

# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 7, 2022, 8:00 am and 10:30 am Worship Services



*The Return of the Flock, Laren*

### **Our Mission**

is to be one with God  
and humanity in Christ  
by living the Gospel  
with love and compassion.



### **Our Vision**

is to become comfortable  
with Jesus Christ  
and boldly proclaim Him.

## WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God. So, welcome.

As we gather for worship, we want to remind everyone of a few important items:

- On March 2, 2022, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley issued an update to COVID-19 Guidance for the Diocese. Therefore, masks are now optional at St. Stephen's.
- Please turn off or silence your electronic devices.
- We strongly encourage you to enter the sanctuary in silence as you prepare for worship. Thank you.

## WHY ARE YOU HERE?

As you come in this morning and settle into your seat, I invite you to think about the following:

- ❖ Wherever we go, we have a reason for going there. What is your reason for being here this morning?
- ❖ God is merciful and kind to us each and every day. What thanksgiving do you bring to God this morning?
- ❖ Because each day brings many challenges, what concern(s) do you bring to God this morning?
- ❖ As your Rector, I have come with thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy and to worship Him; because today is a reminder to me that another week has ended and a new week has begun. It is my hope that you have come to do the same. I encourage you to join me as we call upon our God and worship Him.

***Canon Wilmot—a son of God***

The flag that is flying for the month of August is raised by *Wes and Bobbie Lybrand*, in honor of Father Merchant.

**✠ *This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.***

Prelude

***Entrée on “Foundation”***

Wilbur Held

✠ Announcements ✠

*Please stand for the Opening Prayer.*

Opening Hymn

***How Firm a Foundation***

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you that for refuge,  
to you that for refuge,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous,  
upheld by my righteous,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee,  
and sanctify to thee,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

## **The Word of God**

*The People standing, the Celebrant says:*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People**     **And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever.**  
**Amen.**

*The Celebrant and People say*

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Gloria, all standing*

S280

***Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis***

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **The Collect for The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost (Proper 14)**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

***People*** ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***People*** ***Amen.***

## **The Lessons**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 1:1, 10–20*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation — I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Word of the Lord

**People      Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 50:1—8, 23—24**

*To be read responsively by the Lay Reader and the Congregation.*

L      The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**C      Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.**

L      Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.

**C      He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.**

L      “Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice.”

**C      Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.**

L      Hear, O my people, and I will speak:  
“O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*  
for I am God, your God.

**C      I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*  
your offerings are always before me.**

L Consider this well, you who forget God, \*  
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

**C Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
honors me; \*  
but to those who keep in my way  
will I show the salvation of God.”**

*Celebrant and People*

**Glory to the † Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old — and Sarah herself was barren — because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord

**People      Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn    ***Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers***

Hymnal 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers,  
    and let your lights appear!  
The evening is advancing,  
    and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising,  
    and soon he will draw nigh;  
up, watch in expectation!  
    at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning,  
    replenish them with oil;  
look now for your salvation,  
    the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage-feast is waiting,  
    the gates wide open stand;  
rise up, ye heirs of glory,  
    the Bridegroom is at hand!

*Please stand.*

*When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,*

✝ (on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,

✝ (on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and

✝ (over the heart) in my heart to live it.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 12: 32—40

**People      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**People      *Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

Sermon Hymn

Our hope and expectation,  
    O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, thou Sun so longed for,  
    above this darkened sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
    we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth’s redemption,  
    and ever be with thee!

❖ Sermon                      Wilmot T. Merchant, II      ❖

*Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.*

*Please stand.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God**, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ**, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

*(We bow for the two lines in bold.)*

**he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

✠ We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.  
*Amen.*

*Please sit or kneel for The Prayers of the People.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.*

Leader      The Lord be with you.

**People      *And also with you.***

Leader      Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

**People      *That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**People      *That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**People      *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, for Joseph our President, Henry our Governor, and Marilyn our Mayor;

**People      *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People      *That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People      *That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**People      *Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People      *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers, especially our families, friends, and loved ones.

Lord in your mercy

**People      *Hear our prayer.***

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home and all around the world, especially in those communities where mass shootings have occurred. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy.

**People      Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for:

Lord, in your mercy.

**People      Hear our prayer.**

### ***A Prayer for the Human Family***

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth, especially during this time of conflict for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People      Amen**

*\*Additional Prayers*

### ***LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.***

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** Bob Grady (8/7), Richard Martin, Jr. (8/7), Dee Dee Pickering (8/7), Len Arruzzo (8/8).

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:** Scott & Myra Collier (8/12), Blanche & Chris Welborn (8/12).

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.**

**INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER.** As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, this week we are praying for: **Dorothy Dexter, Scott & Cheri Dilliard, Barb & Bill DiMartini, Dorothy Doty, Winnie Douglas, Theresa Duke, Rick & Cathy Dunn, Deborah Dushko, Larry & Rosalie Dye, Jack & Debby Early.**

*Celebrant and People*

**Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Confession of Sin**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and people*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy ✠ on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**People Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .* John 14:27

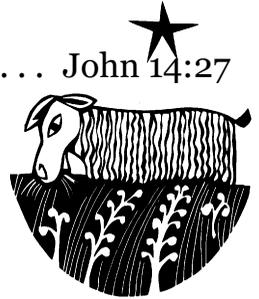
*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

***At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says:***

*Celebrant* God is Good!

