

ISSUE 11 | **MARCH 14** | VOL. 03.25

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TWENTY

25



WEEKLY WORDS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

the episcopal church welcomes you

welcome to all newcomers and visitors

Please complete the information card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the ushers.

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

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

mission statement

To worship God, revealed to us as Creator, as Jesus the Christ, & 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.



(336) 227-4251



info@hc-b.org



www.hc-b.org



zoom.us



YOUTUBE.COM
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holycorforterburlington



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

STREET ADDRESS
320 East Davis Street
Burlington, NC 27215

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 1336
Burlington, NC 27216

parish administrator day off

Cat will be taking a day off

Monday, March 17.

The office will be open however and Elizabeth Hansen will be answering the phone if you have any basic needs.

this week at holy comforter

sunday, march 16

The **SECOND** Sunday in Lent

8:00 am	Breakfast Ministry	<i>Great Hall</i>
8:15 am	HE Rite II	<i>Sanctuary</i>
9:20 am	Children's Chapel	<i>3rd fl. Atrium</i>
9:30 am	Rector & Friends Bible Study	<i>Auditorium</i>
9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
10:30 am	HE Rite II	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00 am	Coffee & Lemonade in the	<i>Parlor</i>

monday, march 17

1:00 pm	Stephen leader Training	<i>Stephen Room</i>
5:30 pm	Newlin Partnership Board Mtg.	<i>SDR</i>
7:00pm	Courage to Change	<i>Parish House</i>

tuesday march 18

WEEKLY WORD ARTICLES DUE

4:00 pm	Finance Commission Meeting
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wednesday, march 19

1:00 pm	Stephen leader Training	<i>Stephen Room</i>
5:30 pm	Lenten Supper	<i>Great Hall</i>
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>

thursday, march 20

8:00 am	Men's Breakfast Group	<i>Twin Lakes</i>
10:30 am	NLP Lunch & Learn	<i>SDR</i>
11:00 am	Twin Lakes Eucharist	<i>Twin Lakes</i>
7:00 pm	Courage to Change	<i>Parish House</i>

friday, march 21

COMFORTABLE WORD ARTICLES DUE

lay ministers for sunday, march 16th

verger emeritus	Richard Parker
director of music	Christin Baker
readers	8:15am - Curt Odem 10:30am - Larry Vellani, Robin Maycock
ushers	8:15am - Ron Driscoll 10:30am - Phil Savage, Stig Egede-Nissen
acolytes	8:15am - Elizabeth Hansen 10:30am - chalicists - Adriane Newbauer, Max Newbauer crucifer - Max Newbauer torch bearers - Adriane Newbauer, AnnaGrace Newbauer gospel bearer - Holden Newbauer
children's church	presenter - Jocelyn Safrit assistant - Jim Romer
vestry counters	Carol Thornell, Kathy Hykes
flower guild	Ren Bryan, Janie Sellers, Betsy Weatherly
altar guild	Shara Partin, Verne Booker, Ren Bryan, Connie Griner, Emily Hackney, Mary Telander
sunshine committee	Joanne McClusky, Paula Boyd, Rene Burgess, Sarah Moore, Jane Romer, Rosemarie Walton
men's breakfast group	March. 20 - Phil Savage

membership in holy comforter

Are you a member of holy comforter?

Anyone can be a member of our community by participating in worship, study, service, and fellowship to whatever extent they feel called. If, for whatever reason, you don't want to be officially on the books, we're still glad to have you among us!

If you are not an official member and would like to be, there are three paths to membership, all of them simple.

- If you are a member of a different Episcopal parish, ask that church to send a letter of transfer to Parish Administrator Cat Sykes here at Holy Comforter. Cat will then add you to our membership roll.
- If you are a baptized Christian and a member of a different denomination, send your date of birth and the date and place (including church name) of your baptism to Cat, and she will add you to our membership roll.
- If you are not baptized and want to be, talk to Rector Rhonda about getting baptized.

