

January, 2025

# Titusian



**Welcome to 2025—A brand new year is here!**

While New Year's Day as a holiday has no biblical significance, this doesn't mean Christians shouldn't pause and reflect on the turning of the calendar.

**A new year can remind us of new life, hope and opportunity.** Every new season is a testimony of God's grace. Creation itself reminds us of God's great faithfulness as we witness renewal and rebirth. Things can be renewed. Even in a cursed, fallen world, hope for change can exist. In a sense, every day with Jesus is a chance to turn the page on an old way of life and embrace a new one. We are, after all, new creation people, and we serve a King who renews us daily by the Holy Spirit.

**A new year can remind us to be intentional.** A new cycle of life can serve as a reminder to be present and intentional with the time we've been given. The writer of Ecclesiastes says, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). As Gospel-centered people, we should be mindful of the fragility of human life. 2025 is young and the opportunities seem fresh. Every breath is a miracle, a gift given to us by our Creator.

**A new year is a great time to recalibrate.** Last year was a mix of joys and sorrows, goals accomplished and goals missed, friendships gained and friendships lost, year of pandemic, new jobs and some lost—but now it's behind us. Choose God first this year! The proper response to the past year, whether good or bad, is not "I made it through" or "Look what I achieved." It should be "Thank you, Lord!" Purposefully remembering God's goodness instead of our own performance is a great way to begin again.

**A new year is the perfect opportunity to pray and reflect.** May this year be brighter as you push into Christ. Let's spend time in prayer recounting what Christ did for us. Let's repent and fully worship his Majesty. Let's renew our minds and commitments to Jesus first, then marriage, family, and church. Let's rest this year. Don't let the whisper of the enemy say you have less worth because you blew your resolutions last year. Jesus loves us unconditionally, and He doesn't need our perfect performance to call us home and empower us for His mission.

So as we make plans for 2025, let's remember that even in our failures, we serve the One who remembers our frame and knows we are dust (Psalm 103:14). Trust your future to the King who holds the world in his hands.



**St. Titus' Church will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2025.**

There will be one service that day at 9:30 am, and the annual meeting will be part of the service. We also invite you to join us and bring a dish for a potluck breakfast. All members are encouraged to attend, and everyone is welcome.

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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.

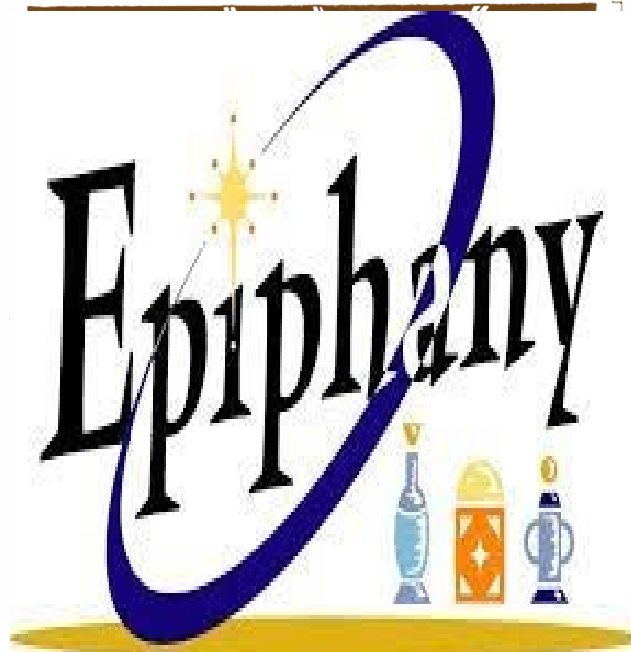
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# E P I P H A N Y

The name Epiphany is derived from a Greek word meaning "manifestation" or "appearing." Anglican Prayer Books interpret the word with an alternative title, "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The last phrase, of course is a reference to the story of the Wise Men from the East.

