

TWENTY

25



Happy Valentine's Day 2025

WEEKLY WORDS

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

Please 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
echcburlington



FACEBOOK.COM
holycorfterburlington



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holycorfterburlington



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

STREET ADDRESS
320 East Davis Street
Burlington, NC 27215

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 1336
Burlington, NC 27216

Burying the Dead

In my first month at Holy Comforter, three parishioners died. All had been ill; all of their deaths were expected before too long; all of them are mourned and missed by family and friends. Holy Comforter has hosted two of their funerals, those of Betty Wooten and Nancy Christensen, while Tracy Landi's funeral is coming up on Saturday the 22nd of this month.

The funeral service in our Book of Common Prayer is titled, "Burial of the Dead." Those are stark words, and I like them. They describe exactly what we come together to do at that moment: to commend and commit our sibling in Christ (or our fellow child of God, if they did not profess the Christian faith) one last time to God, trusting in the resurrection that is the focus of the rite. We can celebrate a departed person's life in many ways, anytime we remember them, raise a glass to their memory, prepare a dish they loved, wear their favorite color. But burying them, letting go of their earthly remains, is a unique moment, somber and yet, because of our trust in Jesus Christ, not without hope or even joy.

In the past month, I have seen how well Holy Comforter comes together to bury the dead. You show up to mourn, and to serve in lay ministries like choir member, usher, and acolyte at funerals. You prepare treats for receptions after the service, and you graciously host those gatherings. You write notes and drop off baked goods or meals to grieving community members. For all these gifts of time, talent, and treasure, I thank you and I thank God for you.

Did you know? Burying the dead is one of the seven corporal (meaning physical) works of mercy commended in Scripture and honored by the church. In these works of mercy, we tend to our neighbors' physical needs, and trust that they will also tend to ours. The other six corporal works of mercy are:

- feeding those who are hungry,
- giving drink to those who are thirsty,
- sheltering those who are homeless,
- visiting those who are sick,
- visiting those who are in prison,
- giving alms—specifically money—to neighbors in need.

Any of these works can be done in more or less direct, and sometimes creative ways. Offering water to a neighbor walking in the summer's heat is a work of mercy; so is donating to organizations that work to provide clean water at home and abroad. Visiting a friend in hospital is a work of mercy; so is giving blood that will help a stranger after a trauma or surgery. Participating in a jail or prison ministry is a work of mercy, and so is offering support to children and families with an incarcerated parent.

All these works are most faithfully done without concern for whether or not the recipient "deserves" them. This is true for several reasons. Mercy by definition is offered without regard for merit; much of what any of us possesses is due at least as much to luck or an accident of birth as to our own work; and most importantly, Jesus Christ himself tells us repeatedly that when we show mercy to any of our neighbors we are showing it to him. Worrying more about whether a recipient deserves mercy, than about how we might show love and care, keeps us from recognizing Jesus where we might otherwise get to know him better.

I'm thankful for the ways Holy Comforter already performs the corporal works of mercy, and I look forward to continuing together, even finding new ways to respond to God's call and serve Jesus in each other and in our wider community.

In the peace and love of Jesus,

Rhonda

P.S. If you're intrigued by the corporal works of mercy and you like to read, you might enjoy Kerry Weber's book, *Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job* (2014), about a young woman's quest to practice these works over the forty days of Lent.



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

This week at Holy Comforter

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

10:00am Vestry Orientation

Small Dining Rm.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

8:00 am Breakfast Ministry

Great Hall

8:15 am HE Rite II

Sanctuary

9:20 am Children's Chapel

3rd fl. Atrium

9:30 am Lectionary Bible Study

Small Dining Rm.

9:45 am Choir Rehearsal

Choir Room

10:30 am HE Rite II

Sanctuary

11:30 am Lemonade & Coffee in the Parlor

MONDAY, FEB. 17

5:30 pm Newlin Partnership Board mtg.