*People* ***All the Time.***



## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory ***Ode to God's World***

Sett: R. Rowland-Raybold

*Doxology—to be sung*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;**

**praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**O Praise Him! Alleluia!**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:**

**praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**O Praise Him! O Praise Him!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer A**

*People remain standing*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

S129

*Bow during the underlined text*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please sit, kneel or remain standing.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People    Amen.**

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,

*Celebrant and People*

**Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**for ever. Amen.**



† † † † † † † † † †

**The Breaking of the Bread**  
*Celebrant and People—to be sung*

S154

**Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**  
**Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us;**  
**There-fore let us keep the feast.**  
**Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.**

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,  
with thanksgiving.

*This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love Him  
and for those who want to love Him more.  
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;  
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;  
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.*

*Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.*

***Just a Closer Walk with Thee***

LEVAS 72

I am weak but thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to thee.

*Just a closer walk with thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

*Refrain*

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

*Refrain*

### ***Let Us Break Bread Together***

Hymnal 325

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees;

*when I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant gives the blessing*

The God of peace, who has exalted our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Spirit to lead you into all truth, and boldness to confess that Jesus is Lord; and through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever.

**People      Amen.**

*Please sit for a brief announcement.*

**Benediction**—*to be sung*

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.**



The God of Abraham praise,  
    who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days,  
    and God of love;  
the Lord, the great I AM,  
    by earth and heaven confessed:  
we bow and bless the sacred Name  
    for ever blest.

He by himself hath sworn:  
    we on his oath depend;  
we shall, on eagle-wings upborne,  
    to heaven ascend:  
we shall behold his face,  
    we shall his power adore,  
and sing the wonders of his grace  
    for evermore.

There dwells the Lord, our King,  
    the Lord, our Righteousness,  
triumphant o'er the world and sin,  
    the Prince of Peace;  
on Zion's sacred height  
    his kingdom he maintains,  
and, glorious with his saints in light,  
    for ever reigns.

The God who reigns on high  
    the great archangels sing,  
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry,  
    "Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same,  
    and evermore shall be:  
eternal Father, great I AM,  
    we worship thee."

*Celebrant* We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.  
*People* ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve God and one another.

*People* ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Postlude ***Postlude on “Lobe den Herren”*** John Dixon

**THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.**

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

The Altar Flowers today are given,  
“In Celebration of our 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.”

*Don & Joyce Saftner*

God is good! All the time!

Cover via Wikimedia Commons: “*The Return of the Flock, Laren,*”  
c. 1886–1887, Anton Mauve (1838–1888).

*Music - One License #729456-A.*

## *Calendar This Week*

Our Outreach Commission recommended, and the Vestry approved, distribution of the net proceeds of The Rich Jacobs Memorial Golf Tournament, as well as a portion of the Rummage Ministry funds, to twelve local charities.

**Please join us this afternoon at 4:00 pm for a reception in our Parish Hall to present these donations.**

- Monday, 9:00 am, “Queen Bees,” Church Campus.
- Tuesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Rummage Ministry.
- Wednesday, 12:00 noon, Public Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist, Church.
- Wednesday, Committal of Sophie Davenport, immediately following the Public Service of Healing & HE, Columbarium.
- Friday, 1:00 pm, Acolyte Training, Church.
- Saturday, 2:00 pm, Funeral Service for Phyllis Foushee, Church and Columbarium.

## *Upcoming Calendar Items*

- Monday, August 15 to Friday, August 19, St. Stephen’s Delivers Mobile Meals.
- Tuesday, August 16, 3:30 pm, Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall.
- Wednesday, August 31, 4:00 pm, Celebration of Canon Merchant’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary — Worship Service and Pot Luck.



### ***PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION***

Ministers: The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors  
Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II  
Dir of Music/Organist: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, c.a.g.o.

### ***MINISTERS, LAYLEADERS AND STAFF OF ST. STEPHEN'S***

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church  
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector

#### ***Vestry Members***

- ❖ Henry Saunders, Senior Warden (2022) ❖ B.J. Mills, Junior Warden (2023)
- ❖ Cheryl Brugier (2022) ❖ Michele Hennessy (2022) ❖ Pete Barr (2023)
- ❖ Babs Raley (2023) ❖ Betty Berginski (2024) ❖ Richard B. Martin, Jr. (2024)
- ❖ Bill Simpson, Jr. (2024) ❖ Joyce Saftner (Associate 2023)

#### ***Vestry Officers***

- ❖ Eileen Carzon, Treasurer ❖ Bill Mann, Assistant Treasurer
- ❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk

#### ***Staff***

- ❖ Sharon Weaver, Admin. Asst. ❖ June Meletzke, Financial Secretary
- ❖ Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Director of Music/Organist
- ❖ Tommy Mizell, Facility Manager ❖ Nancy Lopez, Sexton