

April—May 2026



## Keeping the Faith

*Hope is a song in a weary throat.  
Give me a song of hope  
And a world where I can sing it.  
Give me a song of faith  
And a people to believe in it.  
Give me a song of kindness  
And a country where I can live it.  
Give me a song of hope and love  
And a brown girl's heart to hear it.  
--Pauli Murray*

### Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Lenten season, our time of penitential reflection that has been marked this year by the specter and reality of war, I have received multiple requests to write about hope. Hope is one of the hallmarks of our Christian faith, rooted in the assurance that “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:17)

This verse is from the poem “Dark Testament” by the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray, a writer, scholar, lawyer, Episcopal priest and civil rights pioneer who spent her extraordinary life singing her song of hope for people who needed it desperately in a time when Jim Crow and limited opportunities for women and minorities dominated the culture of the United States. “Dark Testament” was written sometime between 1933 and 1941. Pauli Murray went on to develop part of the legal argument that established in law the principles of *Brown v. the Board of Education* overturning legal segregation in public schools.

Pauli Murray’s prayer for hope, faith, and kindness echoes the prayers I hear on all sides. Prayers for peace. Prayers for reconciliation. Prayers for the courage to find ways to live together and work together for the common good of all of us. Prayers that make the throat weary at times.

St. Paul reminds us that “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5: 5) This is why hope and prayer are so closely connected. The Holy Spirit inspires the prayers and supplies the hope, part of the grace that comes from the gift of God’s own breath given by Jesus when he appeared to his disciples after his resurrection, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Hope requires courage, and it requires faith. Pauli Murray wrote her poem/prayer, asking for hope, faith, and kindness in a time and place that gave her no reason to expect much change. Nevertheless, she persisted in her prayers, held fast to her faith and the courage of her convictions, and helped to create the change for which she prayed.

Whenever I need encouragement for holding on to hope in this world that is so much at odds with the reign of God’s love, I look to Jesus and the record of God’s love in Scripture. And I remember the faithful servant who prayed for the heart to hear and sing a song of hope. May all our hearts hold the song of hope as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. **Much love, Suz+**

# Leadership Communication



EXCITING NEWS

Welcome  
Gillian Barr!



Welcome  
Mother Gillian Barr!



**We are all very excited about welcoming Mtr. Gillian Barr to Holy Trinity in a couple of months to serve as our Associate for Campus and Parish Ministry.**

This means that Mtr. Gillian will take on the responsibilities of leading our Canterbury of Clemson Ministry, working closely with our Peer Ministers and the Canterbury Support Committee\* to provide a welcoming spiritual and social home for students and young adults. Mtr. Gillian will also contribute her experienced and well-honed skills to traditional parish ministry alongside Mtr. Suz. She will lead Christian Formation classes, provide pastoral care, and preach and preside at worship services.

***Keep an eye out in coming weeks for announcements about ways you can help to welcome Mtr. Gillian when she arrives in Clemson!***

*Congratulations to the Venerable Mary Jeffers!*

**Mary was elected as Archdeacon of EDUSC by her fellow Deacons at their monthly meeting on March 4, 2026.** Mary Jeffers was formerly a parishioner and staff member of Holy Trinity. Then, she heard a call to diaconal ministry. Mary's call was affirmed by this parish and by the diocese, and, after her time of formation for that ministry, was ordained to the Holy Order of Deacons. Mary served for many years at Grace Episcopal Church in Anderson, and was appointed last year to serve at St. Michael's in Easley. Mary has been a servant leader for the whole diocese throughout her ministry, as is affirmed by her election to serve as the Archdeacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.



# HOLY TRINITY

*Episcopal Church*



## TEMPO

April—May 2026

Click [here](#) or scan for the parish website.



### Clergy

The Right Rev. Daniel Richards, *Bishop,*  
*Diocese of Upper South Carolina*  
The Rev. Suzanne L. Cate, *Rector*

### Staff

Rebecca Bowman, *Director of Music*  
Trey Williams, *Organist and Children's Choir Director*  
Jeff Johnson, *Sexton*  
Rufus Pieterse, *Sexton*  
Stephanie LaGuardia, *Day School Director*  
Wesley Ramey, *Parish Office Administrator*  
Evyone Washington, *Finance Administrator*  
Jerae Wallace, *Parish Life Coordinator*  
Carter Senf *Canterbury Peer Minister*  
Melanie Mae Henderson *Canterbury Peer Minister*

### Vestry Members & Assignments

Betty Baldwin *EDS*  
Will Brown, *Worship Support*  
Charlie Curtis, *Stewardship*  
Beth Gilmore, *EDS/Communications*  
Lori Graham *Canterbury*  
Matt Huddleston, *St. Paul's*  
James Jayroe, *Newcomers*  
Chesley Rowe, *Junior Warden/Personnel*  
Katherine Sosebee, *HT Cares*  
Susan Stockwell, *Parish Life*  
Mark Stokes, *Communications/Technology*  
Hap Wheeler, *Senior Warden*  
Martha Williams, *Outreach/Parking*

## Join Us in Worship!

### Regular Sunday Schedule

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
(Livestreamed via [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#))

5:00 PM at St. Paul's, Pendleton (First Sunday of the Month): Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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## Senior Warden's Report *April-May 2026*

### **Dearly Beloved Parishioners,**

The vestry started the new administrative year with a retreat Friday evening and Saturday morning, February 20-21, and concluded with a vestry meeting that Saturday afternoon. The retreat was led by The Rev. Canon Janie Wilson of our diocese with a focus on our mission statement, “[l]ove with the heart of Christ, think with the mind of Christ and act in the world as the Body of Christ.” For the first two parts of the mission statement, we probed our experiences at Holy Trinity and for “act” we brought the focus of the first two back to some specific areas under development at the church.

