



Rector's Notes

November 1st, 2025

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Vestry Members

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Warden -2025 - 803-384-0166

Muffy Sander - Junior Warden
- 2026 - 803-334-5679

Sarah Schwarz - 2025
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Bill Koffi -- 2027 404-310-6466

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Annette Quinby - 2027
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Jo Ann Amos -
Recording Secretary

Time, Talent, Prayers and Presence

As we are well into our Stewardship Campaign for 2026, there two questions in the Ministry

section of our Catechism, found on page 855 in the Book of Common Prayer that are appropriate

when we talk about the time, talent, prayer and presence pieces of stewardship:

“Who are the ministers of the Church? The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”

“What is the ministry of the laity? The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his

Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and according to the gifts given to

them,

to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life,

worship, and governance of the Church.”

It comes as no surprise that they are many more lay people than there are clergy. If you look at

Episcopal Church of the Ridge on any given Sunday, we have one priest who is serving and, showing up, and praying for Church of the

Ridge, its members and leadership. Even though clergy have a list of things they have committed

to in their ordination vows, there are only a few things for which you absolutely need clergy. You

all have gone through periods with long term supply priests, so this is familiar to you all, and you

all know lay people can do so much. The supply priest is there for Sunday morning and may take

care of any emergencies, but the lay people are doing the rest to make sure the church continues.

The church does not stop when the clergy are not there because there are so many things lay

people can do. When I was gone for two weeks in August, Church of the Ridge did not come to a

grinding halt because we have you all working together to make sure Church of the Ridge does

not stop just because its clergy are not there.

But how do we know what we are called to do as members of Church of the Ridge? We spend

time in prayer and discernment. I am here to

occasionally we might have a priest in the congregation. That is a small percentage compared to

the rest of the congregation. And since there are so many more lay people, there is the ability to

have more people out on the front lines. And that is the laity's job – to be on the front lines.

Collectively, the laity encounters so many more people in their day to day lives than the clergy.

But it is not just about being out in the world, although that is an important part of what we are

called to do. It is also about that second piece – being a part of the life of Church of the Ridge

with our time and talent, prayers and presence. Church of the Ridge cannot be Church of the

Ridge without all its members working together

help people discern their gifts and determine if

someone might be called into a new or different ministry. It is interesting to talk about being

called and discerning gifts for ministry. There are some that think words like call and

discernment are only for those pursuing ordained ministry. They are not! We are all called by

God to use the gifts God has given. I will never forget when Fernie Horvath (now the Rector at

Good Shepherd in Greer) was talking about the exciting news of her discernment to go to

seminary because she felt called to the priesthood. At the time she was a Deacon and served St.

Christopher's in Spartanburg. Part of what she wanted St. Christopher's to hear is that call and

discernment do not

necessarily mean ordination and wearing a collar. Call and discernment are

for everyone. I also remember a parishioner muttering under her breath that she did not need

discernment she already knew what she was doing. Part of call and discernment also is we are always listening, we are always discerning what God is calling us to, what new gifts God might

be giving us, what new things God might be empowering us to do.

God continues to call us, send us, and empower us. We all have a vocation to ministry. I

challenge us to take some time in the coming weeks, in our quiet times, as we reflect and pray to

consider what God is calling each of us to do in the life of Church of the Ridge and beyond. It

may be something out-

side of our comfort zone, but if God is calling us to that thing, God will

also empower us and give us the gifts we need to do that new thing.

