



St Philip's

episcopal church

worship • love • action
a church for all people

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
HOLY EUCHARIST
ANNUAL MEETING**

10 AM, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Welcome!

The Season of Epiphany

Welcome to St. Philip's! Epiphany is the season of illumination, as a star leads us to God's manifestation among us. What was born in obscurity is revealed in motion – crossing borders and widening the circle of belonging. The Light that enlightens the nations asks what must change now that we see.

Bathrooms are in the parish house (in hallway outside parish hall).

Social time available after all services:

Following 8am: Breezeway entrance

Following 9am: Garden close

Following 11am: Social hour in parish hall

Visitor cards can be found throughout the campus.

If you're here for the first time, please fill out a visitor card! Put your completed visitor card in the offering plate, or hand it to one of our clergy after the service.

Please ask if you need help – we'll make sure you find the right place.

Worship & Formation

Sundays

8am	Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9am	Holy Eucharist for all ages (Parish Hall)
10am	Adult Forum (Parish Hall) Children's Formation (2nd floor) Youth Formation (Lower level)
11am	Holy Eucharist with choir (Church)
12:30	Social Hour (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays

5:30pm	Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
5:30-6:30	Dinner (Parish Hall) →
6-6:25	Family Choir (2nd floor)
6-6:30	Beginners' Handbell Choir (Lower level)
6:30-7	Intermediate Handbell Choir (Lower level)
6:30-7	Junior Choir (2nd floor)
6:30pm	Engage! Adult formation (Library)

Dinner RSVP



Worshipping with Children

Children are welcome at all services. We know kids wiggle and make noise – that's okay! Tips for engaging children in worship: Sit where they can see what's happening and point out what's happening during the service; help your child follow along in the bulletin; and bring quiet toys that are special for church. If your child needs a break from the service, feel free to walk them out and encourage them to come back and try again. Know that you probably notice your child's noises and wiggles more than anyone else.

Children's worship materials are available in the parish hall and church.

Nursery

8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

First floor, off of Parish Hall

Infants – kindergarten

Please sign your children in and out of the nursery. You'll be asked to complete a registration form if it's your child's first visit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Organ Voluntary

Opening Hymn

God of grace and God of glory

Hymnal 594

All sing.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

Opening Acclamation

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

The Collect of the Day

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

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-9

Anglican Chant by Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)

Sung by the choir.

¹ Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Reader A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”

—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

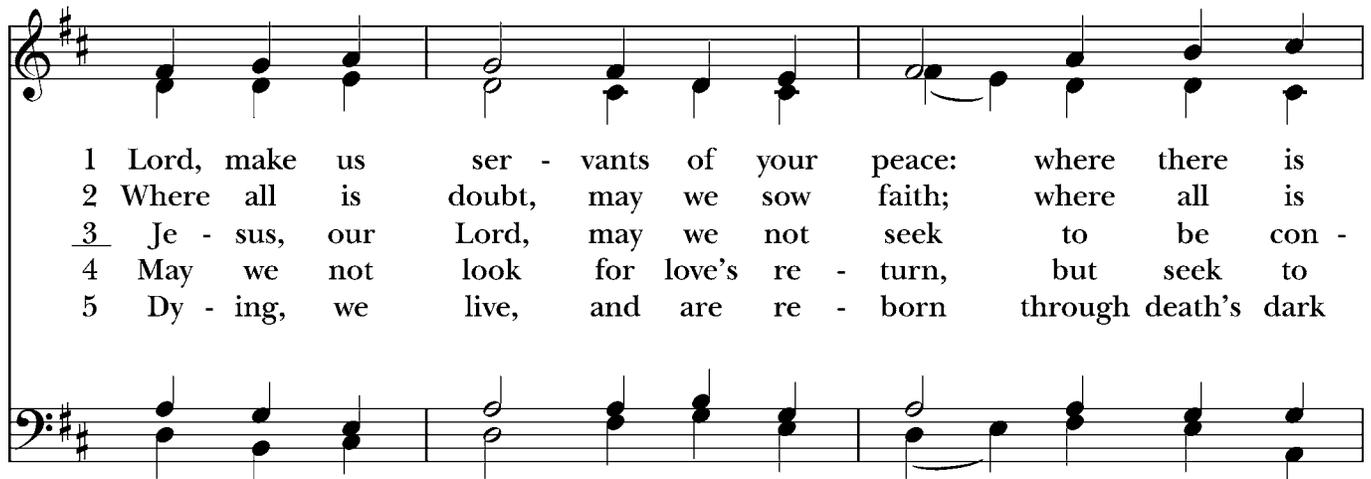
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

