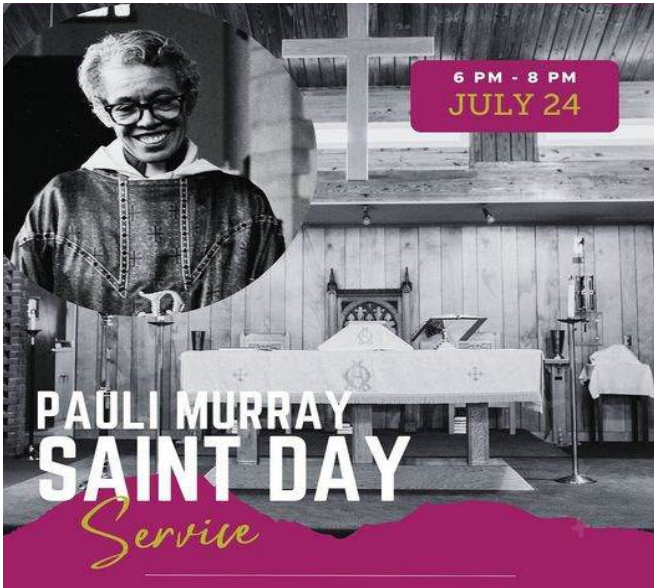


July, 2024

Titusian



**The 15th Annual Service
of Commemoration for
The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray**
The Rt. Rev Sam Rodman, Bishop
The Rev. Charles L. Fisher, III, Preacher
The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo, Rector

St. Titus' was honored on July 24th to have over 150 guests and worshippers at its 15th Annual Service of Commemoration for The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray. It was an energizing and touching tribute to Pauli, who worshipped at St. Titus' in her youth. The Offering at the Service totaled more than \$2,000 which was donated to the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice.

We look forward to joining together, again on Sept 7th at the Pauli Murray Center, located at 906 Carroll Street in Durham, for their upcoming Grand Re-Opening Celebration. We are also delighted that Dr. Pauli's niece, Rosita Stevens-Holsey, plans to join us for worship on Sept 8th. An ardent advocate for preserving her aunt's legacy, she is a graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland, (where she recently received a 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award), and earned a Masters in Counseling and Human Services from Boston University. She is the co-author (with Terry Catasús Jennings) of *Pauli Murray: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist & Civil Rights Activist*. More information on Ms. Stevens and her work is available at www.preservingpaulimurray.com. Please visit the site and enjoy the article by Ms. Stevens, "My Epiphany About Pauli Murray."



Still winning Gold Medals:
 Shotput
 Discus
 Softball throw
 100m run
 1500m walk
 Long jump
 3rd in 5k race

Congratulations!



From July 5 - 10, 2024, Birmingham hosted the world's largest celebration of life - the 2024 Transplant Games of America. Thousands of people from all 50 states and abroad traveled to The Magic City to unite, honor the families who gave the gift of life, and raise awareness of organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation. The 2024 Transplant Games brought together thousands of transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, caregivers, individuals on the waiting list, donation and transplant professionals, supporters, volunteers, and spectators for a truly unique and inspiring week. The 2024 Games featured 20 competitions and more than 60 special events and programs.

Editor's note

Yvette received her liver transplant in 2013. She has won a combined 30 medals at transplant games and competitions.



June 30 Was St. Titus' Wellness Sunday

Today, **Shining Light in Darkness** is on a mission to be a trusted provider of support, skills, and resources for the underserved victims of sexual assault (SA) and domestic violence (DV) to help end violence for all. This organization has grown into a community of caring and compassionate individuals, all sharing the goal of creating a world free from sexual assault and domestic violence. **Shining Light in Darkness** carries out its mission through a comprehensive program portfolio encompassing holistic healing, education, and advocacy.

The work of Shining Light in Darkness is sparking a shift in public perception and response to issues related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and teen dating.

HBCU Retains Accreditation, But Financial Woes Continue



The nation's oldest historically Black Episcopal university will retain its accreditation despite a decision late last year to revoke it, but the school remains on probation and continues to face severe financial challenges.

Saint Augustine's University (SAU) in Raleigh, North Carolina, [announced](#) July 22 that an arbitration panel had reversed the decision to terminate the accreditation. Such a termination, which was put on hold during the arbitration, would have made SAU students ineligible for financial aid from the federal government.

The accrediting agency is the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In a [published statement](#), SACSCOC said the decision of the arbitrators is binding, so SAU will remain accredited at least until the next meeting of the agency's board of trustees in December.

"The unanimous reversal by the arbitration committee rightfully corrects the injustice inflicted upon SAU by SACSCOC's initial ruling and underscores the university's steadfast commitment to excellence and growth," said Brian Boulware, chairman of the SAU board of trustees, in a news release.

"Dispelling any rumors or misinformation surrounding SAU's future, the university certainly reaffirms its intent to welcome students back for the Fall semester," the release said. But it remains to be seen how many new students there will be after the accreditation issues were publicized in April, the decision month for many high school seniors planning to attend college.

