

Agenda Packet

2024 Annual Parish Meeting
St. Titus' Episcopal Church
Sunday, January 28, 2024



St. Titus' Congregation, November 19, 2023

400 MOLINE ST.
DURHAM, NC 27707
919-682-5504

AGENDA

Prayer for the Annual Meeting

Officiant

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we take counsel this morning for the renewal and mission of St. Titus' Episcopal Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes January 22, 2023 and the Town Hall Meeting Minutes December 3, 2023

State of Christ's Body at St. Titus'

Finance Committee Report and Budget.....	Lionell Parker & Keith Bishop Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Property and Buildings Report.....	Lionell Parker, Jr. Warden
Warden's Report.....	Cheryl Myers & Lionell Parker Senior & Junior Wardens
Deacon's Ministry Highlights.....	The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Deacon
Rector's Remarks.....	The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo, Rector

Questions, Comments and Acceptance of Reports and the Proposed Budget

Vestry Elections.....Cheryl Myers, Senior Warden

Celebration of Unsung Heroes

Outgoing Vestry Members

Gloria Drew, Chuck Hennessee, Keith Bishop

Tech Team

Livio Carnera, Chuck Hennessee, Darryl Furges, Robert Furges, Yvette Matthews

Altar Guild Director

Hazel Brown

Music Director & St. Titus' Choir

Ramon Holloway

Deacon

The Rev. Sarah Woodard

Others

Acceptance of Proposed Bylaws.....Vickie Miller & Keith Bishop
Bylaws Committee Co-Chairs

Moving Forward

Opportunities to serve

- Treasurer
- Finance Committee Member
- Social Media / IT Volunteer / Website Development

Your suggestions...

Installation of New Vestry Members

Motion for Adjournment

The Dismissal.....The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Deacon



Meeting Norms & Covenantal Seedlings

Use “I” statements

Be specific

No war stories

No dominating, lengthy, off the topic stories

Differences are O.K.

We agree to disagree, but not to be disagreeable

What feelings you have are O.K. but respect both your neighbor’s and your own

Everything is achievable with God’s help

We respect one another by not talking until others have finished speaking

Covenantal Seedlings

In community, we agree to:

Learn and practice speaking up, sharing the truth with generosity and love to my sisters and brothers in Christ.

Clarify and verify information I receive before responding to it or passing it on.

Question and check out my assumptions about the motivations, intentions and thoughts of others, knowing that the way I experience them is always filtered through the lens of my own thoughts and feelings.

Listen carefully and respectfully to the beliefs and concerns my sisters and brothers in Christ express, even when I don’t agree with them.

Supplemental Materials

These Annual Meeting materials are intended only for the use of members of record of St. Titus' Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina or individuals to whom this package is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please return these materials to St. Titus' Episcopal Church in Durham, North Carolina. Any disclosure, copying or distribution of the contents of these materials is prohibited.

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Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, January 22, 2023

St. Titus Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting

January 22, 2023

Rev. Alica Alexis called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

The Rev. Deacon Sarah Woodard began the meeting with a prayer.

33 in attendance

Marguerite Peebles offered the report of the Vestry Election Committee (which consisted of Lew Myers, Althea Alton, Diane Hundley and Meisha Davis). Sr Warden Diane Hundley described the duties of the Vestry members to the Congregation. Marguerite introduced all members of the currently presiding Vestry starting with Keith Bishop, Gloria Drew and Chuck Hennessee (all 3 of whom will remain on the Vestry for another year). Additionally there were Meisha Davis, Althea Alton, Marguerite Peebles, and Diane Hundley all who will rotate off of the Vestry. Marguerite was proud to present a full slate (6 delegates) for the ballot. Robyn Furges, Paula Drew-Estes, Lionel Parker, Kenneth Valentine, all of whom spoke briefly to their bio and qualifications as Vestry Members. Diane Hundley read the bios of Cheryl Myers and Vicki Miller as the two remaining members of the ballot who were not present at the time of the election. Marguerite confirmed that all of the delegates on the ballot have been properly vetted and recommended that all of the names Dwight Peebles moved and Gloria Drew second that we accept all 6 by acclamation. The full slate of delegates was accepted by acclamation with none in the congregation dissenting.

Keith Bishop moved and David Ross seconded the approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting from February 27, 2022. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted as printed.

