

VOLUME 2024 • A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER • FEBRUARY 23

WEEKLY WORDS



LENT

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.

OUR PARISH 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.

WAYS TO CONNECT

CHURCH OFFICE

336-227-4251

WEBSITE

www.hc-b.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday | 8am-2:30pm

Friday | 8am-12pm

INSTAGRAM

www.instagram.com/holycomforterburlington

FACEBOOK

www.Facebook.com/holycomforterburlington

PAGE

GROUP

www.Facebook.com/groups/holycomforterburlington

YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/ECHCBurlington

2024

I AM EXCITED!

THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

Stewardship

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2024 WEEK OF 2/21/2024

\$450,000

STEWARDSHIP GOAL

For 2024

8

NUMBER OF PLEDGE CARDS

Received through the week ending Feb. 21

90

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLEDGE CARDS

Returned for 2024

\$324,588

AMOUNT PLEDGED FOR 2024

As of February 21

LENT MADNESS

Who will win the **GOLDEN HALO?**

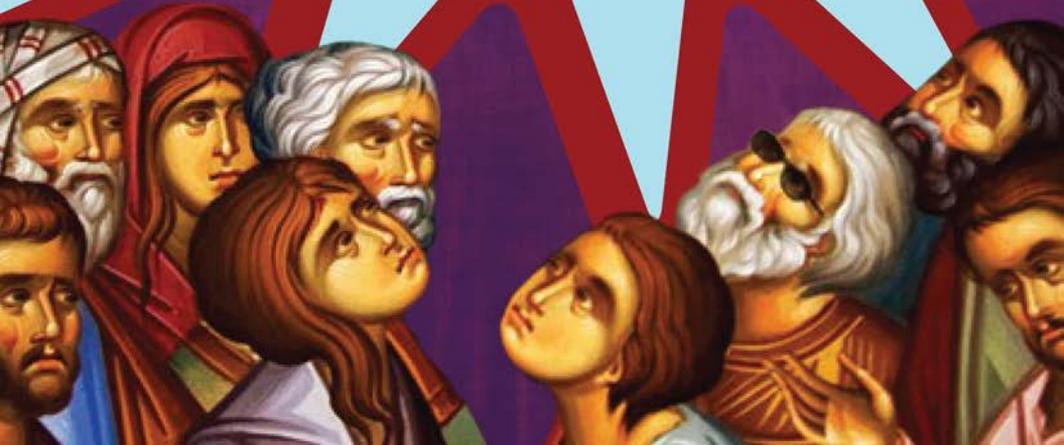
2024 LENTEN SUPPERS

Please join us in Lent as we explore some of the saints of the Calendar by experiencing “Lent Madness.” Come to learn what these saints have to say to us today. Decide who you will support as they battle it out for the “most worthy”, the saint who earns this year’s Golden Halo!

As usual, a light soup-based meal will be served, and activities for younger children will be provided.

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 PM

continuing each Wednesday
THROUGH MARCH 20.



Lenten

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERIES

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30PM THRU MAR. 20.
COME EAT DINNER AND ENJOY THE LENTEN PROGRAM.

The children will go upstairs at 6:15 to 7pm each
Wednesday evening after dinner and learn about...

**ST. JOAN
OF ARC**

FEB. 28



**ST. TERESA
OF CALCUTTA**

MAR. 6



ST. PATRICK

MAR. 13



**I AM A SAINT
IN THE MAKING**

MAR. 20



STORIES • CRAFTS • ACTIVITIES | PLEASE JOIN US!



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

**SHARING THEMES AND PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE FROM
HARWOOD COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

Michael Robinson and Sara Beth Hardy will return to continue the conversation that we started in the fall regarding aspirations and concerns we have for the Alamance County community. They will also share themes that have emerged from similar conversation being had across the county.

**TWIN LAKES | *Coble Rehabilitation Center*
8AM for breakfast | 8:45 for the program**

If you have questions about the location or programs, contact Bob Kirchen (kirchenrv@gmail.com), Richard McBride (mcbride@elon.edu) or Phil Savage (savageboatman@bellsouth.net).



ACAC

Allied churches of Alamance County, Inc.

Housing the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry

**Show Your HEART by donating
Sunday, Feb. 4 to those in Need.**

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." *John Holmes*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

All purpose flour, Mayonnaise, Canned beans, Canned vegetables, Cleaning supplies, Toiletries for individuals, Chicken and Beef broth, But, any items you give are appreciated and needed!

Thank You for making the holidays special for so many by providing delicious hot meals, items for cleanliness and a safe space. Our parishioners are remarkably generous to those they don't even know! Please bring your gifts any day by ringing the church back doorbell, then putting them in the Bell Tower basket. Or bring them on Sundays as you come to worship.



CONTACT: Martha Adams (awam3a@outlook.com)

stephen MINISTRY

Christ caring for people through people



A message from Rev. Greg Farrand's sermon last Sunday speaks to what Stephen Ministers do for their care receivers: "The only thing that transforms the human heart is love and the feeling of being safe."