A Christian observance on January 6 is found as early as the end of the second century in Egypt. The Feast combined commemorations of the visit of the Magi, led by the star of Bethlehem; the Baptism of Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan; and Jesus' first recorded miracle, the changing of water into wine at the marriage of Cana of Galilee - all thought of as manifestations of the Incarnate Lord.

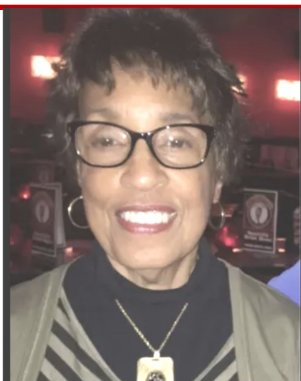
The Epiphany is still the primary Feast of the Incarnation in Eastern Churches, and the three-fold emphasis is still prominent. In the West, however, including Anglican Churches, the story of the Wise Men has tended to overshadow the other two events. Modern lectionary reform, reflected in the 1979 Prayer Book, has recovered the primitive trilogy, by setting the event of Baptism as the theme of the First Sunday after the Epiphany in all three years, and by providing the story of the Miracle at Cana as the Gospel for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany in Year C.



# R E A C H O U T .

Calendars remind us of the passing of time and the demands of each day. We have a variety of calendars, a church calendar, a school-holiday calendar and calendars from the local butcher, building society and funeral director. We mark in birthdays, meetings, camps, holidays and a variety of dates to remember.

Dates on a calendar are days, and each day is filled with opportunities in advance, we cannot tell what will happen tomorrow or on any future day. There are many unpredictable events yet we can make the most of each opportunity as it arises. We should be open to the needs of others.



**Pamala Coleman Howard**, age 78, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2024. She was born on September 7, 1946 in Jamaica, Queens New York.

She was predeceased in death by her parents Wyman and Edna Coleman, and by many aunts and uncles and cousins in the Coleman and Venable families. She is survived by her son Damon Howard, granddaughter Scarlett Howard, her brother Cedric Coleman, and her cousins Frederika Waugh and Ethelanne Sheril.

Pamela graduated from Hempstead High School 1964. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration at North Carolina Central University. She was previously employed at GlaxoSmithKline and she also worked as an assistant teacher at Henry Adams Elementary in Cary, NC for the Wake county public school system.

She was an active member of St. Titus Church and enjoyed singing in the church choir. She also loved reading and spent much of her time reading books.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to [St. Jude's Children's Hospital](#) or to [St. Titus Church](#) in Pamela's honor.

# Join The 2025 Advocacy Day Post Card Campaign to Legislators



You are invited to take part in the Advocacy Day 2025 postcard campaign. You can add your voice to this year's Advocacy Day by writing to our state legislators. Through these postcards, you will join your voice with those who will deliver them to the North Carolina General Assembly in March.

## A few notes on the campaign:

We are seeking at least 50 individuals from St. Titus' Church to send messages of your choosing to our legislators. The cards are available in the narthex until **March 1, 2025.**

Write your message to your elected representatives about your issues of concern. It is up to you what issue(s) you choose to address.

## GUIDELINES FOR POSTCARDS

### DO:

Greet your senator or representative by name. Find information about who represents you on the diocesan website or at [https://www.ncteg.govUHelp/\\_Topic/29](https://www.ncteg.govUHelp/_Topic/29).

Keep your message short but personal. Let them know you are a constituent and why the issue you're writing about matters to you. There is a link to sample wording below, but please use that only as a guide. Make your message your own.

Remember it is okay to make your message one of thanks!

Feel free to mention that you are a person of faith and how the issue you are addressing relates to your beliefs.

Be civil. Even when we disagree with our elected officials, our communications should be circumspect. Postcards will be screened by the Advocacy Day planning team for inappropriate or problematic content and may be discarded.

Remember it is absolutely ok to request follow up from your elected official—they work for you! If you choose to do so, include either your email or USPS address.

### DON'T:

Use rude or demeaning language. Again, please be civil. Any postcard containing -insults, hate speech or any other messaging deemed inappropriate by the Advocacy Day planning team will not be shared on Advocacy Day.