Rev. Dr. Alicia Alexis presented her printed Interim Rector's Annual Parish Meeting Report. Rev Alexis reviewed the highlights of her report verbally. Keith Bishop moved and Meisha Davis seconded the acceptance of the report. The motion passed and the Interim Rector's Report was accepted as information.

Lionel Parker presented the Stewardship Committee report on behalf of his co-Chair Patricia Valentine. There were 43 pledges this year which is 12 short of last year's 55 pledges. Keith moved and Paula Estes seconded the acceptance of the report as information. The motion passed and the Stewardship Committee Report was accepted as information.

Mary Hawkins presented the Treasurer's Report. Noting her desire to develop a more user-friendly narrative financial report. She noted that she was tasked with acquiring a new copier. Mary made a plea for parishioners to get out of their comfort zones and consider moving into the electronic age for transactions and accepting a

promised gift of monitors for displaying the bulletin in the chapel electronically and thus save some money in printing costs. Mary continued by presenting the figures on page 3 of her report that detailed income and expenses. We have not received the current final accounting for 2022 from our accounting firm yet but we should be in good financial shape. Ms. Hawkins invited someone to step up and learn the financial aspect of the Treasurer's duties. She has volunteered as treasurer since 1992 as part of her ministry and invites others to come and learn. The position can be a non-Vestry position, and all are invited to be trained by Ms. Hawkins. Keith Bishop moved to accept the report as information and Lionel Parker seconded and the reports were accepted.

Rev. Alexis asked for guidance from the body as to how we can move the meeting along more efficiently by summarizing the remaining reports as much as possible.

Keith Bishop noted the Finance Committee Report is the Budget Report as included in the printed reports and the Budget is balanced for this year. There is a listing of the restricted funds on the last page of the budget. David Stanford and Mary Hawkins 2nd the acceptance of the Finance Committee's Report and the report was accepted.

Rev. Alicia invited the Parish to review the remaining reports and ask questions as needed during the hospitality hour after the meeting. Lionel Parker moved that we accept all of the printed reports and David Stanford seconded and the reports were accepted.

Rector Search Committee Chair Robyn Furges presented the Report noting three parts to the Rector Search process:

1. Identify a church committee;
2. Vet the applicants; and
3. Interview the prospects.

We are in the first part with our current members being Paula Drew-Estes, Robyn Furges, Marguerite Peebles, Lionel Parker, Ken Valentine, and Chuck Hennessee. She asked that the congregation please complete the parish profile. We will meet next Sunday, January 29, 2023 after the 10:30 service with Cathy Walker and Cathy Massey of the NC Episcopal Diocese office to review our profile and discuss next steps. Lionel Parker moved and Dwight Peebles seconded the acceptance of the Search Committee's Report as information and it passed.

Meisha Davis, Diane Hundley, Althea Alton and Marguerite Peebles were all recognized and thanked for their service as Vestry members in the 2022 class. All new and old members were invited to take a picture.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William E. Hennessee, Clerk

St. Titus Episcopal Church Vestry

Town Hall Parish Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2023

MINUTES

ST. TITUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TOWN HALL MEETING – 12-3-2023

Agenda:

Opening Prayer and called to Order: Rev. Mayo

Remarks: Senior Warden.

Updates: Junior Warden. Reported on the hacking:

Part I: Forensic Review. The hackers gained control of the Treasure's computer. The Hackers did not breach the Parish Data. Hackers also took over the Treasurer's phone. Total sums lost \$498,000.00. St. Titus's portion of the loss was \$298,000.00. The insurance company will cover the Church. There were two victims.

Part II: Begin Review of liability to Bank

Part II: Review of liability to Insurance.

Vickie Miller passed out the Agenda and Proposed Amendments 01 – 03:

2023 – 01

2023 – 02

2023 – 03

COMMENTS and QUESTIONS:

Vickie explained the updated documents.

Keith Bishop explained the Amendment Process. Vestry approved draft for review by the Parishioners. Parishioners review and comment on the draft. Vestry will submit the draft to the Chancellor of the Diocese. The final draft will be submitted to Parishioners for approval at the Parish Annual Meeting. The approved amendments will be submitted to the Diocese for final approval.

