VOLUME 4 | APRIL | ISSUE 13



## COMFORTABLE WRDS

A NEWSLETTED DURI ICATION OF THE EDISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLV COMFORTED

#### 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.

#### **Me cate**

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 holycomforterburlington



INSTAGRAM.COM holycomforterburlington



Tanner's Wine Bar



Current marks

The Old Sharkeys

STREET ADDRESS 320 East Davis Street Burlington, NC 27215

MAILING ADDRESS PO Box 1336 Burlington, NC 27216



STEVEN SWANNER













JAN KELLY Nursery Coordinator





HOLY COMFORTER STAFF



THE RT. REV. SAM RODMAN Bishop Diocesan

























2025 VESTRY





#### **HOLY WEEK services at Holy Comforter**

Dear friends,

As I write, the church staff and many unpaid lay ministers are busily preparing for our Holy Week and Easter services. Rehearsing music, preparing bulletins and sermons, going over the movements of the liturgy, making sure our altar furnishings are clean and ready, planning floral arrangements...so much goes into making these liturgies beautiful, reverent, and joyful that it's impossible to list everything. Late Lent is a full time!

And then Holy Week arrives, and we settle into its hard yet ultimately joyful beauty. That week, I focus on little besides liturgy and pastoral care, the better to enter into the mystery of the season. That is: the reality that in Jesus Christ, God came to be with us, and was willing to be betrayed and killed by sinful humans, and that in the end, the power of God was greater than the power of sin. Sin and death have their moments in this world, in all of our lives, and yet they do not, they will not, triumph. In Jesus Christ, we have God's Word on that. In him, too, we have the greatest and deepest source of strength as we seek to love God and our neighbors in every way we can.

So, if you were waiting for a personal invitation to attend all the Holy Week services at Holy Comforter, here it is. Attending these services is a time commitment. You might need help to get to the evening services; you might need to ask a friend for a ride, or join together to take a taxi or other paid ride. If you are able, however, I believe you will find your experience of this

holiest season of the year enriched, and the joy

of Easter morning even sweeter.

Come, let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

In the peace of Jesus Christ, *Rhonda* 

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

#### april calendar

#### **TUESDAY. APRIL 1**

**Weekly Word Articles Due** 

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Stephen leader Training 1:00pm

Lenten Supper

Stephen Room Great Hall

Choir Room

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal **THURSDAY. APRIL 3** 

5:30 pm

9:45 am

10:30 am 11:00 am

7:00pm

Men's Breakfast Group 8:00 am

Twin Lakes Parish House

7:00 pm Courage to Change

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**SUNDAY. APRIL 6** 

**Breakfast Ministry** 8:00 am

HE Rite I

HF Rite I

Great Hall Sanctuary 3rd fl Atrium

8:15 am Children's Chapel 9:20 am 9:30 am

Rector & Friends Bible Study Choir Rehearsal

Coffee & Lemonade in the Parlor

Auditorium

Choir Room Sanctuary

Stephen Room

Parish House

Sanctuary

**MONDAY, APRIL 7** 1:00pm Stephen leader Training

Courage to Change **TUESDAY, APRIL 8** 

**Weekly Word Articles Due** 

7:00 pm Celebration of New Ministry

WEDNESDAY. APRIL 9

Stephen leader Training 1:00pm 5:30 pm

Lenten Supper Choir Rehearsal

Stephen Room Great Hall

**THURSDAY. APRIL 10** 

8:00 am 11:00 am

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

9·15 am

Men's Breakfast Group **Brookwood Eucharist** Courage to Change

Brookwood Parish House

Twin Lakes

Choir Room

**SUNDAY. APRIL 13 Breakfast Ministry** 8:00 am

**PALM SUNDAY** Great Hall

Choir Rehearsal

Choir Room

Join us for light refreshments (hot cross buns) and to make palm crosses. Then we will process to the church for our one service that day. Children's Chapel 9:20 am 3rd fl Atrium Palm Sunday HE Rite II 10:00 am Sanctuary Coffee & Lemonade in the Parlor 11:00 am **MONDAY, APRIL 14** Episcopal Church Women 10:00am Small Dining Rm. 1:00pm Stephen leader Training Stephen Room 6:00pm Vestry Meeting Small Dining Rm. Courage to Change Parish House 7:00pm **TUESDAY, APRIL 15 Weekly Word Articles Due WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 Comfortable Word Articles Due** 9:00am Garden Club Small Dining Rm. Stephen leader Training 1:00pm Stephen Room Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Room **THURSDAY, APRIL 17** Men's Breakfast Group 8:00 am Twin Lakes Twin Lakes Eucharist Twin Lakes 11:00 am Sandwich Supper 6:00 pm Great Hall Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm Sanctuary Courage to Change Parish House 7:00 pm FRIDAY, APRIL 18 12:00 pm Good Friday Service Sanctuary Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Auditorium **SATURDAY. APRIL 19** 7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter Sanctuary **SUNDAY. APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY** 8:00 am **Breakfast Ministry** Great Hall 8:15 am HE Rite I Sanctuary Children's Chapel 3rd fl. Atrium 9:20 am Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Choir Room 10:30 am HE Rite I Sanctuary

Coffee & Lemonade in the Parlor

Palm Sunday Fellowship

Great Hall

9:15 am

11:00 am

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 21**

7:00pm

1:00pm Stephen leader Training Stephen Room

5:30pm Newlin Partnership Board mtg Small Dining Rm.