We have successfully recruited chairs for all of our committees and linked these committees with vestry liaisons. Virtually all of our committees are up and running, even the ones that have been more dormant in recent years. I look forward to reporting some of their ideas and accomplishments as the year progresses. We have also finally filled the ranks of all of our elected positions. All these positions will be posted on the website.

The vestry will be starting our Mutual Ministry Review immediately, this year using vestry and area leadership to ponder what we can do to improve the life of the church. This is part of a three-year cycle, which also includes a year of vestry evaluation alone and a year of obtaining parish-wide input. Some of the things to be discussed will be simple fixes and others will involve new programs. I will keep you posted as this process continues.

We will also be seeking candidates for future leadership positions, starting much earlier than in years past. We have found that waiting to a few months before our annual elections has led to open positions that the vestry then has to fill, which, as I mentioned above, has dragged into the new year. This will require a new discernment process which will be developed by the nomination committee of the vestry. I hope the parish will respond positively to our recruitment efforts.

Thanks to the truly remarkable generosity of the parish, whose pledges exceeded our goals, and the decision of the Finance Committee and vestry to sweep some profits from investments after several years of excellent returns, we were able to completely fund our aspirational statement of mission (SOM). For example, this, along with a fund established, again based on parish generosity, has allowed us to recruit and hire a superb assistant to the rector, The Rev. Gillian Barr, who will join us about mid-year. She has deep experience with college ministry, communications and pastoral care, areas for which we need additional support. Fully funding of the SOM also meant that we could hire a professional web development company to update and design our site. Although we have maintained most of what we needed over the years, we are looking for an attractive, outwardly directed, secure, easy to navigate, and welcoming web presence. This was hard to accomplish using exclusively volunteers. I think we will all be pleased with it when it is finished later this year.

Other good financial news is in the form of a gift of real estate that we will likely be putting on the market. If sold, the vestry will be charged with deciding what to do with the assets. If a significant portion were to go toward our diminishing debt on the Trinity Place loan, we could in the very near future retire that debt and use the funds for missions and personnel of the church.

Overall, we are off to an excellent start this year with many new parishioners having joined us recently, including younger ones with children. We are also seeing an expanding participation in Canterbury programs with an increase in attendance at church services by college students. These shifts in demographics are encouraging, as the future of the church depends upon youthful ideas and energy to augment the experience of older parishioners.

If you have any questions about specific church issues or initiatives, use of church finances or decisions of the vestry please contact me.

Yours in Christ, **Hap Wheeler** ([wheeler@clemsun.edu](mailto:wheeler@clemsun.edu) 864-506-6518)

### **Welcome Sexton Rufus Pieterse!**



A brief introduction -

Rufus is Sarah Trice's husband, and Alexander's Dad. Rufus is from South Africa and has many years of maintenance management experience in industrial settings from mining in Africa to manufacturing facilities in SC. He has a strong skill set in doing maintenance tasks as well as strong skill in Maintenance Management (bringing some organization to the work). Rufus will work as a contractor ~ 14 hours per week and predominantly on M W F. He starts his Monday at St Pauls and brings some much needed Sexton skill to that site. When Rufus is not contracting with us, he works for his home repair business 'Rufus Repairs'.

# Overview of Recent and Ongoing Projects

## Recent repairs

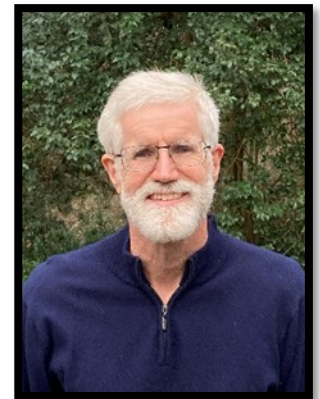
- Men's toilet continues to flow after flushing
- A/C fan failure of 3.10 - Variable Speed Drive (VSD). VSD's are known for this sort of problem - we now know how to re-set. Rufus is writing a work method.
- Cabinet in women's hall bath
- Odor misting device installed in both hall baths
- Flickering lights at Breezeway - trouble with electrical circuit set-up in years past. \$1000 cost for trouble-shooting. Repair to be completed next week.
- Changed flickering light at Canterbury entrance
- Carillon repairs to be completed on Thursday or Friday