Once you are on our rolls, you remain an active member as long as you receive communion at least three times a year (and, we hope, much more often than that) and give any amount of financial support to the church budget.

And if you are an active member but are not confirmed, and would like to be, talk to Rhonda about that. In the Episcopal Church, only bishops perform the rite of confirmation, and so this normally takes place during a bishop's visitation to the parish. Confirmation is a prerequisite to several forms of lay service, including vestry membership, serving as a delegate to diocesan convention, and serving as a lay Eucharistic minister or lay Eucharistic visitor.

It's good to be in Christian community with you!

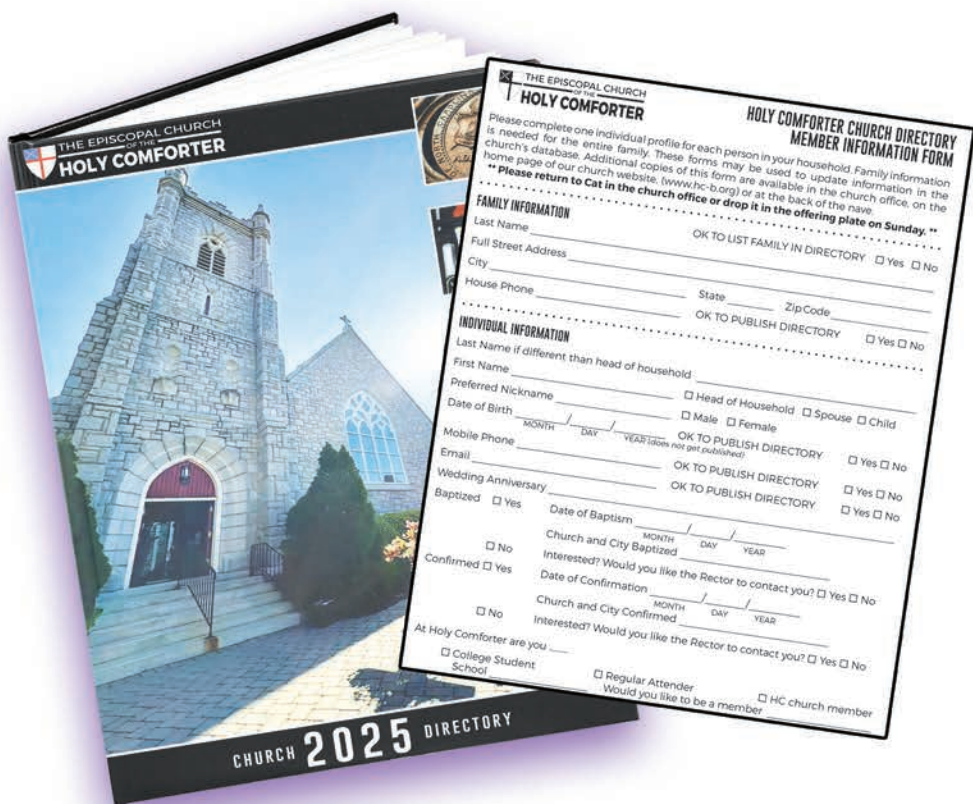


CHURCH DIRECTORY

Let's update your information – it's quick and easy!

We're getting ready for our next church directory, and we'd love for YOU to be a part of it! To make sure your information is up-to-date, **PLEASE FILL OUT A QUICK PROFILE FORM.** You'll find forms at the back of the church (one per person) or in your 2025 interim directory. Once everyone's details are updated, we'll begin creating our beautiful new pictorial directory – and we want YOU in it! By updating your info, you'll help our parish administrator, Cat refresh our church Realm system and ensure you're included in this exciting next step for our church family.

