



Annual Report February 1, 2026

2025-2026 Parish Finances

2025 Financial Summary and Investment Highlights

We began 2025 at St. Philip's with an aspirational budget – that is, one into which we expected significant growth during the year. That growth was realized, with income about \$50,000 greater than expected. Thanks be to God and their faithful servants! In addition, thanks to the efforts of our junior warden and St. Philip's staff, expenses for 2025 were about \$6,000 less than expected. With revenues and expenses both favorable to the budget, we reduced most of the \$73,963 gap between income and expenses in the 2025 budget. The remainder was covered using funds that had been allocated in previous years for other purposes but never fully utilized. The continued generosity and recent growth at St. Philip's allow us to live into our shared vision.

St. Philip's finances for the previous year are audited annually, and the accounting firm of Thomas, Judy & Tucker identified no major adverse findings for 2024. It is good fiscal practice to periodically change the accounting firm handling annual audits. During 2025, a committee chaired by Marcus Southern sought and reviewed bids for this year's audit. In October, the Finance Committee recommended, and the vestry approved, Dean Dorton of Raleigh as our next auditing firm.

2025 Investment Highlights

The Investment Committee met quarterly with Hamilton Point, St. Philip's endowment fund investment manager. Hamilton Point has worked to diversify our position and protect the gifts of our parishioners and ensure that St. Philip's can continue to support our community in 2026 and beyond. The endowment continued to grow in value at roughly 10% during 2025, providing \$533,000 in distributions towards St. Philip's operating budget. The value of the endowment at year's end was \$11.9 million.

Short-term investment funds totaling \$1.2 million are invested through Investors Trust in laddered Treasury bills. These are bills that reach maturity in 90 days and whose maturity dates are staggered by 30 days, so that funds are accessible every month. This provides us with readily available cash in case of an emergency while also maximizing our yields. The bills earned 3.2% interest in 2025. The interest rates on the bills are pinned to the interest rate set by the Federal Reserve. If rates continue to lower in 2026, the yield on these bills will also decrease.

2026 Budget Highlights

Information gathering for the 2026 budget began in July. In October, the vestry discussed a preliminary budget reflecting program and ministry needs and goals, anticipated operational costs, inflation, cost-of-living allowances, and projected income from the endowment and short-term investments. Budgeting priorities were guided by our vision statement and included the new funding formula for Outreach. Our growth in 2025 in both plate & pledge income and in new pledges at St. Philip’s underscored our recent growth. With God’s grace and your continued generosity, we will fully fund the aspirational budget approved by the vestry in January. That budget is summarized below. Highlights on the revenue side include a 5.4% increase in pledge dollars, 30 new pledges, a 7.2% increase in endowment income, and a 33% reduction in investment income (due primarily to falling interest rates). Highlights on the expense side include a 2.7% cost of living increase, a 9% decrease in operating expenses, a 5% decrease in the Diocesan Fair Share, and a 25% increase in Outreach allocations.

2025 vs 2026 Budgets

Revenue	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Pledges	\$ 663,054	\$ 684,910	\$ 698,832
Regular Contributions	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,222	\$ 32,500
Plate Offerings	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,249	\$ 7,500
Investment Income	\$ 57,000	\$ 47,290	\$ 38,113
Endowment	\$ 533,702	\$ 533,702	\$ 571,974
Other Income	\$ 0	\$ 14,779	\$ 2,500
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 0	\$ 1,990	\$ 0
Total Revenue	\$1,290,756	\$1,341,142	\$1,351,418
Temp. Restricted Fund Allocation		\$ 17,241	
 Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 773,097	\$768,214	\$813,371
Operating	\$ 206,040	\$195,095	\$187,373
Educ/Worship/Prog	\$ 76,953	\$ 74,508	\$ 79,196
Diocese	\$ 141,117	\$142,455	\$ 134,027
Outreach	\$ 91,746	\$ 91,746	\$ 114,646
The Trees	\$ 75,766	\$ 75,766	\$ 60,766*
Total Expenses	\$1,364,720	\$1,358,383	\$1,389,379
Revenue less Expenses (\$73,963)		\$0	(\$37,961)

* Does not include allocation from Outreach

Vestry Working Committees

Building and Grounds Committee

Energy Stewardship & Monitoring

- We expanded use of ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and year-over-year budget tracking to better understand energy trends, identify inefficiencies, and guide decision-making. This data-driven approach supports fiscal responsibility by linking operational and capital replacement choices directly to utility costs while reducing unnecessary energy consumption.
- Building tasks and tracking of issues is now managed in an online software across key stakeholders and staff. This enables clearer visibility into issues, prioritization, and follow-up across staff and vestry tenure.