Mail the postcards directly to your representatives. Return them to Diocesan House at the address on the reverse side so that all messages can be shared as part of Advocacy Day 2025. The planning team hopes to take thousands of diocesan voices with us!

Additional resources, information and sample text can be found at: <https://www.episdionc.org/advocacy-day-2Q25-postcard-campaign/>. (This link is also available on the diocesan homepage: [episdionmorg.org](http://episdionmorg.org).)

Thank you again for taking part in the Advocacy Day 2025 postcard campaign.

## See over for sample text and more information.

[https://www.ncteg.govUHelp/\\_Topic/29](https://www.ncteg.govUHelp/_Topic/29).



## SAMPLE TEXT

Again, we encourage you to use the below only as a guide; make your message your own!

- **Dear Sen. Elected Person,** I am a longtime resident of Town and am grateful for your ongoing support of voting rights. I hope your commitment to ensuring fair access to the polls will continue in the upcoming legislative session. As an Episcopalian, my beliefs include respecting the dignity of every human being, and that includes making sure all voices are heard through our electoral process.

Sincerely,

I'm A. Constituent

- **Dear Rep. Elected Person,** As a constituent of your district, I am concerned by your position on care of creation. I hope you will reconsider your stance as legislation moves forward in this legislative session. Both science and my faith motivate me to speak out as I watch the impact of climate change in Eastern North Carolina, where I grew up and much of my family remains. I would welcome the chance to talk with your staff about this.

Sincerely,

A. Voter in Your district,

aviyd@icaremail.com

**Place the post card you wrote in the slot on top of the box.**



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*We are looking for volunteers to help us conduct community outreach!*

## We Need Help With

- ☑ Administering surveys
- ☑ Distributing food bags
- ☑ Collecting signatures
- ☑ Assisting health screenings
- ☑ Conducting door-to-door outreach



**Mt. Zoar Baptist Church**  
2423 Cheek Rd  
Durham, NC 27704



**February 8, 2025**  
9:30am - 12:30pm

*To sign up, visit:*

<https://x.gldn.io/e/LP8zFpwgdQb>

(link in bio)

**QUESTIONS?  
CALL 919-470-8680**

**COMMUNITY  
HEALTH COALITION**



Improving the Health of Durham & NC Communities since 1989



# Episcopal Church Women



## Meeting Highlights January 19-2025

The ECW met following the 10:30 am Service and included members Althea Alton, Lisa Barnes, Francine Davis, Deborah Debourg-Brown, Kourtney Drew, Robyn Farges, Diane Hundley, Yvette McMiller, Vickie Miller, Marguerite Peebles, Valerie Quiett

**Francine Davis, president,** opened the meeting with a prayer for God's guidance.



**Financial Report.** Lisa Barnes, treasurer, reported a beginning balance of \$1,837.71 in December. There was an expense of \$775 for Share Your Christmas and individual donations of \$370.82 slated for Share Your Christmas. The current balance is \$1,426.22.



**Share Your Christmas** – The Social Worker had identified the family for this outreach, as she is very much in touch with families in need. Lisa Barnes reported that ECW provided gifts for a family of 6 persons– a single mother and five children ages 2 – 17. Two children are students at CC Spaulding Elementary School. The Family members are refugees from a country in Africa. They are learning English. All members received two clothing outfits and a couple of toys, such as a soccer ball, a purse for the oldest girl and mother and children's books. Lisa delivered items to the school.



**Outreach** – Of interest for the group is the overall need to do outreach. This is true for ECW and for the church as a whole. Lisa explained that a larger percentage of our budget should be put towards outreach to outside groups and organizations.

Francine raised the idea of considering additional organizations to support for Christmas 2025, such as **Samaritan's Purse**. Another idea we could do sooner is to support a woman-focused outreach by donating feminine hygiene supplies to young ladies in need. Marguerite Peebles and Robyn Farges volunteered to find out about the items that organizations collect, so we could organize a feminine supply drive.