Keith Bishop presented the proposed bylaw changes. Discussion. Parishioners were asked to write their suggested revisions and comments and place them in the comments box at the church. A comment basket was placed for Parishioners to include their suggestions. Keith Bishop made several notes of the Parishioner's comments. Rev. Mayo asked all Parishioners to submit their comments no later than December 31, 2023 to enable their review at the Vestry by 7 January 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Parish Annual Meeting is 28 January 2023.
2. Keith Bishop will be traveling to Guyana from 13 December 2023 to 24 December 2023.

CLOSING PRAYER

Submitted by: KEITH A. BISHOP

RECTOR'S 2023 REPORT

BY THE REV. VALERIE J. MAYO

"All the strands of my life had come together...Now I was empowered to minister the sacrament of One in whom there is no north or south, no black or white, no male or female—only the spirit of love and reconciliation drawing us all toward the goal of human wholeness."

--Pauli Murray, *Song in a Weary Throat*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth! This has been a remarkable two months in the life of our ministry together. Since joining the community of faith at St. Titus', my son, Elijah, and I have dressed up as pirates and danced to tunes as our young people enjoyed a game of musical chairs. We have loaded cars with fresh produce with our El Buen Pastor food distribution community partners. We have welcomed NCCU alumni back to campus in fellowship with our parking lot ministry team, raising over \$1800.00 for our Younger Adult and Children's Ministries. I have joined my clergy sisters in welcoming a new member into our diocese, and have wept with our siblings in Christ as we celebrated, together, the Philadelphia 11, Pauli Murray, our first Black female priest, and Barbara Harris, the first woman to be consecrated a bishop in the Anglican Communion. I do not take lightly the journey that has led me to this vibrant faith community—the journey that has brought me back home. For, all the strands of my life have come together.

I am so grateful for the welcome that my son and I have received. I am indebted to our Search Committee and our Vestry members (Marguerite Peebles, Robyn Furges, Cheryl Myers, Lionell Parker, Chuck Hennessee, Keith Bishop, Vickie Miller, Ken Valentine, Paula Drew Estes and Gloria Drew) for seeing in me the gifts that I hope to share with our community. While we were two months delayed in our anticipated start date, in quick measure, we have responded to the call that God has placed upon us, for such a time as this. We have celebrated all of our saints—past, present and yet to come within our "House of Wisdom." We are surveying our landscape, partaking in community events and narrowing our focus to further support our Beloved Promise Community, as we remain "Witnesses of the Inhabitants of this Land." We continue to polish the crowns of all of the Queen Bees in our midst, applauding the dedication and faithful service of all of our Episcopal Church Women (particularly the executive committee: Valerie Quiett, Vickie Miller, Lisa Barnes, and Yvette McMiller), for their fortitude, perseverance and collaboration.

We owe equal gratitude to our treasures, past and present (Mary Hawkins, Lisa Barnes, Lionell Parker); to our Finance Committee (Keith Bishop, Gloria Drew, Cheryl Myers and Lionell Parker) and our Stewardship Committee (Marguerite Peebles & Lew Myers) for steering our

congregation through a difficult financial ordeal. We are so immensely blessed by all of our elected and nominated leaders who have stepped up and shouldered more responsibility, during times of transition, as the people of St. Titus' remained immovable and steadfast.

By God's grace, coupled with the exemplary administrative supports of our Parish Administrator (Betsy Sprouse) and our dynamic Music Director (Ramon Holloway), our choir members (Pat Valentine, Chuck Hennessee, Diane Hundley, Spike Yancy, Preston Edwards, The Rev. Gregory Jacobs, Charmey "Joy" Morgan, Janice Williams and Pam Howard) and our talented tech team (Chuck Hennessee, Yvette Matthews, Darryl Furges, Robert Furges and Livio Carnera) we continue to offer enriching hybrid worship services. Ramon and Betsy have been working tirelessly in identifying suitable, authorized streaming selections, with our cantors at the helm. Livio has been preparing our slides, weekly, with our other tech persons running point, to create the smooth-flowing, intimate worship experiences that we have been enjoying.