Parish House

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22** 

**Weekly Word Articles Due** 

#### **WEDNESDAY. APRIL 23**

1:00pm Stephen leader Training Stephen Room

Great Hall 5:30 pm Lenten Supper

Courage to Change

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 24**

Men's Breakfast Group 8:00 am Twin Lakes

Small Dining Rm. 10:00am **Newlin Tutor Group** 

7:00 pm Courage to Change Parish House

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 27** 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Breakfast Ministry** 8:00 am Great Hall 8:15 am HF Rite II

Sanctuary

3rd fl Atrium Children's Chapel 9:20 am Choir Room 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

HE Rite II 10:30 am

11:00 am Coffee & Lemonade in the Parlor

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 28**

7:00pm Courage to Change Parish House

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 29**

**Weekly Word Articles Due** 

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30**

Newlin Partnership Training Small Dining Rm. 9:00am

Choir Rehearsal Choir Room 7:00 pm

#### weekly & comfortable words

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

#### lay ministers calendar

ALTAR GUILD		
April 6	Audrev Deadmon Leslie Haines	Fliza

Aprilio	Addrey Deadmon, Lesile Hairles, Elizabeth Hood,
	Sandra Moulton, Jane Spencer, Bea Swajkoski
April 13	Joanne McClusky, Cheryl Miner, Tish Murray,
	Susan Ryan, Julie Smith, Nancy Smith, Rosemarie
	Walton

hoth Hood

Isley,

Griner, Emily Hackney, Mary Telander April 27 Janie Sellers, Betty Brown, Rene Burgess, Mary Collins, Lynn Dahl, Beth Glidewell, Elizabeth

Shara Partin, Verne Booker, Ren Bryan, Connie

#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

Hansen

lim Domor

Aprillo	JIIII ROITIEI
April 13	Ben Ansbacher
April 20	Jim McAdams
April 27	Larry Conte

#### **MEALS ON WHEELS** Frank Harris April 1

Anril 2

April 20

April Z	Pete Olidewell
April 3	Shara Partin & Martha Adams
April 4	Lynn & Peter Dahl
April 28	Stig Egede-Nissen
April 29	Diana Wallace & Rene Burgess
April 30	Cherry Wrenn & Stan Williams

Data Clidawall

#### **VESTRY COUNTERS** April 6 Alox Stoyons Kathy Hykos

	Alex Stevens, Nathly Hykes
April 13	Carol Thornell, Elizabeth Hansen
April 20	Pat House, Barbara Simpson
April 27	Sid Little, Steve Slott

FLOWER GUILD		
April 6	Connie Griner, Brad Lingerfelt	
April 13	Betty Brown, Julie Smith	
April 20	Ren Bryan, Janie Sellers, Betsy Weatherly	
April 27	Margaret Egede-Nissen, Jennell Harris, Patsy	
_	Mary Telander	

#### **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL April 6** PRESENTER - Jocelyn Safrit ASSISTANT - Gabe Johnson April 13 PRESENTER - Mourine Todd **ASSISTANT - Jocelyn Safrit** April 20 **Easter Service** April 27 PRESENTER - Mourine Todd ASSISTANT - Jim Romer **FLOWER DONORS April 6** Cat Sykes Janet and Walt Brown April 13 April 20 Jocelvn Safrit April 27 David & Mary Telander **USHERS April 6 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT** 8:15am Tom McLean 10:30am Stig - Egede-Nissen, Sarah Moore **April 8 CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY** 7:00pm Jocelyn Safrit & The Rev. David R. Williams April 13 PALM SUNDAY - NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE

Patrick Rudd. Hu Womack. Sarah Moore

Ron Driscoll, Jim Romer, Phil Savage

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Patrick Rudd, Hu Womack

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** 

Paula Boyd, TBD

Mary & Brad Collins

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**GOOD FRIDAY** 

Derek Bates

Frank Harris

Tom McLean

TBD

**EASTER VIGIL** 

**EASTER SUNDAY** 

10:00am

April 17

7:00pm

**April 18** 

12:00pm

7:00pm

April 19

7:00pm

April 20

10:30am

April 27

10:30am

8:15am

8:15am

**READERS** April 6 **5TH SUNDAY IN LENT** 8:15am FIRST LESSON, PSALMS, NT & PRAYERS - Peter Dahl 10:30am FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Wesley Swanner NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - Julie Swanner **April 8** CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY 7:00pm FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Jocelyn Safrit NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - The Rev. David R. Williams **PALM SUNDAY - NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE** April 13 10.00am ot, psalms, nt & prayers - Meredith Patterson NARRATOR - Julie Smith JESUS - Patrick Rudd disciples & centurion - Jane Romer SERVANT 1 & SOLDIERS - Cheryl Dickey ACCUSER 1 & 2 - Wesley Swanner PETER & PILATE - Pete Glidewell CRIMINAL 1 & 2 - Julie Swanner crowd - Everyone April 17 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** 7:00pm FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Julie Smith NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - Pete Glidewell April 18 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00pm от, psalms, nт & prayers - Elizabeth Hansen NARRATOR - Joseph Keith JESUS - Peter Dahl PRIESTS - Larry Vellani POLICE - Maryanne Shanahan woman - Martha Stewart PETER & PILATE - Jim McAdams soldiers & slave - Jocelyn Safrit crowd - Everyone

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

stations 1, 6, 11 - Paige Ysteboe

stations 3, 8, 13 - Cheryl Dickey stations 4, 9, 14 - Julie Swanner stations 5, 10 - Wesley Swanner

STATIONS 2, 7, 12 - Meredith Patterson

7:00pm

OPENING & CONCLUDING PRAYERS - Rev. Rhonda Lee

<b>April 19</b> 7:00pm	EASTER VIGIL  FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Sandy Gerow  NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - Peter Dahl
<b>April 20</b> 8:15am 10:30am	EASTER SUNDAY  FIRST LESSON, PSALMS, NT & PRAYERS - CURT Odem  FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Mary Collins  NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - Brad Collins
<b>April 27</b> 8:15am 10:30am	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  FIRST LESSON, PSALMS, NT & PRAYERS - Elizabeth Hansen FIRST LESSON & PSALMS - Maryanne Shanahan NEW TESTAMENT & PRAYERS - Sandy Gerow
SUNSHINE	COMMITTEE
Nancy Slot Wrenn	t, Mary Collins, Connie Griner, Terri Stevens, Cherry
ACOLYTES	
April 6	5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
8:15am 10:30am	CHALICIST & CRUCIFER - Elizabeth Hansen CHALICISTS - Paige Ysteboe & Meredith Patterson CRUCIFER - Bo Slott LEFT TORCH - Steven Slott RIGHT TORCH - Davis Slott GOSPEL BEARER - Fletcher Slott
April 8	CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY
7:00pm	CHALICIST - Julie Smith CRUCIFER - Mourine Todd LEFT TORCH - Wesley Swanner RICHT TORCH - William Swanner GOSPEL BEARER - Caitlyn Todd BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN - Steven Swanner VERGER EMERITUS - Richard Parker
<b>April 13</b> 10:00 am	PALM SUNDAY - NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE CHALICISTS - Adriane & Max Newbauer CRUCIFER - Max Newbauer LEFT TORCH - Adriane Newbauer RIGHT TORCH - Anna Newbauer GOSPEL BEARER - Holden Newbauer

April 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7pm chalicist & crucifer - Julie Smith

LEFT TORCH - Mourine Todd RIGHT TORCH - Amy Hess

GOSPEL BEARER - Caitlyn Todd

April 18 GOOD FRIDAY

12:00pm chalicist & crucifer - Curt Odem

April 19 EASTER VIGIL

7:00pm chalicist & crucifer - Julie Smith

LEFT TORCH - Wesley Swanner RIGHT TORCH - William Swanner GOSPEL BEARER - Steven Swanner

**April 20 EASTER SUNDAY** 

8:15am chalicist & crucifer - Elizabeth Hansen

10:30 chalicists - Paige Ysteboe & Steven Swanner

CRUCIFER - Gabe Johnson LEFT TORCH - Paul Surratt RIGHT TORCH - Millie Surratt

GOSPEL BEARER - LORENZO JOHNSON

verger - Steven Swanner

verger emeritus - Richard Parker

KITES - TBD

**April 27th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER** 

8:15am chalicist & crucifer - Curt Odem

10:30am chalicists - Kathy Hykes & Meredith Patterson

CRUCIFER - TBD

LEFT TORCH - TBD

RIGHT TORCH - TBD

GOSPEL BEARER - TBD

#### rector and friends BIBLE study

### FINAL (FOR NOW) SESSION THIS SUNDAY "JESUS, ANXIETY, AND US"

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 / 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!

This Sunday's session will be the last until after Easter. Watch for an announcement about what comes next.

Philippians 4:4-9, Rejoice in the Lord

"4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me [Paul], and the God of peace will be with you."



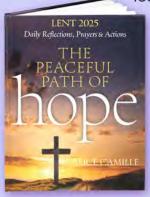


Join Us for a Warm and Inspiring Wednesday Lenten Supper & Program! Lent is a season of reflection, growth, and community, and we're excited to invite you to our Wednesday Lenten Supper & Program at 5:30 PM in the Great Hall!