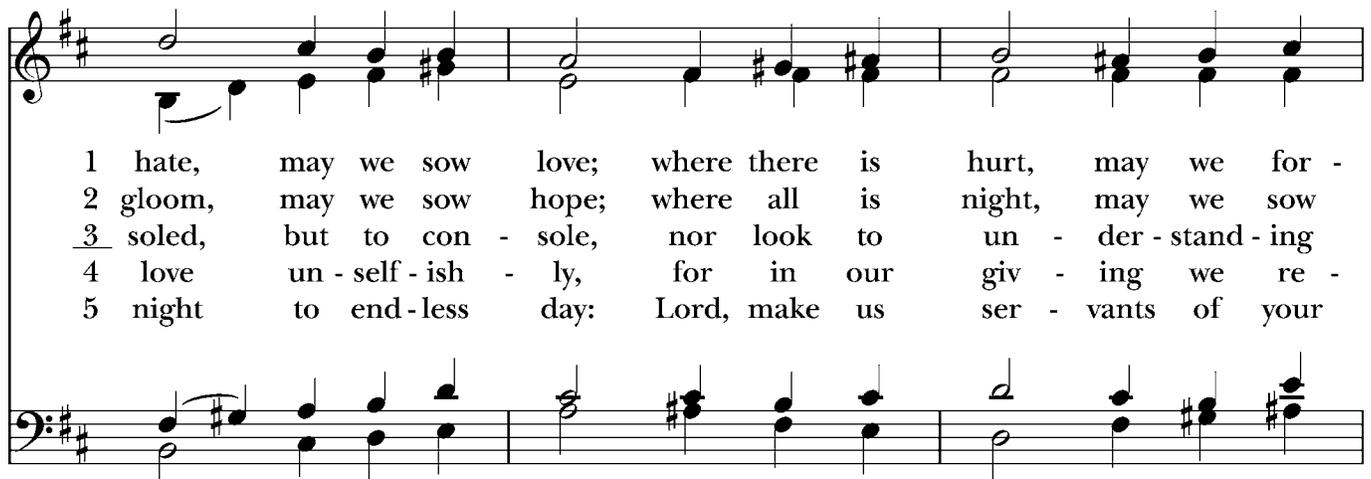
Lord, make us servants of your peace

Hymnal 593

Please stand as you are able and sing.



1 Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3 Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4 May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5 Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark



1 hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
2 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
3 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
4 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
5 night to end - less day: Lord, make us ser - vants of your



1 give; where there is strife, may we make one.
2 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
3 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
4 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
5 peace, to wake at last in hea - ven's light.

Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Copyright © James Quinn, SJ, printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division on Cassell Ltd. Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979). Copyright © 1962, Theodore Presser Co. used by permission of the publisher.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

Preacher The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.

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

State-of-the-Church Address

The Rev. Maryann Younger

The Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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 and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

The Intercessor bids the prayers.

The Intercessor and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, remembering especially **Anne, Coye, Erin, Claudia, Cal, Lisa, Nilda, Diane, Nick, Angie, Diane, Karen, Fred, Lily, Sam, Becky, Federico, Lindley, Tom, Michele, Brenda, Clara, Kappy, Andres, Robert, Ciara, Charlotte, Sandy, Dana, Truman, Carol, Madison, Sylvia, Mike, Frances, Cyndy, Beth, Dory, William, Jennifer, Anne, Annette, Justin, Rowena, Sarah, Samuel, Mitali, Louise, Donna, Seth, Lisa, Dorothy, Sharon, Aileen, Paul**, and those in the Durham County Jail, especially **Robert, Kidane, Freddy, Luis, Tiquan, Christopher, Tyler, Patrick, and Jemar**. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Lynda Sadler, sister of Sue Guptill; John Floyd, brother of Meg McCann; and Richard McCann, husband of Meg McCann, in whose memory the flowers are given today, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all the blessings of this life, (*especially* _____). *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes,

O God, by the leading of a star you led the peoples of the earth to your Son. Lead us, who now know you by faith, to your presence and hear the prayers of your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

The Celebrant bids the confession.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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 Celebrant says