In the words of one of my dear mentors, 'I am certain you have heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child. Similarly, it takes a community to be church!' We are a strong lay-led community and to God I give all the thanks and praise. Our volunteers be willing to serve as the Voice of the People and/or Lector. At the risk of unintentionally omitting any of our amazing lay worship leaders, we must name: Lisa Wilks, Lionell Parker, Pat Valentine, Janice Williams, Yvette Matthews, Mike Woodard, Carolyn White, Valerie Quiett, Vincent Quiett, Ken Valentine, Lew Myers, Cheryl Myers, Mary Hawkins, Rebecca Knowe, James Barnes, Diane Hundley, The Rev. David Stanford, Robyn Furges, Gloria Drew, Donna Smith, Francine Davis, Elizabeth Lippincott, Dwight Peebles, Spike Yancy, Stephanie Metzen, Genevieve Furges, Althea Alton, Chuck Hennessee, Paula Drew Estes and Keith Bishop. Our thanks to Marguerite Peebles for coordinating our rota.

We must also celebrate our Altar Guild (especially Hazel Brown, Janice Williams, Pat Valentine, Paula Drew Estes, Robyn Furges, Lisa Barnes, Cheryl Myers, Willette Crews, Alexine Miller and Danita & Lionell Parker) who, with others, prepare our worship space each week, and on special occasions; for their tender care of our altar linen and vestments, and for assisting us in our flow through the Church calendar seasons. Many, many thanks to Stephanie Metzen for re-launching our Children's Ministry in November, and our thanks to Stephanie, Rebecca Knowe, Henry Kennelly and Jennifer Brown for coordinating our Younger Adult Ministries, with particular gratitude to Jennifer for submitting a Young Adult Ministries grant to the National Church on our behalf. We give thanks for Gray Lippincott, "Gigi" Furges, Robert Furges, and Veronica Quiett for serving as our acolytes amidst their busying academic and sporting schedules, along with their Acolyte Master, Vincent Quiett. We also offer our gratitude to our Communications Committee members (The Rev. Greg Jacobs, Mary Hawkins, Althea Alton, The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Diane Hundley and Betsy Sprouse) for their commitment in telling our stories, keeping our social media platforms current, with modifying our website, the dissemination of our eNews, and the production of our monthly newsletters.

We take our hats off to Dwight Peebles for maintaining an efficient, consistent and effective Usher's Guild rota, with the following worshippers in regular service to our community: (Lewis Myers, Marguerite Peebles, James Barnes, Brian Wilks, Lisa Barnes, Lisa Wilks, Kenneth Valentine, Robyn Furges, Valerie Quiett, Yvette McMiller and Dwight Peebles). We celebrate the Rev. David Stanford and his commitment to the Yokefellow Prison Ministry, along with the plethora of outreach initiatives as sponsored by our Outreach Committee (The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Chuck Hennessee, Althea Alton and Diane Hundley). Our thanks to our Creation Care stewards (Anne Hutchins, David Ross, Shelia Bridges Bond, Lew Myers and the Rev. Sarah Woodard and diocesan partners) for helping us become more acclimated in living a greener life. For our clergy, (The Rev. David Stanford, Farther Smith, Canon Lindsey Audrey, Pastor Althea Alton, and The Rev. Dr. Jeanine Driscoll) who augmented our worship by their presence, their leadership and support, during my absence. We offer our gratitude for all who have sponsored a Coffee Hour and for the host of other committees, their members and work, of which I hope to learn more. Lastly, but certainly not least, we offer a very special thanks for our Deacon, The Rev. Sarah Woodard, for being a "rock" for our community, in her many years of service, during times of both transition and stability. We thank her for her fidelity, her passion and her commitment to meeting the needs of our parish and broader community.

Many years ago, at one of my first appointments, I received the instruction, "Get to know your people." In addition, to administrative oversight, worship planning, community networking, relaunching our financial assistance program, attending mandatory diocesan meetings, serving as the National Union of Black Episcopalians Chaplain, facilitating workshops, cultivating the space to relaunch our NCCU campus ministry program, in collaboration with the NCCU Diversity and Inclusion department, supporting our ministry programs, serving as a CREDO Spiritual Faculty member, engaging in biblical studying and sermon development, raising my 12 year old son, serving as the Advocacy Chair for his middle school PTSA, much of my time has been spent in getting to know you. I hope that you have felt my love, my curiosity, my joy and genuine affection.