We'll continue with our Lent Madness Tournament, where we'll dive into the stories of incredible saints in a fun, basketball-style competition. These inspiring individuals have left lasting legacies, and you won't want to miss the chance to learn about their lives and witness their stories unfold. Who will emerge as the ultimate saint? Come join us to find out!

For the Children - After dinner, we have special activities for the kids. It's sure to be a fun and meaningful time!

**Don't Miss Out!** Everyone—young and old, families and friends—is invited to join us Wednesday nights at 5:30 PM in the Great Hall for a night of good food, great conversation, and an opportunity to grow together in faith this Lenten season. We look forward to seeing you there!



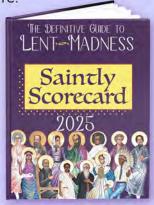
#### The lenten supper will be hosted by

APRIL 2

ECW

Episcopal Church Women

APRIL 9 Newlin Partnership & St. Stephen Ministry





#### financial report

Holy Comforter's revenues and disbursements can vary widely from one month to the next, often making it difficult to accurately identify longer-term trends from just a few months' results. With that caveat, I report that 2025 is off to the best start we've experienced in quite some time. The early months are historically slow, but through February we have booked revenues of \$92,236, well above budget. A notable increase in the number of parishioners paying their full annual pledge in January and February contributed to this happy surprise, even though we only book 1/12 of the amount of prepaid pledges each month. Thus, revenues are somewhat front loaded this year, whereas in the past we have typically had more modest revenues early, with the bulk of pledges arriving in November and December. We really aren't quite sure what to make of this yet, but we'll take it as good news.

Disbursements for the first two months totaled \$89,200, resulting in a surplus of \$3,036 for the year to date. Our cash balance was \$335,210 on February 28; this number includes the aforementioned prepaid pledges. Our reserve accounts are funded at 120%. The Vestry is considering options for the use of some of the surplus funds accumulated while we had no rector to pay; additional information will be forthcoming later in the year.

Our recent stewardship campaign was more successful than we had dared to hope, and the financial results so far in 2025 are encouraging. We are blessed to have such loyal and supportive parishioners and are grateful for every one of you!

**Sid little**, Assistant Treasurer 336 214-9344

#### flow of community



### APRIL 4-6 Avila Leadership and Training center, burham

The diocese's Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee is co-sponsoring Flow of Community, a weekend workshop focused on building community through guided movement, conversations and meditation. The weekend will be led by Tony C. Johnson, choreographer, activist, mercy associate at Sisters of Mercy, founder of My Neighbor Ministries and ambassador for the American Dance Festival.

Together, workshop participants will discover ways to rebuild a community where every member is a part, is equal and feels a sense of belonging. We all wear many masks. This workshop is for people who are aware of the importance of community and the necessity to recreate it; people who are willing to be true and authentic about themselves, to join in a sacred space together, where they would be willing to share with each other, be there for each other, and be vulnerable.

#### click here to register

#### history day 2025



#### The Story of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 5 · 10:30am-4pm La Sagrada Familia, Dunn

"When I look into the face of a farmworker, I see the face of God." - Fr. Tony Rojas

This year's history day will highlight the remarkable 45-year story of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, a cooperative mission supported by the Diocese of East Carolina and the Diocese of North Carolina.

The keynote speaker at the morning session will be Michael Durbin, author of Finding America's Farmworkers: Reaching Out in North Carolina. He has extensively documented the life of the seasonal workers who grow and harvest our crops and has participated in our church's efforts to minister to these workers. The morning session will also highlight remembrances of the ministry from former staff and board members, volunteers and farmworkers themselves. The afternoon portion of the program will include a walking tour of the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, El Centro, led by the executive director, Mauricio Chenlo.

Space is limited, and registration is required. The \$20 registration fee covers the cost of lunch, which will be prepared by caterers from the nearby Newton Grove community.

For questions and further information, please contact Lynn Hoke (lynn.hoke@episdionc.org).

**REGISTER BY MARCH 30** 

click here to register

Housing the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry

Allied churches of Alamance County, Inc.



Food, Shelter, Food, Shelter, A Safe Place to Sleep, the Comfort of a Welcoming Smile? We Can't Imagine living without these, so let's donate on Sunday, APRIL 6

SPECIAL REQUESTS
3 Compartment Take-Out lidded trays

White Ream Paper (6.5 x 11)

Goya Meat Tenderizer

Basil, Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Kickin' Chicken Seasoning, Lemon Pepper, Lawry's Seasoning, Cajun Seasoning, Montreal Steak Seasoning

or ANYTHING YOU WISH TO GIVE!



CONTACT: Martha Adams - awam3a@outlook.com, (336) 324-4108



## 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

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



Sponsored by: Lowe Funeral Home & Crematory



Stevens Sponsored by: iSalon



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

## **Building a Better You: Alamance**

#### **A CommunityWellness Event**

Saturday, April 12, 2025 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ebenezer United Church of Christ

734 Apple Street, Burlington, NC 27217

Presented by

In Collaboration with





This is a FREE community event.
Scan for more information.
Registration appreciated, not required.
conehealth.com/buildingabetteryou
Escanea para más información.