**Thank you for helping us stay connected –
we can't wait to see you in the new directory!**



RECTOR AND FRIENDS BIBLE STUDY

THIRD SESSION THIS SUNDAY

“JESUS, ANXIETY, AND US”

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 / WHERE: **AUDITORIUM** / **9:30-10:15**

On Sundays in March, we are gathering in the auditorium between our two services to study some New Testament lessons with something to say about anxiety. Please bring your Bible—but if you forget it, come anyway! Each Sunday, we will read the lesson together. No advance preparation is necessary, but if you would like to read this week’s lesson beforehand, you’ll find it below.

This Bible study is appropriate for adults and teens. See you there!

Mark 6:45-52, Jesus walks on water

⁴⁵ Immediately [after feeding the thousands] he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was out on the lake, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the lake. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’ ⁵¹ Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.”



what do you do with your anger?

In the last several weeks, a few parishioners have told me they're struggling, as one put it, "against having hate in my heart." Looking at the current political situation, they feel a mix of emotions, but the one that frightens them is hatred.

It's understandable to be tempted by hatred from time to time, especially in extreme times, and it's understandable to be frightened by that emotion. As Christians, you and I know Jesus' way is the way of love. You and I are not called to hate anyone. We know enough history, we read enough news, to know the damage hatred can do.

But I suspect that what these siblings in Christ are feeling is not actually hatred. I suspect it's anger—or its more intense version, rage. That anger is likely tinged with grief, sorrow, fear, or some combination of these. All of which are normal human emotions; all of which usually feel uncomfortable and are unwelcome; all of which are safe emotions to lift to God in prayer.

If you're feeling anger, grief, sorrow, fear, or some combination of these feelings, I want to assure you that God has encountered them many times before. In his earthly life, Jesus even felt them. He flipped tables in the Temple; he grieved the loss of his friend Lazarus and also grieved people's resistance to his call to repentance; he feared the torture and agonizing death a cruel government would impose on him, which he asked God to spare him, if possible. So, whatever you're feeling, if you're gravely disappointed in other people (possibly including yourself), please remember Jesus has been there, and he's with you now.

God has also heard our human emotions expressed through the psalms. Many psalms express trust, faith, and joy in God and in God's creation. And many others express rage or despair, and call upon God for help. The singer of Psalm 10 asks, "Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, and hide yourself in time of trouble?" They beseech God, "Rise up, O Lord; lift up your hand, O God; do not forget the afflicted. Why should the wicked revile God?... The helpless commit themselves to you, for you are the helper of orphans."

When you look around and see people being treated in ways that make you angry, you are not alone. Our ancestors in faith have been pouring out their anger to God for more generations than we can count. You and I can still do that. In fact, I believe we are called to do it.

I think we are called to express our emotions openly to God for a few reasons.

First, God desires deeply to know us and be known by us. Of course, God already knows each of us better than we know ourselves. But God still wants intimate conversation with us. God wants us to pour out our hearts. In doing so, in sitting consciously in God's presence in prayer, and in listening to our own feelings and fears, you and I can come to realize God will listen to us, and we can get to know ourselves better. Self-knowledge is the first step to growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Self-knowledge can lead us to a second step: repentance. If I don't like what I see as selfishness, greed, or callousness in someone else, I'm called as a Christian to look inside myself as well. I'm called to examine my own propensity to those sins, and to repent of them and ask for God's help to behave with compassion and generosity instead. You may not have as much power as some of the people you're angry with, and so your capacity to harm others with your selfishness, greed, or callousness might be smaller. But you can still do harm. And by repenting, you can turn your focus to doing good.

Sitting with our feelings in God's presence, seeking greater self-knowledge, and repenting of our own shortcomings can save us from one possible by-product of anger: bitterness. In the face of injustice, anger is an understandable and sometimes constructive emotion. Bitterness is not constructive; it poisons the person who harbors it, even before it harms anyone around them. Anger that is repressed, that is not channeled toward constructive ends, can quickly turn to bitterness. I urge you to guard against that possibility.

