July, 2026

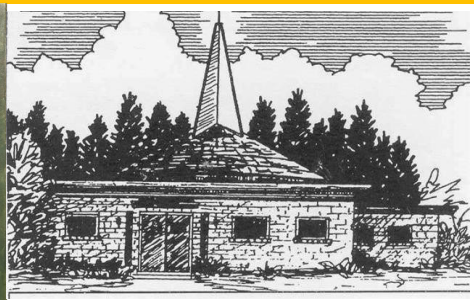
Titusian





New Titusians:
Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions and Reaffirmations of Faith







St. Titus' Connection to the Botswana Gifts

Pauli Murray Service

To Botswana, with love:
Seagrove potter makes communion sets for African Anglicans

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





Holy Baptism: Najae Dane Messi Mundle and Nanuan Dane Lionel Mundle



Confirmations
Grey DeWalt-(Pictured above) also Itzel Angel Belige Romero

About Reception

Reception is the rite by which baptized Christians who have been confirmed in another Christian tradition are formally welcomed into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church. Through the bishop's recognition and prayer, they affirm their desire to continue their Christian journey within this brank of Christ's one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.



Titusians received include:Tracey Lynette Banks, Jerome Francis Bias, King (Kenny) P. Bond, Jr. Livio Carnera, Jeffrey Oliver Davis, Jasmine Fouche, Margaret (Meg) Higgins, Anne Hutchins



Reaffirmation is an opportunity for baptized Christians to renew the vows made at their Baptism and publicly recommit themselves to following Jesus Christ. Through prayer and the laying on of hands by the bishop, they seek God's grace and strength for the next chapter of their faith journey.



Those Reaffirming Their Faith: Pedro Pablo Belige✝ Darlene Romero de Belige ✝ Delmarie Elizabeth Blidgen



Thank you Grey, for your faithful service to St. Titus'. Your dedication and willingness to serve have been a gift to our parish community. As you begin this exciting new chapter in college, know that your St. Titus' family is proud of you and grateful for all you have contributed.

We wish you every success in your studies, new friendships, and future endeavors. May God bless and guide you, granting you wisdom, courage, and joy in the years ahead.

17th Annual Pauli Murray Celebration



The **Annual Pauli Murray Celebration** at **St. Titus' Episcopal Church in Durham** grew out of efforts to honor the life, faith, and public witness of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, the Durham-born civil rights advocate, lawyer, poet, and Episcopal priest who worshiped at St. Titus' as a child. [wunc.org], [dionc.org]

The tradition began in **2009**, when the Pauli Murray Project created new annual programs that included a **Pauli Murray Service at St. Titus' Episcopal Church**, co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. A photo and timeline maintained by the Pauli Murray Center document a service held at St. Titus' on **July 1, 2009**, marking the early years of the observance. [paulimurra...center.com], [paulimurra...center.com]

The celebration gained additional significance after Murray was recognized as a saint by the Episcopal Church in **2012**. Since then, the annual service has become a diocesan-wide commemoration that brings together clergy, community leaders, and worshippers to reflect on Murray's contributions to civil rights, gender equality, faith, and social justice. [dionc.org], [sttitusdurham.org]

Today, the event is held at St. Titus', the parish closely connected to Murray's family history and childhood faith community. The service typically includes worship, music, preaching, and reflections on Murray's legacy. In 2025, WUNC reported that St. Titus' was observing its **16th annual commemoration** of Murray, highlighting the celebration's continuing importance to both the church and the wider Durham community. [wunc.org], [dionc.org]

In summary: the Annual Pauli Murray Celebration began in 2009 as a church and community effort to honor Durham native Pauli Murray and has evolved into a longstanding diocesan observance at St. Titus' Episcopal Church, celebrating Murray's enduring legacy of faith, justice, and inclusion. [paulimurra...center.com], [sttitusdurham.org], [wunc.org]

Our Celebration Highlights ✪ Total offering for the Pauli Murray Center $2370.19



Movie Screening:-
My Name is Pauli Murray



Preacher:The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh,
Canon for Beloved Community Initiative, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

To Botswana, with love:
Seagrove potter makes communion sets for African Anglicans

May 20, 2026- by Randolph Hub Contributor

Jane Braswell

SEAGROVE — A bit of local dirt will soon be traveling 8,000 miles across the Atlantic to become part of a historic transformation taking place in Gaborone, Botswana.



The Rev. Miriam Saxon with Potter Mahan

Fourteen chalice and paten communion sets — crafted with local clay by master potter Michael Mahan, owner of **From the Ground Up pottery in Seagrove** — will be presented to the first class of female priests in the African Anglican Church, positions held solely by men until last year.