#### looking to get 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.



#### brother in CHRIST needs a kidney transplant

The message below was distributed through our bishop's office. If you are interested in gaining more information, please contact Rhonda first to receive the donor information sheet.

Regardless, please keep Damon in prayer. Thank you!

Damon Howard is a member and leader at
Chapel of Christ the King, Charlotte.
He is living with a Stage 5 kidney failure diagnosis,
and while currently on dialysis,
needs a kidney transplant for his long-term recovery.
Please read the following message from Damon,
and if you can, help spread the word:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### FROM DAMON:

"Did you know that chronic kidney disease (CKD) affects 1 in 7 people in the United States? Well, unfortunately, I am living with kidney disease [ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease)] and will have to have a kidney transplant at some point in the near future. I am currently on dialysis, but would like to explore/ be blessed with the kidney donation option for an alternative treatment to dialysis. My name is Damon Howard, and I am 49 years of age and the single parent to my 9 year-old daughter, Scarlett. We lost her mother, Emili, in April of 2023 to a sudden illness. I have had a couple of living donor options denied by my transplant team for various reasons on the potential donor's end. This is a big and quite audacious ask, I know, because, "Hey, by the way, I need a kidney" is just not something that someone would normally ask for. But I really do need a kidney, and this is one way to try and see if there are any living donors that would consider helping me in my current situation.

My blood type is O+ and I can receive a kidney from a person that is O+ or O- only; however, if you would like to be a donor on my behalf and are of a different blood type, you may also be

able to help, as donors may be swapped between recipients. For instance, if someone is A+ and they want to donate to me, but can't, then another person who may be A+ with a potential O donor may be willing to swap a donor, as my A+ donor may be able to donate to them while their O donor may be able to donate to me. So don't let the blood type be a deterrent if called to help.

This is not a decision that everyone is willing to make. I get it and understand, but if you have the hero gene and are called to donate, it would give me life and more time to raise my daughter. If you or anyone that you know would like more information on being a donor, my ears are open, BECAUSE I NEED A HERO!

You may contact Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center at 704-355-6649 (say that you may be a potential donor for Damon Howard) and/or kidneylivingdonor@atriumhealth. org. If anyone would like to speak to me, they may call me at 704-400-9966. If anyone calls Atrium and gets no response, call me and I will try to get a quicker response.

God bless you, and thank you for taking the time to read this."



### FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR OFFICE HOURS UPDATE

Open-Door Hours
M, Tu, Th:
9 - 11 & 1 - 3
F: 9 - 12
Or by Appointment

My open-door office hours are listed here and on my office door. Feel free to stop by during these times for assistance, questions, or just to say hello! You can also reach me at finance@hc-b.org or my cell phone, if you need support outside of these hours. I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely, Julia Buffington Financial Administrator Email: finance@hc-b.org

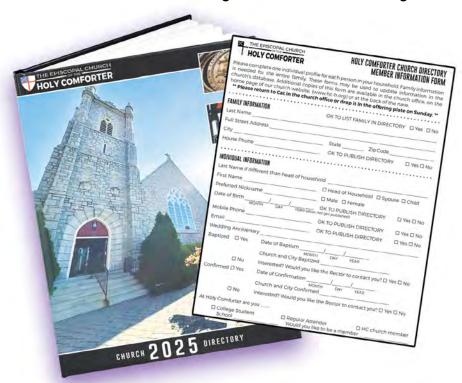


#### church information updating

## 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). 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!



#### HELPING UNDERSTANDING GOD through SHARING

**Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina** 



Helping Understand God through Sharing (HUGS) is a unique camp that brings together young people of all abilities. Campers with disabilities are paired with high school buddy campers for a week of traditional church camp, including field games, swimming, arts and crafts, campfires, worship, and special evening events like a talent show, dance, or carnival. Buddy campers assist with activities, meals, and self-care, helping everyone experience an amazing week of camp.

#### **BUDDY CAMPERS**

DATES / July 5-12, 2025 / Haw River State Park

We need rising 9th-12th graders to serve as buddy campers for campers with disabilities. Buddy campers are responsible for their camper's care and well-being while also enjoying free time and reflection. No prior experience is required—training is provided.

#### **STAFF**

Staff Dates: July 4-12, 2025 | Haw River State Park

We also need college age and above folks to apply for staff positions. These are supervisory roles managing groups of campers and helper campers and also leading programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.episdionc.org/hugs-camp

### TWIN LAKES, COBLE CREEK REHABILITATION CENTER the coble room | Thursday, april 3

Join us on Thursday, April 3 for another great week with the Holy Comforter Men's Breakfast. Come hear our next guest speaker. Contact us if you'd like more info, and send us your email address if we don't have it. Looking forward to being with you.