Low-Cost Efficiency Improvements or Repairs

- Multiple targeted projects were completed to improve building control, reduce maintenance needs, and eliminate energy waste.
- Improvements included installation of Ecobee smart Wi-Fi thermostats in critical areas, full conversion to LED lighting, adding dimmers in the church, and sealing ductwork leaks with mastic.
- Large budget repairs were internalized with success, including elevator shaft moisture management and boiler repairs. Avoided costs exceeded \$15,000.
- These actions reduce pollution by lowering electricity and fuel demand, while extending equipment life and avoiding premature capital expenses.

High-Efficiency Equipment Upgrades

- A commercial refrigerator was upgraded to an energy-efficient model. An ENERGY STAR-rated 80-gallon water heater was purchased at a discount for later, despite added installation complexity.
- These upgrades directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, humidity risks, and operating costs over time.
- Thank you, Amanda Meyer, Amanda Robinson, Gwenetta Drewery and Grace Camblos!

Solar Panel Expansion

- Recognizing rising and volatile utility rates, the team focused on solar ownership as a way to create long-term price stability.
- Leveraging recent Inflation Reduction Act changes, including the 30% Direct Pay option, St. Philip's pursued incentives while they remain available.
- The vestry secured a \$10,000 NC Episcopal Church Foundation Green Grant to support solar expansion, with projected payback in 9–11 years (depending on the speed of utility rate increases and bonus incentives), strengthening both environmental impact and financial resilience.
- Thank you to the vestry and the Finance Committee!

Education, Awareness & Seasonal Outreach

- The team highlighted sustainability efforts during key moments such as Earth Day and NC Climate Week, reinforcing the church's commitment to creation care and community leadership. Some stories, like the refrigerator replacement, made it to our social media.
- Thank you to Alexa McKerrow, Grace Camblos, and Heather Beard!

Recycling & Community Impact

- Three special Styrofoam and textile recycling collections were held in 2025, with growing participation and volunteer engagement, continuing into 2026.
- These efforts reduce landfill waste, support recycling markets, and generate income that benefits the homeless population in Greensboro.
- The program's success has sparked interest from neighboring congregations, including St. Luke's, demonstrating a positive ripple effect beyond St. Philip's.
- Thank you, Duncan Krause!

We thank the members of this group for their active work on behalf of the parish: Robert Hallyburton, Liz Sappenfield, Ken Gasch, Gwenetta Drewery (parish custodian), Amanda (Mya) Meyers (parish sexton), Amanda Robinson (parish administrator), and Mike Uhl (junior warden).

Outreach Committee

St. Philip's has a strong history of commitment to funding outreach within our community and beyond. From Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) next door to Global Missions, St. Philip's supports numerous non-profits. In Summer 2025, the Outreach Committee and vestry decided to formalize our process and guidelines for more structure and transparency in our allocation of outreach funds. In July 2025, the vestry adopted the following formula to guide the Outreach Committee and vestry in their annual deliberations to allocate funds for outreach: 10% of the sum of 97% of prior year pledges + unrestricted funds, less our required diocesan payment. The committee contacted known representatives of prior year funding recipients, as well as inquiring about new organizations, and invited them to apply for funding in Fall 2025. Thereafter, using the newly approved formula, the committee met in person and virtually to review and discuss the funding applications received to make a recommendation to the vestry. The vestry unanimously approved the Outreach Committee's recommendation to allocate \$90,270 in 2026 among twenty (20) organizations as outlined below. This formula allows us to share our blessings and honors the strategic plan and vision of St. Philip's.

Our congregation's outreach commitment goes beyond the dollars allocated because of assistance in other ways. For example, our support of The Trees includes no rental fees to the teachers and students of LEAP, who so appreciate their activities at The Trees. Many of our parishioners donate their time to various outreach ministries such as UMD, the Jail Ministry and Durham CAN. We are, indeed, blessed, and continue to share our many blessings in Durham and beyond.