The momentous ceremony held on May 17 marked a significant shift in the church, following a decade of training and advocacy to allow women to transition into ordained ministry.

According to the Rev. Miriam Saxon, priest associate at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham, the partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the Anglican Diocese of Botswana began in 2008, at a time when women were denied leadership roles despite a severe shortage of priests. Saxon said that when the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, made plans for a large North Carolina delegation to travel to Gaborone to be part of the upcoming ordination of the first female priests, he had the idea to present each new priest with a communion set, hand turned in North Carolina.

A long-time visitor to Seagrove-area potters, Saxon volunteered to help the bishop's aspiration be realized, and she selected Mahan and his pottery at From the Ground Up

"For several years, Michael has been one of my favorite Seagrove potters because of his distinctive glazes and creative design. I especially love his soul pots," she said.

Saxon and Mahan combined their visions; she chose the soft, seafoam green for the body of both the chalice and the paten, with a black interior in the goblet. Mahan opted for a design he and his wife Mary Holmes call hedge-row motif, an international nod to the ubiquitous hedges in her native Ireland.

"For several years, Michael has been one of my favorite Seagrove potters because of his distinctive glazes and creative design. I especially love his soul pots," she said.

Saxon and Mahan combined their visions; she chose the soft, seafoam green for the body of both the chalice and the paten, with a black interior in the goblet. Mahan opted for a design he and his wife Mary Holmes call hedge-row motif, an international nod to the ubiquitous hedges in her native Ireland.

Mahan carved the foliage, adding a bird or two, to each of the still-damp, leather-hard chalices before their bisque firing.

After initial attempts at glazing obscured the carvings, Mahan said he took a tip from a fellow potter to brush layers of water over the carved area before dipping in glaze to inhibit absorption of the glaze in the decorated areas.

A final baptism of fire to about 2,200 degrees in his electric kiln completed the pots.

"It took three firings before I got it right. Then I glazed everything and fired once more," Mahan said. "I unloaded everything the day before Miriam came to my shop to pick up the order."

The clay used for the feminine-shaped chalice stems and the salad-plate-sized patens was dug from the community of Okeewemee, located in Montgomery County outside of Seagrove.

The clay is one of several local recipes made at Starworks Ceramics in Star, down the road from Mahan's shop.

"The clay is made by artists who care," Mahan said. "They make fantastic clay bodies for potters."

Saxon drove from Durham last week to pick up the pottery so that the first set could quickly be bundled, packed in luggage for a plane trip across the ocean for one early ordination.

The remaining baker's dozen will be meticulously packed and spread among North Carolina Episcopalians traveling to Gaborone for the main three-hour ceremony in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, which has a 900-seat capacity. "For several years, Michael has been one of my favorite Seagrove potters because of his distinctive glazes and creative design. I especially love his soul pots," she said.

Saxon and Mahan combined their visions; she chose the soft, seafoam green for the body of both the chalice and the paten, with a black interior in the goblet. Mahan opted for a design he and his wife Mary Holmes call hedge-row motif, an international nod to the ubiquitous hedges in her native Ireland.

Mahan carved the foliage, adding a bird or two, to each of the still-damp, leather-hard chalices before their bisque firing.

After initial attempts at glazing obscured the carvings, Mahan said he took a tip from a fellow potter to brush layers of water over the carved area before dipping in glaze to inhibit absorption of the glaze in the decorated areas.

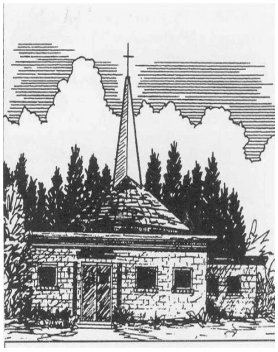
A final baptism of fire to about 2,200 degrees in his electric kiln completed the pots.

"It took three firings before I got it right. Then I glazed everything and fired once more," Mahan said. "I unloaded everything the day before Miriam came to my shop to pick up the order."

The clay used for the feminine-shaped chalice stems and the salad-plate-sized patens was dug from the community of Okeewemee, located in Montgomery County outside of Seagrove.



Mahon puts finishing touches on a Chalice



The St. Titus' Connection to the Botswana Gifts

Our heartfelt thanks to Lew Myers Co-Chair, Bishop's Sub-committee on Companion Diocese of Botswana-who shared the following reflections on the Botswana Mission

I was pleased to be one of 20 from our Botswana Link Committee to be selected to travel to Gaborone for the ordination of the 18 female priests and the five-day retreat with our Botswana counterparts. The ordination was a major production 5+ hours.

