



**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 15, Year A
August 16, 2026
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

**St. Titus' Episcopal Church
The Reverend Valerie J. Mayo, Rector**

**400 Moline Street, Durham, NC 27707
www.sttitusdurham.org
st.titusepiscopal@gmail.com
(919) 682-5504**

Welcome to St. Titus' Episcopal Church

Whether you are here for the first time or your family has been part of St. Titus' for generations, whether you're here in person or watching online, the Holy Spirit has brought you to this place. We're glad you're here! Our Mission and Vision Statements are printed below. You can learn more about this faith community on our website, sttitusdurham.org. We would be happy to talk with you about who we are and what we do at St. Titus'. We invite you to join us on our journey of faith.

Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

God dreams for St. Titus' to be sacred ground where all of God's children experience the unconditional love of Jesus. In faithful response, we will offer Spirit-filled worship where people from diverse backgrounds encounter God. As an intergenerational community, we will deepen our faith through sharing scripture, Christian tradition and our own experience. We will be open and authentic with one another, and respond to the needs of our neighbors with compassion and creativity. Our passion for God's justice and peace will compel us to become agents for social, political, and economic transformation. St. Titus' will be Beloved Community.

Serving Today: August 16	8:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Celebrant	The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo	The Rev. Valerie J. Mayo
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Hawkins	Ken Valentine and Keith Bishop
First Lesson	Lew Myers	Joy Morgan
Psalm	Mary Hawkins	
Second Lesson	Sheila Bond	Keith Bishop
Intercessor	Lew Myers	James Barnes
Altar Guild	Cheryl Myers and Janice Williams	
Tech Team	Livio Carnera, Chuck Hennessee, Deborah Debourg-Brown, and Elijah Mayo-McMullen	
Ushers	James and Lisa Barnes	

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 15, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite II
August 16, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Please join the worship by following the liturgy (program) in this bulletin. We encourage you to use the time before worship to pray and invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to keep you centered and focused on what God may be saying to you. After worship, we invite you to pray for God's strength to help you face and meet the demands of the world from this moment and in the days to come.

Prelude

The Bidding Prayer

BCP p.833

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Processional Hymn

We've Come this far by faith

AAHH-412

The Call to Worship

Celebrant Calling all children of the Living God: the Gospel is Good News for every age and every stage.

People **Let us worship together, the young and the old.**

Celebrant The Good News is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons and computers, songs and gatherings, snacks and work time.

People **Let us worship together, every generation.**

Celebrant We come together with different abilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

People **Let us worship together, with our family of faith.**

Celebrant All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

People **Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.**

The Celebrant continues

God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, thank you for the privilege of education. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each new class of young people. God who came as a child to show us how to be fully human, to show us how to be children of God, you have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle. You speak to us through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You call us to listen to the Spirit speaking through our young siblings in Christ.

We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them all. But in this celebration of education and learning, we do not forget there are children and families and teachers who do not have the resources they need. When systems are unjust, the outcomes are unacceptable. Today we remember those who are beginning school this year: those who have what they need to learn and grow in safety, and those who lack supplies, teachers, safe buildings, and accommodations for all needs and abilities.

We come to worship together, to lift up our young people and all those who care for them and teach them. Open our hearts to what you are saying to us today. *Amen.*

The Opening Acclamation

BCP, p.355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed by his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.***

The Celebrant continues

BCP, p.355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria *Spoken without refrain at 8:30 am; sung at 10:30 am*

L-243

Refrain: Glory, Glory, hallelujah,
 Lord we praise your Holy name,
 Glory, Glory hallelujah,
 Lord we praise your Holy name.

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
 almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God. *Refrain*

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *Refrain*

The Salutation

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Lesson**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

Reader A reading from the book of Romans.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn***Great is Thy Faithfulness***

AAHH-158

Please stand as you are able.

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Gospeller The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Reverend Valerie J. Mayo

We will maintain a brief silence to allow for reflection.

The Nicene Creed *[Please stand as you are able]*

Bcp, p.358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

The Prayers of the People

Beloved in Christ, there's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea!
Therefore, let us come before our loving God, saying, "Hear us, we humbly pray; Lord,
help us."

Loving God, you have shown your Church such great mercy. Though the witness of your
Church, may those beyond our walls also experience the goodness of your mercy.

Silence

Hear us, we humbly pray;
Lord, help us.