7:00 pm Courage to Change

Parish House

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Weekly Word Articles Due

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

Comfort Word Articles Due

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Choir Room

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Group

Twin Lakes

11:00 am Twin Lakes Eucharist

Twin Lakes

7:00 pm Courage to Change

Parish House

WEEKLY & COMFORTABLE WORDS

**If you would like to submit an article for
Weekly and Comfortable Words please submit
NO MORE than 250 words.**

**WEEKLY WORDS SUBMISSIONS ARE NO LATER
THAN TUESDAYS THE WEEK OF.**

Lay Ministry Schedule for Sun., Feb. 16

VERGER

Steven Swanner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Christin Baker

READERS

8:15am - Jocelyn Safrit

10:30am - Mary and Brad Collins

USHERS

8:15am - Ron Driscoll

10:30am - Patrick Rudd and Hu Womack

ACOLYTES

8:15am - Julie Smith

10:30am - CHALICISTS - Steven Swanner, Meredith Patterson

CRUCIFER - Paul Surratt

TORCH BEARERS - Micah Ash, Lorenzo Johnson

GOSPEL BEARER - Millie Surratt

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

PRESENTER - Mourine Todd

ASSISTANT - Gabe Johnson

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

Martha Adams, Jennell Harris, Cheryl Miner, Janie Sellers

SAVE *the* DATES!

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF **RECTOR & FRIENDS**
BIBLE STUDY IS COMING

ON SUNDAYS IN **MARCH**
“JESUS, ANXIETY, AND US”

WHEN
SUNDAYS, MARCH 2ND, 9TH, 16TH, 23RD, & 30TH,
9:30-10:15 AM

Where: Holy Comforter auditorium

Each week's passage will be announced in advance,
but **NO PREPARATION IS NECESSARY.**

Please bring your Bible, and we'll see you there!
(If you forget your Bible, we'll have some.)

Cast all your anxieties on God. 1 Peter 5:7



Looking to be **BAPTIZED** or **CONFIRMED** ? LET RHONDA KNOW!

Are you new to Holy Comforter or the Episcopal Church, and want to learn more? Do you or your child desire to be baptized, or do you desire to have your baby baptized? If you're baptized, do you want to be confirmed, making your statement of faith before a bishop and receiving the laying on of hands for strengthening in the Spirit? Or, if you have already been confirmed in another Christian tradition, would you like to be received into the Episcopal Church, officially becoming a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion? Are you already confirmed, but feeling called to reaffirm your Christian faith?

IF ANY OF THESE ARE TRUE OR IF ANY MIGHT BE TRUE FOR YOU, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH RHONDA.

In the Episcopal Church, only a bishop can confirm or receive people into the Episcopal Church, and personal reaffirmations of faith are made before a bishop. Therefore, these rites are done when a bishop visits, or when there is a convocation-wide confirmation service. Preparation is done in advance, however, and that's why Rhonda would like to know now who might like to go through the preparation. This several-meeting course is also a great introduction to the Episcopal Church and Anglicanism, for those who would just like to learn more.

Baptismal preparation is a little different and Rhonda can perform a baptism almost anytime, although certain dates, like Easter, are preferred.



If you feel God might be calling you in this way, please be in touch at rlee@hc-b.org.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

SUNDAY, **MARCH 23RD**, AT NOON

Returning and new acolytes:

Please come to 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 all interested potential acolytes (aged 5 or 6 and up) are asked to attend.

WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Questions? Ask Rector Rhonda or Verger Steve Swanner.



Be the
light



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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for two specials events
happening at Holy Comforter!

**Both events will be
fundraisers for the
Denise Marie Flaherty
Foundation
for supporting those
fighting cancer.**

Terri Stevens has been
asked to be a Caregiver
Champion in memory
of her daughter,
Kara Burruss Bramhall,
who passed away
on March 24, 2023.

**ALL DONATIONS
STAY LOCAL**

**SEE DETAILS
ON NEXT PAGE**

denise
marie flaherty memorial foundation



*Terri
Stevens*

MARCH

15

**VIETNAMESE
FASHION SHOW**

MARCH

29

**MOTORCYCLE CHARITY
FUNDRAISER &
CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL**

FIRST EVENT IS **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

The Denise Marie Flaherty Foundation presents



Let the spirit of the Derby and the Courage of the Champions inspire you!