## Maintenance Management (bringing some organization to the work)

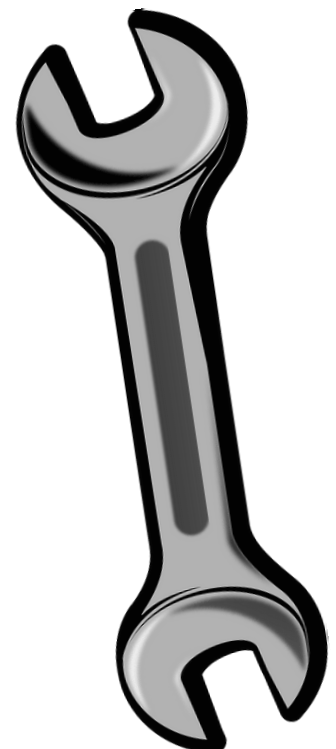
- Sexton's have a shared email - please send any issues to [sexton@holyltrinityclermson.org](mailto:sexton@holyltrinityclermson.org). cc [chesley.rowe@gmail.com](mailto:chesley.rowe@gmail.com)
- Bill Hurst & Chris Heerwagen started a comprehensive Jr Warden's manual. Rufus now has the manual and he is working to create a comprehensive Maintenance Manual that will cover Clemson & Pendleton sites.
- Rufus will work with Wesley to 'clean-up' and organize multiple Buildings & Grounds related folders on the G:/ Google Drive
- HVAC summary - we have 18 (or 19 units) - Rufus is creating an inventory to reduce AC confusion on age, size, thermostat location, etc
- Elevator contract - we pay ~\$3000/year for inspection contracts. Some of these inspections can be done internally. The wording in the current contract is very much in favor of the vendor. We are looking at new contractors. More later on this subject. We will assure that any decisions made are in agreement with DSS and EDS requirements
- Fire Extinguisher Inspections - Pye-Barker does our 'overall inspections'. There is a need for a monthly inspection and signoff. We have not been very disciplined in making these monthly inspections. Jeff is documenting the procedure and will assure monthly inspections are made.
- Windows repair - We will start with replacement sashes for the office windows - Jeff will manage the ordering, Rufus, Jeff, and Chesley will work on installation.
- Windows repair - after we validate that we can do the sash replacement, we will proceed with a contractor for additional window work. More later on this subject.
- Maintain-X - we are going to try a free version of this software to help us manage work requests. This software is one that Rufus has successfully used in his work industry and with his private Rufus Repairs Company in the past.

## Where we need Vestry help

- Security Guidelines - Please note that we need to set the alarm for both buildings before we depart on Sunday's. Our insurance agent noted that some church's have been robbed on Sunday's knowing that there is often cash from the Sunday collection.
- Plumbing - Please be sure to check that all toilets are not in 'flow mode' before you leave. We have had some recent troubles and high water bills. NOTE - EDS ASC care workers have also been requested to check toilets before they leave for the day.
- The Sexton's have a shared email - please send any issues to [sexton@holyltrinityclermson.org](mailto:sexton@holyltrinityclermson.org). cc [chesley.rowe@gmail.com](mailto:chesley.rowe@gmail.com)



Junior Warden, Chesley Rowe



## Churchyard Restorations Continue at St. Paul's

We greatly appreciate the gravestone restoration work in the St. Paul's Churchyard performed by Clemson professor Dr. Spencer Roberts and his students! Dr. Roberts recently shared the following information and photos in a social media post:

“This month, the cemetery preservation Creative Inquiry class worked to reset a headstone that was struck by a falling tree during Hurricane Helene. The tree pushed the stone about 12 inches into the ground but surprisingly did no other damage. Our rough estimate suggests that the entire monument weighed about 1,500lbs or 3/4 of a ton!

The team first used a pry bar to lift the stone a few inches and support it with a piece of wood. Then they fed lifting straps under the base, moved the tripod and 1-ton hoist over the headstone, and connected the straps to the lift chain. After lifting the lower end of the stone above ground level and supporting it with a length of lumber, the team replaced soil and added gravel beneath the stone to create a level foundation. Finally, they lowered the headstone into place and checked it was level.

This is the first major resetting effort undertaken by the CI team and was a resounding success!”





# Church Financial Report

**March 2026 Tempo Report**  
**Bob Taylor, Treasurer**

The **Legacy Fund** was established to posthumously recognize Holy Trinity parishioners who have contributed significantly to the programs and missions of Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish. Earnings from the Legacy Fund are designated for annually supplementing Holy Trinity programs and missions which are aligned with the interests and former activities of the Legacy Fund donors. In January 2026, the Holy Trinity Vestry awarded supplemental funding for local outreach and St. Paul's maintenance in recognition of the donors *Ragnar and Elizabeth Anderson* and *Beth Kunkel*. Brief historical summaries for these two donors are provided at the end of this report.

The **Endowment Fund** is another Holy Trinity Fund where earnings from investments are used to support Holy Trinity activities. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are generally designated for St. Paul's, Holy Trinity Parish or Extraordinary Ministry. The majority of recent endowment contributions have been given for perpetual care of St. Paul's.

During this tax season, parishioners are reminded of the option of charitable contributions from tax deferred funds which not recorded as income distributions, [charitable contributions from tax deferred funds - Search](#). Most financial tax-deferred agencies provide simple transactions for these charitable contributions.

*Ragnar and Elizabeth Anderson.* Ragnar Erland Anderson graduated from Hillyer College and was the chief accountant and secretary of Aetna Fire Insurance Company which he joined in 1926. In 1955, he organized and became president of SPAN Data Processing Center which was purchased by Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company. Ragnar served as Vice-President of Computing for Aetna until his retirement in 1968. Elizabeth Johnson Anderson taught at Teachers College of Connecticut until her retirement in 1955. In retirement, Ragnar and Elizabeth moved to Sea Pines Plantation before relocating to Clemson where both Ragnar and Elizabeth were very active members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish. As health and aging issues developed, they moved to Clemson Downs for assistance in their last years. Ragnar died on March 14, 1992, and his memorial service was at the Duckett Funeral Home Chapel in Central. Elizabeth died August 23, 1992, and her memorial service was at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton. Half of the Andersons' estate was bequeathed to Holy Trinity. The Andersons were strong supporters of St. Paul's and the Holy Trinity Canterbury Mission.