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

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Greetings and Announcements

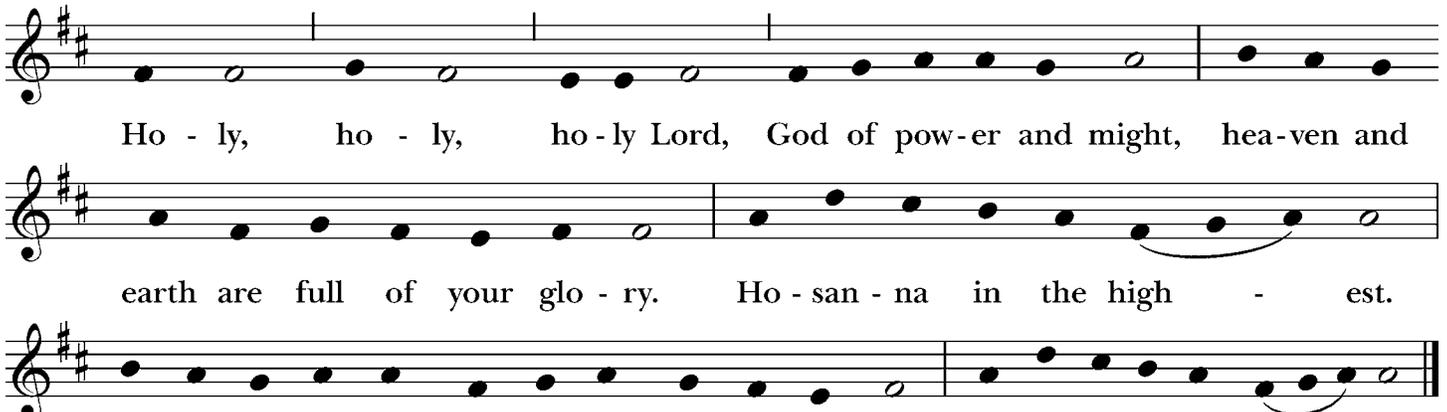
The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus et Benedictus

All sing.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

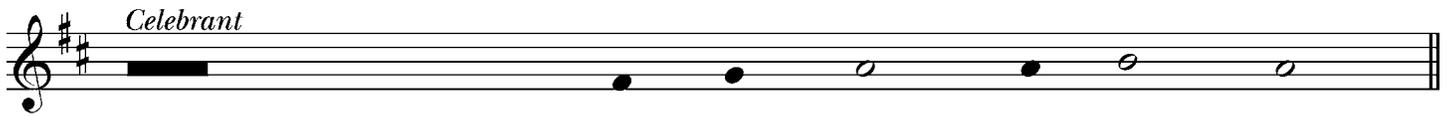
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

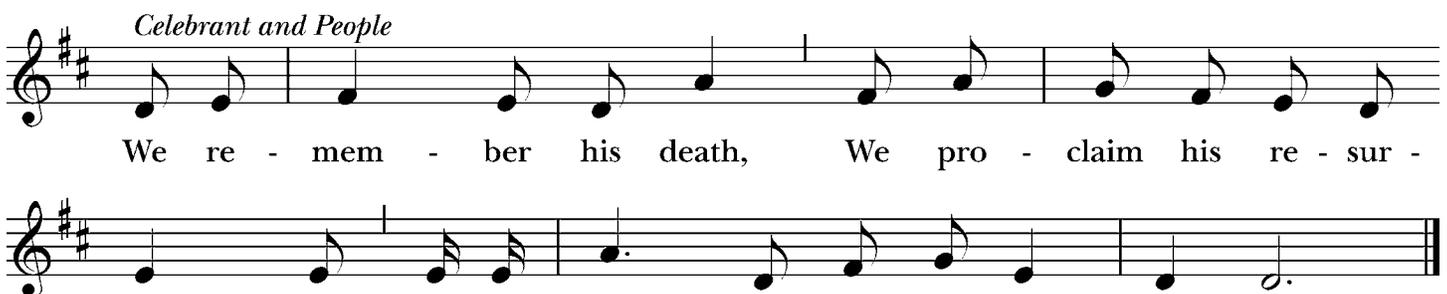
Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant



Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People



We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Agnus Dei

All sing.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant The Gifts of the 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.

Communion is offered in the form of bread and wine. To receive bread only, open your hands, where the priest will place a wafer (gluten-free wafers available).

Wine is offered through intinction by the priest. Indicate to the priest if you would like wine on the host.

If you would like to receive a blessing in place of communion, please come forward to the altar and place your hands across your chest.

Communion Hymn

D Bm D A
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

Em C Em A D
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Words and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

France

Communion Hymn

Blest are the pure in heart

Hymnal 656

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
 2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
 3 he to the low-ly soul will still him-self im-part and
 4 Lord, we thy pres-ence seek; may ours this bless-ing be; give

se-cret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a-bode.
 dwell in low-li-ness with us, our pat-tern and our King;
 for his dwell-ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.
 us a pure and low-ly heart, a tem-ple fit for thee.