#### **QUESTIONS, CONTACT:**

Phil Savage

 $(\underline{savageboatman@bellsouth.net}),$ 

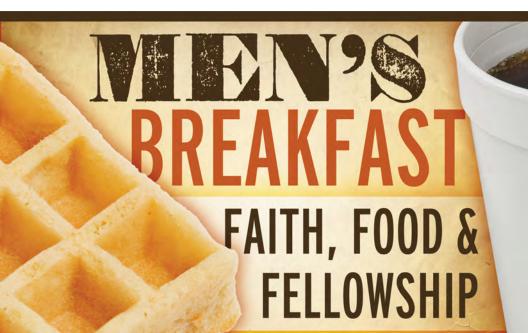
Richard McBride

(mcbride@elon.edu),

Jeff Andrews

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING WITH YOU ALL THERE.





Right here at the Episcopal Church of Holy Comforter in the **ATRIUM** (3rd floor, 1st room on the right)

INVITE A FRIEND TO ENJOY CHURCH WITH YOU!

As we begin a new phase in our Stephen Ministry it is important to look ahead to the joys of our Ministry. Paula Boyd has begun training to become a Stephen Leader. Stephen Ministry offers resources that she will be able to share with the parish. The following is from the training manual that is rich in in spiritual insights:

"Jesus' good news about the kingdom can be an effective guide for our lives only if we share his view of the world in which we live. To his eyes this is a God-bathed and God-permeated world. It is a world filled with a glorious reality, where every component is within the range of God's direct knowledge and control—though he obviously permits some of it, for good reasons, to be for a while otherwise than as he wishes. It is a world that is inconceivably beautiful and good because of God and because God is always in it. It is a world in which God is continually at play and over which he constantly rejoices."

Dallas Willard, The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God (San Francisco: Harper SanFrancisco, 1998) pp. 61-62.

Another scripture that gives our ministry hope this spring is presented here: Isaiah 55:10-11

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

#### Do keep Paula in your prayers as she becomes an asset to the parish.

Contact Rene Burgess, Stephen Leader to become part of this ministry at Holy Comforter. (336) 269-5959, **burgessrene@gmail.com** 

#### 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!

## FORWARD DAY by DAY

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DISCIPLES



NEXT QUARTERLY EDITION OF FORWARD, DAY BY DAY IS NOW AVAILABLE. YOU MAY PICK THEM UP IN THE BELL TOWER OR IN FRONT OF THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFICE THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF A PARISHIONER, THESE DEVOTIONALS ARE FREE.



#### help needed

# CHICKEN PIE FUNDRAISER

#### HELP!

The ECW discussed the annual spring chicken pie sale and concluded that while this is a much anticipated event for the parish and our only fundraising effort, we need help to pull it off.

Last year over 3 work days the group prepared over 100 pies for freezing. **Specifically we need help taking the orders and keeping up with the money.** 

These jobs are done by 2 people and can for the most part be done at home.

We welcome new people to help with all phases of this project that provides so much for our parish outreach.

Give me a call if you would like to join in. I will share the dates as soon as they are decided.



### ecw: episcopal church women

### monday, april 14 in small dining room

10AM - SOCIAL TIME | 10:30AM - PROGRAM & MEETING

### ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

The April meeting of ECW is *Monday the 14th* in the Small Dining Room.

We will gather at 10:00 for refreshments and catch ups before our program begins at 10:30.

### sylvia crews

will be our speaker and tell us all about the Breakfast Ministry that takes place in our Great Hall every Sunday. There will be a short business meeting after.

Look forward to seeing you, Shara Call Shara Partin, (919) 801-1234 for any questions

### lenten hymns

### "Eternal Lord of Love, behold your church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent..."

These words that begin one of our Lenten hymns, although written centuries ago, offer an invitation for us today. Holy Week soon approaches, and this week of sacred services offers one final opportunity to walk the pilgrim way of Lent in the steps Jesus trod. Each service in Holy Week is unique in both liturgy and music, and each offers its own meaningful worship experience, whether contemplative or joyful.

On Palm Sunday, we move quickly from shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" to shouts of "Crucify him!" Although we have become accustomed to Palm/Passion Sunday, this jarring contrast in our worship should be acknowledged. The choir will sing one of the most avante-garde anthems we have offered in worship. The organ accompaniment clashes with the choral parts; the voices are discordant among themselves; even when the notes are correct, the music sounds wrong. The text (included below) helps to explain why, as does the nature of our Episcopal Palm Sunday tradition as well as the nature of Good Friday. Crucifixions are jarring and discordant. Crucifixions of an innocent man centuries ago would have felt wrong to soldiers carrying it out, despite the knowledge that disobedience would have meant their own death. Nobody likes a crucifixion. But without the suffering of our Savior, there would be no triumphant resurrection.