How can we guard against becoming bitter? By taking action. Once you have identified and repented of any of your own tendencies to do the things you don't like others doing, then you

can identify some ways you can behave with compassion and generosity. If you can join with some trusted friends in this venture, all the better. Some days, it may seem like you are “surrounded” by “deadly enemies,” as the writer of Psalm 17 said, but please trust: you are also surrounded by people who want to behave kindly and lovingly toward their neighbors. And just as human beings can do more harm in groups than alone, you and I are better able to behave with love and kindness in concert with others as well.

Sit with your feelings in God’s presence. Acknowledge them; feel them. Ask God to keep any anger you feel from turning to bitterness and hatred. Ask God to help you channel your uncomfortable feelings into actions Jesus would recognize as his own. And call some friends to do those constructive, compassionate things with you. That’s my advice for those who have shared their struggles with me, and it’s my advice for myself, too.


The peace of Jesus Christ uphold you and guide you,

Rhonda

P.S. If you’re new to praying the psalms, and if you’re intrigued by the possibility of using them in times of anger, fear, and grief, you might check out the chapter on this topic in my book, ***Seek and You Will Find: Discovering a Practice of Prayer***. There are a couple of copies in the Holy Comforter library.



THE REV. DR. RHONDA M. LEE
RECTOR | RLEE@HC-B.ORG



The Flower Guild is accepting memorials for Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Order your Easter Lillies for Easter morning, given in honor of, thanksgiving of, or in memory of loved ones, and/or special friends. ***Pick up an envelope in the back of the sanctuary, stop by the church office or ask an usher.*** Drop it off in the collection plate or stop by the church office and give it to Cat, your parish administrator.

THE DEADLINE IS TUES., APRIL 15

from the junior warden

Several people have expressed interest in lending their time and talent to help maintain and improve the buildings and grounds of our beautiful campus. We recognize this as a valuable facet of stewardship and would love to form a team that could come together once or twice a month to tackle some projects. This could include landscaping, painting, organizing or any number of things beyond the scope of Kelvin's sexton position, but not requiring professional support. If you would be interested in lending a hand, please contact Steve Slott or anyone on the Vestry.

note: We would also welcome any suggestions or ideas of projects that you feel are needed and appropriate for this team. Thanks in advance!

lenten

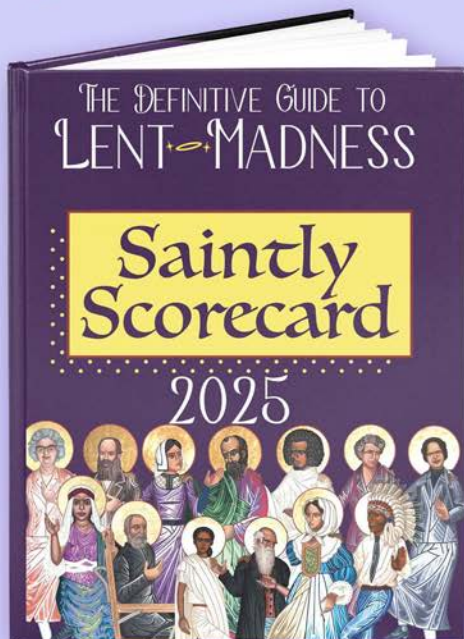
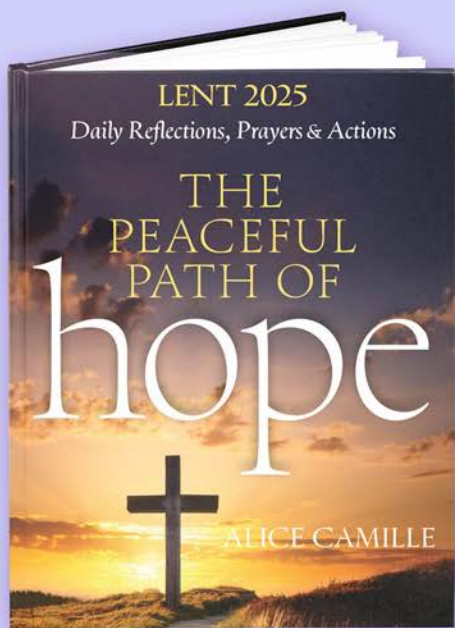
SUPPER &
PROGRAM
GREAT HALL

WEDNESDAY SERIES

Lenten Madness returns this Lent with our Wednesday night dinners and program featuring a basketball-like tournament competition over 5 Wednesdays to name the winner among 32 saints. (*St. Athanasius is one of them.....our original building was named for him 1602 years after his birth*).