Words: Sts. 1 and 3, John Keble (1792-1866), alt.; sts. 2 and 4, William John Hall (1793-1861), alt. Music: *Franconia*, melody Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758); adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we

need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's
 bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we
 light, in its height and depth and great - ness, dawns up - on our
 go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged love in liv - ing

per - fect deed, we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship
 mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com - pas - sion
 quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens
 deeds to show; hope and health, good will and com - fort,

not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser - vants,

to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
 Spi - rit kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt. Copyright © 1961, Albert Bayly. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.
 Music: *Blaenhafren*, Welsh melody.

Communion Hymn

Gracious Spirit, give your servants

WLP 782

1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
 2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
 3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
 4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,

cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,

peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you

glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the

show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**God of all grace,
may we live in expectation and hope,
and may the gifts we have received at this table
remind us not only of the gift of your Christ,
but of your steady presence among us,
that we may act faithfully in response to your love. Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Closing Hymn

The church of Christ in every age

WLP 779

Due to copyright restrictions, a digital image of this hymn is not available.

Please enjoy listening to the music.

The Dismissal

Worship Leaders

Crucifers

Treat Harvey
Sam Pace

Torchbearers

Bill Pierson
James Somerville

Ushers

James Rives
Richard Stickney
Alec Motten
Lowell Dargbeh

Altar Guild

Virginia Bristol
Rebekah Radisch
Cynthia Gration

Lectors

Josh Weatherman
Jack Mitchell

Intercessor

Rebecca Slaughter

Eucharistic Ministers

Richard Ammons
Bob Walker

Verger

Ron Thompson

Healing

Anne Goetz

Livestream Support

Henry Somerville

Choir

Soprano

Julie Bennett
Erin Conn
Nancy Davis
Erin Gasch
Barrett Mardre
Laura Nichols
Rebekah Shamberger

Alto

Vanessa Bak
Carolyn Coolidge
Erica Jackson
Kimberly Slentz-Kesler
Valerie Wettlaufer

Bass

Michael Adams
David Graham
Jack Mitchell
Johnny Reis
Alex Smith

Tenor

Tim Riggs
David Smith
Gabe StClair
Del Wigfall
Chase Taylor

Proposed Bylaw Updates

Join us at the Annual Meeting (today!) to vote on these changes!

A majority of parishioners present must approve the changes before they go into effect.

Our bylaws are the rules that govern how we operate as a church. Ours were last updated nearly 30 years ago, and it's time to ensure our bylaws reflect who we are today. After much evaluation and input from parishioners, the vestry is proposing several changes to align our bylaws with current practices and make our governance more inclusive, transparent, and practical:

1. Allow electronic/remote participation in voting and meetings.

Why? Our current bylaws say parishioners must be physically present at the annual meeting in order to vote with a paper ballot. The proposed change would allow parishioners to vote and attend electronically (for instance, via Zoom).

The parish now has the technological capacity to include remote participants in worship and formation, and the vestry recognizes that remote participants should be included in the voting process, vestry meetings, and the full life of the church.

2. Require six to eight vestry candidates to run for four vestry positions.

Why? Our current bylaws require eight vestry candidates to run for four vestry positions. But for several years, the nominating committee has had difficulty identifying eight candidates.

The proposed change would allow compliance with the bylaws if only six candidates are willing to run, but the elections committee could still nominate eight candidates if as many can be identified. (Nominations from the floor would still be accepted during the preliminary annual meeting.) By continuing to require more nominees than available positions, the change ensures the parish would still have a democratic election process.

3. Clarify how often the vestry must meet.

Why? The proposed changes would align our bylaws with current practices. Our current bylaws require the vestry to meet monthly, while the proposed change would allow for one month with no meeting (typically coinciding with summer vacations).

4. Clarify how our operating reserve fund is calculated.

Why? The proposed changes would align our bylaws with current practices. Our current bylaws also require our operating reserve fund to equal "1/6 of the annual operating budget." The proposed change clarifies that the percentage set aside is based on budgeted expenses for the year, rather than revenue.