I have been incredibly blessed by learning more about our church history, our historical and present relationships with our community partners and stakeholders. I have thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity for story sharing with members of our community, to include connecting with our homebound worshippers, either in person (Murphy Jenkins, Marjorie Freeman, Juanita Taylor, Harmon and Donna Smith) or via phone/Zoom (Willette Crews). It gives me great joy to serve as your priest, your pastor and your friend. I seek to know more about the strands of your life that have brought us together. We have been drawn together in this divinely intentional time of re-defining our identity. Throughout our mutual discernment and discovery of who is it that God is calling us to be, I rejoice in being a part of our process of becoming in 2024...and, prayerfully, for years more.

With prayers for forgiveness for anyone whom I may have inadvertently omitted, I remain faithfully yours,

Rev. Valerie



Deacon's Report – The Rev. Deacon Sarah Woodard

During most of 2023, I served as Deacon with an interim priest who prepared us as a parish while our search committee reviewed resumes and led the charge of identifying a new rector for St. Titus'.

Purpose/Mission - Through pastoral care and presence, the deacon helps discern people's needs, hopes, and concerns and empower faith communities to respond. Deacons move between the church and the communities served, speaking the truth in love, and encouraging the sacred and broken to enter into relationship with each other.

Contact Information: Rev. Sarah Woodard, sarah.woodard@duke.edu, 919-599-5227. I am a vocational deacon who works for DukeHealth in Human Resources and as a Chaplain for one of Duke's Hospitals.

Activities/Accomplishments for 2023:

- Ladies Soaring to Eagle Promise Fundraiser for April, 2023. We raised money to support the NCCU students who are the first in their families to attend college. This program provides soft skills instruction (budget, finance, counseling, resume writing, interviewing, etc.).
- St Titus' hosted Durham Night Out: The Durham Police Department (DPD) encourages area residents, businesses, neighborhood groups, and homeowners' associations to show their support for police-community crime prevention partnerships by participating in Durham's National Night Out.
- St. Titus' participated in the Spiritual Life and Development – at the beginning of the academic year, we met and welcomed NCCU students at the Student Union and distributed information about St. Titus'.
- As we prepared for the annual Pauli Murray Service on June 21, 2023 with The Rev. Lisa Yebuah, we participated in the pilgrimage from Rev. Murray's home place on Carroll Street to St. Titus'. At our church, we welcomed the community that walked the walk taken by Pauli Murray as a young girl and parishioner at St. Titus'. We introduced our pilgrims to St. Titus' and shared historical points of interest about St. Titus' and the history and heritage which we celebrated with many.
- Halloween – Trunk or Treat with neighbors – the event was well attended and a lot of fun, providing a safe place for our friends and neighbors to congregate. We even played Musical Chairs in honor of Mrs. Mac who loved the game.
- CC Spaulding Elementary School – we supported the tutoring programs with supplies and participated in a Share your Christmas program for the students. We attended the school's monthly Community Roundtable where we heard their accomplishments and listened for their needs so that we could address them.

- Creation Care – This is a collaborative project with St. Phillips Episcopal Church and Durham Schools – Lew Myers and I have collaborated on this project for two years now. Anne Hutchens has gardened at several of the schools. We are hoping to have all of the Durham schools involved, one day, in a project that encourages students to know how to grow fruits and vegetables and to have a sense of where food comes from. Opportunities to serve will soon be made available.
- Continuing Education – on October 30, I attended an on-line class on Listening to the Threshold: voices of Saints and Ancestors, a meditative, spiritual practice taught by a member of the Mercy by the Sea Retreat Center. I also attended an Inter-generational workshop taught by Learning and Organizational Development at Duke. It was informative and the materials were presented well. We have so much to learn from each other especially as we work and serve alongside each other in God's Kingdom.
- In-reach Ministry: We reviewed policies and procedures in an effort to get organized with our funeral policy, communications as we continued with weekly worship services and pastoral care (some of which is still by phone in the aftermath of the pandemic).
- Funeral – I preached at the Funeral for Larry Partee. He and I served alongside many of you with various ministries.

Specific activities and costs needed to accomplish objectives noted above:

I continue to appreciate funds appropriated in the budget for participation at Convention and for continuing education.

Expressions/Comments for the Good of the Church—It is humbling to serve as deacon at St. Titus' as we have explored ways to bridge the gaps between the church and the world. I am active in the community as I serve on two boards (North Carolina Council of Churches and the Eno River Association. In addition, I serve on the Bishop's Committee to the Diaconate. Thanks be to God for this opportunity to serve as deacon at St. Titus' where together we serve as we meet the needs of the world and the church.