Inreach/Social Committee

The vestry members on the Inreach/Social Committee in 2025 were Lowell Dargbeh, Sue Guptill, Sarah Johnson, Caroline Wang, and Richard Williams. Brainstorming ways to engage with members and community across various stages of participation in life with St. Philip's led to a focus on *welcome* and improving the parish directory. Welcomer workshops were given throughout the year, with the goal to equip 20% of parishioners with simple, meaningful ways to help others feel at home at St. Philip's. The directory app was updated, and parishioners made this possible by downloading the app and signing up at the directory helpdesk. The new improved directory will help us connect with each other in times of joy and need. Our online directory privacy settings were updated so everyone opted into the directory can see fellow parishioners' contact info (not just names). Access is limited to parishioners with password-protected accounts (and you can always opt out).

We worked with members of the staff and congregation to plan events during the summer to continue building community during the summer break. Our summer activities enjoyed by all ages included:

- Bonfire at The Trees
- Bring-your-own-dinner Wednesday nights
- Sunday evening house church
- Night at the Durham Bulls
- Lots of outside play

With the stewardship committee, we planned St. Philip's Day in October with the entire vestry playing a supporting role in making the day a success. On St. Philip's Day/Commitment Sunday we had one service followed by a brunch with entrees provided by a team of parishioners and potluck side items. The day featured a photo booth, face painting, games, and a raffle drawing for participation in the new and improved parish directory so everyone could enjoy the day of togetherness and celebration.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee is comprised of vestry members: Sarah Johnson, John Bowman, and Heather Beard.

The purpose of the Staffing Committee is to support the rector in personnel activities related to hiring, compensation, benefits and policies. This year the committee completed the following tasks:

- Recruitment and interviews for an additional staff member to support the youth program. This included additional members of the congregation in the process and led to additional discernment of the needs of the program and the best use of staff to support the program. After this discernment, Emily Sparks increased her time and responsibilities as Ryals Minister for Families, and Christopher Reed was hired in September as Interim Youth Assistant.
- Search and interviews for Parish Chef, resulting in the hiring of Tonya Wilson in September.

The church remains fully staffed at the end of 2025.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee comprises members from the vestry, parish, and staff. Its goal is to provide guidance and support for St. Philip's technology needs.

In 2025, the committee focused on the following:

- **Strengthening Reliability and Security**
 - Backup systems were reset and streamlined, removing duplicate and outdated restore points while improving data synchronization and security – reducing risk, complexity, and long-term maintenance costs.
- **Network and Connectivity Improvements**
 - Internet service was transitioned to Frontier fiber, improving speed, stability, and future scalability for worship, administration, and hybrid engagement. WiFi signal across campus was evaluated and areas of improvement were identified.
- **System Modernization and Platform Transitions**
 - All key workstations, and one replacement, were migrated to Windows 11, and a broader transition was initiated toward unified file storage, cloud backup, and collaboration using SharePoint.
 - Internal work requests are tracked in project management software and shareable across staff and parishioners.
 - These changes support business continuity, simplify IT management, and reduce dependence on aging, centralized systems.
- **Cost Control and Service Simplification**
 - The team reviewed existing IT services and subscriptions, identifying opportunities for consolidation and cost savings. Ultimately the team coordinated changing IT service providers at more favorable non-profit rates.

We thank the members of this group for their active work on behalf of the parish: Wes Newman, Jeff Pitts, David Kneeburg, Kris Younger, Amanda Robinson (parish administrator), and Mike Uhl (junior warden).

Parish Ministries

Acolytes

The acolytes are youth and adults who participate in the worship service, usually at 11 a.m., by carrying torches and crosses in the procession, presenting the offering plates to the ushers, assisting in the preparation of the Eucharistic table, and by lighting and extinguishing candles at worship. Acolytes help enhance the service by detailed attention to the order of the service and by a reverent demeanor.

The acolyte ministry is an exceptional opportunity for children and youth to better understand and actively participate in the liturgy at the 11 a.m. Children can enter this ministry at age 8 and

progress through the various acolyte roles as they are able, assisting the priests as part of the altar party. No experience is necessary, and older parishioners are also welcome. Training is provided by the acolyte coordinator, vergers, and priests.

More participants ages 8 and up are needed at the 11 a.m. service to serve as crucifer, second crucifer/second server, and torchbearer. No experience necessary, and training is provided.

This year we welcomed a new acolyte coordinator, Bill Pierson who supervises, schedules, serves with, and trains the acolytes with great commitment and care. We are also blessed to have so many older individuals, families, youth and children serving and supporting the acolyte ministry at St. Philip's. Their commitment and participation wonderfully enhance our worship experience.

For more information, contact Bill Pierson (rkzsl@gmail.com).