Vestry Nominees



Jillian “Jill” Downs (she/her)

What originally brought you to St. Philip’s? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

Our family, including my husband and our daughters, now ages 21 and 13, found a church home in St. Philip’s after moving from the DC area in late 2016 and putting down roots in Durham. My simple expectation was reengaging in Episcopal traditions with hopes of igniting spiritual connection. A pleasant surprise has been some of our closest bonds growing not inside the parish walls,

but on the shores of Kerr Lake! We cherish what has become an annual camping adventure with fellow Journey to Adulthood youth, leaders, and parent friends.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- In my current professional role with a global funder, I respect nonprofit partners whose boards of directors enable their organizations to survive and thrive not only fiscally, but by staying focused on mission work. On the vestry, I would, above all, support St. Philip’s in fulfilling its vision as a beacon of God’s light in downtown Durham through “worship, love, and action.”
- As a former civil servant with educational background in city and environmental planning, I am interested in broader issues St. Philip’s will continue addressing in the coming years, including a church restoration project and future uses on the urban block and at The Trees. On the vestry, I would deliberate on these complex topics with openness and care for the church and greater Durham community.
- Our daughters have benefited significantly from St. Philip’s holistic youth programming. Based on their experiences of Sunday formation, acolyte service, and J2A pilgrimage, on the vestry, I would remain a proponent of church as a warm and inclusive place for children and families to learn and grow.

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip’s been meaningful to you?

I am honored to participate on St. Philip’s Sacred Spaces Committee, whose goal is steering pre-work for interior improvements in the 1908 sanctuary, mindful of its historic character and meeting the needs of today’s parish community. Considering design recommendations to enhance liturgy, flexibility, and accessibility in the church has been a meaningful, contemplative, and creative team process.

Vestry Nominees



James Rives (He/him)

What originally brought you to St. Philip's? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

I'm a cradle Episcopalian, but for most of my adult life I attended services only rarely. About 15 years ago, I realized I wanted worship to be a regular part of my life again. St. Philip's was very close to where I was living, so I gave it a try. The services were everything that I wanted: traditional in feel, progressive in attitude. I kept coming back, and gradually realized (no surprise) that the services reflect the people who make up the St. Philip's community.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- As a long-time academic, I have much experience working with peers to define and advance collective priorities.
- As a department chair for eight years, I have experience with budgets, administration, and long-term planning.
- I'm focused and organized.
- I've been told I have good people skills, but I'll have to let others decide for themselves!

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip's been meaningful to you?

Although I greatly value all the social ministries that St. Philip's sponsors, worship is at the core of my St. Philip's experience; it's the one thing that no other kind of group or organization can provide. For the last year and a half, I've enjoyed serving as an usher and doing what I can to help others have a good worship experience.

Vestry Nominees



Andy Slaughter (He/him)

What originally brought you to St. Philip's? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

My family has been attending St. Philip's for almost 15 years now. We were initially drawn here after hearing about the wonderful Atrium children's programming, as well as a desire to find a more thoughtful and inclusive faith tradition than what we had previously been involved with. In my time at St. Philip's, my expectations of this have been validated, but also I continue to be

impressed with the amount of volunteering and involvement this community provides to local organizations. There are so many people in this parish who work either through St. Philip's or independently to make Durham a better and more equitable place to live.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- Professionally I am a proposal manager with a large central laboratory services provider working in the clinical trials (pharmaceutical and biotech) industry.
- Clear communication, organization, and attention to detail
- Thoughtfulness and a mindset to see issues and challenges from a variety of perspectives
- Personally, I have also been serving as a board member and a shop coordinator at the non-profit Durham Bike Co-op for the last three years. I lead a Saturday morning workshop that allows people to earn volunteer hours and learn some bike maintenance and mechanic skills by salvaging bicycle components.

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip's been meaningful to you?

In terms of worship experience, I do appreciate the liturgy and continuing an actual faith tradition with roots and legacy, but mostly I just deeply value my connections to the community here at St. Philip's. This church community, the friends I have made here, and the memories my family and I have of so many church holidays and events are all things I treasure greatly. Now that my children are becoming adults and moving on in their own lives, I would like to give back to this place that has been so very good to me.

Vestry Nominees



Natalie Sommerville (She/her)

What originally brought you to St. Philip's? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

A move to Durham brought my husband, Henry, and me to St. Philip's in 2002. The friendliness of parishioners and clergy, the commitment to being a church in the city, and the beautiful worship spaces made St. Philip's our church in short order. I am grateful that in this changing world, especially in an era of significant challenges, St. Philip's both adapts to meet the moment and stays

true to the essential attributes that initially called us here. It has been a delight to grow spiritually and to raise my family at St. Philip's.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- More than 30 years working in libraries, a service profession that honors individual needs while using standards to ensure best practices over the long term
- Experience working collaboratively on a variety of leadership teams, with a recent emphasis on leading through the effects of national and world events, funding constraints, and personnel changes
- Experience creating and maintaining authoritative data, along with analyzing and using it to assess and evaluate impact
- Personal commitment to practicing anti-racism and to addressing societal harms against marginalized people

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip's been meaningful to you?