Parish Administrator's Report – Betsy Sprouse

St. Titus' has had a year of transitions in its Parish Administrator position. After a three-month period of valiant volunteers filling in, Kaye Saunders joined St Titus' as Parish Administrator in March 2023 while also working part-time as Director of Music for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. In June, however, Kaye was able to enter into a full-time working arrangement with St. Luke's as both Director of Music and Parish Administrator. Kaye and I had a brief overlap and training period before I became Parish Administrator on July 10, 2023.

The Parish Administrator is responsible for maintaining church and church business records and files; preparing materials for weekly services; assisting the rector, deacon, and vestry with church events; and responding to the information needs of the congregation and community.

While most of my work week focuses on getting the Sunday service bulletins, slides for the Livestream broadcast, and the weekly electronic newsletter prepared, I've also had a chance to work with:

- The Every Member Counts Stewardship Campaign in October
- One Memorial Service held at St. Titus'
- Coordinating the congregation's remembrances for All Saints Day
- Coordinating the orders of poinsettias for the church sanctuary in December
- Restarting St. Titus' benevolence assistance with Rev. Valerie.
- Updating and ensuring the accuracy of current listings of church members, eNews and Titusian (monthly newsletter) subscribers, and recipients of assistance.

Ongoing projects 2024 include the organization of office files and records, preparation for a new church directory, and refreshing St. Titus' website.



Altar Guild – Hazel Brown

Purpose/Mission/Goal: to provide support to the Rector, complement the Word and sacraments, and serve at the prerogative of the priest.

The Guild Chair is Hazel Brown. Members of the Guild are Lisa Brown, Willette Crews, Paula Drew-Estes, Robyn Furges, Alexine Miller, Cheryl Myers, Danita Parker, Lionell Parker, Kaye Sullivan, Patricia Valentine, and Janice Williams. Monthly teams of two representatives have been trained over the years and updated if changes are made.

Accomplishments include developing a Family Assistance Form to be used when a loved one is lost (submitted to the Vestry).

Our objective is to be of service to Parishioners and branch out into the community. Activities include sharing the altar flowers with those who would benefit from them spiritually (check with the monthly team member).

Specific activities include the Christmas Poinsettias and the Easter Lilies that decorate the church. Campaigns to purchase these flowers in honor or memory of a loved one are announced in the bulletins in a timely manner.

Parishioners are welcome to become involved, trained, and committed – contact any Altar Guild member.

Special thanks to the Altar Guild members for their dedicated work in 2023.



Communications Ministry – Mary E. Hawkins, Co-Chair

Purpose/Mission or Goal: The Communications Ministry reaches the congregation and our community through various media to inspire participation in the life, mission, and purposes of St. Titus' Church through use of available resources.

Committee Membership:

Co-Chairs: Mary E. Hawkins, and The Rev Greg Jacobs

Members: Diane Hundley, The Rev. Sarah Woodard, Althea Alton, The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo

Accomplishments/Activities in 2023: A partial list of activities includes the following:

- Produced monthly digital TITUSIAN newsletter and emailed to 125 Titusians; (35 on list are Non-Titusians).
- Mailed (via US Mail) 30 monthly printed TITUSIAN newsletters to Members and subscribers with no email.
- Worked with our Parish Administrator to combine a master mailing list for the Titusian and the eNews.
- Provided photos and content for inclusion in The Disciple, a Diocesan Publication.
- Assisted in successful update of the parish website and addition of a resources page for the website.
- Implemented MailChimp Platform for parish announcements.
- Initiated conversations with the Oral History Project Committee

Objectives/Activities Expected for January-December 2024:

- Social Networking:
 - Review and manage the Church's social networking presence (e.g., Facebook and Website) by ensuring that pertinent and prominent information about ministry events is routinely shared and updated.
 - Review/evaluate weekly e-news including Sunday church bulletin online
 - Develop a plan for directing members and others to the website for church documents e. g. history, church directory, vestry minutes, etc.
- Update and establish an Online Church Directory for Church Administrative Staff and members
 - Provide print and online opportunities for members to update their information in the directory
- Evaluate Titusian Newsletter
 - Provide analytics for evaluating newsletter costs and effectiveness in reaching a specified audience.
- Propose enhanced church signage-Moline and Concord Streets
 - Review ways that outdoor signage might be improved from all approaches to the church
- Provide support for the priest and staff as well as ongoing review of content across all platforms including parish announcements, website, and parish organization communications

Specific activities and costs needed to accomplish objectives noted above:

- Annual Subscription to on-line directory- \$115.00

- LED Outdoor Sign-Repeating announcements, etc. \$3500-estimate
- Propose installation of large monitor in church nave to reduce cost of paper printing of bulletins and enhance visibility of information in the nave; Awaiting cost estimate of monitor and installation.