All of the saints have similar and compelling stories to help make their case. The first 100 to come will also receive a copy of "The Peaceful Path of Hope", a daily guide for Lenten reflections, prayers and action.

**So join us on Wednesdays, March 19, 26, April 2 & 9
for a fun time. Youth program also provided.**



MAR
19

The lenten supper will be hosted by the Vestry

Acolyte and chalice bearer training

NEXTWEEK

Sunday, MARCH 23RD, at noon

**Are you already an acolyte or chalice bearer
(a.k.a. lay Eucharistic minister)?**

**Would you like to be an acolyte, and you're at least 5 or 6
years old, and maybe several decades more than that?**

**Would you like to serve the chalice,
and you're a teenager or an adult of any age?**

Please join in our training at noon on Sunday March 23rd. We will gather in the small dining room and share some food while we review our various roles and responsibilities. After that, we will go into the nave for some practice before going our separate ways no later than 2 p.m.

All returning acolytes and chalice bearers, and all interested potential acolytes (aged 5 or 6 and up) and potential chalice bearers (teens and adults), are asked to attend.

Please confirm to Rector Rhonda Lee or Verger Steven Swanner that you will attend, or ask them any questions you may have.

we will look forward to seeing you there!



stephen ministry

From this week's "*Living the Way of Love*" by Mary Bea Sullivan:

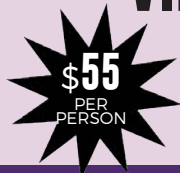
"Where can you go and intentionally provide kindness?"

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Stephen Ministry provides Journeying through Grief to folks who have lost a loved one. This is just one of the parts of of ministry to those in crisis. Contact Rene Burgess (336) 269-5959, **burgessrene@gmail.com** to be a part of this ministry at Holy Comforter.

FIRST EVENT IS TOMORROW **SATURDAY, MARCH 15**
VIETNAMESE FASHION SHOW



Silent Auction • Dinner (*Vietnamese*) • Cash Bar

5PM-8PM @ HOLY COMFORTER

Please contact TERRI STEVENS (336) 693-2159
to reserve your spot or with any questions.



SECOND EVENT IS **SATURDAY, MARCH 29**
MOTORCYCLE CHARITY FUNDRAISER
/ CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

Registration on the 29th starting @ 9:30.

\$20 per bike / \$5 for rider.

Kickstand up @ 11.

Coffee and snacks available for riders.

Carnival games, face painting, tattoos.

Our Famous Fancy Nancy will be in the house. Bouncy
house, balloon chance, corn hole,
musical chairs, hotdogs, pizza and more!



10AM-2PM @ HOLY COMFORTER

ART FEEDS THE SOUL

QUILT SHOW



MARCH 13-15

THURSDAY-SATURDAY / 10AM-4PM

Elon Community Church
271 N. WILLIAMSON AVE., ELON, NC

FREE ADMISSION

Donation of canned goods appreciated

FEATURING

BED TURNING EACH DAY
AT 11AM & 2PM
RAFFLE BASKETS

QUILT SALES
SEWING MACHINE RAFFLE
AND VENDORS

8AM | BREAKFAST | **THURSDAYS** | 9AM | MESSAGE



MEN'S BREAKFAST

TWIN LAKES, COBLE CREEK REHABILITATION CENTER
THE COBLE ROOM | **THURSDAY, MARCH 20**
KRISTY JOHNSON

will present the program for the Men's Breakfast.