Liturgy has been an anchor throughout my adult life. I find inspiration and community in attending services and marking the liturgical year. This has led me to participate in liturgy-forward ministries over the years, including the acolyte and lay Eucharistic ministries, either directly or through supporting my family's participation. Altar guild is my longest standing ministry. For the last 20 years, I have worked collaboratively to prepare our physical spaces for worship. A lot goes into it! I hope that in this behind-the-scenes way, I am supporting everyone's liturgical experience.

Vestry Nominees



Bynum Walter (she/her)

What originally brought you to St. Philip's? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and came to St. Philip's when Matt Walter and I moved back to North Carolina from Baltimore in 2011. We had been attending Cathedral of the Incarnation and friends there highly recommended St. Philip's. As an Episcopal Church with a strong liturgy centered around the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, I find St. Philip's to be comfortable and reassuring. The wild card is all the other stuff we do to be the Body of Christ in Durham; this part doesn't so much surprise as keep teaching me new ways to be a faithful person.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- 20 years working as a city planner, with a focus on process and community engagement
- Executive experience leading teams of up to 20 people
- Current and previous participation in a wide variety of St. Philip's and/or diocesan ministries

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip's been meaningful to you?

This fall I started working with Rite 13. Sometimes it is fun, other times awkward, other times illuminating! To use some old-fashioned stewardship language, I am giving of my time and talent. But it also helps me, and that's been my experience with every ministry I have engaged with at St. Philip's. Every time I give, I get just as much (if not more) back in strengthened faith and fellowship. Giving my time and talent to St. Philip's is an important part of my practice of faith, so I welcome the opportunity to serve on the vestry again.

Vestry Nominees



Aileen Womark-Montes (she/her)

What originally brought you to St. Philip's? How has your experience since then reinforced your expectations – or surprised you?

My long-time friendship with Sharon Massey brought me to St. Philip's – I came to worship beside her in her time of sadness, illness, and loss. Every time I showed up, I felt welcomed, seen, heard, cherished, and celebrated here. The love was palpable.

What gifts, skills, assets, and experience – personal or professional – would you bring to vestry service?

- My listening heart, which has led me to share who I am today on every level.
- The gifts of willingness, prayer, openness, and honesty.
- My professional experience as a special education teacher in Durham public schools for young adults with autism, developmental delays, deafness and other communication challenges. Through this work, I discovered I have a gift for communicating with all different sorts of people with different abilities.
- Knowledge of American Sign Language
- Love for community and children
- My diverse background, and a heritage that covers several continents and a mixed-race family – all of which lead to new understanding and compassion. My parents were born in Germany, I was born on Long Island and raised in Israel, and I married a man from Peru! My children are bi-racial with an international heritage. My diverse background and family have deeply impacted my journey of faith and relationship with Jesus and the church.) It feels like Jesus put me in the special forces of being able to communicate easily with different groups of people.

How has your involvement with a particular ministry, worship experience or other activity at St. Philip's been meaningful to you?

- I deeply appreciate the Wednesday evening Eucharist – I love it and find it very helpful. After the Eucharist, I find great joy attending Wednesday night dinner and the Engage studies.
- I'm interested in reviving our involvement with Urban Ministries of Durham. I volunteered at UMD before coming to St. Philip's, and I'd like to be involved in supporting that ministry.
- I feel a strong sense of being hospitable to anyone new at St. Philip's. If I see someone new here on a Sunday, I'll introduce myself and offer to give them a tour, because people were hospitable to me when I first arrived.

What's Happening at St. Philip's

Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections

Today, February 8

Our annual meeting is today – this year we'll elect new vestry members, vote on bylaw updates, hear about the work of St. Philip's over the past year, and look forward to things coming up in 2026. Nursery and kids' activities available. Join us for church democracy in action!

- 8:30 AM – Bagels and coffee (Parish Hall)
- 9 AM – Voting, annual meeting, and celebrations start (Parish Hall)
- 10 AM – Worship and State-of-the-Church address (Church)
- 11:30 AM – More voting if needed, more celebrations, meet new vestry members, and lunch.

Engage! Esther

Wednesday, February 11 • 6:30pm
Library and Zoom

Join Gabe for a two-session study of the Book of Esther: the story of one of the great women of the Bible. We'll move through the text of this short book – its plot, silences, reversals, and sharp edges – paying attention to questions of power, identity, courage, and survival in a world where God is never named but everything seems to be at stake.