*Beth Kunkel.* Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Kunkel was born September 8, 1953, in Newport Arkansas. Beth attended the University of Tennessee and the University of Alabama, Birmingham. After receiving her doctorate, she joined the faculty of the Food Science and Nutrition Department at Clemson University. Beth was an outstanding Clemson faculty member with awards for both teaching and research. An example of her university esteem was being elected as President of the Faculty Senate for 2016-17. Beth was a long-time member of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish serving in several leadership roles and was very active in missionary work in Haiti. While Beth is remembered for many Holy Trinity activities, certainly one of her leading activities was her SAME Garden creation which provides food for local outreach. She passed on November 20, 2022, and bequeathed a large portion of her estate to HolyTrinity.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY

Palm Sunday, 3/29 at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Holy Mon., Tues., Wed., 3/30-4/1 at 5:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, 4/2 at 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross, 4/3 at 3:00 pm

Good Friday Proper Liturgy, 4/3 at 6:00 pm

Great Vigil of Easter, 4/4 at 8:00 pm

Sunrise Easter Service, 4/5 at 7:00 am

Children's Easter Service, 4/5 at 9:00 am

(Easter Egg Hunt Follows)

Festive Easter Service, 4/5 at 11:00 am

## HOLY WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Palm Sunday, 3/29 at 5:00 pm

Good Friday, 4/3 Community Service at 12:00 pm

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN EIGHT DAYS



The annual Gethsemane Watch will follow the Maundy Thursday service on April 2 and last until dawn on Good Friday, April 3. Take time to "stay

awake for just one hour" with Jesus. The Chapel door will be open for those who wish to come and pray at the Altar of Repose, where the Blessed Sacrament from Maundy Thursday will be kept until the 7:00 am service on Good Friday. Sign up for one hour, two hours, or more. Click [here](#) or scan to view the sign up.



**Honor and Remember  
Family and Friends by  
Purchasing Copies of the  
BCP for Holy Trinity**

*More Details to Come!*

## NEW PRAYER BOOKS Are Coming!

Opportunities to purchase will be communicated throughout the Easter Season.

\*Books that are purchased will include a bookplate with acknowledgment.



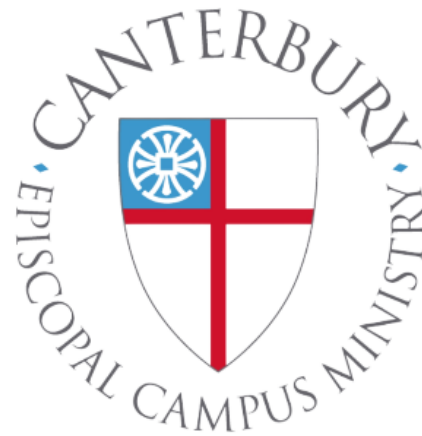
# Congrats!

To our Canterbears that will be graduating from CU in May!

- Alison Curl
- Ashley Crouse
- Scotty Timms
- Mason Hedly
- Kendall Thomas



We will celebrate and bless them during **Canterbury Sunday on April 26** at the 10:30 service with a light reception following.



## Join us for Canterbury Sunday, April 26th

Reception to follow 10:30 worship. Exam week begins the next day, April 27th. A sign up to provide meals will be provided soon!

EDUSC invites you to explore ways to be involved in Lay Ministry. Sat, May 2 at All Saints' Church in Clinton, SC. See the accompanying flyer for details.

# NAMING YOUR CALL

## Exploring Lay Ministry



Join Us On  
May 2, 2026

At  
10:00 AM -  
2:00 PM

All Saints' Episcopal  
505 Calvert Ave  
Clinton, SC 29325

REGISTER



### FREE EVENT

[www.edusc.org](http://www.edusc.org)

Come discover your spiritual gifts, discern where you feel called to lead, and develop practical action plans to turn a sense of calling into active ministry. Get equipped with tools, clarity, and confidence for ministry leadership to further the kingdom of God.



The Episcopal Diocese of  
Upper South Carolina



## SAME Garden—Spring Planting is Underway!

Spring planting is underway at the SAME (“So All May Eat”) Garden in Trinity Place next to the parish hall. In 2025, we donated **1,087 pounds of fresh produce to Clemson Community Care, exceeding the previous year’s record of 709 pounds.** We hope to break our own record again this year!

So far we have planted collards, red and green cabbage, spinach, onions, and peas. As the weather continues to warm, we will begin planting a late spring crop of summer squash, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, and more. Several new raised beds have been installed to replace the original ones that have exceeded their expected life span.

For those of you who are new to Holy Trinity, the SAME Garden was founded approximately ten years ago by the late Dr. Beth Kunkel, a devoted member of our parish. She used her nutritional expertise and passion for growing fresh vegetables to help those in need in our community. Following her death in 2022, a small group of dedicated volunteers decided to continue her legacy and keep the garden flourishing.

Volunteers meet most Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. For more information or to lend a hand, contact “Farmer Mike” (Michael Diemer) at 864.590.4248 or [beenexploring@outlook.com](mailto:beenexploring@outlook.com).



Michael Diemer, Suz Cate, and Anne Bryan planting cabbages.



Mtr. Suz enjoyed spring planting on a beautiful sunny day.



“Farmer Mike” and his small team of helpers meet most Thursday mornings at 9 AM.



# Earl Burch Day in Bois Joli

by Dr. Harry Morse

Twenty-five years ago, as part of our diocesan adopt-a-village program, Holy Trinity and three other parishes in the Anderson area partnered with the village of Bois Joli. The three Anderson churches included Grace Episcopal, St. John's Methodist, and Holy Trinity Lutheran. Bois Joli is one of the more remote villages in Father Lafontant's service area, has no road access, and requires a 4-hour hike from Cange over challenging terrain. Earl Burch coordinated a fundraising campaign among these four parishes to raise money to build a new school and church for the village. This was accomplished with great difficulty with parishioners and laborers, carrying concrete, lumber, and materials on their backs or on burros or horses since the village had no road access. We were blessed to attend a gala celebration of the opening of the school and dedication of the new church. Earl passed away last year and the village of Bois Joli held a celebration of his life and remembrance in gratitude for his work on behalf of their village. Pictures below include the plaque, which now hangs in the school and the T-shirts, which were worn by the organizers. The father son duo are Manius, who is a community leader and our community health worker in Bois Joli and his son Malachi who just received his MD degree from the University of Notre Dame in Port au Prince and will be a YASC volunteer in London at the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury. I wanted to share these pictures as I know how much Earl would've loved them. I'm confident that he was there in spirit! Thanks be to God for the many opportunities we've had to partner with our brothers and sisters in Haiti.