Altar Guild

The altar guild is a hands-on ministry that works under the rector's guidance to prepare the sanctuary and care for the vessels, linens, and vestments used in worship. We support services throughout the year and keep our worship spaces welcoming and beautiful.

Members are assigned to a team and serve approximately once a month. We work closely with the Vergers Guild and Worship Committee to coordinate seasonal and liturgical changes as well as special services, including weddings and funerals.

While the responsibilities of the Altar Guild are serious, we endeavor to keep the tone of our service joyful and welcoming. We may strive for perfection, but as long as "the people are fed, and the Lord is worshipped," we have achieved our primary goal.

We're always happy to welcome new members – no experience required! New members are assigned to an existing team, given a manual, and provided with on-the-job mentoring and training. While this ministry has traditionally been held by the women of the church, youth and men are especially encouraged to join us. All we require is an open heart and a desire to serve.

For more information contact Connie Semans (connie.semans@gmail.com).

Campus Study

The Campus Study Committee was organized in 2018 to develop a master plan for St. Philip's property in downtown Durham. The committee presented a draft master plan to the congregation in November 2022 and in May 2023. The plan included, as a first phase of development, a land swap with Durham County, which would enable Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) to build a multi-service homeless center on a portion of vacant land on our shared block. In August 2023, the vestry signed a memorandum of understanding with UMD and the other strategic partners stating St. Philip's commitment to support UMD's discernment for a new multi-service homeless center, as UMD seeks public funding for a feasibility study. The feasibility study would answer many questions about the project and would include preliminary design work, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement. In 2024, UMD completed the financial portion of the feasibility study and continued working with city and county leaders to consider potential development. UMD is actively pursuing public funds for fiscal year 2026.

Visit stphilipdurham.org/about-us/campus/campus-study to view the draft plan. For more information, contact Bynum Walter (bynum.walter@gmail.com) or Emily Yeatts (emilyyeatts@gmail.com).

Children's Ministries

St. Philip's seeks to support the rich faith lives of children and their families through a variety of ministries. We recognize children have a deep and rich faith and a natural connection with God, and we have the honor to journey with them. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is our Sunday morning Montessori-based formation offering for children, where they come to know the Good Shepherd and God's love for all. All families are encouraged to participate in worship together at any of St. Philip's services. The 9 a.m. intergenerational service is designed with families in mind. We seek to involve children in our rich liturgy throughout the church year, including: the Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist at Christmas, the Agape Meal and Service on Maundy Thursday, and in celebrating the joy of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Faith is shared best in community, and we seek to provide opportunities for intergenerational formation and community-building. Childcare is provided in the nursery for Sunday services and other parish events by trained childcare professionals.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is for children birth through fifth grade. Level 1 continues to be a child/adult atrium with babies through preschoolers participating alongside an adult. Our Level 2 children (first through third grade) delight in stories of our faith, arts and crafts, and practical life. The Level 3 children (fourth and fifth grade) are building community and diving into rich Bible studies as well as plant care and propagation. It is truly a joy on Sunday morning to experience the energy and joy on the second floor of the parish house.

Want to help? We're looking for:

- **Atrium material prep:** crafting skills, artistic abilities, sewing, wood working, carpentry, etc.
- **Flower guild:** bringing flowers for children for flower arranging
- **Party planning / social organizers**
- **Leaders with passion for social justice** who can help to bring back and revamp the Kids in Action program
- **Atrium assistants**
- **Catechists**
- **People with organization skills** to help organize spaces
- **People with decorating skills** to help make hallway and atria even more beautiful

Children's ministry is only possible with the dedication and commitment of many. Thank you to our catechists, atrium assistants, camp leaders, clergy, and to the children and their families.

If any of the volunteer positions excite you or for more information, please contact Ryals Minister for Children Emily Sparks (emily@stphilipdurham.org).

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee supports St. Philip's minister for communications through a variety of volunteer efforts, including photography at church events, drafting communications

for the church and a broader audience, and assisting with graphic design. Together with the minister for communications, volunteers support awareness and publicity within the parish and in the broader downtown Durham community. In partnership with clergy and the minister for communications, volunteers also help develop strategy, support the website, develop print materials, photograph events, support social media, and handle other projects as needed.

If you are interested in helping St. Philip's reach its various audiences and communicate its mission, contact Minister for Communications Grace Camblos (grace@stphilipsdurham.org).