Host Social Hour

Our social hour after the 11 a.m. service is lay-led, and it takes you to make it work! Hosts bring snacks, set them up, and hang around to talk to folks. You'll have a great time!

Sign up on the parish hall easel, or email office@stphilipsdurham.org to request a date.

Nametags are coming to St. Philip's

As our community grows, we're trying something many of you have asked for: nametags! They're a simple but powerful way to help us connect. Nametags make it easier to start conversations, reduce the awkwardness of forgotten names, and help longtime parishioners and newer folks get to know one another.

Get a Nametag:

<https://tinyurl.com/StPhilipsNametags>



**Get a
nametag**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17 • 5:30–7pm • Parish Hall

Join us for our annual pancake supper prepared and served by our youth. We'll also celebrate with King cake, and the kids will help us put away our Alleluias until Easter. Gluten-free pancakes available!

Proceeds benefit the youth program and 2027 youth pilgrimage. Suggested donation: \$10/person or \$25/family.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/StPhilipsPancakes>



RSVP

Lenten Book Study

Wednesdays starting February 25 • 6:30pm
Library and Zoom

This Lent, as many of us carry worry, fatigue, and unease about the direction of our common life as a nation, you're invited to read *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional* by Hanna Reichel. This collection of brief chapters offers honest reflection, steadfast faith, and steady guidance for anxious times. Each week on Wednesday nights, we'll gather to discuss a few chapters. Join us Wednesdays this Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18

Lent officially begins with Ash Wednesday, named for the custom of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of penitence and reminder of our mortality. Join us for one of three services:

Imposition of Ashes with Eucharist

- 12pm – Church
- 5:30pm – Intergenerational Service – Parish Hall
- 6:15pm – Simple supper – Parish Hall
- 7pm – Church

Ashes to Go

In front of the church
8–10am & 1:30–3:30pm

Styrofoam & Textile Recycling Drive

Now through Sunday, February 22

Parish House Breezeway Vestibule

Keep ‘em out of the landfill! Bring your clean, dry Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, take-out boxes, and packing materials) and clean, unusable textiles (clothes, shoes, purses, linens, curtains, underwear, socks, leather) to the bins in the breezeway vestibule.

Styrofoam: No Styrofoam peanuts or dirty items. Remove tape/labels from coolers, remove bar codes from egg cartons. Cut Styrofoam clamshells at the hinges, then nest them (and cups). Got large Styrofoam or lots of coolers? Call Duncan Krause at 706-255-3138.

Textiles: Clean but unusable clothes, shoes, purses, linens, curtains, underwear, socks, leather items, etc. No fabric scraps or soiled items. Got lots of textiles? Call Leslie McClellan at 919-638-9417.

Volunteers needed – if you can help haul away materials, contact Duncan at 706-255-3138.

February Book Group:

“A Man of Two Faces”

Sunday, February 15 • 12:30pm • Parlor

Join the book group in discussing “A Man of Two Faces” by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Written by a Vietnamese refugee, this brilliant memoir explores colonization and the cross cultural connections of Vietnam and America. Check us out – whether you’ve read the book or not!

Altos Needed!

The choir needs a few more regular members: We’re especially low on altos, but singers of all parts are welcome. Training provided. For more info, contact Lewis Moore at lewis@stphilipsdurham.org.

Meal Train for David and Dorothy Smith

Dorothy Smith is currently in the hospital recovering from surgery. St. Philip’s has set up a Meal Train sign-up to support David and their son, Charles, while Dorothy recovers. Sign up to bring the Smiths a meal as a part of our Helping Hands Ministry!

If you know of anyone who could benefit from a Meal Train, please reach out to Emily Sparks, Ryals Minister for Families, at emily@stphilipsdurham.org.

Sign up: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/v5erz8>

Events at the Trees

Lenten Study: A Different Kind of Fast

Tuesdays starting February 24

11:30am–12:30pm or 5:30–6:30pm

The Trees (1701 Pleasant Green Rd)

Are you feeling like you'd like this Lenten season to be different? Is the way of the Desert Fathers and Mothers – who modeled silence, detachment, and stepping away in order to deepen and clarify – calling to you this year? Using *A Different Kind of Fast* by Christine Valters Paintner, we'll explore practical contemplative practices while we consider letting go of endless distractions and busyness. Suggested donation \$20 a session, \$120 for series.