## What's Happening and Coming Up...

We are in the midst of our Lenten Season. On **Tuesday, February 18** we celebrated *Shrove Tuesday* with our traditional **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. A great time was had by all. Thanks to our amazing **Canterbears, Lori Graham, Jeff Johnson, and Jane Vaughn** for all of their help in preparing and clean up! Thank you to **Serena DuBose** for donating the Lenten Calendars. Our families along with our EDS families have enjoyed the daily Lenten task! Our children have also been learning about Lent and the Easter season each week in Children's Church.

**Family Fellowship Field Day Fridays** kicked off on the last Friday in March. Families with young children are invited on the final Friday of each month to gather on Trinity Place for fellowship and laid back play for the children. Contact Jerae if you need more information.

On **Sunday, April 5, we will "Flower the Cross" with fresh flowers**. Please bring a flower from your yard or garden to place in the cross as you come for the **9 am Children's Service**. An Easter Egg hunt will follow the service.

Our nursery availability will become less consistent in the coming months and throughout the summer. We are blessed to have so many CU students who fill our nursery staff, however, they will all be traveling and going home after finals and graduations. I will communicate nursery availability in weekly communications. Our PrayGround is always updated along with our worship bags for your family's use. **Children's Church** will continue through **May 17**.

*Growing in Christ*  
FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

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## YOUTH NEWS!

Our last **Youth Third Sunday for this formation season will be on May 17.** Over the last few months I have been working and planning for our upcoming formation year that will begin in August. Thank you to those who have responded with your feedback. We continue to plan and more information on our youth formation will be announced as those plans become more finite. Also on **May 17**, we will have High School recognition. If your high schooler is graduating and/or if they have had a milestone accomplishment, please let me know **by Friday, May 1** so that we may acknowledge them during the service.

We will also begin youth **confirmation prep in August.** Those details will be sent to those who have expressed interest in going through the 2 year preparation cycle.

We are approaching our summer months! Holy Trinity will once again combine forces with our fellow Clemson area churches for **Wild Wednesdays.** Please see the *Wild Wednesday* graphic for all the dates and details. Mark your calendars now and be sure to follow **wildwednesdayclemson** on Instagram to stay up to date.

EDUSC is offering a summer mission trip, June 21-26 in Laurel, NC. Please contact me if you would like to learn more and learn how to register.

Our family, children and youth ministries are an important part of Holy Trinity. As always, I strive to continue helping our younger families and youth grow spiritually and personally with their church.

Peace,  
*Jeræ*

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to one of our Holy Trinity Youth, **Eric Crouse**. Eric has been a long standing member of Cub Scouts and in early summer 2026, he will be receiving his Eagle Scout Badge. We will formally bless and congratulate Eric during the May 17 High School Recognition Sunday.



# Growing in Christ

FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN

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- **Sunday, April 5: EASTER**
  - 9am Children's Service (Flowering the Cross)
    - Egg Hunt to follow
- **Sunday, April 12:**
  - Second Sunday Potluck Lunch
    - **(LAST ONE for this season)**
- **Sunday, April 19 :**
  - Youth Third Sunday
- **Sunday, April 26:**
  - Canterbury Sunday



Mark Your  
Calendars!



- **Sunday, May 3:**
  - First Sunday Children's Service
- **Sunday, May 10**
  - Mother's Day
- **Sunday, May 17:**
  - Youth Third Sunday **(LAST ONE)**
  - High School Graduation Recognition
- **Sunday, May 24: Pentecost**
  - **St. Paul's Service and Picnic**
- **Sunday, May 31:**
  - Summer Holy Eucharist Schedule Begins
    - **One Service 10:30am through July 26**

# WILD WEDNESDAYS

- **JUNE 3- HOLY TRINITY**
  - **KICKOFF WITH SLIP N SLIDE KICKBALL**
- **JUNE 10- FORT HILL**
  - **GAGA BALL**
- **JUNE 17- HOLY TRINITY**
  - **LAWN GAMES**
- **BREAK JUNE 24-JULY 1**
- **JULY 8- LOCATION TBD**
  - **MISSION OR SERVICE PROJECT**
- **JULY 15- FIRST BAPTIST**
  - **DODGEBALL**
- **JULY 22- FIRST BAPTIST**
  - **GYM GAMES**
- **JULY 29- CUMC (LAST ONE)**
  - **"SPLASH OUT"**
  - **ICE CREAM TRUCK AND WATER SLIDE**

7-8PM

FOLLOW US TO STAY UP TO DATE:

Instagram: wildwednesdayclemson



Holy Trinity  
**EPISCOPAL DAY  
 SCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT**

*Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is underway. The REGISTRATION FEE of \$100 is to be paid at the time of registration to secure a spot. Registration fees are non-refundable. The Episcopal Day School of Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish offers a proven pre-K curriculum to prepare children ages 2, 3, and 4 for their future education in a loving, Christian environment.*

**2K, 3K and 4K classes 9:00-12:00**

**Extended Care Options 7:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:30**

**PROGRAM FEATURES :**

- ✓ Learning Without Tears Curriculum
- ✓ Play-based learning
- ✓ Christian environment

**MORE INFORMATION**

☎ 864-654-0298

✉ [episcopaldayschool@holytrinityclemsonton.org](mailto:episcopaldayschool@holytrinityclemsonton.org)

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*The Fourth Annual Women's Retreat was held on March 20 to March 22, 2026 at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center on Lake Greenwood.*



**We explored The Friendship of Women, The Hidden Tradition of the Bible by Joan Chittister.** This year for the first time the sessions were led by our own members as they explored six women focused on in the book. Fortunately, you did not have to have read the book to participate in the individual sessions and answer questions. All the sessions were thought-provoking, and helped us to learn about Prisca or Priscilla, Anne, Phoebe, Veronica, Mary and Elizabeth and ourselves and our own faith journeys.