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King is a religious order. Members take a lifetime vow to live by a Rule of Life which includes prayer, service, and evangelism. A Daughter is strengthened through prayer, helped to learn through study and provided community with other daughters. The Daughters of the King pray daily for our clergy and staff, those on the parish prayer list and inmates at the county jail as well as for those who request our prayers in confidence by placing cards in the two DOK prayer boxes in the church. We continue monthly visits to those who wish to receive visits, and we send cards to others. The Daughters also deliver flowers after Christmas and Easter to parishioners.

Those wishing to become Daughters should make it known to our chapter chaplain, the Rev. Gabe Lamazares. The only requirement is a serious desire to draw nearer to God and to help others do the same. A three-month discernment process is provided for those wishing to join.

For more information, contact Lori Woodward (lori.jdwoodward@gmail.com).

Durham CAN (Congregation, Associations, and Neighborhoods)

Durham CAN is a diverse organization of more than 34 congregations, associations, and neighborhoods working together for progressive change in our community. Durham CAN strengthens congregations and community institutions by developing the skills and capacity of their leaders to be change agents in the public process. Durham CAN creates a vehicle for ordinary families to have a powerful voice in community decisions that affect their lives, instead of leaving decision-making in the hands of a select few. We build relationships of trust among people and institutions across Durham County.

The core team of Donna Hicks, Julie Bennett, Alec Motten, and Mike Sistrom welcome anyone who would like to join St. Philip's core team, and we invite all parishioners to support Durham CAN's work at accountability actions with local government or on the action teams which evolve from year to year.

For more information contact Donna Hicks (djhicks@mac.com).

Funeral Guild

St. Philip's Funeral Guild, established in 2005, provides receptions following memorial or funeral services. Receptions are held in the parish hall and provide a special time for family and friends to console one another and share memories. The Funeral Guild is comprised of dedicated

parishioners who understand the importance of this special ministry of hospitality. There are no meetings to attend. We operate on an “as needed” basis. When the need arises, our guild members sign up to provide a variety of nourishing finger foods (homemade or purchased) such as cheese and crackers, fruits and veggies, tiny sandwiches, cookies, and dessert treats. Volunteers also help set up, serve, and clean up. Bereaved families often express their gratitude for this special hospitality that St. Philip’s provides.

To learn more about the Funeral Guild and how you may participate in this ministry, please contact Katherine Abernathy (kfdabernathy@gmail.com).

Global Missions Committee

The Global Mission Committee provides outreach services, morally and financially to the birthing center and reforestation program in Haiti. It also supports the Bromley Episcopal School for Girls and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Monrovia, Liberia. We ship other supplies to the respective countries. Recently the ministry supported a new healthcare ministry, Liberia Medicals, Inc. (LMI), providing diagnostic services in Liberia.

We conduct annual fundraising events to support our ministry, such as Liberian dinners and Haitian coffee and chocolate sales.

We are seeking people to help with fundraising and to participate in decision-making about funding for organizations in other countries (mainly in Liberia and Haiti). We welcome anyone from the congregation to join this ministry.

For more information, contact Donna Rewalt (donnarewalt@gmail.com) or Martha Dargbeh (marthadargbeh@gmail.com).

Healing Lay Ministry

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise."

~ Jeremiah 17:14

Though during the 2020-2021 pandemic, our lay healing ministry took a necessary extended sabbatical, but our ministry has since revived, and our lay healing ministers are present for you at each 11 a.m. Eucharist at St. Philip’s.

If you or someone you care for needs healing for sickness, injury, or any kind of suffering, we’ll be at the Philip-the-Deacon stained-glass window on your way back to your pew after communion during the 11 a.m. Eucharist.

In 1995, David Curtis and the Rev. Scott Benhase began this lay ministry. The Rev. Jonah Kendall supported it, and our rector, the Rev. Maryann D. Younger, strongly supports this renewed ministry. Volunteers with this ministry will pray with you for Christ’s healing of body, mind, and spirit.

Sometimes we need to pray with someone for Christ to heal a sickness, injury, problem, or fear. You may seek healing for a loved one who suffers. As we lift our needs to Christ, he enters into our pain and shares it. Whatever hurts inside or in our relationships, our healing Lord knows what’s broken and most needs mending, and His care goes deeper than a cure.

When you want to share a prayer of healing on a Sunday morning, spend a few quiet minutes with us next to the Philip-the-Deacon window after communion.

