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WEEKLY WORDS



BURLINGTON, NC

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER



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OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

WE, THE PEOPLE OF HOLY COMFORTER.

Though very diverse politically and socially, care for each other and care deeply for how our faith is manifested in the community. We believe all people are equal in God's hand. Our nurturing congregation has an appreciation for diverse perspectives and opinions. We grow through a continually evolving and questioning discussion regarding our faith, God, and society. We welcome all, without reservation, into our Christian body to be part of a loving and sharing family.

WE CARE.

If you or someone you know needs visitation, prayers, or other assistance because of illness or inability to attend worship, please call the church office at (336) 227-4251.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT.

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, and as the Holy Spirit, and experience God's presence within the church family, nurturing each other through a comprehensive parish program while affirming each other's individual ministries and responding to Jesus' continuing call to minister to others.

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.

Rector's Discretionary Fund is supported by loose offerings from both services on the first Sunday of the month. Gifts at other times are also welcome. This fund is solely used to address needs (rent, utilities, medical bills and the like) of neighbors or church members who find themselves in need of assistance. These funds are not used for church operations.

A WORD FROM RHONDA

Praying, and preaching, the psalms in Lent

Dear siblings in Jesus Christ,

I didn't set out to preach on the psalms this Lent. As the Spirit has led me and things have turned out, however, I will have preached on these ancient, melodic prayers three times between Ash Wednesday and Easter. (Maybe four: the 22nd Psalm has been running through my mind as I contemplate Holy Week and Good Friday.)

I've always enjoyed preaching the psalms. Maybe that's because I love this particular book of the Bible so much. However I'm feeling, whatever I'm experiencing, there's a psalm that meets me there, and if I need to be led out of that metaphorical or actual place, there's a psalm to guide me, too. I have found this to be true since I started reading the Bible regularly, in my late twenties. Maybe it's true for you, too, or maybe you might take my sharing this experience as an invitation to dip into the psalms yourself. Their whole book is contained within our Book of Common Prayer, because Jesus himself prayed the psalms and, I believe, still invites you and me to do so.

Maybe it's comforting to me to know that our far-off ancestors in faith found comfort, challenge, and wisdom in the psalms in the midst of their own grief, confusion, and joy. They found help in these prayers that emerged from close relationships with God, relationships in which the composers felt free to bare their souls, not hide anything, and wait for God's reply. You and I still need that kind of relationship with God, and I think the psalms help us along the way. Thank you for accompanying me as I meditate on them, once again.

Gratefully,
Rhonda

The Rev. Dr. Rhonda M. Lee
RECTOR | rlee@hc-b.org



MARCH 2026 CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00 AM Breakfast Ministry, *Great Hall*
8:15 AM HE Rite I, *Sanctuary*
9:00 AM Breakfast Fellowship, *Auditorium*
9:30 AM The Path: A journey through the Bible, *Auditorium*
9:30 AM Children's Catechesis, *Atrium*
9:45 AM Choir Rehearsal, *Music Room*
10:00 AM Nursery, *Nursery*
10:30 AM HE Rite I, *Sanctuary*
11:30 AM Coffee Fellowship, *Parlor*
2:00 PM Newlin Partnership Music All Around Us, *Great Hall*
4:00 PM Meditation Circle, *Children's Chapel*

MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 7:00 PM Courage to Change, *Parish House*

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

WEEKLY WORDS ARTICLES DUE

- 2:00 PM Mahjong, *Small Dining Room*



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

COMFORTABLE WORDS NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

- 5:30 PM Lenten Supper and Intergenerational Christian Formation: *The city of Jerusalem*, *Great Hall*
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, *Music Room*

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast, *Twin Lakes*
11:00 AM Twin Lakes Eucharist, *Twin Lakes*
7:00 PM Courage to Change, *Parish House*

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

- 10:00 AM Newlin Partnership Tutoring, *Small Dining Room*

MARCH 15 LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

VERGER Steve Swanner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Christin Baker

VESTRY COUNTERS Julie Swanner, Robin Maycock

READERS
8:15 AM - Joseph Keith
10:30 AM - Cheryl Dickey, Jim McAdams

USHERS
8:15 AM - Derek Bates
10:30 AM - Ed & Rene Burgess

ACOLYTES
8:15 AM - Julie Smith
10:30 AM - *Chalice Bearer* - Paige Ysteboe
Chalice Bearer - Kathy Hykes
Crucifer - Wesley Swanner
Left Torch - William Swanner
Right Torch - TBD
Gospel Bearer - TBD

