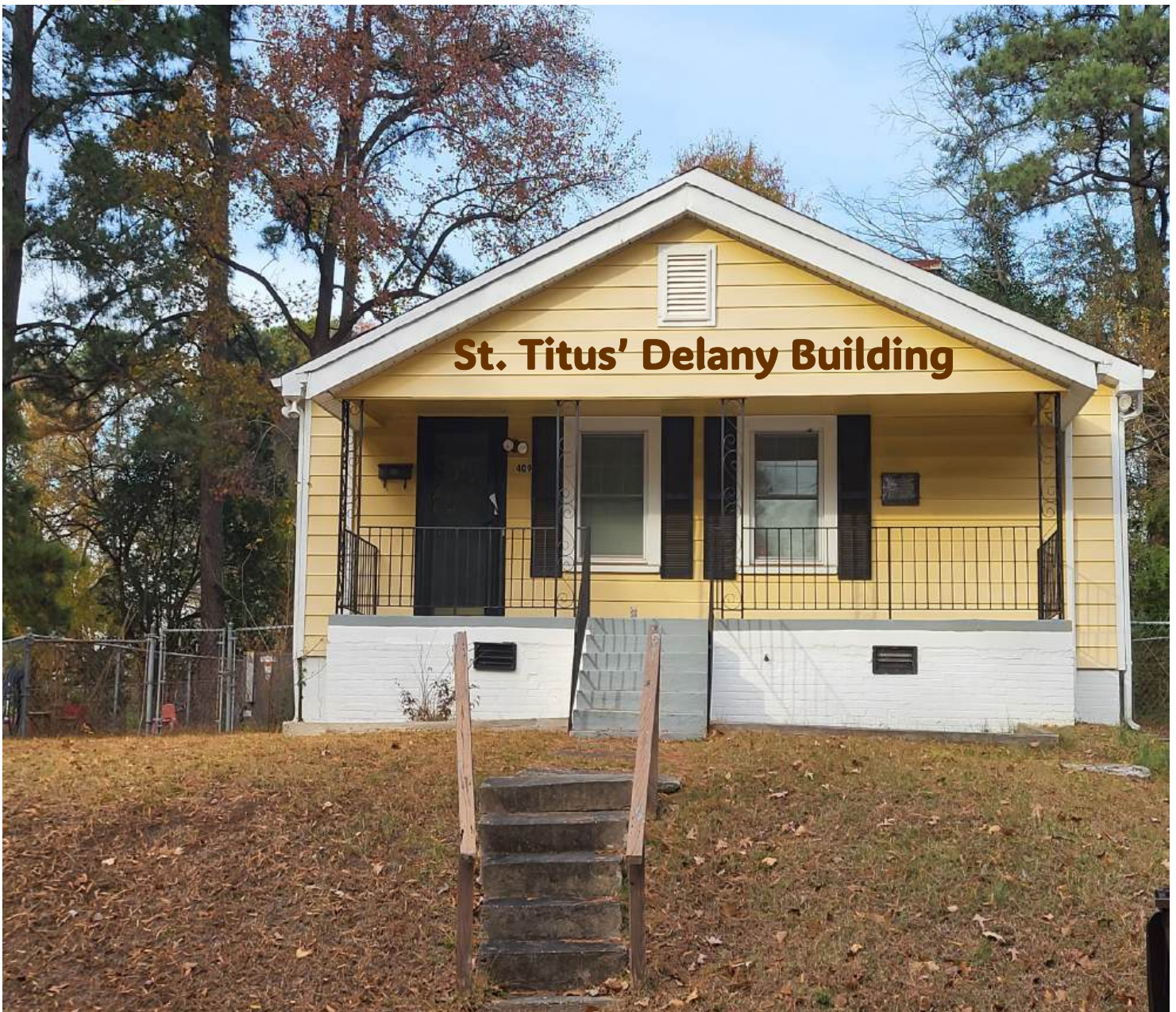


# Titusian

November 2024



**The Diocese of North Carolina  
Congregational Covenant for  
\$275,000.00 Renovation Grant**



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



# Titusian

November 2024

## Diocese of North Carolina Congregational Covenant

### A congregation-priest-diocese expression of mutual support and mutual accountability

#### Preamble

This Covenant is made with the Bishop Diocesan, Priest, and the Congregation's Wardens.

The purpose of this Covenant is to establish mutual support and accountability between The Diocese of North Carolina and St. Titus's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC and to make and achieve intentional goals focused on

- (1) Proclaiming the Gospel,
- (2) Serving our neighbors and honoring their gifts
- (3) Stewardship of our gifts from God.