We would love to talk with you if you feel a calling to volunteer for the lay healing ministry. Contact Martin Fowler (martin@zuberfowler.com or 984-329-7315), Dory Van Duzer (dory19@aol.com), Anne Goetz (asgoetz@hotmail.com), or Bill Pierson (rkzsl@gmail.com).

Helping Hands

The Helping Hands ministry delivers meals and provides support for St. Philipians at times of need. When life is disrupted by surgery, illness, death of a loved one, or by the joyful chaos of a new baby or child, our members show their care for one another through this ministry of loving service. To request meals, please contact the clergy or Emily Sparks.

We are seeking a Helping Hands coordinator! Work with the pastoral care team to coordinate offerings for those who need them. The Helping Hands coordinator needs to be comfortable managing online sign-up forms.

If you'd like to participate in this important ministry, either by providing meals or assisting with organization, please contact Ryals Minister for Families Emily Sparks (emily@stphilipsdurham.org).

Jail Ministry

Since 1984, St. Philipians and members of other Durham churches have visited weekly with detainees in the Durham County Detention Facility. Since March 2020, that has been done via 20-minute video visits. A handful of volunteers video visit with 10-12 detainees each week out of the 18-20 on our request list. The Jail recently returned to in-person visits for families. Jail Ministry volunteers hopefully should soon also have the option to visit in person, along with video. We talk and pray with the detainees and sometimes help connect them and their families with reentry. We may attempt to provide other resources and/or reach out to their court-appointed attorney if the detainee hasn't heard from their attorney in a long while.

The jail ministry budget supports putting money on detainees' accounts, when they request it and have no other resources, so they can buy phone cards to call their families. This ministry also orders individual religious books and reading glasses for detainees upon request as well. We are no longer allowed to donate used paperbacks. Other area churches, most notably Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, White Rock Baptist, and Epworth United Methodist, have donated devotionals and studies and provided additional financial support.

We are seeking more volunteers to visit with detainees via video. Volunteers select as many detainees as they wish, as often as they like, from our request list to visit. Volunteers can select the day and time for their visit(s) from a set of available options. They can do the visits from home on a smart phone, tablet, or computer. We are also in need of increased financial support to be able to provide more resources for detainees.

For more information, contact Mike Sstrom (msstrom@gmail.com).

Ladies' Breakfast

At 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, ladies of all ages gather for a social hour over breakfast at Gugelhupf Café (2706 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd). There is no agenda. No registration or sign-up are required. Just come and enjoy the fellowship. Conversation topics vary as we share and get to know one another 'beyond the peace' at church. And we're not limited to only ladies from St. Philip's! Bring a lady friend or neighbor. All ladies are welcome.

For more information, please contact Carol Linden (carol@effectivewithpeople.com) or Margot Swann (margotswann@gmail.com).

Music Ministry

The music ministry of St. Philip's enriches our worship with music at our services each week. Its members bring a vast amount of talent as singers and instrumentalists. This ministry educates and inspires its members through regular rehearsals and sharing in the worship experience. We lead music in worship and lift up congregational singing as an essential part of our liturgy. The music ministry welcomes people of all ages to participate in the adult, family, junior, or handbell choirs.

Seamus Kenney began leading the family and junior choirs in September of 2025 after Sarah Ázeline, the former director, stepped down due to the demands of her new job. The adult choir continues to offer beautiful music to our parish. Their continuing dedication to the music ministry is truly a gift to our liturgies. Our dedicated 9 a.m. instrumentalists continue to share their strong and capable talents, uplifting worship at our 9 a.m. services.

St. Philip's music ministry is eagerly seeking more members. We welcome you to share your talents with us and your parish.

For more information, contact Director of Music Ministries Lewis Moore (lewis@stphilipsdurham.org).

Old Guys' Breakfast

The Old Guys' Breakfast is a fellowship group that meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at The Refectory Café (2726 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd). There is no agenda. Our only goal is to gather to enjoy each other's individual lives in real and personal ways. We are a welcoming and open group. All gentlemen, regardless of age, who have time for good coffee, excellent food, great fellowship and conversation are welcome to join us.

For more information, contact John Sommerville (cjsommerv@gmail.com).

Party Planning Committee

This committee helps to plan 4-6 parish-wide celebrations and events during the year. These events provide food, fun, entertainment, and community. The success of these events depends on the time and participation of volunteers!

Some events you can help plan:

- Epiphany Chili Cook-Off in January
- Annual meeting in February
- St. Philip's Day in October
- And more!