Lavender Ribbon Luncheon 2025

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | National Agents Alliance

1214 Turrentine St., Burlington, NC 27215

Meet the Champions



**Ragan
Oakley**

Sponsored by:
Lowe Funeral Home
& Crematory



**Craig
Miller**

Sponsored by:
Vivian Sweatt Realty



**Terri
Stevens**

Sponsored by:
iSalon



**Lee
Johnson**

Sponsored by:
A New Look Salon



**Tori
Stadler**

Sponsored by:
Rose & Rae's Cafe



Join our Champions – Survivors and Caretakers – as they pay it forward. Donate to support their fundraising efforts and help them make a difference for cancer Warriors and their families.

dmf-lavender-ribbon-luncheon.eventlify.com



Our Stephen Ministry at Holy Comforter has been a spiritual, confidential, supportive force that continues to help folks in crisis. We have served many as they navigated the difficult aspects of their journeys.

At Nancy Christensen's celebration of life the presence of many Stephen Ministers demonstrated the power of this powerful ministry. Nancy went from being a Care Receiver herself to training to become a Stephen Minister to serving as a Stephen Minister as she cared for others. This care for others and her contribution in helping other Stephen Ministers was a special gift to us all. Her spiritual strength helped us all continue our mission.

Everyone has a gift to help others. Your gift might be to apply to become a Stephen Minister.

Contact Rene Burgess, Stephen Leader to obtain your application. Information from Rene (336) 269-5959, burgessrene@gmail.com.

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

TWIN LAKES, COBLE CREEK REHABILITATION CENTER
THE COBLE ROOM | **THURSDAY, FEB. 20**

RICHARD PARKER will present the program
for the February 20th Men's Breakfast.

MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD OF WRITING'

Join us on February 20th as Richard plans to give an update on his new books and his limited success as an author. He will bring copies of his books since last year's show and tell.

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.



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**FAITH, FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP**



Birthday CELEBRATIONS

February 15	Davis Slott
February 16	Morgan Robinson
February 18	Lynn Dahl
February 19	Lisa Lawson
February 23	Brian Martindale
February 24	Pat Rogers
February 25	Bob Moulton
February 26	Susan Autry
February 27	Marie Brown, Terri Stevens, Mark Thomas
February 28	James Gibson, Miles Pinson



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

Prayers of the People

Sympathies to

- For the repose of the soul of Rebecca Lobach, for the comfort of her family and friends, including Claire Hansen.
- For the repose of the soul of Cecelia Whitaker, for the comfort of her brother-in-law, Pete and Beth Glidewell and for her family and friends.

Members

Don Karrer	Robin Perez	Chappy Moser
Nelson Young	Amy Hess	Edward Dunlap
Bobby Puett	Mittie Landi	Evie Surratt
Doug Peet	Bob Stewart	Cecelia Walker
Margaret Egede-Nissen		

Family and Friends

"For Canon Earnest Graham, recovering from open heart surgery."

Christina Creason - Cat Sykes' friend
Devin Day - David Day's brother
Grace Savage - Phil & Betsey Savage's daughter-in-law
Annie Griner - Connie Griner's daughter-in-law
Juli Hauser - Gretchen & Doug Peet's friend
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, Lupe Wood - Julia Buffington's friends
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

If you would like to

Give us a ring, drop a line, scroll through our social media or visit our website... it's all listed below for your convenience.



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OFFICE HOURS | Monday-Thursday (8-2:30pm), Friday (8-12pm)
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www.hc-b.org

FACEBOOK | [holyccomforterburlington](https://www.facebook.com/holycomforterburlington)

YOUTUBE | [echcburlington](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCehcburlington)

INSTAGRAM | [holyccomforterburlington](https://www.instagram.com/holycomforterburlington)

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**CONNECT WITH
HOLY COMFORTER**