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS *Presenter* - Jocelyn Safrit
Attendant - Maggie Holt

ALTAR GUILD *Shara Partin*, Verne Booker, Ren Bryan,
Connie Griner, Emily Hackney, Mary Telander

FLOWER GUILD Ren Bryan, Janie Sellers, Betsy Weatherly

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE *Joanne McClusky*,
Paula Boyd, Rene Burgess, Sarah Moore,
Jane Romer, Rose Marie Walton

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP *March 19* - Jim McAdams

NEWLIN PARTNERSHIP

“Music All Around Us”

will take place from 2-4PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

HOLY COMFORTER GREAT HALL

Join us this Sunday, afternoon, March 15th, when the Holy Comforter Great Hall will be alive with the sound of “Music All Around Us,” from 2-4 PM. Enjoy entertainment provided by the Two Thorns and a Rose trio featuring songs from the Sound of Music and other Broadway musicals. Refreshments will be provided by the ECW. Come join the fun and help support the Newlin Partnership programs with your donations.



NEWLIN PARTNERSHIP MONTHLY DUTY-FREE LUNCH

On Monday, March 9th, Newlin Partnership volunteers gathered in the Newlin school cafeteria to monitor the students during lunchtime as a monthly service to the teachers. Teachers report that this is one of the favorite things that the Newlin Partnership does for the teachers.

A second-grade teacher said, “To most people lunch is just a meal. But to a teacher, a duty-free lunch is a sanctuary. It’s one moment in a whirlwind day where they can breathe, reset and refuel. It’s a gift from the Newlin Partnership volunteers that allows us a moment to clear our mind and reset so we can finish the day strong. Duty-free lunch is often the only time I get to chat with my colleagues. Thank you, just thank you.”

A third-grade teacher simply said, “Hallelujah!” Many teachers said how they really, really appreciated it. An administrator said it was a big deal to the teachers. Thanks to all who volunteered. The next volunteer opportunities are Friday, April 17 and Monday, May 18.

*(LEFT) Volunteer Kate Mansfield & Principal Price on “wear a hat” day
(RIGHT) 2nd grade teacher Ms. Brown & volunteer Kathy Landes*



WE WANT YOU IN IT!!!



**COMING
SOON**



PHOTO

DIRECTORY

TIME

Say Cheese!!

**DETAILS ON
NEXT PAGE!**

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

We are working on a new picture directory that will be available both online and in print form to you.

For 8 consecutive Sundays, immediately after each Eucharist, you can get your pictures taken in the hallway with the green, stained glass windows just past the Heritage Room on the way to the parlor.

Just show up there, fill out a form, and smile for the camera! You'll even be given the opportunity to have your picture sent to you via email or text.

After the 8 consecutive weeks, you will still be able to get pictures taken the first Sunday of each month.

This way you can update your family changes whenever you would like!

Just a a reminder, our directory is a private document, not to be shared with the general public. Let's keep each other's information amongst ourselves.

Please note that these are not professional photos. Ruth Clark will be taking your pictures with a cell phone camera. This is a very cost effective way to create our directory and her phone camera is really great!

Please feel free to contact Ruth or Cat (*in the office*) with any questions, suggestions or comments.

THANK YOU!!!!

RUTH · (540) 845-7376
ruthannclark61@gmail.com

CAT · (336) 227-4251
csykes@hc-b.org



MEN'S BREAKFAST

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 AM - BREAKFAST

9:00 AM - PROGRAM

**TWIN LAKES (COBE CREEK)
REHABILITATION CENTER**

**LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEEING EVERYONE.**

Phil Savage

savageboatman@bellsouth.net

Jeff Andrews

jeff.alan.andrews@gmail.com

Richard McBride

mcbride@elon.edu



EASTER LILY MEMORIALS

The Flower Guild is now accepting memorials for Easter Lilies to decorate the nave for Easter morning. Lilies may be given in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for loved ones or other blessings.

Envelopes are available at the back of the nave on Sunday, in the church office, or from an usher. Completed envelopes may be placed in the collection plate or returned to the church office.

**THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ORDERS
IS TUESDAY, MARCH 24.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING INTERGENERATIONAL FORMATION AND LENTEN SUPPER

On Wednesday evenings in Lent this year, we're doing something new, fun, and different, and also deeply traditional and familiar to some of you: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for everyone!

Holy Comforter is fortunate to share in a brand-new grant from the Lilly Endowment to our diocese to encourage intergenerational worship. "Worship" is broadly defined in this grant, and Holy Comforter is taking this opportunity to bring the worshipful Montessori practice of catechesis to our entire congregation.

***This intergenerational event is for everyone:
children, teens, and adults of all ages.***

Come to this intergenerational formation series! Experienced guest catechists will lead us through some of the works (stories) our children explore in the atrium (classrooms) on Sunday mornings. Everyone, of every age, will have the chance to wonder together and to learn from each other.

Together, we will worship, we will wonder, we will smile, and we will learn—who knows what? Come and see! Bring your family, bring a friend. It will be a joy to see you there.

WEDNESDAY EVENING INTERGENERATIONAL FORMATION



CATECHESIS
OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD



MARCH 4, 11, 18, AND 25 • 5:30-7:15 P.M. • GREAT HALL
AND LENTEN SUPPER

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORMATION

On Sundays at **9:30 A.M.** in the **AUDITORIUM** we are using Forward Movement's bestselling book, *The Path: A Journey Through the Bible*. *The Path* makes the Bible accessible to everyone from adolescents to older adults. "With *The Path* as our guide and some input from Rhonda and other leaders, we are journeying through the whole Bible together, with no danger of getting bogged down in the "begats."

We read about a chapter per week, before each meeting, and then discuss it together. Whether or not you've done the reading, please join in! You can buy "The Path" at your favorite bookseller.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORMATION SERIES

—THE—
PATH

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

CONTINUING THROUGH MAY

PASSAGES FROM THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION OF THE BIBLE

ATTENTION READERS FOR THE PALM SUNDAY PASSION GOSPEL!

All readers are asked to attend a brief rehearsal in the nave on Sunday, March 22, immediately following the 10:30 AM service. Your participation is important as we prepare for the Palm Sunday Passion Gospel reading. Thank you for your time and willingness to serve.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

FOR VESTRY, BUT NOT ONLY FOR VESTRY

If you have served on vestry, or as a Newlin Partnership volunteer, or in a variety of other ministries, you have likely already gone through our required diocesan Safe Church training.

And if you're serving in some position of trust in the church and haven't done Safe Church training within the last three years, check with Rhonda: it's probably time to take the training again.

Anyone can benefit from this training, and all church members are encouraged to take it, even if your ministry doesn't require it. Safe Church is about creating a healthy, respectful and, yes, safe environment for children, teens, and adults, and that's something we're all responsible for.

Periodically, our diocesan staff offer Safe Church training over Zoom. This is by far the easiest and most rewarding way, currently, to do the training.

The next offering is on **22 MARCH FROM 1 TO 3 P.M.**

You can sign up at this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/nz90PHqTtCXHRRRoTYtAA#/registration>

In the space on the registration form where it asks who should receive your certificate of completion, put our office email address: **info@hc-b.org**. Cat will send you a copy of your certificate when she receives it.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DISCIPLES

FORWARD DAY *by* DAY

Thanks to a generous parishioner, the latest Forward Day by Day is now available — pick up your FREE copy in the bell tower or outside the Christian Formation office. Missed the last edition? A few copies of that are still available too.



MAY • JUNE • JULY 2026

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Build the right relationships between yourself and others, between yourself and your work, between yourself and something larger than yourself.

— Jonathan Haidt Author of “The Anxious Generation”

Contact Rene Burgess or Paula Boyd, Stephen Leaders about becoming a Stephen Minister.

STEPHEN LEADER CONTACT INFORMATION

Paula Boyd (336) 260-6151, paulahboyd@gmail.com

Rene Burgess (336) 269-5959, burgessrene@gmail.com

BREAKFAST MINISTRY NEWS

A SIMPLE GIFT

By Sylvia Crews

We receive many donations for our Breakfast Ministry folks. Some things are interesting and some are useful. Some items are expensive clothing that people have simply outgrown, and we even get “to go” containers and lids that always are taken. We get clothing items that are already folded, and sometimes people donate clothing that I take home to wash first. Occasionally, we get new underwear and even worn bras. Almost everything gets picked up on Sunday mornings from the tables in the Great Hall at Holy Comforter.