To learn more about Stephen Ministry at Holy Comforter contact Rene Burgess, Stephen Leader (336-269-5959), burgessrene@gmail.com or Derek Bates, Vestry Pastoral Care (941-330-6595), dbates@myhst.com.



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Mark Whitaker

TALKING POINTS

RE: STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FOLLOW-UP, FEBRUARY 2024

There are lots of vestry responsibilities we are tackling, but two take precedence right now: the rector search, and stewardship. I want to focus today on stewardship and provide you with a brief update. And while this update starts with what you have all seen in Weekly Words about pledges to date, it is also intended to keep you informed on next steps – and most important, on how your support of Holy Comforter is truly valued and respected.

You are well aware of three numbers:

1. Our goal of securing **\$450,000** in pledge commitments.
2. We have received pledge commitments from **82** individuals and families.
3. The pledge commitments total to date is just over **\$313,000**.

The \$450,000 target represents a budget that would allow Holy Comforter to keep our spiritual community, mission outreach, and physical plant objectives on track. It isn't "bare-bones" but it also doesn't reflect much in the way of funding new initiatives or increasing personnel support.

Knowing how much pledges will provide is critical in knowing what we can plan to do in 2024. You can all do the math as well as your vestry can, and that size gap is a significant one. I want to assure you that the vestry is carefully addressing this.

Basically we have these options in front of us:

- Evaluate where budgetary cuts can be applied;
- Consider other revenue sources;
- Secure more pledges.

It's important to note that the 82 pledges represent a lot of good news: there are increased pledges, new pledges and only a handful of decreased pledges. We are truly blessed to have the enthusiastic generosity of so many people in this parish. What we have also discovered, however, is that a fairly sizable number of people who pledged last year have not made a pledge this year, to date.

As I share that with you, let me be really clear about something here: PLEDGE GIVING AMOUNTS ARE NEVER MADE KNOWN TO ANYONE BUT JULIA BUFFINGTON, OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR. We have a report from her that tells us aggregate totals on pledge activity, and if requested she can provide names to us of those who have pledged or not pledged – but we will never see giving amounts. And that is how it should be: every gift is valued regardless of amount, and every individual or family set of circumstances are unique – and your privacy is sacred. Your vestry is absolutely committed to upholding this mandate.

But it would also be irresponsible of us not to follow up with those who have supported pledge campaigns in the past. This comes from a place of caring, not judging: caring about the future of our church, caring about how our fellow parishioners feel about Holy Comforter, caring about how we might make supporting the church more doable for everyone who loves it. So we are going to do just that in the coming weeks – reach out to those who have been supportive in the past and are missing from the pledge list to date, to listen to what the concerns might be or how we can help them find ways to give. If you have any questions whatsoever about this effort, please don't hesitate to speak to me or any of the vestry members.

I have one other announcement in regard to the stewardship campaign that we hope you will consider to be good news. An anonymous parishioner has approached the vestry with a challenge: if the vestry members will increase their pledges to a total of \$6,000, the parishioner will match that amount and another \$12,000 can then be added to the pledge total. Your vestry is inspired by the generosity of this parishioner as well as the many who have given of their time and talents to Holy Comforter, and it didn't take much time or discussion at all for us to respond with a resounding "yes" to do our part for this beloved church.

The vestry remains committed and optimistic about Holy Comforter's work in 2024 – as the stewardship pledge campaign theme states: "I am excited!" – and we still are. Thank you for your attention this morning and for all you do for Holy Comforter!



PFLAG

PFLAG ALAMANCE
PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS

INVITES YOU

Becoming Us: One Transgender Family's Transformational Journey

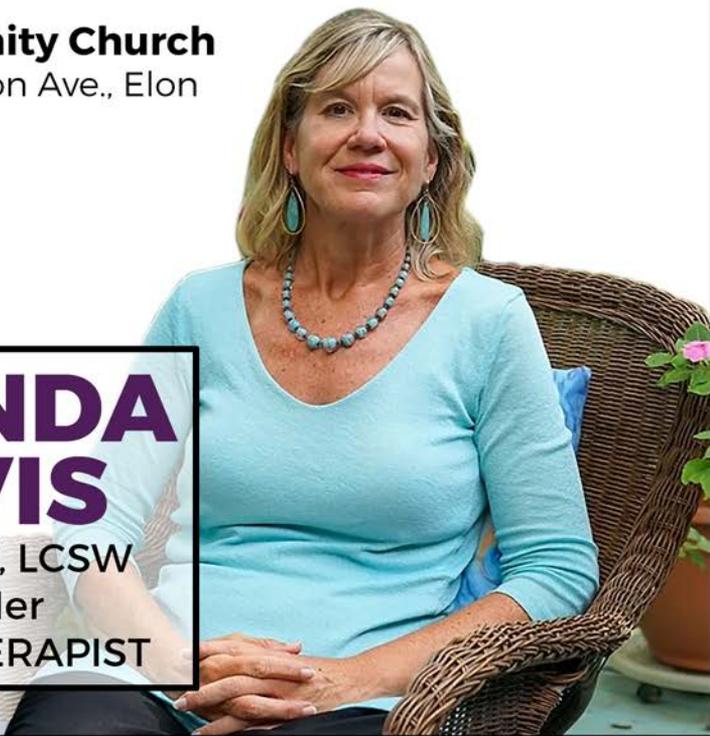
MARCH 5 | 7:00PM

In response to numerous requests for help and understanding, some of the dynamics involved when a child or another declares as Transgender.