This Covenant will state clearly the vision and primary goals of the congregation, over a specific period of time, for the use of the proceeds funding. These goals will become a special focus of the congregation, priest, and diocesan staff and will be the major agenda item for the Vestry meeting at the Bishop's annual visitation.

#### Background

Steeped in a rich history that spans nearly 140 years, St. Titus Episcopal Church has been a steadfast beacon of faith and resilience for Durham's African American community. Through eras marked by segregation, racial injustices, and economic hardships, St. Titus has remained dedicated to its mission of walking alongside Christ through service, advocacy for justice, and inclusive fellowship. From its humble origins as a neighborhood Sunday School to its pivotal role as a community hub during the Great Depression, including its ongoing support for CC Spaulding Elementary School, St. Titus has been an integral part of the fabric of Durham's Hayti neighborhood. The fortunes of St. Titus have mirrored the ebb and flow of Hayti's economic, political, and demographic landscapes, underscoring the church's deep-rooted connection to the community it serves. Like many historically Black churches, St. Titus' was founded out of a recognition of the need to bring the Episcopal tradition to African Americans descended from enslaved individuals.

In the early 1880s, Ms. A. L. Ledger, a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Durham, took it upon herself to impart religious education to children and adults in the Hayti area, laying the groundwork for what would become St. Titus' Episcopal Church. As we reflect on the rich tapestry of St. Titus' history, one thing remains abundantly clear - the legacy of resilience, faith, and community engagement continues to guide and inspire all who walk through its doors. St. Titus' is not just a church; it is a living testament to the power of faith and community coming together to create a brighter future for all. As the church looks to the future, the need for a new parish hall becomes increasingly apparent. Seeking accommodations at St. Philips Episcopal Church for important ceremonies underscores the importance of investing in a space that can truly serve the needs of the growing congregation. Structural challenges and capacity constraints call for a campus-wide upgrade and replacement strategy, aligning with the belief that "neat, comfortable, and substantial churches would do more for the cause than any amount of preaching."

#### Vision and Goals

St. Titus' Church stands poised and well-equipped to lead the charge in this endeavor, drawing upon our rich 140-year history and unwavering commitment to the Hayti neighborhood. With the appointment of a dynamic African-American female priest at St. Titus' and a new Chancellor at NCCU, alongside our longstanding collaboration with the Pauli Murray Center for History and Justice, the horizon brims with possibilities. Our collaboration extends to the local Pilgrimage for Faith and Justice, a coalition spearheaded by Durham Congregations in Action, Johnson Service Corps, the Companion Diocese Committee for Botswana, and the Racial Equity Institute. These partnerships serve as the cornerstone for hosting impactful events that resonate with our shared mission. The poignant reflection of the struggles faced by African-American congregations and the stark manifestation of the enduring legacy of racism is etched within the framework of our physical structures (i.e., plumbing and electrical system issues, inadequate capacity for basic services/caring for parishioner needs, etc.). In the visionary spirit of the 1990s, Phil Freelon, a revered member of St. Titus' and the visionary architect behind the Smithsonian's African American Heritage Museum, envisioned an expansion project to embrace our emerging opportunities in expanding our reach to our community. The time has come for these aspirations to take tangible form.

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

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### **Funding Usage**

Delany Building Renovations with further relationship building to develop a capital campaign for the building and ongoing operating costs.

Funds will be held by the Diocese of North Carolina and dispersed as work is completed with approval from the planning department representatives.

### **Congregation responsibility**

St. Titus's Episcopal Church leadership will establish a timeline for the completion of the elements contained in this project.

**The timeline for this project is as follows: (Name the start and end dates (please indicate if the project will be ongoing.))**

1. St. Titus's will meet with Hortense Francis and Maria Gillespie, planning department representatives:

2. Meet with contractors and local Building Dept. for approval of plans\_\_\_\_\_

3. Formal quotes received for:

a. project renovations:\_\_\_\_\_

b. Renovations contract signed \_\_\_\_\_

Project start date:\_\_\_\_\_

Completion date:\_\_\_\_\_

### **Clergy responsibility**

The rector, The Rev. Valerie Mayo, or his assigned designee will convene regular meetings as plans develop for the repairs and replacement of the roof and will lead the project.

### **Diocesan Staff**

Diocesan staff will assist as needed to ensure the successful completion of this project. Staff members will meet regularly with the assigned project team to review the items covered in the covenant and to update the timeline when needed. An additional resource will include a representative of the planning department. The planning department representative will review the covenant and make recommendations to certify there are no glaring omissions in the timeline.