Similarly, without us moving through the Triduum, we may not fully appreciate the joy of Easter Sunday. Our music and liturgy move from discordant on Palm/Passion Sunday, to a brief moment of peace on Maundy Thursday, to stark simplicity on Good Friday, to hopeful expectance at the Vigil, to joyful celebration on Easter. I invite you to join with us for this spectrum of beautiful services, to walk the road that Jesus trod, and to win with him the final victory.

Finally, I leave you with the words of our Palm Sunday anthem. This text was written by Peter Abelard circa 1100 AD, and it captures beautifully the experience of the Triduum and Easter.

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord, giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain. For us thy wretched folk is any word? Who know that for our sins this is thy pain? For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, our deeds. Why must thou suffer torture for our sin? Let our hearts suffer in thy Passion, Lord, that very suffering may thy mercy win. This is the night of tears, the three days' space, sorrow abiding of the eventide, Until the day break with the risen Christ, and hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied. So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord, that they may sharers of thy glory be; Heavy with weeping may the three days pass, to win the laughter of thine Easter Day.

## Paramy Sunday

Please note that on Palm Sunday, we will have <u>one service only at 10 a.m.</u> (with fellowship before the service at 9:15!).

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US FOR THIS MEANINGFUL ENTRANCE INTO HOLY WEEK.

And if you know anyone who attends irregularly and may not receive Weekly Words, please call them and make sure they know there will be only one service that day. Thank you!



Join us for Maundy Thursday as we come together to reflect on Jesus' profound act of humility and love. We will begin the evening with a light sandwich supper in the Great Hall, followed by a special service in the Sanctuary, which will include Holy Communion and the symbolic act of foot washing, as we remember Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. This is a beautiful time of reflection on His love and servanthood. We invite you to share in this sacred experience as we walk together toward Easter.

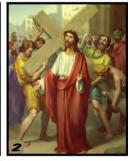
Thursday • April 17 • 7pm

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

7000 MALL SERVIUE

**April 18 • 12pm** 







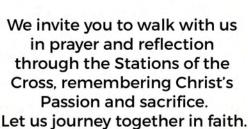




























# THE GREAT VIOLENTE STERMINE THE STERM

Join us for a powerful and moving service that marks the triumph of Christ's resurrection. This sacred night offers an opportunity for reflection, renewal, and celebration as we await the joy of Easter morning. The service will include the lighting of the Paschal candle and readings from the Scriptures. It is a time to gather as a community, remembering Christ's passion, death, & glorious resurrection.

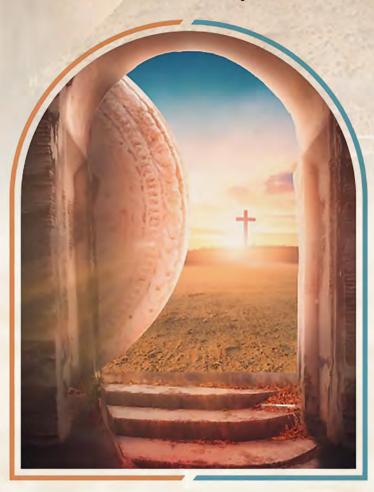
Saturday • April 19 • 7pm

## Remember to bring flowers from your yard or your neighbors yard (with permission) on Easter Sunday! LET'S FILL UP THE CROSS WITH COLORFUL FLOWERS



## EASTERDAY

Come join and celebrate with us at our Easter Sunday service.



### rector and friends BIBLE study

### THE (brief) EASTER EDITION

**Encounters with the resurrected Jesus** 

### **SUNDAYS 27 APRIL AND 4 MAY**

Our Rector and Friends Bible Study for the Easter season will be brief for various scheduling reasons (including some vacation time Rhonda will take in May). Our discussion promises to be rich, however, so please plan to join in. We meet in the auditorium from 9:30 to 10:15.

In these two sessions, we will study the gospel passage assigned for the day. Each of them presents an encounter between the resurrected Jesus and his disciples. Each is mysterious in its own way, and each offers reassurance and a call to us, his disciples two thousand years later. Come learn from the Bible, your siblings in faith, and your own experiences.

This Bible study is suitable for adults and teens.

**OUR PASSAGES** 

27 April • John 20:19-31

4 May • John 21:1-19

### additional holidays

Dear siblings in Christ,

I am pleased to say that at their March meeting, the vestry approved my request to add a few paid holidays to Holy Comforter's calendar. Adding these holidays brings our parish more into line with diocesan norms.

The additional holidays are:

- Good Friday
- The day after Thanksgiving
- A full day on Christmas Eve, rather than a half day
- The day after Christmas.

The church office will be closed on these days, and staff members who normally work on any or all of these days will be off. As is already the case, if a paid holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the weekday closest to it will be designated the holiday. This will be determined on a yearly basis.

These changes will affect different members of staff differently, depending on whether they work full- or part-time and what their usual work schedule is. Any individual questions will be worked out between the staff member and me.