The news release listed Demarcus Williams, associate vice president of global marketing & communications, as a contact for news media. Williams did not respond to multiple requests for comment by telephone and email.

SAU was founded in 1867 by the Freedmen's Commission of the Episcopal Church's Board of Missions as a school for formerly enslaved people. The student body in recent years has been about 1,200. It is the older of two historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) affiliated with the Episcopal Church, the other being Voorhees University in South Carolina, which was founded in 1897.

The school is subject to IRS tax liens totaling nearly \$10 million for allegedly failing to turn over payroll tax receipts to the government for more than three years. That includes a [new tax lien](#) for more than \$1.1 million that was filed with the North Carolina secretary of state on July 2.

In April, Bishop of North Carolina Samuel Rodman [told the Executive Council](#) in April that the school's total indebtedness was "north of \$25 million." Rodman is a member *ex officio* of the board of trustees. Christine McTaggart, spokesperson for Rodman, referred questions about finances to the university.

Most of the students had been sent home early this year to continue their learning online due to boiler problems in multiple buildings, according to local news reports in April. Local churches reportedly pitched in to help feed the students who remained, because campus dining operations were suspended.

The school has suffered extensive executive turnover in the past year, mostly without explanation. Interim President Marcus Burgess was appointed after the previous president, Christine McPhail, was [fired](#) by the board of trustees in November for unexplained reasons. She became president in 2021, succeeding her husband, Irving Pressley McPhail, who died from COVID only a few months into his presidency.

A chief financial officer hired in January was [gone by the beginning of April](#), and the school reportedly missed two consecutive bi-weekly employee payrolls.

Saint Augustine's has suspended its football program to maintain the school's other athletic offerings for the 2024-25 school year, according to [HBCU Sports](#). SAU earlier fired first-year head coach Howard Feggins after six games, prompting Feggins to sue the university over alleged intimidation after the coach complained about poor conditions. The Falcons finished the 2023 season 0-10.

From: HBCU Retains Accreditation, But Financial Woes Continue- By Kirk Peterson, July 24, 2024



Titusians at General Convention:

Left **Rev. Valerie Mayo** presented at the Triennial of the Daughters of the King and The Union of Black Episcopalians

Right **Robyn Furges, Interim Vice President ECW**, Diocese of North Carolina, headed the Delegation for the Triennial delegates of The Episcopal Church Women, shown below with Lynn Hoke, ECW Honored Woman from the Diocese of NC, Bishop Sam and The Rev Dr. Stuart Hoke, former Priest in Charge at St. Titus'..



Robyn Furges

Lynne Hoke

FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Practice self-care and make yourself a priority.

The first step in practicing self-care is to take care of your body. In order to do this it is important to:

- Eat a healthy diet – research has shown that what you eat—and don't eat—affects the way you think and feel.
- Exercise, which can help decrease depression and anxiety and improve moods.
- Get enough sleep.

Disconnect from electronics and social media.

Consider adding an electronics-free time period to your day. Taking time to unplug and disconnect from the constant stream of emails and alerts will allow you to interact with people face to face and will help reduce the many feelings of FOMO that social media can often stir-up.

Engage in activities that provide meaning.

Partake in activities that make you feel happy, productive, and challenge your creativity. Whether through drawing, taking an exercise class, going out to dinner with friends or caring for a pet, spending quality time with those who matter to you can make you feel good.

Volunteer.

The meaning and purpose derived from helping others or the community can enrich and expand your life—and make you happier. There's no limit to the individual and group volunteer opportunities you can explore. Schools, places of worship, nonprofits, and charitable organizations of all sorts depend on volunteers for help in any capacity.

Engage in meditation and/or mindfulness.

Relaxation exercises can improve your

state of mind and outlook on life. In fact, research shows that meditation may help you feel calmer.

Avoid heavy substance use.

It is important to keep alcohol use to a minimum and avoid other drugs. Many people use alcohol and other drugs to "self-medicate" but in reality, substance use may get in the way of your ability to function at work or school, maintain a stable home life, handle life's difficulties, and relate to others.

Get help from a licensed mental health professional when and if you need it.

Seeking help is a sign of strength — not a weakness. Just as it requires effort to build and maintain physical health, so it is with mental health.

- Written by [Jeffrey Borenstein, M.D.](#), President & CEO of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation. This blog post also appears on the [Gravity Blankets Blog](#).

"Be You": A Special Event

*Saturday, August 17 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
St. Mark's, Raleigh*

"Be You" is a special day event for youth of color in the diocese and their families! The day is geared primarily for youth in grades 6-12, but there will also be special activities for children and parents. The day will be all about having fun and fellowship together. There will be a variety of activities like community building, awesome live music, learning about the Diocesan Youth Ministry department, playing games, enjoying food truck fare for lunch, and ending with a youth-led worship service. We will have Canon Myra Garnes, the Officer for Youth Ministry from The Episcopal Church, as our guest speaker.