CARE, NO MATTER WHAT: The Mission and Impact of Planned Parenthood South Atlantic

Kristy Johnson is a fundraising professional with over 15 years of experience in nonprofit development and donor engagement. She has led major giving, annual fund, and stewardship programs across organizations including American Leprosy Missions, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Coastal Conservation League.

Since 2018, Kristy has played a key role at Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, first building the midlevel giving program and now serving as Director of Philanthropy for the Triad of North Carolina, where she cultivates major gift support to advance Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's mission across the Triad community.

Planned Parenthood South Atlantic has a long history of providing essential healthcare, education, and advocacy. This presentation will highlight our mission-driven work, including reproductive healthcare, sex education, and community outreach, while addressing the growing challenges posed by legislative attacks and opposition. Despite these threats, we remain committed to ensuring access to care and fighting for reproductive freedom for all.

This gathering of the Men's Breakfast Group is a unique opportunity for interested parishioners to learn more about this local and national organization. This presentation by Kristy Johnson will be accessible by Zoom from 9-10 AM on March 20. **If you wish to participate remotely, please contact by email for Zoom access information before March 20.**

QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Phil Savage (savageboatman@bellsouth.net),

Richard McBride (mcbride@elon.edu),

Jeff Andrews (jeff.alan.andrews@gmail.com).

LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING WITH YOU ALL THERE.





CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY WITH **RECTOR RHONDA**

Please save the date for our
CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY!

Bishop Sam Rodman will visit
Holy Comforter to celebrate our
new ministry with Rector Rhonda
on **Tuesday, April 8th at 7 pm.**

The Rev. Dr. Lauren F. Winner will preach.

PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE!
TUESDAY, APRIL 8 / 7PM

H A P P Y
Birthday
★ T O Y O U ★

march



- 14 Betty Hatch
- 15 Patricia House
- 17 Cameron Corbett, William Swanner
- 18 John Blake, Robin Maycock
- 19 Heather Slott, Kelvin Bradsher
- 22 Paige Ysteboe, Brad Lingerfelt, Kathryn Wright
- 23 Max Newbauer
- 27 Clyde Gordon
- 30 Steve Slott, Bob Stewart, Caroline Wall,
Phoebe Murray, Tish Murray

if your birthday was missed, please message
cat@hc-b.org so we can add it in our records.

prayers of the people

sympathies

For the repose of the soul of Andrew Kirchen, for the comfort of his parents, Bob and Terri Kirchen, family and friends.

members

Caroline Ansbacher, Ashton Fitzpatrick, Bob Stewart, Don Karrer, Robin Maycock, Chappy Moser, Margaret Egede-Nissen, Nelson Young, Cecelia Walker, Edward Dunlap, Bobby Puett, Mittie Landi, Evie Surratt, Doug Peet

family and friends

Canon Earnest Graham
Eileen Civil - Jim McAdams friend
Ann McKinney - Sarah Moore's cousin
Vicki Kincius - Connie Griner's sister-in-law
Charley Jones - Les Plumb's great-granddaughter
Dennis Campbell - Brenda Poole's son-in-law
Thomas & Jean Cummins - Ron Driscoll's friends
Devin Day - David Day's brother
Annie Griner - Connie Griner's daughter-in-law
Randy Williams - David Williams' brother
Richard Lehman - Gary Schilke's friend
Gus Holbrook - Julie & Steven Swanner's friend
Janet and Bill Bates - Derek Bates' parents
Allison - Ren Bryan's daughter-in-law
Terry Babin - Elizabeth Hansen's friend
Lisa Daniels - Julia Buffington's friend
Pat Harwood - Amy Hess' mother
Lavette Morgan - Angie Boone's former mother-in-law
Bonnie Honeycutt - Cherry Wrenn's friend
Brynja Bowman, Jeff Safrit - Jocelyn Safrit's niece & brother-in-law
Aubrey Henderson - Nancy Powell's great granddaughter
Patricia Holt Langston - Nancy Powell's granddaughter

113 YEARS AND GROWING

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**CONNECT WITH
HOLY COMFORTER**