There may be a period of adjustment as we all get used to this new calendar. I know Holy Comforter members will respond with your characteristic grace to these changes.

Gratefully,

### newlin partnership news

### A STORY OF AN "AHA" MOMENT!

Here's my R.J. story. He's told me at least a dozen times 'I can't read." Wednesday he read a BOB book...yes, simple and he had to sound every word, but he did it perfectly. He looked at me and asked, 'Did I read that.' After my 'You, betcha' he grinned and said, 'Wow, I CAN read!" You'd have thought I'd given him a trip to Disney World. Not sure who was happier..., R. J. or me! Love that **Kid!** 



The Newlin Partnership welcomes

JOSEPH KEITH

as a new Board member

Tutor Janice Davis & student, R.J. - "I CAN READ!"



### NLP LUNCH & LEARN SESSION HELD MARCH 20TH

Celebrating the first day of spring on March 20th, NLP tutors and Lucky Listeners gathered to share community and information. Kathy Landes, tutor and Lucky Listener, led a discussion of a workshop that was held in February on race and implicit bias. Tutor and Lucky Listener, Laurie Fais, then gave us a tour of the NLP information on our Google Drive, showing us how to maneuver around the site. Linda Stubblefield updated us on efforts to recruit volunteers for the Newlin Partnership.



Kathy Landes leads workshop discussion



Laurie Fais takes us on a tour of NLP information on our Google Drive site

Linda
Stubblefield
(r) shares ideas
on volunteer
recruitment



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for April 28th Duty Free Lunch opportunity

Once a month Newlin Partnership volunteers meet in the school cafeteria to help monitor the students during lunchtime from 10:30am -1pm.

This gives teachers a much needed opportunity to attend to other responsibilities and to enjoy a "duty-free" break. Teachers report that this is one of their favorite services provided by the Newlin Partnership. Contact Mindy Robinson at newlinpartnership@gmail.com to sign up.



Newlin Partnership volunteers Jim McAdams & Victoria Martin monitor students during duty free lunch at Newlin cafeteria

Kathy Landes, Laurie Fais, Carol Thornell & Pam Brumbaugh work duty free lunch in March



### take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land



### **TRIP DATES: OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 3**

This fall, the Diocese of North Carolina is planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by the Rev. David Umphlett, who will be joined by Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple and pilgrims from across the diocese. The journey includes time at sites that bring Scripture to life, including Jerusalem, Nazareth, the Jordan River and Bethlehem.

The 12-day trip cost includes accommodations, land transportation, fees, tips and guest speakers. The cost is expected to be \$2,845 per person (double occupancy), and travelers are responsible for their own airfare.

Registration will open soon; for more information or to express your interest in this trip, please contact the Rev. David Umphlett, davidumphlett@gmail.com.

If ever you've dreamed of traveling to the Holy Land, we invite you to learn more by watching (clicking) the video or clicking the link below.

### click here to learn more

- 02 **Gary Gorby**
- 04 Steve Buff, Christie Joseph
- 05 Mary Carol Adams, Rev. Rhonda Lee,
- Gregg Lee, Linda Stubblefield,
- 07 Judd Kerr, Julia Buffington 09 Marian Accles, Darrell Smith
- 10 Luanne Driver, Nancy Smith 15
- Carolyn Watson 16 Hannahgrace Daniels
- 17 Martha Adams, Kyle Deadmon
- 18 Katie Latta
- 19 Easton Robinson, Cathy Sanford,
  - Robert Kittenger
  - 20 Wesley Swanner
- 21 23 Kenzie Swajkoski
- Doug Peet
- 29 Brianne Martindale, Harlon Murray
- 30 Christin Baker, Joanne Mcclusky

april

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

### prayers of the people

### **SYMPATHIES**

For the repose of the soul of Richard A. Fuller, Jr, and for the comfort of his godmother, Maryanne Shanahan, and his family, including his mother Cheryl Fuller and his wife Alison, son Hayden, and sister Lori Chance and family.

For the repose of the soul of Vicki Kincius, and for the comfort of her sister-in-law, Connie Griner and family.

For the repose of the soul of Patricia M. Smyton, and for the comfort of her family and friends, including Maryanne Shanahan.

### **MEMBERS**

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

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Canon Earnest Graham

Elizabeth Anderson - friend of Maryanne Shanahan

Jennifer Petty - Les Plumb's daughter

Charley Jones - Les Plumb's great-granddaughter

Ann Jennings - Sandy Gerow's friend

Eileen Civin - Jim McAdams friend

Ann McKinney - Sarah Moore's cousin

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



### PRESIDING BISHOP

The Rt. 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

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RECTOR EMERITUS The Rev. David R. Williams david@davidrwilliams.org **VESTRY - SENIOR WARDEN** 

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**VESTRY - CHRISTIAN LIFE** 

Kathy Hykes khykes@ec.rr.com

**VESTRY - PARISH LIFE** Barbara simpson bhutchins5@bellsouth.net

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