Lord of all peoples, you have created us to live together. Help us to see that our common life depends on each other's work and goodwill. Cause wars to cease and generosity to prevail.

Silence

Hear us, we humbly pray;
Lord, help us.

Abundant God, you make the earth bring forth good food. As you provided for the children of Israel, we pray you will also provide for all those suffering from famine or need.

Silence

Hear us, we humbly pray;
Lord, help us.

Caring God, how good and pleasant it is when your children live together in unity. Pour out a spirit of reconciliation in our community.

Invite the congregation to add thanksgiving, followed by silence.

Hear us, we humbly pray;
Lord, help us.

God of blessings, bless your people with life forevermore. May the dying find comfort, may the dead rest in your peace.

Silence

Hear us, we humbly pray;
Lord, help us.

We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Bless supervisors and caregivers. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the

pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways all of your beloved children are also teachers.

Lord, help us.

We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold us all the way through.

Lord, help us.

We pray especially for:

Alicia, Karen, Julius, Lauriette, O. Ray, Lafayette, Margaret, Annie, Darryl, Dennis, Jr., William, The St. Augustine's University Community, Elijah, Marissa, Margo, Charles, Ethel, Brian, Terrence, Bill, Carolyn, Tyna, Dennis, Marjorie, Ama, Dorothy, Lawrence, Ann, Murphy, Derek, Walter, Vivian, Danita, Lionell, Vincent, Howard, Sydney, Carol, Robert, Beverly, Harmon, Allen, Damon, and Pam.

Our prayers are with Danielle Parker-Moore, the daughter of Lionell and Danita Parker, on the passing of Danielle's mother-in-law, Mamie Freida Moore; and with Carrie Matthews and her family on the passing of Carrie's godson, Cedric Johnson, son of Rosemary Alsbrooks-Johnson.

For whom or what else shall we pray today?

[The congregation may offer their petitions in the silence of their hearts or aloud.]

The Prayer to End Gun Violence

God of Justice, help us, your church, find our voice. Turn us from the worship of power. Give us courage to confront our false gods and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Help us rise above our dread that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change. For your dream of a world where children are safe and all of us live together without fear, Loving God, make us instruments of your peace. *Amen.*

The Concluding Collect

Celebrant

Almighty God, who calls us to love one another, grant us that redemptive love that knows no bounds, that we may be transformed more and more into your holy people this day and always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Confession

BCP p.360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Absolution

EOW, p.20

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Exchange of the Peace

EOW, p.56

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us share the peace with one another and our guests.

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Words of Welcome

St. Titus' Vestry Member

The Blessing of the Backpacks

(All those who wish for their backpack or work bag to be blessed should approach the altar.)

Celebrant

Going back to school always invites big feelings to come along with us, and those feelings can be different for everyone! Whether you're going back to work after summer vacation, starting school for the first time, moving to a new school, or staying at the same school, we can all feel happy, nervous, scared, curious, or excited. Sometimes, we can even feel all those feelings at the same time, and that's okay! But God is always with us, no matter where we go and what we feel. As we start a new year at school or continue our work, I want to give you this special backpack tag so that whenever you look at it, you can remember God loves you and is always with you, no matter what.

Along with the backpack tag, I also want to share a blessing with you. A blessing is something that you receive, so open your hands like you are ready to receive a special gift. As I speak, imagine the words are dancing, floating, and fluttering all around, and watch them as they land on your hands and on your backpack or bag. If you want to receive it, take the blessing and put it in your heart.

May these tags remind you that God is always with you. As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and work and play, in every fear and every celebration, may you know God, your friend, is always there.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks and bags, we carry computers, blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become. God, our friend who is always with us, be with us through it all. Be with us as we ride the bus. Be with us as we walk. Be with us as we buckle seat belts, put on coats, and tie shoes. However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new. For the grown-ups going back to school or work, know that God is with us too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

Celebrant and People

God, our friend who's full of wonder, fill our hearts and bless our hands. *Amen.*

Holy Communion (*Eucharistic Prayer 2*)

EOW, pp.60-62

The Offertory

The Offertory Sentence

Psalm 96:8

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

The Offertory Hymn *All My Help Comes from the
Lord*

AAHH-370

The Great Thanksgiving (*standing*)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

The Sanctus *[spoken at 8:30 am]*

[sung at 10:30 am] L-255

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken at 8:30 a.m., sung at 10:30 a.m.*)

L-264

The Celebrant says

As our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say (sing):

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p.364

Celebrant This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

People **Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.**

The Fraction Anthem
(Sung three times)

Christ our Passover

W-865

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac - ri-ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics written below the notes. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both the right and left hands, providing a harmonic foundation for the vocal line.