We are seeking members who can add creativity and organizational skills to these fun, periodic events. To volunteer or for more information please contact Martha Dargbeh (marthadargbeh@gmail.com) or Sandra Rosato (srtileabstracts@gmail.com).

Planned Giving

In 2017, our Planned Giving ministry received vestry approval to create a structure to which all who've made a bequest to St. Philip's, and those who have born witness to their intent to do so, automatically belong – St. Philip's Legacy Society.

The first of our Legacy Society plaques was unveiled on All Saints' Sunday, 2022. With continued support for the future life of St. Philip's, more plaques will be added.

Our ministry plans include continuing support of the rector's annual parish-wide letters on wills; published descriptions of the ways specific bequests have affected the work of the parish; archival research, coordination of recognition events, and bequest form updates, including representatives.

Planned giving emphasizes the importance of planning one's estate, however large or small, and the importance of bequests as religious practice.

To implement current plans and to envision others, the Planned Giving ministry needs to develop its future leadership. We welcome others to a fulfilling ministry that celebrates the past, present, and future St. Philip's.

Please let us know if you want to explore this future by contacting Bettye Penick (penick688@msn.com).

Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee

Why does St. Philip's have a Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee?

The first mission strategy priority for the Diocese of North Carolina is racial reckoning, justice, and healing. The St. Philip's RJR Committee responds to that by:

- Creating spaces for members to listen and better understand racism and other forms of oppression
- Collaborating with Durham allies to understand our collective history of oppression and resistance
- Finding creative, meaningful, and active ways to “strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being”

In 2025 we organized our annual pilgrimage to Stagville in the spring to learn more about our local history and connections. In February, we hosted the diocesan Dismantling Racism two-day workshop, and in April we viewed the documentary *Wilmington Coup 1898* followed by

discussion. We had two Truth-Telling panels at the Sunday forum, and at two more forums we hosted the Stagville Memorial Project and Pauli Murray's niece Rosita Stevens-Holsey. Finally, we paid a visit to St. Luke's Salisbury to learn about their icon project to raise up a more inclusive vision of the saints among us. We connected with the Mount Level Community Partnership for Racial Justice to contribute to summer Freedom School through Durham Cares.

What else will the committee be doing?

- We will continue the activities that we have done in the past.
- Can anyone join? Membership is now open to anyone who is willing to make the commitment to delve more deeply into the existence of racism in our nation and world, and to actively participate in the work of the group.
- There are also other ways to participate! Anyone can join our forums, book reads, or parish-wide activities.

Want to learn more? Contact Donna Hicks (djhicks@mac.com).

Sandwich Brigade

Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., folks gather in Susan Day Moore's driveway to load sandwiches, snacks, fruit, and water into Anne Pilgrim's car. Lori Woodward sends out weekly reminder emails and keeps track of the donations. A great thing about this group is that you don't have to donate every week. We have a core of 26 people that are signed up to participate. Every other week the Hallorans invite their neighborhood to join in, and they answer that call with a carload of gifts. We have a couple of neighbors of St. Philipians that also participate. It truly is a beloved community! After an hour of collecting food and socializing, the members say a prayer over the food before it's delivered to UMD. The ministry has provided much-needed food for hungry Durhamites and an opportunity for fellowship and meaningful work for the volunteers.

In 2025 we collected 18,322 sandwiches, 217 cases of water/juice, 685 pounds of Snacks, and 1801 pounds of fruit. Everything gets logged into UMD as pounds: in 2025, we donated a total of 12,493.5 pounds of food to UMD! The previous year we donated 11,733.25 pounds – our BRIGADIERS ARE AMAZING!

If you would like to help feed our neighbors at UMD, please contact Anne Pilgrim (annepilgrim@gmail.com), Lori Woodward (lori.jdwoodward@gmail.com), or Susan Day Moore (thadsusan@gmail.com).

St. Philip's Book Group

St. Philip's Book Group provides fellowship, fresh ideas, and note comparison on books we've read. We have lively discussions of each month's selected books (fiction and non-fiction). We are often invited to read books that may be out of our "go-to" genre, which adds depth to our discussions.

We meet monthly, September through May, after the 11 a.m. service in the parlor. Completing the book is not mandatory, but we try to schedule books so we have time to read in advance.

St. Philip's Book Group is a great way for newcomers to engage with our community in a fun and thoughtful setting. For more information, contact Susan Day Moore (thadsusan@gmail.com).