Blessings,

Mother Lathrop



2025

<p>November 2nd 2025 Trinity Church</p> <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II All Saints Day</p> <p>Acolyte / Clark Connor Lector / Muffy Sander Intercessor / Peggy Ann Moss Eucharistic Minister/ Ray Melton- Greeters/ Annette Quinby, Bill Kotti Altar/ Jean Covar/ Lady Nicholson Usher/ Chris Covar Hospitality/ Faris Connor</p> <p>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10</p>	<p>November 9,2025 Our Saviour Church</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte/ Eliza Faris Connor Lector / Greg Sander Intercessor/ Jerrold Watson Eucharistic Minister / Ric Vann Greeters / Muffy Sander, Bailey Pendarvis Altar/ Kelly Vann, LA Pendarvis Usher / Richard Pendarvis Hospitality / Kelly Vann</p> <p>Haggai 1:15b- 2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38</p>	<p>November 16, 2025 Grace Church</p> <p>Holy Eucharist Rite II 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte / Ryals Connor Lector / Jerrold Watson Intercessor / Liz Wilson Eucharistic Minister / Larry Vann Greeters / Caleb Connor Altar/ Sarah Schwarz Muffy Sander Usher / Jack Schwarz Hospitality / Susan Yarborough</p> <p>Isaiah 65:17-25 Canticle 9 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19</p>	<p>November 23rd Trinity Church</p> <p>Holy Eucharist Rite II 24th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte / Anna Hagan Lector / Scotty Scott Intercessor / Muffy Sander Eucharistic Minister / Liz Wilson Greeters / Bettis Rainsford Altar/ Ann Byrd/ Betsy Willis Usher / Larry Vann Hospitality / Cindy Vann</p> <p>Jeremiah 23:1-6 Canticle 16 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43</p>
<p>November 30th, 2025 Our Saviour</p> <p>1st Sunday in Advent Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte/ Smith Connor Lector/ Larry Vann Intercessor/ Kelly Vann Eucharistic Minister / Ray Melton Greeters / Caleb Connor/ Bill Kotti</p> <p>Altar/ TBD</p> <p>Usher / Ric Vann Hospitality / Covered Dish</p> <p>Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Psalm 22 Matthew 24:36-44</p>	<p>December 7, 2025 Grace Church</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Advent Holy Eucharist Rite I</p> <p>Acolyte/ Clark Connor Lector/ Scotty Scott Intercessor/ Peggy Moss Eucharistic Minister /Liz Wilson Greeters / Sarah Schwarz Altar/ Valerie Holmes Usher / Greg Sander Hospitality Doug Landreth</p> <p>Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p>December 14 2025 Trinity Church</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Advent Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte/ Emerson Holmes Lector/ Jerrold Watson Intercessor/ Muffy Sander Eucharistic Minister / Greeters / Annette Quinby /Muffy Sander Altar/ JoAnn Amos/Annette Quinby Usher / Lee Holmes Hospitality / Beth Thornton</p> <p>Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Canticle 15 Matthew 11:2-11</p>	<p>December 21 2025 Our Saviour</p> <p>4th Sunday in Advent Holy Eucharist Rite II</p> <p>Acolyte/ Addie Long Lector/ Scotty Scott Intercessor/ Peggy Moss Eucharistic Minister / Ric Vann Greeters / Bill Kotti Altar/ Peggy Ann Moss Usher / Lee Holmes A. Driver Hospitality / Liz Posey</p> <p>Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Matthew 1:18-25</p>
<p>December 24,2025 Trinity Church</p> <p>Christmas Eve 5 pm</p> <p>Acolytes/ Emerson Holmes, Addie Long, Anna Hagan Lector/ Larry Vann Intercessor/ Kelly Vann Eucharistic Minister / Ray Melton , Ric Vann Greeters / Bettis Rainsford, Bailey Pendarvis Altar/ All Altar Guild Usher / Chris Covar Bill Kotti</p>	<p>December 25,2025 Trinity Church</p> <p>Christmas Day 10 am</p> <p>Acolyte/ Larry Vann Lector/ Larry Vann Intercessor/ Larry Vann Eucharistic Minister / Greeters / Cindy Vann Altar/ Betsy Willis Jean Covar Usher / Chris Covar</p> <p>Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Psalm 96 Luke 2:1-14(15-20)</p>	<p>December 28, 2025 Grace Church</p> <p>1st Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>Acolyte/ Ryals Connor Lector/ Greg Sander Intercessor/ Kelly Vann Eucharistic Minister / Ric Vann Greeters / Altar/ Sarah Schwarz Usher / Jack Schwarz Hospitality / Sarah Schwarz</p> <p>Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21</p>	

November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 <i>Trinity</i> <i>All Saints</i>	3 <i>Bible in a year</i>	4	5 <i>Choir</i> <i>4p</i>	6	7	8
9 <i>Our Saviour</i>	10 <i>Bible in a year</i>	11	12 <i>Choir</i> <i>4p</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>Grace</i> <i>Birthday</i>	17 <i>Bible in a year</i>	18	19 <i>Food Bank—RS</i>	20 <i>Bingo</i>	21	22
23 <i>Trinity</i>	24 <i>Bible in a year</i>	25	26	27 <i>Thanks giving</i>	28	29
30 <i>Our Saviour Advent 1</i>						

December 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <i>Bible in a year</i>	2	3 <i>Choir 4p</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>Grace Advent 2</i>	8 <i>Bible in a year</i>	9	10 <i>Choir 4p</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>Trinity Advent 3</i>	15 <i>Bible in a year</i>	16	17 <i>Food Bank – RS Choir 4p</i>	18 <i>Bingo</i>	19	20
21 <i>Our Saviour</i>	22 <i>office closed</i>	23 <i>office closed</i>	24 <i>Trinity office closed</i>	25 <i>Trinity office closed</i>	26 <i>office closed</i>	27 <i>office closed</i>
28 <i>Grace office closed</i>	29 <i>Bible in a year office closed</i>	30 <i>office closed</i>	31 <i>office closed</i>	1 <i>office closed</i>	2 <i>office closed</i>	3 <i>office closed</i>

MERRY CHRISTMAS

— & —
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ask Mother Lathrop

Q: What do you believe about children and youth participation in worship and the life of our church?

A: I fully support our children and youth being an active part of Church of the Ridge. Our

children and youth have a significant role to play at Church of the Ridge. I strongly believe part

of the formation of our children and youth is incorporating them in the life of Church of the

Ridge beyond Sunday School and attending worship

When we think about involving our children and youth in the life of the church, we typically

think about them acolyting. I would like us to think outside of that and think more creatively. I

would love to see our older

children and youth as lectors. Our youth can be Greeters, Ushers, or

on the livestream team.