The timeline will be reviewed quarterly by the assigned diocesan staff member and updated whenever required. The updates will be distributed to the committee members, the project team, and the diocesan finance office.

### **Revision**

Revisions of the Covenant once all parties sign it may be revised only by the mutual agreement of all the parties involved. Revisions sometimes are needed as new opportunities and challenges emerge during the life of the Covenant.

Amount awarded:

Preparer's Name: The Rev. Canon Kathleen Walker

Preparer's Email: Kathy.walker@episdionc.org

Planning Department Resource: Maria Gillespie

Email address: maria.gillespie@episdionc.org

Planning Department Resource: Hortense Francis

Email address: morris6610@gmail.com

# GET READY FOR ADVOCACY DAY 2025



Churches and individuals across the Diocese of North Carolina were invited to “give up their silence” and take part in a postcard campaign as part of Advocacy Day 2024. The goal was to give every person who wanted to add their voice to those attending Advocacy Day the chance to do so. More than 500 postcards were completed and taken to Advocacy Day 2024, and it made a difference. As was shared after, “Your voices mattered. Time and again, we heard from legislators and their staff members how much it meant to receive handwritten, personal messages from their constituents. These were not copy-and-paste scripts; each was written from the heart, and those personal words resonated.” (*Disciple, Summer 2024*)

**Planning for Advocacy Day 2025 is underway, and you are once again invited to be a part of it.**

As has been done in years past, representatives from various diocesan advocacy ministries and committees, including gun violence prevention, creation care, affordable housing and more, will meet with elected officials in the NC General Assembly. The meetings will be held not with an expectation that advocates will impose religious beliefs on elected officials or ask officials to make decisions that prioritize one religion over another. Instead, the focus will be on advocacy issues as witness to deeply held faith values within the Episcopal tradition and our own diocesan priorities, and building relationships with those who might hold different priorities.

**The planning team invites every person who wishes to share a message with elected representatives to do so via the Advocacy Day 2025 postcard campaign.**

You can do it as an individual, or you can do it as a congregation.

## **How it works:**

1. Individuals or churches can take part.
2. One great idea is to plan the writing of postcards during a post-service coffee hour one Sunday!
3. There is no cost to churches to order postcards; the only cost to congregations is the postage to return postcards to Diocesan House (if you don't want to return them in person).
4. Share your message with your elected representatives about your issues of concern.
5. Return the postcards to Diocesan House by March 1.
6. The Advocacy Day planning team will take your messages with them to the General Assembly on Advocacy Day in March!

**Postcards have been ordered and should arrive in early January.**

Hundreds of voices were part of Advocacy Day 2024; with your help, we hope to take thousands with us in 2025!





## HOW TO GET YOUR CHURCH INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14), urging the church to shine brightly like a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. Yet, for many of us, stepping beyond the comfortable confines of our church walls poses a significant challenge. We often find ourselves settled among close-knit groups of friends and fellow believers, overlooking the broader community around us. Scripture encourages us to grow in love for the lost, develop compassion for those in need, and muster the courage to extend our reach. While these virtues are cultivated through diligent study of the Word and a deepening relationship with God, there are also practical steps that churches can take to encourage engagement with the wider community.

This article explores practical strategies to help your church connect more effectively with the people and needs outside its doors.

### Practical Benefits of Getting Involved in the Community

Churches that actively engage with their communities reap numerous practical benefits, strengthening both their mission and the social fabric of the areas they serve.


By donating resources to community programs and sharing expertise, churches can play a pivotal role in addressing local needs and enhancing the overall quality of life. These efforts often lead to the development of crucial programs that educate on social issues and innovate new ways to support community needs, elevating community awareness and fostering positive change.

Moreover, churches that listen to community feedback and communicate effectively about their missions can build healthier long-term relationships. This open dialogue empowers leaders in the church, fosters a sense of unity, and helps coordinate efforts with other community services.

Integrating community service into church activities ensures that serving others becomes a core part of the church's identity. The church becomes a hub for empowering its members and the wider community, developing programs that address specific needs, and advocating for systemic changes.

Through these actions, churches not only demonstrate their commitment to Christian values but also contribute significantly to community strength and cohesion.