The five-day retreat was held at a Catholic retreat center 3 hours north of Gaborone.

There were 8 Botswans and 8 Americans, including both bishops. The retreat allowed to reflect on what we have accomplished through this partnership.

The goals were to create a seminary so Botswana could have a pool of priests in Botswana. Heretofore, Botswans had to leave the country to become priests. To date, 50 priests have been ordained as a result of the Saint Augustine Seminary.

A second goal was to help the build an AIDS/Holy Cross Hospice program. This center is still operating with increased diocesan support.

A third goal was to support Bp. Metla. We did this by making it possible for him to have a sabbatical which he did in NC. We also answered his call for financial support to provide stipends to his priests given the impact of COVID on attendance and income. We agreed that the Botswana Link Committee has been an overwhelming success.

Finally we discussed there Five Strategic Mission Projects proffered by Botswana. They include: Holy Cross Hospice, youth and children's ministry, education for the vulnerable, strengthen spiritual leadership and rural development. No action was taken.

We will need to renew our Link relationship since it expires in 2027.







Fourteen chalice and paten communion sets are at the ready for use by the first class of female priests in the African Anglican Church. (Photos: Mary Holmes) May 20, 202 by Randolph, Hub Contributor

To Botswana, with love: Seagrove potter makes sets for African Anglicans

May 20, 2026 –by Randolph Hub Contributor
Jane Braswell

Seagrove– A bit of local dirt will soon be traveling 8000 miles across the Atlantic to become part of a historic transformationtaking place in Gabarone, Batswana.

Fourteen chalice and paten communion sets — crafted with local clay by master potter Michael Mahan, owner of From the Ground Up pottery in Seagrove — will be presented to the first class of female priests in the African Anglican Church, positions held solely by men until last year.

The momentous ceremony held on May 17 marked a significant shift in the church, following a decade of training and advocacy to allow women to transition into ordained ministry.

According to the Rev. Miriam Saxon, priest associate at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham, the partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the Anglican Diocese of Botswana began in 2008, at a time when women were denied leadership roles despite a severe shortage of priests.

Saxon said that when the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, made plans for a large North Carolina delegation to travel to Gaborone to be part of the upcoming ordination of the first female priests, he had the idea to present each new priest with a communion set, hand turned in North Carolina.

A long-time visitor to Seagrove-area potters, Saxon volunteered to help the bishop's aspiration be realized, and she selected Mahan and his pottery at From the Ground Up.

"For several years, Michael has been one of my favorite Seagrove potters because of his distinctive glazes and creative design. I especially love his soul pots," she said.

Saxon and Mahan combined their visions; she chose the soft, seafoam green for the body of both the chalice and the paten, with a black interior in the goblet. Mahan opted for a design he and his wife Mary Holmes call hedge-row motif, an international nod to the ubiquitous hedges in her native Ireland.



Potter Michael Mahan of From the Ground Up pottery in Seagrove and the Rev. Miriam Saxon, Priest Associate at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham, look over the finished product

According to the Rev. Miriam Saxon, priest associate at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Durham, the partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the Anglican Diocese of Botswana began in 2008, at a time when women were denied leadership roles despite a severe shortage of priests.

Saxon said that when the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, made plans for a large North Carolina delegation to travel to Gaborone to be part of the upcoming ordination of the first female priests, he had the idea to present each new priest with a communion set, hand turned in North Carolina.

A long-time visitor to Seagrove-area potters, Saxon volunteered to help the bishop's aspiration be realized, and she selected Mahan and his pottery at From the Ground Up.

"For several years, Michael has been one of my favorite Seagrove potters because of his distinctive glazes and creative design. I especially love his soul pots," she said.

Saxon and Mahan combined their visions; she chose the soft, seafoam green for the body of both the chalice and the paten, with a black interior in the goblet. Mahan opted for a design he and his wife Mary Holmes call hedgerow motif, an international nod to the ubiquitous hedges in her native Ireland.

"It took three firings before I got it right. Then I glazed everything and fired once more," Mahan said. "I unloaded everything the day before Miriam came to my shop to pick up the order."

The clay used for the feminine-shaped chalice stems and the salad-plate-sized patens was dug from the community of Okeewemee, located in Montgomery County outside of Seagrove.

The clay is one of several local recipes made at Starworks Ceramics in Star, down the road from Mahan's shop.

"The clay is made by artists who care," Mahan said. "They make fantastic clay bodies for potters."

Saxon drove from Durham last week to pick up the pottery so that the first set could quickly be bundled, packed in luggage for a plane trip across the ocean for one early ordination.