Ways Parishioners can Become Involved

Volunteer! - If you would like to help communicate the Church's message, contact us to volunteer today! We are always looking for new and innovative ideas.

- Need someone willing to update our website regularly as we proceed with technology upgrades.
- The Diocese advised the vestry that the website will be our "front door" for candidates considering a church.

Income and Expenses statement for the Year

Awaiting a financial statement from the treasurer documenting expenses year-to-date.



Creation Care – Anne Hutchins

1. Purpose/Mission/Goal of Creation Care:

From the Diocese of North Carolina website: "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." To me, this speaks of our thoughts and actions in being good stewards of the earth(thus loving God and our neighbor) with specific objectives of:

- 1) becoming more environmentally friendly ("greener living").
- 2) honoring the history of our church grounds by caring for the garden spaces
- 3) enhancing the beauty of the neighborhood with flowers, shrubs and trees
- 4) environmental advocacy

2. Chair/Rep Contact Information: Anne Hutchins. Reach me at achvamc@aol.com or 540-793-0632

3. Committee Members: Sheila Bridges-Bond, David Ross, Carla Knip

4. Accomplishments 2023:

Vegetable garden producing lettuce, peas, tomatoes, onions, and basil

Removal of shrubs as well as trimming trees and shrubs

Painting and planting pots and garden beds with flowers

Bird feeder/bath installed

5. Objectives/Projects 2024:

- Vegetable garden-beds mulched and composted, place irrigation system (trial basis),
- Seed starting and planting of beds
- Expand garden to include cutting flower beds
- Trim roses, butterfly bush, crepe myrtles and fertilize
- Plant containers and front bed (church entrance) with flowers
- Install garden bench

6. Specific activities/costs to accomplish: \$250 for compost, fertilizer, straw, etc

7. Ways to become involved:

- Garden tool donation (rakes, shovels, hand tools, wheelbarrow, etc)
- Join weekly meeting on Fridays to care for and harvest vegetables
- Volunteer at another time(I can meet you at the church) to: water, clean up grounds, etc.
- Pray for a bountiful harvest!



St. David's Usher Guild – Dwight Peebles

Receiving the offering is much more than “taking the collection.” It is a time when the worshippers make a tangible acknowledgement of their conviction that God is the sovereign Owner of all things; that man is a steward, and that God's ownership and man's stewardship ought to be acknowledged through regular and systematic giving to Christ's Church.

This being, therefore, an act of worship, those who perform the role of servants at this time are actually serving in that priestly office held by those who were in the Temple as they presented “sacrifices” to the altar. The Church Usher is performing a very sacred office as he/she receives the offering and carries it to the minister who will lift it before the altar of the Most High. Therefore, the usher conducts himself/herself in an orderly and efficient manner. We believe Doorkeepers in the Temple in Jerusalem were a class of the priesthood, holding their office by virtue of lineage to the house of Aaron. To this day, we consider the church usher to be a very select person because he/she helps, in a most essential way, to make the service of worship an experience of great spiritual significance.

During 2023 the St. David's Usher Guild provided the following:

- Ushered at all 10:30 a.m. Sunday services;
- Ushered at special services including the Bishop's visit;
- Ushered at all funeral services; and

- Provided refresher training and reviewed responsibilities for all members.

Members of the St. David's Usher Guild include: Lewis Myers, Carrie Mathews, Marguerite Peebles, James Barnes, Brian Wilks, Lisa Barnes, Vivian Patterson, Lisa Wilks, Yvette McMiller, Kenneth Valentine, Robyn Farges, Valerie Quiett, and Dwight Peebles.

Teams of two ushers have been established to serve together on designated Sundays. A schedule is published in advance indicating which teams of individuals are to serve and when. Youth of the Church are scheduled to serve every fifth Sunday under our leadership and tutelage. Ushers are responsible for straightening up the church following a service, ensuring sets of books and hymnals are available to worshipers in preparation for the next service, ensuring visitors are comfortable and feel welcome.