Stewardship

Stewardship is about a broad commitment to take care of what has been entrusted to us. We do this through sharing our time, talent, and treasure – specifically, by pledging to support the parish's operating budget. Stewardship is not just “fundraising” for the parish, however; it is an approach to care for our parish overall, with financial support being one of many ways we can manifest that care.

This past year, we created a committee of people who love this church and want to help their fellow parishioners – and themselves – find ways to demonstrate that love. Our team started planning the fall stewardship campaign in late summer – not as early as we probably should have, since clergy requested we kick off the campaign on the first Sunday following Labor Day. We created the stewardship packet elements and mailed the packets on August 29 to the whole parish. We kicked off the campaign on September 7 with an interactive Sunday Forum about parish finances and personal stories demonstrating our theme, *Building Belonging... Together*.

The committee enlisted other parishioners to deliver a “ministry minute” at every service of the five Sundays from September 7 to October 5. Parishioners spoke personally about what St. Philip's means to them and their sense of belonging here. We celebrated Commitment Sunday on St. Philip's Day, October 12. Parishioners brought their pledge cards up to the altar as an offering to God for the grace and blessings we have received through this church. Through the end of the year, the committee and vestry followed up with parishioners who had not yet made a commitment, to find out if they wanted to participate with a pledge or by giving in the plates.

The end result: We received 187 commitments of \$720,525, an extraordinary show of generosity and teamwork from the members of this church. We do belong to each other, and we came through for each other, once again! Thank you!

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Treat Harvey (treat.harvey@gmail.com).

The Trees

The Trees – a ministry of St. Philip's Episcopal Church providing a place for gathering, healing, and renewal – is a 50-acre wooded property with a beautiful mid-century modern home nestled amidst the rolling hills just outside Durham. We welcome groups and individuals to spend time at The Trees engaging with the natural world, exploring their spiritual lives, strengthening community connections, and taking time for healing and renewal.

Everyone is welcome at The Trees. To sign up for a public retreat or program at The Trees, view the online calendar on the St Philip's website (stphilipdurham.org/the-trees/#calendar). To set up a time to visit or schedule a retreat, visit stphilipdurham.org/the-trees and click “Schedule a Visit.”

The Trees offers many ways for parishioners to engage:

- Sign up for our monthly newsletter to learn about upcoming events (<https://stphilipdurham.org/the-trees/>)
- Join Prayers and Poetry (Fridays, 12–2 p.m.)
- Attend a Quiet Day (First Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
- Attend a workday for our trails
- Join our seasonal book studies, retreats, and conversations
- Sign your child up for teacher workday and summer fun in the woods
- Experience Forest Bathing
- Join Thursday morning yoga class (in person and virtual options)
- Worship with The Beloved Community at The Trees on Sunday evenings and/or consider providing a meal of soup and bread once a quarter
- Lead a workshop on an area of interest to you
- Hold a meeting of your St Philip's ministry group

We love volunteers! Send an email and we'll find a way that fits your schedule and interests. Not sure if you want to sign up? Send an email and we can share ideas about getting involved with The Trees. If you have questions or ideas, please email us! We'd love to hear from you! Contact Executive Director Laura Kirby (thetrees@stphilipdurham.org) or reach out to members of The Trees' Development Committee, including Richard Ammons, Alexa McKerrow, Elizabeth Newman, Jeff Pitts, Duncan Smith, and Emily Yeatts.

UMD Collaborative

The UMD Collaborative supports requests from our neighbors at Urban Ministries of Durham. We provide food, clothing, books, and other needed items. Volunteers serve lunch on the first Saturday of each month and cater for a special lunch at least once per year. We also host Mother's Day and Father's Day events at St. Philip's.

The needs and challenges to support UMD continue to evolve. We are eager to engage new members to the committee to help develop a plan of action for the coming year. We are looking for new and creative ways to interact with and support our neighbors; please join us!

Please contact Anne Pilgrim (annempilgrim@gmail.com) with ideas or for more information.

Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries at St. Philip's is divided into a few groups: Rite 13 (middle school), J2A (early high school), and 4WARD (later high school). The groups meet on Sunday mornings during formation hour and have fellowship and service opportunities outside of that time block. Intergenerational ministries at St. Philip's also includes events like Advent wreath-making, the Shining Light Advent event at The Trees, Lenten prayer stations, service days and more.

If you're interested in helping recruit volunteers, develop programs, plan events, and helping organize and provide supplies, please let her know.

For more information or to get involved, contact Ryals Minister for Families Emily Sparks (emily@stphilipdurham.org).