This retreat allowed the women of HT to talk about their lives and work experiences in ways that we don't have a chance to do attending Sunday Services or many other parish activities. We discovered that we are a very diverse and talented group, many of whom have had several careers and are still filled with a zest for life and service. We have dreams we still want to fulfill no matter our age.

We had plenty of time to talk during breaks and at mealtimes as well as in the evenings after Compline. Social Hour was held before supper—with lots of wine and nibbles available (maybe too much, at least of the nibbles). Games, coloring, and a jig saw puzzle were available along with preparing new ribbon bookmarks for the prayer books.



During our leisure time on Saturday, we read, sat in rockers overlooking the lake visiting, meditated, hiked and even had two brave kayakers. As we ended our time together after learning about the friendship of women—how to seek it, nourish it and cherish it we headed home with laughter and joy and appreciation for the hard work that went into putting the retreat together. We were able to try new art projects, worship together throughout the weekend, read our Friendship Notes and share Holy Eucharist. The comments as we were leaving included—"what a wonderful weekend," "I haven't had enough laughter in my life recently and I have laughed so much," "y'all are a fun group," "I can't believe we only have one bottle of wine left!"



# Growing in Christ—Adult Formation



## On the Importance of Reading the Bible Well

*As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” –John 9:1-2, as appointed for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent.*

He didn’t ask for it. Not any of it. Not the blindness, and not the cure. Didn’t do anything to deserve it, either. At least not that we know of.

That’s why, when Jesus sounds like he’s telling the disciples that the man was born blind to reveal God’s works, it just seems flat out *wrong!* Especially when we proclaim the God of love, the God of justice, the God of mercy--how does *that* work? When Saul of Tarsus, now Paul, was struck blind for three days on the way to Damascus, that makes some sense. After all, he had been supervising the stoning of St. Stephen, the church’s first martyr and was “still breathing murder” when he was afflicted. And that was just for three days. The blind man in our story was born that way, lived that way for his entire life until he met Jesus.

He--and his parents--lived with the stigma of the assumption that someone had sinned, and the man’s blindness was punishment. That’s implied in the question, right? “Rabbi, who sinned that this man was born blind?”

Jesus answered “Neither this man nor his parents sinned.”

Now, that’s where I think the sentence ends. We can’t be sure, because there is a lot that gets between us and that certainty. You see, when we open up our Bibles to read them, there is a lot on the page that wasn’t there when the texts were first written down. Most of our Bibles, especially the study bibles or devotional bibles we have for our personal reading, have handy dandy headers that pretty much tell us what each passage is about.

*A man born blind receives sight. Jesus heals the man born blind.* Pretty helpful, but those headings were added for our convenience, as were the chapter and verse divisions. Even most of the punctuation was not included as the texts were written down. Which is why I question the interpretive choice that so many have made in the beginning of this story about the healing of the man born blind. Let’s take a minute and look at the text as it appeared in the bulletin on March 15. In the very first paragraph, third sentence:

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

Each of those punctuation marks was inserted into the text so that we could read it more easily. Like I said, very helpful. But how do we know that Jesus didn’t say this:

Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day so that God’s works might be revealed in him. Night is coming when no one can work.

Now you might be thinking: “well, she changed the word order to make it fit her point.” This is true. But so did the translators who interpreted the text in your Bible.

A straight reading of the text might sound something like this: "And asked him the disciples of him saying: Rabbi, who sinned, this man or the parents of him, that blind he was born?" A straight reading of Greek texts tends to sound Yoda talking to Luke Skywalker.

Do you see the point I'm making here? I hear all the time that the Bible is hard to read and understand. And it is so true! If we try to read the Bible without understanding how it was written in the first place and how it has come to us, we can end up frustrated and wondering, how does that fit with what I know of God? That is why it is so important to learn *about* the bible as we read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it.



On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten pilgrimage with the invitation to observe the season by reading and meditating on God's holy word. This practice is, in my opinion, of far more value to the Christian life than giving up sweets or meat or caffeine for 40 days. Reading and meditating on God's holy word is a practice for all seasons; for it is in God's holy word that we are given a primary source for knowing and loving God.

I understand that it is a hard thing to do. That is why we offer Bible studies and opportunities like Education for Ministry, in which participants spend one academic year studying the Old Testament and another in the New Testament learning about the origins of these texts and the intricate connections between them.

If we are serious about our faith, we have to make a commitment to learning how to read the Bible. It's that simple. If your faith is important to you, reading and understanding the bible is important to you. It takes commitment. It takes time. Sometimes it is inconvenient. But, considering that the Bible contains all things necessary for our salvation, it's definitely worth all that. It's certainly more beneficial than an hour or so of doom scrolling or YouTubing. Join one of the Bible studies we offer here. If we don't have one that fits your schedule, let me know. When she gets here, Mtr. Gillian and I will find ways to offer more options. Consider saying yes if someone invites you to join Education for Ministry.