We welcome all who wish to join us for this informative presentation from one who has walked the journey. There is no charge for attendance.

Elon Community Church

271 N. Williamson Ave., Elon



**RHONDA
DAVIS**

MDiv, MSW, LCSW

She / Her

PSYCHOTHERAPIST

ART FEEDS THE SOUL
QUILT SHOW

MARCH 6-9 Wed.-Fri. (10am-5pm)
Saturday (10am-4pm)

ELON COMMUNITY CHURCH | 271 N. Williamson Ave., Elon

FREE ADMISSION

Donation of canned goods appreciated

PRESENTED BY

Alamance Piecemakers Quilt Guild
Burlington Carousel Quilt Guild

FEATURING

Raffle Baskets
Silent quilt Auction
Quilt Raffle
Vendors

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**HOLLIS
CHATELAIN**

FRIDAY | 6PM \$10



Twin Lakes
COMMUNITY

Open

HOUSE

THE HARBOR  R

ADULT DAY PROGRAM AT
MONETA SPRINGS MEMORY CARE
For those with early dementia.

THURS., MARCH 7
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Call (336) 585-2393 for questions & to RSVP
3810 Heritage Drive, Burlington, NC 27215



The Alamance Chorale

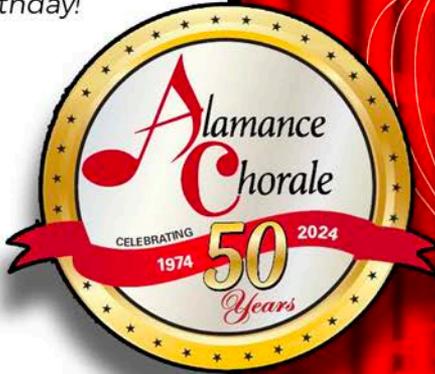
PRESENTS

BROADWAY BIRTHDAY BASH

Join us as the Chorale celebrates
our 50th Birthday!

MARCH 8TH
7:30PM

MARCH 9TH
2:00PM



Enjoy Memorable Broadway tunes
from the last 50 years as we also
share the history of Alamance
Chorale over the last 50 years.

Birthday treats at this Desert
Theater will be provided by Main
Street Cakes and Smitty's Ice Cream
along with popcorn, coffee, and tea.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be
purchased from any Chorale member,
at Alamance Arts, or at the door
of each concert (if still available).

For more information, visit
www.alamancechorale.org or
contact us at

alamancechorale1974@gmail.com

Contact Dale Young
for information (336) 416-5099



ALAMANCE ARTS
Alamance Chorale is an
Associate Member of
The Alamance Arts Council



North
Carolina
Arts
Council
Fifty years
of leadership

Front Street United Methodist Church • 136 S. Fisher St., Burlington, NC

MONDAY
MARCH 11

IN THE SMALL DINING ROOM

10:00AM GATHER & GAB | 10:30AM PRESENTATION

Remember daylight savings time will have begun.

ECW | EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The topic for the program is the tradition of Chrismon given by Connie Griner and Shara Partin.

Come learn a little about the history of this newish practice, what the ornaments represent, materials and how they are made.

Our business this month is choosing what charities to donate to this winter and planning for the chicken pie fundraiser in May. Come with your ideas and calendars.

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

at meetings and there is no obligation to become more involved than you are able to.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

CONTACT NANCY SMITH | (336) 430-7838



111 YEARS AND GROWING



CONTACTS

BISHOP DIOCESAN	The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman sam.rodman@episdionc.org
ASST. BISHOP	The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson jennifer.brookedavidson@episdionc.org
VERGER	Steven Swanner jsswanner@gmail.com
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FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR	Julia Buffington jbuffington@hc-b.org
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Cat Sykes csykes@hc-b.org
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ASSISTANT FOR YOUTH & FAMILY PROJECTS	Jocelyn Safrit safritr@bellsouth.net
NURSERY STAFF	Jan Kelly jankelly159@gmail.com
NURSERY STAFF	EmmaLee Murphy emma.murph26@icloud.com
RECTOR EMERITUS	The Rev. David R. Williams david@davidrwilliams.org

VESTRY CONTACTS

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THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

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WWW.HC-B.ORG

CONNECT WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