There are also so many opportunities for parents and our children to pair

together such as Altar Guild, Livestream team, Refreshment Hosts, Greeters, and Ushers.

Children and youth can come when we have a church clean-up day or workday. I think it is

wonderful for our children and youth to see their own peers involved and realize that they can do

that too. And of course, for new families to see there are

ways for their children and youth to get

involved beyond the usual things. For children and youth visiting Church of the Ridge for the

first time or coming back seeing another child or youth running the livestream, ushering, reading,

or being a part of welcoming them to the church and realizing that they might want to try that as

well.

The gift of time, talent, prayers, and presence is not just for adults. I would love our children and

youth to get involved as well. I hope our parents will encourage their children and youth to take

some time during this stewardship season and think about how they might become involved.



Angels Among Us

As the season of Advent draws near, I find myself thinking about angels—not just the heavenly host who sang at Christ's birth, but the quiet, everyday angels who walk among us and leave their mark on our hearts.

My grandmother was one of those angels. Every Christmas, she displayed four little porcelain figures, each holding a letter: N-O-E-L. They weren't fancy or expensive, but they were precious. I have them now, and they still grace my home each December, standing proudly on the mantle or nestled among garland and twinkling lights. When I see them, I'm transported back to her kitchen, where the scent of peppermint and sugar filled the air and laughter echoed off the walls.

She loved the season with her whole heart. Candy making was a sacred ritual—stirring, pouring, cooling, and cutting—and she always made sure there was enough for everyone. She and my mama would bake for days, and then sample everything with the kind of joy that only comes from generations of shared tradition. But what I remember most was her love for giving. She wrapped each gift with such care, as if the ribbon itself carried a blessing. Her packages were never rushed or tossed together—they were thoughtful, beautiful, and full of love. That's why I love wrapping gifts today—not just for how they look, but for how they make a home feel: festive, intentional, and full of grace.

Another angel in my life is my husband. He's my real-deal, everyday angel—the kind who watches over me with unfailing devotion, who lifts me up when I'm weary, and who reminds me that love is a steady, sacred thing. He doesn't need a halo to shine. His kindness, his patience, and his quiet strength are a daily reminder that God places angels in our lives not just to protect us, but to walk beside us. He's the one who helps me carry the heavy loads, who believes in my dreams, and who shows up—again and again—with love that never asks for anything in return.

And then there's Meg. A four-legged, fluffy ball of tail-wagging joy who once saved Caro and Cassie in a moment of sadness. She didn't wear wings, but she had the heart of a guardian and the instincts of grace. That day, when fear crept in and uncertainty loomed, Meg stood firm. Her bark was fierce, her stance protective, and her love unwavering. She reminds me that angels don't always come with halos—they sometimes come with muddy paws and a bark that says, "I've got you." Meg's story is one I'll never forget, and her legacy lives on in every wagging tail and every loyal companion who watches over their people.

This season, I invite you to look for the angels in your own life. Yes, the ones who appeared to shepherds and sang "Glory to God"—but also the ones who've gone before us and left behind a legacy of tenderness, generosity, and grace. The grandmother who taught you how to bake, the friend who calls just when you need it, the spouse who holds your hand through the hard days. And don't forget the living angels—the ones who help us thrive even in times of adversity. They may not wear wings, but they carry us just the same.

Scripture reminds us in Hebrews 13:2, *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* I believe that's true—not just in the literal sense, but in the way we open our hearts to others. When we love generously, when we serve quietly, when we wrap a gift with care or offer a warm meal to someone in need—we become part of the angel chorus that still sings peace on earth.

So this Christmas, as you hang your ornaments and light your candles, take a moment to remember the angels who've shaped your life. Honor their memory. Celebrate their presence. And maybe, just maybe, become an angel for someone else.

May your home be filled with joy, your heart with peace, and your spirit with the kind of love that only comes from above.

Much Love from my family to yours,

Muffy Sander

Episcopal CHURCH of the Ridge



Episcopal Church of the Ridge

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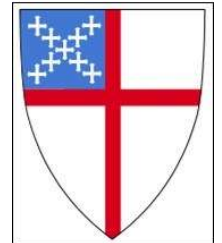
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*Faith Grows
Here*

Birthdays for November and December

Ed Posey	Nov 1	Kim Walker	Nov 12	Smith Connor	Dec 11
Caro Cassels	Nov 5	Katie Yonce	Nov 14	Joannah Thelen	Dec 14
Charlie Amos	Nov 5	Liz Jordan	Nov 17	Melissa Rainsford	Dec 21
Joseph Lojewski	Nov 5	Christopher Thelen	Nov 17	Michelle Kotti	Dec 28
Alice Becker	Nov 6	Ellen Courtney	Nov 18		
Beau Whitfield	Nov 7	Steve Jordan	Nov 20		
Susannah Watson	Nov 7	Ben Mims	Nov 21		
Elizabeth Holmes	Nov 9	Zelma Shore	Nov 27		
Valerie Holmes	Nov 9	Arthur Amos	Dec 1		
Dianne Glass	Nov 12	Kathryn Ginn	Dec 1		
		Bailey Pendarvis	Dec 9		