**Opera – The Marriage of Figaro** will be offered at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. Joy Morgan has identified the group ticket rate of \$87. To date, ten ECW members have expressed interest in attending. Most members prefer the Sunday, April 6 showing at 2 pm, making it possible to caravan after 10:30 Service coffee hour or meet there. Pay Joy as soon as possible. All expressing interest look for e-mail from Yvette to connect you with Joy for arrangements.



**Jewelry Making** – Althea Alton offered to run a jewelry making workshop in which each participant can make about two pairs of earrings and a bracelet. Althea will bring supplies and tools as she has honed this craft that she is able to share her talent with us.

**Date was picked for Saturday, March 29th 10 am – 12 noon at St Titus'.**

**Pancake Supper** – Francine Davis posed questions to the group on who the supper is for and whether it is a fund raiser. It was generally agreed that the entire church participates and that most recently, the Pancake supper has not raised many funds. Last year total raised was approximately \$200. Over \$1,000 was spent in supplies, many which were not used. All agreed it is a good activity for coming together as a church community to fellowship and celebrate Shrove Tuesday. **This year's date – Tuesday, March 4th. Put it on your calendar.**



#### **Pancake Supper Proposal for 2025**

- **Members** should get 5 tickets instead of 10. Ticket sale will defray expenses but might not turn a profit. Contact Mary Hawkins about producing tickets.
- **Lisa Barnes** offered to work with Jim to get the correct number of members in our congregation.
- **Purchase** approximately half of the number of supplies that were purchased last year. Francine Davis will contact Chuck and Janice to ask to do an inventory.
- **Do Not** to expect Supper to be much of a fund raiser, but if there are funds raised, **consider purchase of stoles or a refrigerator.**
- **Vickie Miller** added we should seek Vestry guidance on prioritizing needs for whatever funds might be raised, as this is a whole church activity.
- **Marguerite and Yvette** will solicit gifts and organize door prizes.



#### **Hosting Coffee Hour –**

**Feb 2nd Robyn Furges, Diane Hundley and Valerie Quiett**

**Mar.9th Althea Alton and Marguerite Peebles** (Please host the second Sunday rather than first in March, to avoid interference with Pancake Supper planning meeting on the first Sunday) Thank you for hosting!



**Dues – Please give your dues** – Pay as much as you are moved to give. **The suggested amount now is \$20.** You may give it to our Treasurer Lisa Barnes or put on memo line on your check given to the Church electronically or in the plate at service.



#### **Other Items:**

**Senior Luncheon** – Marguerite Peebles reminded us that we want to honor our Senior Seniors. Consider whether to host a lunch at the church or invite the seniors to a restaurant. Marguerite will get ideas together with a group who had offered to plan and will devise a budget.



**Condolence** - It was suggested ECW donate a gift card to Pam Howard's son Damon as she was a faithful long time ECW member.



Respectfully Submitted,  
**Yvette McMiller**



## Bishops of the Diocese of North Carolina Respond to Week's Events

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Tuesday, our presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Sean Rowe, and the president of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris, [issued a letter to the church](#) bidding our prayers for the new administration. They also expressed concern over a number of executive orders related to immigration. They urged President Donald Trump and Congress “to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-abiding, long-term members of our congregations and

communities; parents and children who are under threat of separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement.” See the full text below.

Later that day, the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, bishop of the Diocese of Washington, [preaching in the Washington National Cathedral](#) at an interfaith prayer service, spoke respectfully and directly to President Trump, asking him to have mercy on those made vulnerable by his recent executive orders and to recognize LGBTQ+ people who are members of our families. We heard her words as an invitation from one leader to another to act with the compassion and love that Jesus invites each of us to extend to our neighbors. We are thankful for Bishop Budde’s courageous witness to the Gospel and the values of our baptismal covenant.

We honor these three leaders and their faithfulness in speaking the truth in love and calling us all to God’s vision of respect and dignity for every human being. We join with them in asking for your prayers, and stand with them in supporting and defending all those at risk.