 <b>ADVENT CALENDAR 2024</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>The First Sunday of Advent</b>  Begin your Advent journey by <u>blessing</u> your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."	What can you do this Advent to prepare your heart and life for the coming of Christ?	In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice." Jeremiah 33:16	"By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i> , no. 3	Make plans to receive the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance during this Advent season.	In honor of Saint Nicholas, known for his generosity to those in need, in this season of giving, make a gift of your time or treasure to an agency that works with those who lack the necessities of life.	Consider joining the Walk with One Initiative ( <a href="#">Walk With One   Eucharistic Revival Initiative for the Year of Mission</a> ) to invite someone into a deeper relationship with Christ and to accompany them on their spiritual journey.
<b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b>  On this Second Sunday of Advent, light two violet candles on your Advent wreath and ask God for the strength to be like John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord.	This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is observed today. Attend Mass and pray the Rosary, if possible.	I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6	In the bustle of the holiday season, spend some time this week in silence and prayer, possibly before the Blessed Sacrament, to prepare your heart to receive the Lord at Christmas.	Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us that God's unfailing love encompasses all of us, regardless of immigration status, race, nationality, and all other differences. Learn more at <a href="#">Our Lady of Guadalupe – Justice for Immigrants</a> .	On this Memorial of Saint Lucy, patron saint of persons who are blind, consider ways that your parish, community, and other groups can become more welcoming to persons with disabilities.	"We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope." Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i> , no. 7

## ADVENT

### *Time To Pray*




**There is still time to offer your prayers for the Advent prayer chain. Select a strip and share your prayers of gratitude, growing love for others. Present your prayer strip to Rev. Mayo who will add them to the chain.**





# ADVENT CALENDAR 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 <b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b>  Today is the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. At this halfway point in the season of Advent, light two violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and Rejoice! For the Lord is near!	16 According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this <a href="#">blessing</a> with your family and friends.	17 Today marks the beginning of the "O Antiphons." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.	18 The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.  Zephaniah 3:17	19 "All of us, however, need to recover the joy of living, since men and women, created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 1:26), cannot rest content with getting along one day at a time, settling for the here and now and seeking fulfillment in material realities alone."  Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i> , no. 9	20 Use this blessing to bless the nativity scene in your home:  <a href="#">Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene   USCCB</a>	21 As winter begins in the Northern hemisphere, consider how you can share the light and warmth of Christ with others, especially those on the margins, in the new year.
22 <b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet candles and the rose candle on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.	23 Spend a family evening eating cookies and drinking hot chocolate while you read the Christmas cards you have received. Before bed, pray an ( Father and a l Mary for all your beloved family and friends.	24 "Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: 'Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!' (Ps 27:14). May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever."  Pope Francis, <i>Jubilee Bull of Indiction</i> , no. 25	25 Before opening presents, gather at your Nativity Scene and read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) from your family Bible.	 <p>Copyright © 2004, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2022, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Quote from the <i>Dictionary for Pastoral Care of the Dioceses of the United States of America</i>, second (revised) edition © 2003, 1998, 1997, 1994, 1970 Copyright of the Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved.</p>		



Diane, Althea 3      Inbox      Website estimates - For your information -- Mary E. Hawkins, MS

**North Carolina Clergy gather for one last pose with Former Presiding Bishop Curry at the National Episcopal Convention.**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



December 15	9:30 am	One Service Only-Christmas Celebration Follows
December 22	5:30 pm	ECW Holiday Gathering
December 24	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 29	9:30 am	Lessons and Carols



Share Your Christmas: The ECW, in partnership with CC Spaulding Elementary School, will sponsor a family for Share Your Christmas. The school has identified a mother with five children ages 2 to 17. If you would like to donate to the fund to purchase items from the family's wish list, please submit a donation to St Titus' and reference "ECW- Christmas" in the memo field. Questions: contact Lisa Barnes at [lsb2teach@aol.com](mailto:lsb2teach@aol.com).



## ECW HOLIDAY GATHERING

The St. Titus' ECW is having a Christmas potluck and gift exchange on December 22nd from 5:30-8:30pm. Please join in with a Christmas treat to share and a wrapped gift (no more than \$20). The gathering will be at Diane Hundley's home ([dianehundley@bellsouth.net](mailto:dianehundley@bellsouth.net)). We will try to arrange rides or carpools so all can attend. Email our ECW secretary Yvette McMiller at [mcmilleryvette@yahoo.com](mailto:mcmilleryvette@yahoo.com) by December 10th if you will attend or need a ride.

**St. Titus' joined St. Philips'** for a special event at the Historic Stagville Plantation. Jerome Bias and several volunteer assistants prepared a meal of various dishes that the enslaved ancestors would have made, cooking over an open fire and using many of the same utensils and pottery, that the ancestors used. The theme of the day involved conversations about how we see the enslaved ancestors, and what hope