Several months ago we received a plethora of items from a woman whose husband had recently died. Included in those treasures was an old wooden cane. I decided to leave the cane in my car until I saw a real need for it. One Sunday morning before our “blizzard”, in came “TJ” limping pretty badly. He struggled to get to the line to pick up his meal. I walked over to ask what had happened, and he told me someone had stolen his cane. I hurried to my car and retrieved that old wooden cane. I asked if he wanted to use it until he could get a new one. “Yes!” he said. “That will be a life saver!” I asked him to return it when he no longer needed it in case someone else might need it.

We didn’t see “TJ” for 4 or 5 Sundays. Last week he came in and stopped by my coffee cart with a big smile on his face. “I brought you something! Last week I cleaned out my tent and found it. I knew you wanted it back in case someone else needs it.”

That old cane taught me a lot about “TJ”. He was thankful to receive it, and happy to pass it on to someone else in need. We experience many simple gifts at our Breakfast Ministry.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SYMPATHIES

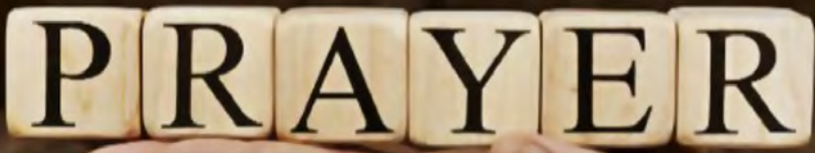
We pray for the repose of the soul of The Rev. Ed Dunlap, retired priest of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina, and for the solace of his wife Donna Dunlap, daughter Kyle Dunlap-Heath, his family, and his many friends at Holy Comforter.

MEMBERS

Ashton Fitzpatrick, Mittie Landi, Bob & Terri Kirchen, Ryan Daniels, Bobby Puett, Cecelia Walker, Chappy Moser, Bob Stewart, Margaret Egede-Nissen.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Jane Kerr, Patrick Nadolski, Katie Donohue, Joann Spencer, Alice Bangs, Jack Sullivan, Billy Petty, Judi Boyd, Sarah Beatty, Mary Vaughn, Joanna, Patty Puett Dement, Kevin Anderson, Pam Kincius, Annie Griner, Peg Shanahan, Joanne Flower, Eddie Arsneault, Pat Harwood, Brynja Bowman, Debbie Plumb, Gus & Pam Holbrook, Janet & Bill Bates, Eileen Civin, Chris Hansen, Terry Babin, Aubrey Henderson.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU * MARCH

- 13** Casey Holt
- 15** Pat House
- 17** Cameron Corbett, William Swanner
- 18** Robin Maycock
- 19** Kelvin Bradsher, Heather Slott
- 22** Brad Lingerfelt, Rick Weatherly
- 23** Max Newbauer
- 27** Clyde Gordon
- 30** Phoebe Murray, Tish Murray, Steve Slott,
Bob Stewart, Caroline Wall

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY WAS MISSED,
PLEASE MESSAGE CAT AT CSYKES@HC-B.ORG.**

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES



PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29

9:00 AM · Hot cross buns
and palm cross makings
10:00 AM · **ONE SERVICE ONLY**
Holy Eucharist Rite II



EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

8:15 AM · 10:30AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II



MAUNDY THURSDAY


APRIL 2 · 7:00 PM



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3 · 12:00 PM

FRIDAY EVENING



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

APRIL 3 · 7:00 PM
Auditorium

SATURDAY EVENING



GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

APRIL 4 · 7:00 PM



114 YEARS AND GROWING

CLERGY

- PRESIDING BISHOP** · The Most Rev. Sean Rowe *sean.rowe@episdionc.org*
BISHOP DIOCESAN · The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman *sam.rodman@episdionc.org*
ASSISTANT BISHOP · The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson
jennifer.brookedavidson@episdionc.org
RECTOR · The Rev. Dr. Rhonda M. Lee *rlee@hc-b.org*
RECTOR EMERITUS · The Rev. David R. Williams *david@davidwilliams.org*

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