Jesus said, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day so that God's works might be revealed in him. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

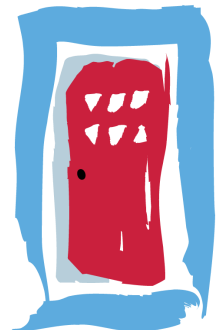
The point of that statement, and all that follows in that really long Gospel reading we had on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, is that Jesus is the light of all things. When our minds and hearts are illumined by him, we are enabled to read the scriptures he read and the scriptures he inspired. Everything we need for our salvation and the healing of creation is there for us to learn and embody. That is definitely worth the investment of your time and energy!

## Canterbury of Clemson



The Canterbury Support Committee meets each semester to help plan and implement initiatives, such as "Befriend a Canterbear," to foster closer ties between students and the parish. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry or joining the Canterbury Support Committee, please contact

[Lori Graham](#).





## *Second Sunday* **LUNCH**

**Let's have lunch  
together, potluck style!**

Every Second Sunday  
October-April

*\*Check communications for details!*

Friendly reminder that we started a new fellowship opportunity that began in October. Our ***Second Sunday Lunch***. Each month on the second Sunday, we invite you to join us for lunch, potluck style. Bring your favorite dish and/or dessert to share. Our final meal of the program year will be **April 12**. If you have any questions, reach out to Jerae.

## **Pentecost at St. Paul's**

Join us on Sunday, May 24 at St. Paul's in Pendleton. We will have ONE 10:30 am service with a picnic to follow. Bring a dish with enough to share. The Church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs with all the 'fixins, lemonade and tea. In the event of inclement weather, the picnic take place at Holy Trinity. Plans will be updated accordingly via church communications.

## *Pentecost* *St. Paul's Picnic*

Sunday, May 24  
Following the ONE 10:30 am  
Service at St. Paul's

*\*Weather Permitting*



SUNDAY, MAY 31

CELEBRATION  
PICNIC



11:30AM

Trinity Place Lawn

WE WILL WELCOME  
MOTHER GILLAN TO  
HOLY TRINITY AND  
CELEBRATE MOTHER SUZ'S  
10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

\*more information will be communicated as  
the date approaches.

# You are invited!

The third annual “Unity in All Communities” festival will be Saturday, April 18th from 1:30 to 6:30 pm at Abel Baptist Church in Clemson. It is fun for the whole family, featuring game booths, the City’s game trailer, a bouncy house, face painting, a balloon artist, a fire truck tour, blood pressure screening and lots of picnic-style food with desserts. The event is sponsored by local churches, the City of Clemson, the Clemson Free Clinic, Littlejohn Community Center and other businesses and organizations. Abel Church is located at 150 Abel Road just off Hwy. 93 on the right as you head toward the neighborhood Walmart. **Everything is free!** For more information contact Carolyn Wheeler ([cslwheeler@clemson.edu](mailto:cslwheeler@clemson.edu); 864-723-1634) or Rachel Rowe ([rrowe12@bellsouth.net](mailto:rrowe12@bellsouth.net); 864-710-3438).

A few years ago, a deacon at Abel, Henry Young, had the idea for such an event, and Abel sponsored it. Henry wanted to revive the event and broaden its base. So, in 2024 he sent 20-30 letters to area churches, to the City, and to Littlejohn Community Center inviting them to participate in an October event entitled “Unity in All Communities”. The letter was presented to the vestry, and a few of us attended the planning meetings. Henry’s goal is to make this an annual event to promote fellowship through food and fun.

The first such festival in October of 2024 was a three-day event which included a Friday evening movie and an invitation for people to worship together at Abel on Sunday morning. The main focus, however, was the Saturday afternoon activities. The turnout was good, even in the face of local schedule changes because of hurricane Helene. At the evaluation meeting after that event, the organizing committee thought a spring event might work better. We also decided to eliminate Friday evening’s activity and focus on Saturday.

It is worth noting that Abel Baptist is older than Holy Trinity, being organized in 1868, right after the Civil War. Their history says that a “very kind white lady of the community saw the need of a church and gave the land for it.” The people started by driving posts into the ground and nailing poles across them. Then they covered the open structure with brush from trees and called it a “brush arbor.” Those founding people had a strong desire to attend church, and at 158 years, Abel is the oldest Black church in the Clemson area, with descendants of the original folks still attending. (A few parishioners from Holy Trinity went to that church when Abel invited the entire community to a “unity” service in 2015 after the shooting at Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston.)

Because of Holy Trinity’s commitment, those of us who have participated have met some fine people and learned more about our community, like the fact that there is a Chinese Christian Church in Clemson. We learned that the Littlejohn Community Center stands on the site of the old Littlejohn Grill where Black folks could go to eat, hear music and dance when segregation was the law. The Grill allowed beer, but no “spirits”. Apparently, Clemson students would sometimes come for the entertainment, since well-known people like Ray Charles, Harry Belafonte, Fats Domino, Louis Armstrong and James Brown were among the performers who came to the Grill. (And Holy Trinity has the Littlejohn name in our history as well.) We have also learned more about the “Call My Name” project with Clemson professor Dr. Rhondda Thomas, as well as the Black Heritage Trail project that will include areas within Seneca, the city of Clemson and the University campus.

**Please come and bring your kids for the fun and for the chance to get to know folks from all over our community!**



# Girl Scout Cookie season is over until next year!

*Thank you so much for your support:*



Daisy Troop 17171 collectively sold 2,447 boxes of cookies! Our original troop goal was 600, so we are blown away! The cookie sales fund troop activities and supplies, badges, service projects, and outings. This year, the girls are going to rent a bounce house, make fleece tie blankets to donate, and visit Build-a-Bear as a troop. Thanks to your support, Jaime, Jordan, and Hallie all met their ambitious individual goals, and were the three highest sellers in the troop!