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/DifferentFast>

Shining the Light Inward:

Full Day Women's Retreat with Olynda

Saturday, February 28 • 9am–4pm

The Trees (1701 Pleasant Green Rd)

Join in a day of rest and invitation into a deep practice of self-compassion. Every step we take towards this reality of showing loving-compassion to ourselves brings ease, resilience, vitality, health, wellness, and joy. And, of course, this inner light ripples out to all those around us. Self-kindness can help fuel us and support us in dark times. Cost: \$150.

Register: Email olyndasmith@gmail.com

Nature Journaling

Fridays through March 27 • 10:30am

The Trees (1701 Pleasant Green Road)

Come observe the changing of seasons at The Trees. We'll use the practice of nature journaling to help us slow down and focus our attention on the wonder of creation. Bring a notebook, your favorite pen and drawing supplies (extra materials will be on hand), and sturdy shoes for walking on the trails. No experience needed – you don't need to be "good" at drawing to enjoy tuning in to nature! For more info, email Liz Sappenfield at esappenfield@gmail.com.

Community News

A Way to Help in Minneapolis

Casa Maria Food Shelf/Food Share

In response to the troubling news out of Minneapolis, parishioner Susan Day Moore went looking for a tangible way to help. Her search led her to Casa Maria, an outreach ministry of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Minneapolis – a bilingual parish serving both English- and Spanish-speaking communities. When Susan called, Casa Maria had just delivered 200 boxes of food to targeted Hispanic neighborhoods. If you're looking for a meaningful way to respond, check them out.

Donate: <https://givebutter.com/casa-maria>

The Feast of Absalom Jones

Saturday, February 14 • 10 am

St. Ambrose, Raleigh

Join in a diocesan celebration of the first Black Episcopal priest! A service of Negro spirituals and lessons will be followed by a luncheon, during which Bishop Sam Rodman will speak. This year's commemoration is co-sponsored by The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry and Charlotte Angels chapters of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). Please RSVP by February 7. There is no cost for the luncheon.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/NCAbsalomJones>

Diocesan Book Read

Thursdays, February 19 – March 26

12–1pm • Zoom

St. Philip's Racial Justice & Reconciliation Committee and the diocesan Discipleship, Race and Social Justice Committee invite you to join a diocesan-wide book read and lunchtime discussion of *Church Hurt: Reparations for My Soul: Healing Racialized Trauma* by Gayle Fisher-Stewart. As more and more faith communities deal with the effects of anti-Black racism and a racialized society, are these communities prepared to do the hard work of reparations and deal with the accompanying backlash those efforts will invite? Do our churches want to become trauma informed? Note we will read the second edition of the book.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/ChurchHurtNC>



St. Philip's Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Maryann D. Younger, *Rector*
The Rev. Gabe Lamazares, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Pogoloff, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Jim Craven, *Priest Associate*
Emily Sparks, *Ryals Minister for Families*
Chris Reed, *Interim Youth Assistant*
Lewis Moore, *Director of Music Ministries*
Amanda Robinson, *Parish Administrator*
Grace Camblos, *Minister for Communications*
Gwenetta Drewery, *Parish Custodian*
Amanda "Mya" Meyer, *Parish Sexton*
Ashley Eastham, *Bulletin Coordinator*
Tonya Wilson, *Parish Chef*
Laura Kirby, *Executive Director, The Trees*
Olynda Smith, *Operations Manager, The Trees*
Henry Kennelly, *Seminarian in Residence, The Trees*

St. Philip's Vestry

Lowell Darbegh	Jeff Pitts
Erin Gasch	Mike Uhl
Sarah Johnson	Heather Beard
Addis Crooks-Jones	John Bowman
Sue Guptill	Caroline Wang
Marty Nelson	Emily Yeatts



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stphilipsdurham.org



Join our email list

tinyurl.com/StPhilipsEpistle

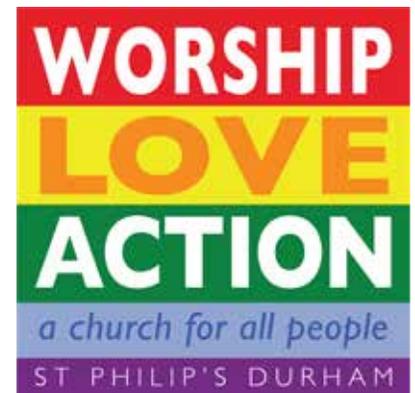


Calendar

stphilipsdurham.org/calendar

Find us on Social Media

@stphilipsdurham



St. Philip's is a church for all people. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Philip's. We believe God loves us all – no exceptions!