Members of the St. David's Usher Guild appreciate the opportunity to be of service, the cooperation and support of Communicants, and look forward to helping make the worship service at Saint Titus' an experience of great spiritual significance in the coming year. Parishioners interested in becoming involved should contact Dwight Peebles, Coordinator at (919) 724-1117.



Prison Ministry – The Rev. David Stanford

The Prison Ministry Committee is a subset of the Outreach Ministries of the parish.

Prison Ministry concerns focus in four areas:

1. At the Diocesan level, the Bishop's Committee on Prison Ministry is appointed by the Bishop, and focuses on supporting parishes which have Prison Ministry committees or activities in the Diocese. The Committee meets at least quarterly to share information and local resources, network and support those involved in Prison Ministry at the local level. David Stanford is Chair of this committee (dstanford4900@yahoo.com).

2. At the state level, Yokefellows Prison Ministry (yokefellowsnc.statedeveloper@gmail.com) encourages and supports local efforts in reaching out to the incarcerated – local jails, state prisons and federal prisons, as well as reentry support groups for those when released. Locally, there is an active Yokefellow group at Orange Correctional Center (NC Prisons) in Hillsborough, which provides volunteers and snacks for these Tuesday night meetings (7-8:15 pm). Volunteers are required to submit an application and then take the state's PREA training in order to be admitted into the correctional center. Contact Chaplain Josh Leroy, joshleroy6@hotmail.com.

3. At the local level, St. Phillips Episcopal Church has an active ministry with the Durham County Jail, providing phone calls and a listening ministry to the inmates in the facility. Contact Martin Fowler: martin@zuberfowler.com.

4. Reentry House Plus, Inc. in Hillsborough (www.reentryhouseplus.wildapricot.org) provides housing for up to 5 men, and training for justice involved men and women through weekly meetings at the house, through the SWIT (Success While in Transition), run by Tommy Green, Will Elmore and Liza Butler.

St. Titus' Episcopal Church
Vestry Nomination Candidates
January 28, 2024



Elizabeth Lippincott

Elizabeth is a cradle Episcopalian who began attending St. Titus in 2018. She manages and practices in a small law firm that she founded. Elizabeth previously served on the vestry at Episcopal Church of the Advocate in Chapel Hill.

She lives in Chapel Hill with her 15-year-old son, Grey, and her husband Darren DeWalt. She has another son, Kieran, who is in college. Elizabeth is also a caregiver for her mother, Marsha.



Joseph "Spike" Yancy

Joseph "Spike" is a US Navy veteran who retired from Montgomery College in Maryland where he was the Coordinator of Institutional Reporting. He attended St. Philips Episcopal Church in Annapolis, MD. Roles: Vestry Member two times, Junior Warden and Finance Committee Chairperson. He was on the finance committee for over 20 years and sang in the choir.

He has been a member of St. Titus on a regular basis since 2015. He has been a member of the choir and participates in the food distributions at El Buen Pastor. Spike has been married to Stephanie Yancy for 51 years, and they have two grown children.



Dwight Peebles

Dwight has been a member of St. Titus for over 30 years. He has served two terms on the Vestry, and chaired the Vestry annual planning retreat during that time. He co-chaired the annual Every Member Canvass Campaign and co-chaired the Finance Committee. He has organized the Men's Day Program. He was the cook for the Men's group fish fry and enjoys being a cook at the annual ECW pancake supper.

Currently Dwight serves as an Intercessor and Coordinator of the St. David Usher Guild. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and enjoys golfing, fishing and gardening. Dwight has been married to Marguerite Peebles for 54 years and they have two grown children and 3 grandchildren.

VESTRY INSTALLATION

Celebrant: To the best of your knowledge, are these persons prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of God's Church?

People: We believe they are.

Celebrant: You have been called to ministry as Vestry Members in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Vestry: We will.

Celebrant: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Vestry: We will.

Vestry: I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do yield my hearty assent and approbation to the doctrines, worship and discipline of The Episcopal Church; and I promise that I will faithfully execute the office of Vestry Member of St. Titus' Episcopal Church, in Durham County, within the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, according to my best knowledge and skill.

