given

*Yvette
Mathews*

Cover Photo By Brad Hayden

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