Music: Thaddeus P. Cavuoti (b. 1955) from *Mass of St. Columbia*. Copyright © 1995 Thaddeus P. Cavuoti.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

The Administration of Communion

At the time of communion, you are invited to come forward and receive the bread and wine. The priest will place a wafer in your hand. You may then receive wine either by direct consumption from a chalice (Common Cup), or you may give the wafer to the Eucharistic minister who will dip the wafer in the wine and place the wafer on your tongue. You may also still come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest before the priest for the blessing. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may return to your seat.

The Bread and cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

Celebrant All are welcome to the Lord's table. Won't you come?

The Communion Hymn *Just As I am* AAHH-345

The Post-Communion Prayer BCP, p. 365

Celebrant Together, let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Community Announcements

The Corporate Blessing

Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made! Go and play! Go and learn! Go and love others! May you be filled with loving kindness for yourself and everyone around you. May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy. And the blessing of God Almighty; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with and among you always. *Amen.*

The Recessional Hymn *In that Great Gittin' Up Morning* AAHH-585

The Choral Benediction *Till We Meet*
By Kirk Franklin

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements

Office Hours: The St. Titus' Parish Office is staffed from 8:00 a.m. until 1p.m., Monday – Thursday. Please call us at 919-682-5504 if you need to reach Reverend Valerie or the Parish Administrator.

- Stop by our **Committee Fair** today following the 10:30a service.

- STEC members are invited to join St. Matthias in Ashville on Sunday, August 23rd at 11am. (Ken Valentine's childhood church)
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepard Training – Fall 2026.** If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Robyn Furges or Rev. Mayo.

Clergy & Staff

Rector: The Reverend Valerie J. Mayo	(919) 682-5504	sainttitusrector@gmail.com
Parish Administrator: Betsy Sprouse	(919) 682-5504	st.titussecretary@gmail.com
Choir Director: Ramon Holloway	(919) 886-5325	sainttitusmusic@yahoo.com
Sexton: Fletcher Norwood	(919) 682-5504	st.titussexton@gmail.com

Vestry Roster

Senior Warden	Cheryl Myers	2025	cheryl.myers@netzero.net
Junior Warden	Lionell Parker	2025	lparker3141@gmail.com
Assisting Clerk	Robyn Furges	2025	robynfurges@gmail.com
	Vickie Miller	2025	leontyne1968@gmail.com
	Kenneth Valentine	2025	kenvalentine074@gmail.com
	Paula Drew-Estes	2025	pjdestes@gmail.com
	Elizabth Lippincott	2026	elippincott@strategichealthlaw.com
	Dwight Peebles	2026	dapeebles@bellsouth.net
	Joseph Yancy	2026	spike.yancy@montgomerycollege.edu
Treasurer	James Barnes		jbarn13719@aol.com

Church Organizational Leaders

Altar Guild	Hazel Brown	hazelyb24@gmail.com
Acolyte Warden	Vincent Quiett	quiettv@msn.com
Benevolent Team Coordinator	Willette Crews	willettec@legalaidnc.org
Brotherhood of St. Titus'	Lew Myers	lewmyers@aol.com
Card Ministry	Alexine Miller	alexinemiller@yahoo.com
Communications Ministry	Mary Hawkins	pisces0835@gmail.com
Creation Care Committee	Anne Hutchins	achvamc@aol.com
Episcopal Church Women	Francine Davis	francinedavis06@gmail.com
Finance Committee	Lionell Parker	lparker3141@gmail.com
Memorial Garden Warden	James Barnes	jbarn13719@aol.com
Parish Outreach Coordinator	Willette Crews	willettec@legalaidnc.org
Parish Outreach Coordinator	William Hennessee	wllmhennessee@aol.com
Prison Ministry	David Stanford	dstanford4900@yahoo.com
St. David's Usher Guild	Dwight Peebles	dapeebles@bellsouth.net
Younger Adults Coordinator	Henry Kennelly	henrybkennelly@gmail.com
Children and Youth Coordinator	Stephanie Metzen	ms.smetzen@gmail.com