The event has no cost, but everyone must register so we can plan for food and activities.



BIPOC & Latino Youth & Family Event

**Saturday, August 17, 10am-3pm
St. Mark's, Raleigh**

- Live Music & Activities
- Food Trucks
- Youth-led Worship
- Special Guest: Canon Myra Garnes, Officer for Youth Ministry, The Episcopal Church
- No Cost, but Registration Required



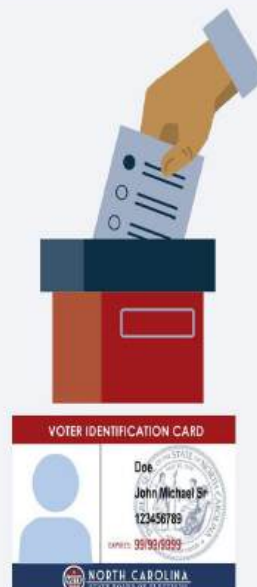
Register



Try to be kind, because there is such a lack of kindness everywhere, and if you could generate just a little, it would mean everything to someone else. You may never know how much it would help ... Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever.

~ Margaret Cho

NC VOTER PHOTO IDS



Need a Voter Photo ID?

Come out to one of our upcoming community events at a Durham County Library to learn about the new photo ID requirements to vote in North Carolina and receive a **free Voter Identification Card!**

- ☐ **Saturday, June 15th, 2024**
Main Library - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ☐ **Saturday, July 20th, 2024**
North Regional Library - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- NEW DATE ADDED**
☐ **Saturday, August 24th, 2024**
South Regional Library - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- NEW DATE ADDED**
☐ **Saturday, September 21st, 2024**
East Regional Library - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- NEW DATE ADDED**
☐ **Saturday, October 19th, 2024**
Southwest Regional Library - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- NEW DATE ADDED**
☐ **Saturday, November 16th, 2024**
Main Library - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- NEW DATE ADDED**
☐ **Saturday, December 14th, 2024**
North Regional Library - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact Us: 919-560-0700
[@dcovotes](http://www.dcovotes.com)



DURHAM COUNTY
Board of Elections

Visit to Costa Rica, Our Companion Diocese



For more than 30 years, The Diocese of Costa Rica and the Diocese of North Carolina have been in partnership with each other. Very rarely, if ever, do our dioceses come together to celebrate cultures, histories, and stories. The Diocese of Costa Rica is a diocese made up predominately of people of color with roots in Jamaica and other islands. Under the leadership and direction of The Rev. Milton C. Williams, Jr and The Rev. Matthew Addington (both of St. Francis Episcopal Church, Greensboro), clergy and congregants of color were invited to join with the faith communities of Costa Rica, in celebration of our oneness. In conversation, through worship, fellowship and dance, those who gathered, reflected on our similarities and our differences, as persons of color, within our societal and religious contexts. We discussed social and spiritual issues that continue to impact people of color, especially those who descend from African and Afro-Caribbean heritages.



August 24	Youth Day at Topgolf
August 25	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 7	Grand Re-Opening, Pauli Murray Home
September 15	St. Titus' Homecoming/Friends & Family Day
October 6	St. Titus' worship at El Buen Pastor

Many Thanks for Your Service!

The Communication Ministry expresses gratitude for the recently installed and updated narthex and hall display boards. The boards help tell the story of what's going on in the Parish.



James Barnes (left) and Lionell Parker (right) modified and installed the display boards.

Note: All of the display boards in the nave, narthex and hall were donated by Mary Hawkins several years ago.



Danita Parker designed and created the items for the display boards.



The Harris-Evans Conference Offered by The Episcopal Church Women Diocese of North Carolina

September 6, 2024 ✝ 7:00 pm—8:30 pm
Register for Zoom link at www.ecw-nc.org



Churches Expanding Hospitality to Provide Supportive and Affordable Housing



This Harris-Evans Conference is an event organized by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Diocese of North Carolina. The purpose of this conference, as part of the ECW's broader mission, is to engage in worship, prayer, study, service, and fellowship, with the aim of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It is one of the many activities that the ECW undertakes to support the different gifts, values, and ministries of women, and to advance the role of women in the mission of the Church. The conference is also a part of the ECW's commitment to aid in foreign and domestic missions, provide scholarships, grants, and organize worship retreats

Presenter

LISA G. FISCHBECK is an Episcopal priest with experience in established and new church settings. She was the launching vicar of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate, a mission church in Chapel Hill, NC, known for its engaging and thoughtful liturgy and for its creative community engagement. Fischbeck is also a co-founder of Pee Wee Homes (peeweehomes.org) working to create dignified, affordable, tiny homes in caring community for and with people transitioning out of homelessness. She is ever on the lookout for opportunities for the church to collaborate with individuals and organizations in the wider community, working together to repair the torn fabric of our world.