**Faithfully,**

**Bishop Sam Rodman and Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson**

### **Dear People of God in the Episcopal Church:**

Yesterday, Donald Trump was sworn in as president of the United States. We pray that he and all of our elected officials will, in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, have the wisdom and strength to know and to do God’s will and be filled with the love of truth and righteousness. Even as we gave thanks for a peaceful transfer of power, we learned from news reports that the new presidential administration has issued a series of executive orders that are a harbinger of President Trump’s pledge to deport undocumented immigrants at a historic scale, restrict asylum, and direct other immigration actions. We read this news with concern and urge our new president and congressional leaders to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-

abiding, long-term members of our congregations and communities; parents and children who are under threat of separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement. As Christians, our faith is shaped by the biblical story of people whom God led into foreign countries to escape oppression. Exodus tells us the story of the ancient Israelites escaping slavery in the land of Egypt and wandering in the wilderness without a home. In Leviticus 19:33-34, God commands that we remember this sojourn as part of our own story of faith: “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”



Now, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:12-19, we are no longer aliens. Christ Jesus has made us citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. As we read in 1 Peter 2:9-12, we have received God's mercy, and we must demonstrate this sacrificial love in our lives and deeds. Because our true citizenship is not here on earth but in heaven, we are called to transcend the earthly distinctions made among us by the leaders of this world. We must proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is promised to the persecuted and answer Christ's call to welcome the stranger among us.

This vision of God's kingdom, this new reality, is the one to which we Christians are pledged in our baptism above any political preference or policy, and to which our church must bear witness through word and deed. This sacred call shapes both our churchwide commitment to stand with migrants and the ministries of congregations across our church who serve vulnerable immigrants and refugees in their communities. Since the late 19th century, The Episcopal Church has followed this call by welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States, and today, Episcopal Migration Ministries is one of 10 resettlement agencies through which refugees enter this country. Our Office of Government Relations is a persistent advocate for immigration resolutions adopted by General Convention, and works with ecumenical and interfaith partners to urge compassionate and humane policies that at the same time recognize the need to protect borders and address security threats. Thousands of Episcopalians participate in this ministry of advocacy through the Episcopal Public Policy Network.

As more immigration enforcement policy changes are announced, our churchwide ministries will continue to provide practical pathways to protect the most vulnerable among us. We invite you to join us by:

Advocating with our members of Congress by using this action alert to take action to protect immigrants, known as Dreamers, who were brought to the United States as children and have lived here most of their lives. The long-standing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that offers a respite from the fear of deportation is at risk, and Congress must take action.

Standing against mass deportation using this action alert, which would have severe consequences

for our communities and economy. Supporting orderly border management that is proportional and humane and respects the right of asylum.

Supporting programs that protect vulnerable groups of people, including Temporary Protected Status (TPS), Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), humanitarian parole, and the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Speaking out against anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions, including race-based targeting, vigilantism and violence, family division, and detention and deportation without charges or convictions. As Christians, we must stand against these expressions of hatred and fear with a clear witness to our sacred promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

Encouraging our congregations to use the resources of the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network as we embody the Gospel through direct witness on behalf of immigrants in our communities. Across our church, migrants are members of the Body of Christ and part of our congregations and communities, and our common life is richer thanks to their contributions. To our siblings who are at risk of deportation or of being separated from those you love, know that your story is our story, and your dignity is inseparable from our own. We stand with you, and we will face these challenges together.

As one church united in the Body of Christ, please pray especially for families who live under the shadow of separation, and for all who seek asylum for protection from persecution. Pray, too, for the people of our congregations and dioceses who work tirelessly to serve immigrants and refugees, and who now face new and heart-breaking challenges to their ministry. Finally, as faithful Episcopalians have done for decades, please join us in giving generously to Episcopal Migration Ministries and its ministry with refugees seeking a new life in the United States.

**In Christ's Peace,**  
**The Most Rev. Sean Rowe**  
**Presiding Bishop**  
**Julia Ayala Harris**  
**President of the House of Deputies**