The remaining baker's dozen will be meticulously packed and spread among North Carolina Episcopalians traveling to Gaborone for the main three-hour ceremony in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, which has a 900-seat capacity.

The service, Saxon said, is expected to attract 1,500 attendees for the priests who will serve across Botswana, a British protectorate until 1966, which is why most residents of the country can speak English.

"I am certain they will figure out how to accommodate everyone who attends the service, and they do plan to broadcast this via the internet. Possibly on YouTube," Saxon said.

Once presented, the communion sets will be used in services as parishioners partake directly from the goblet as the priest wipes the chalice lip between sips. Communion wafers will be offered from the patens.

The North Carolina group arrived on Friday, May 15, after two days of travel, and Saxon said most were to leave for home on the day following the ceremony. Some remained to go on a safari, and others, including Rodman and Saxon, were to join with clergy and laity from Botswana on a week-long retreat about cross-cultural relationships, which Saxon described as "grounded in Scripture, with a theological focus on mutuality across cultures as children of God."

Holmes said that she and Mahan like to hear stories of when their pottery will be in use, rather than solely decor.

"It's heartwarming to think about all these people participating in a very old ritual — in Africa — with pots that I made," Mahan said. "It's an honor."



Potter Michael Mahan touches up one of the chalices



Invoices paid from St Titus First Phase Grant		
12-2025	298.70	Brown Bros Plumbing
02-2026	41,606.35	Delany House Roof
03-24-26	699.95	Price Point Plumbing
05-2026	4,138.75	Brown Bothers Plumbing
06-20-26	9, 145.00	Lamar Holmes R & Construc
Total	55,888.75	Amount Spent to-date
Remaining	219,111.25	Funds Available



Delany Building New Roof



Trees in Delany Park marked for removal as per recommendation from Church Insurance Company. Note: the tree removal cost of 11,500.00 should be deducted from funds available.



Delany Park-Trees removed

Just Exactly What Is This Placemaking Lab?-by Diane Hundley

Perhaps over the last few months you've seen something in the bulletin or heard something during announcements about St. Titus' and something called a Placemaking Lab but don't understand what it is or means. Here is a relatively short explanation.
All of us are aware of the impacts on the Hayti area of the construction of highway 147, the loss of businesses in the neighborhood and the gentrification and real estate grab of investment firms. The City has struggled to bring long term solutions to the damage done whether intentionally or due to competing demands. The Placemaking Lab is one attempt to respond to these outcomes. **The City's Hayti Promise Community Development Corporation has funded New Chapters Ventures, an Asheville-based non-profit to work with a cohort of congregations St. Titus', St. Joseph's, St. Mark's, Monument of Faith, Kyles Temple and Covenant Presbyterian to discern how spaces on their campuses might be transformed for "adaptive reuse."**

And what is "adaptive reuse?" It's a response to where God might be calling each congregation to respond to the needs of the community-either individually or together while producing income for the congregation. So think, unused Sunday School rooms used as offices for entrepreneurs; a parking lot for a Farmer's market; a worship space used only on Sundays rented on weekdays to a community choir or music teacher. The idea is not for our people to do more – it is for our spaces to do more. A Methodist church in Salisbury has combined 2 Sunday School rooms and rented it to a local nonprofit that serves families with children ages 0- 5. They are also in the process of planning to build housing on unused land that is affordable for teachers and first responders.

Over a weekend in June, Rev. Valerie, Megan Lyons, Sheila Bridges-Bond, Kenny Bond, and Diane Hundley visited several sites in Asheville which were responding to the needs of the unhoused and those impacted by hurricane Helene. Picture a large church parking area filled with more than 30 RV's that serve as transitional housing for families. It works because the church is located between the middle and high schools and referrals come from the school social workers. Another church basement that serves as a coffee house and roastery that trains recently incarcerated folks. And a congregation that turned a former education building into a medical respite for the unhoused recently released from hospitals.

Between now and November the cohort will continue to meet on Zoom each month but one of the great results of the Asheville trip is that the representatives of the cohort congregations agreed that we need to visit each other's campuses, learn what kind of resources exist within our congregations and do some brainstorming about what can make an impact within our individual communities of faith while also lifting up Hayti.

This is not a closed process. We need your ideas, contacts, and concerns. Ask questions, think big, and ask where God is leading St. Titus'.







Photos of projects discussed in the article courtesy of Rev. Mayo

The UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS

Raleigh, NC The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry Chapter (New Chapter)



Titusians attend the UBE Gala July 31, 2026

Newsnote: Our Robyn Furges is secretary for the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry Chapter.



Worshipping at Christ Church Cathedral in Arusha, Tanzania, in celebration of our 35 year partnership.