## Photos From Gulf Coast Mission Trip Requested



The HT Archives team is preparing a 20th Anniversary recognition display board(s) for Holy Trinity's Mission Trips to the Gulf Coast in 2006 and 2007. But, we need more photographs.

Please, anyone who participated in those, or otherwise have applicable photos, contact **Jim Reed** (864-646-6802, email: [jrpsm@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrpsm@bellsouth.net)) or **Ann Russell** (864-419-1107, email: [annier@nctv.com](mailto:annier@nctv.com)).

*We can copy your photos, and return them if you wish.*

## Save the Date!



**Our Next HT Cares Joy & Comfort Bag Delivery will be**

**May 2nd!**

***Packing Time: TBA***

We'll need snack items like small fruits, individual chip bags as well as our traditional homemade cookies. Stay tuned to communications for more details, including the packing time, as we move closer to the date!



## 2025 Holy Trinity

### Bazaar and Artisan Market raised

\$11,714.25

Thank you for your support!

Proceeds Benefit  
Local Food Bank  
Charities  
and  
Scholarships for  
the Episcopal Day  
School



Last year, the ECW Bazaar raised \$11,741.25 and distributed it as follows:

- \$6,000 to Clemson Community Care
- \$3,741.25 to Golden Corner Food Pantry
- \$2,000 to Episcopal Day School Scholarships

Anyone interested in learning more about the Bazaar and how they can help is encouraged to call /email

[Cindy Thackham](tel:8642800539) (864) 280-0539 or [Nanine Hartzbusch-Fox](tel:7049099963) (704) 909-9963



# Parking! Parking! Parking!

**Limited number of spaces available.**

Contact Evyone in the Church Office for Details!

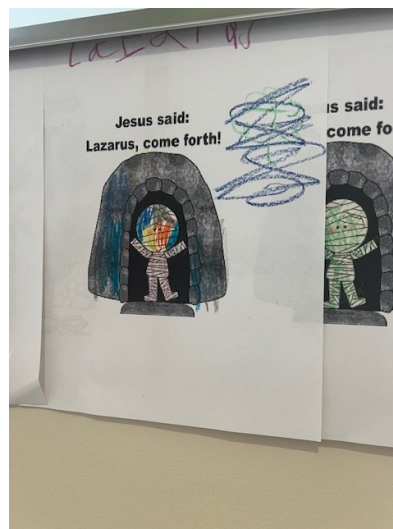
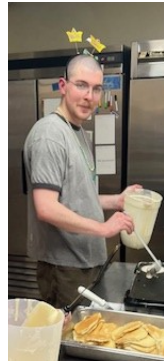
# SUMMER CONCERT PARKING

**Holy Trinity is offering paid parking for the Clemson Summer Concert Series.**

**May 2: George Strait  
June 26-27: Morgan Wallen**

**There are still a few spaces left!** Contact Evyone at [finance@holytrinity.com](mailto:finance@holytrinity.com) to learn more and reserve your space.

# Parish Life Highlights



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## April Birthdays:

- 1 - Christopher Burch
- 2 - Tori Jayroe
- 5 - Beth Newton
- 5 - Sarah Maiberger
- 6 - Eleanor Hare
- 6 - Jean Jordan
- 6 - Sophia Burch
- 8 - Leon Luszcz
- 9 - Jack Purkerson
- 9 - Amy Agosti
- 9 - Kevin Crouse
- 10 - Joy duBois
- 11 - Nancy Georgion
- 13 - Julie Morgan-Ryan
- 14 - Tom Witmer
- 15 - Ned Mayo
- 16 - Kathy Sparks
- 16 - Michael Mobbs
- 16 - Katherine Sosebee
- 17 - Henry Pate
- 19 - Don Garrett
- 20 - Will Purkerson
- 25 - Chip Stapleton
- 27 - Gaines Robb
- 30 - Wright Henry III

## April Anniversaries:

- 1 - Dot & Bill Teske
- 13 - Catherine & Trey Cox

## May Birthdays:

- 1 - Frances Wales
- 3 - Rebecca Bowman
- 3 - Cynthia Spejewski
- 5 - Lily Kate Kozlarek
- 10 - Alexander Pieterse
- 10 - Kenneth Mobbs

- 10 - Julie Morse
- 11 - Maggie Graham
- 12 - Jenn Ellison
- 12 - Michele Cauley
- 14 - Cariza Burch
- 17 - Gregg Sosebee
- 17 - Phil Maiberger
- 18 - Scooty Burch
- 18 - Carol Luke
- 21 - Bill McDaniel
- 22 - Emily Baker
- 23 - Lynn Luszcz
- 24 - Rachel Rowe
- 25 - Catherine Cox
- 27 - Mel O'Day
- 27 - Sarah Trice
- 27 - Kimberly Huddleston
- 28 - Ashley Crouse
- 28 - Darby Evans
- 28 - Keane De los Santos
- 31 - Mims Catherine McTigue

## May Anniversaries:

- 4 - Judy & Charlie Curtis
- 5 - Suz & Will Cate
- 6 - Carol & Charles Shuler
- 7 - Anna & Jack McKenna
- 8 - Nancy & Henry Pate
- 14 - Rachel & Will Mayo
- 17 - Cathy & Don Garrett
- 23 - Tenley & Brett Murphy
- 24 - Anne & Pat Bryan
- 25 - Jeffery Ann & Clyde Gorsuch
- 31 - Carolyn & Hap Wheeler
- 31 - Mickey & Byron Harder