

Rector's corner

Holiday Memories and Traditions

We are officially in the holiday season. With Halloween past, Thanksgiving will soon be here, followed before we know it by Christmas and New Year's. As I look forward to being with my family at Thanksgiving, I find myself thinking about the memories and traditions that make these gatherings special.

As my brother and sister-in-law begin creating their own traditions, I wonder which ones will become part of my nephews' childhood stories. Is there one food, story, or family custom without which a holiday wouldn't feel the same? How have some of these things changed over time? Perhaps there's a funny family story that comes up every year, sometimes told fully, sometimes with just a few words.

When I was growing up, Thanksgiving was at my grandmother's house and Christmas Eve at my great aunt's. Both women belonged to a generation that cooked the entire holiday meal themselves, none of this "everyone brings a dish" arrangement.

As children, we were relegated to the dreaded children's table, always wondering why we couldn't sit with the grownups, only to discover later it wasn't nearly as exciting as we'd imagined.

Both holidays brought the excitement of extended family coming into town, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Growing up in Florida meant the weather could be unpredictable, some years bundled up, others in shorts. I have vivid memories of playing the Christmas Day family football game in summer clothes one year and sweaters the next.

Thanksgiving meant gathering with family, enjoying turkey with all the trimmings, and attending church on Thanksgiving Eve. That service remains one of my favorites. I look forward to being in Jacksonville each year so I can attend.

Christmas brought its own special memories. My parents made decorating the Christmas tree a big occasion, and our family carol sing-alongs, especially "The Twelve Days of Christmas," were unforgettable.

Then there was Christmas morning. We gathered in my parents' room, Dad brought our stockings, and we opened them on their bed. We waited for my grandparents to arrive before seeing what Santa brought. That wait was part of the magic.

Looking back, it's those familiar moments and the people around us that remain special.

I hope that during this busy season, we all take time to enjoy what matters, rest when we need to, and value our time with family and friends.

I look forward to hearing about your holiday memories and traditions.

Blessings + ,

Mother Lathrop

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Treasurer's Report

2026 Income Through September

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledge	$113,890.89	$107,775.00	$6,115.89
Other (plate, investments, etc	$36,987.51	$43,837.50	(-$6,849.99)
Total	$150,878.40	$151,612.50	(-$734.10)

We are running very close to our 2026 budget. Our expenses are under control. We have spent about $4,500.00 more than we have taken in so far this year, but we have an opportunity to catch up because the church usually enjoys more revenue during November and December than during other months of the year. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to continue our community outreach as well as taking care of internal needs as they come up.

We do anticipate some large future needs, the most sizeable the needed brickwork repair at Trinity. We are researching grant opportunities to assist.

Our Endowment Board has continued to manage that fund's growth, and at $187,893.49 it is now $29,964.77 larger than it was in January. Note that the increased value of our Endowment is well above our church deficit for the year. The Endowment Charter does not allow us to spend any of its principal and only a portion of its income; the whole point is to have the Endowment grow, ensuring the church can continue into the indefinite future.

To sum up, we continue to be in good shape financially, and we are prepared for any foreseeable contingency.

Scotty

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

November / December 2026

DATE	11/1/2026	11/8/2026	11/15/2026	11/22/2026	11/29/2026
LOCATION	Our Saviour / Trenton	Grace / Ridge Spring	Trinity / Edgefield	Our Saviour / Trenton	Grace / Ridge Spring
SERVICE NOTES	Baptism	Grace Birthday	3:00 Service	—	—
Acolyte	Addie Long	Ryals Connor	Smith Connor	Anna Hagan	Clark Connor
Lector	Muffy Sander	Jerrold Watson	Greg Sander	Scotty Scott	Lydia Wherry
Intercessor	Kelly Vann	Peggy Moss	Scotty Scott	Muffy Sander	Kelly Vann
Eucharistic Minister	Ric Vann	Larry Vann	Ray Melton	Liz Wilson	Larry Vann
Greeter	Andy Whitfield	Bill Kotti	Caleb Connor	Annette Quinby	Caleb Connor
Altar	Liz Posey Catherine Brice	Gertie Counts	Jo Ann Amos Annette Quinby	Caro Cassels Meredith Hagan	Gertie Counts
Usher	David Long	OPEN	Bill Kotti	Larry Vann	Jack Schwarz
Hospitality	Susan Yarborough	Cindy Vann	Annette Quinby	Leisa Long	Sarah Schwarz
Videographer	Sarah Schwarz	Scotty Scott	Annette Quinby	Luke Kindred	Sarah Schwarz
READINGS	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

DATE	12/6/2026	12/13/2026	12/20/2026	12/24/2026	12/25/2026	12/27/2026
LOCATION	Trinity / Edgefield	Our Saviour / Trenton	Grace / Ridge Spring	Trinity / Edgefield	Trinity / Edgefield	Our Saviour / Trenton
SERVICE NOTES	—	E-field Tour Churches**	3:00 Service	Special Service	—	—
Acolyte	Anna Hagan	Addie Long	Smith Connor	Addie Long TBD, TBD	Larry Vann	Ryals Connor
Lector	Lydia Wherry	Greg Sander	Jerrold Watson	Lydia Wherry	Larry Vann	Greg Sander
Intercessor	Muffy Sander	Kelly Vann	Peggy Moss	Kelly Vann	Larry Vann	Muffy Sander
Eucharistic Minister	Ray Melton	Liz Wilson	Ric Vann	Ray Melton	Larry Vann	Liz Wilson
Greeter	Andy Whitfield	Bill Kotti	Caleb Connor	Annette Quinby Bill Kotti	Lathrop / Larry	Muffy Sander
Altar	Lynn Melton Helen Mims	Deborah Holmes Joannah Thelan	Sarah Schwarz	Edgefield Altar Guild	Helen Mims	Cindy Vann
Usher	Gregg Hagan	Larry Vann	Caleb Connor	Bill Kotti David Long	NA	Larry Vann
Hospitality	Jamie Long	Deborah Holmes	Sarah	No hospitality	No hospitality	Everyone — clean out your Christmas Cookie Day
Videographer	Annette Quinby	Scotty Scott	Sarah Schwarz	Liz Wilson	Luke Kindred	Annette Quinby
READINGS	Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 Psalm 126	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 Canticle 3 or Canticle 15	—	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20) Psalm 96	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18 Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

About All Saints Day



November always has a way of slowing us down. The air shifts, the light softens, and even in Ridge Spring you can feel the quiet nudge toward remembrance. Churches prepare for All Saints' Day, families pull out old photographs, and we start thinking about the people who shaped us — the ones who left fingerprints on our lives in ways we still feel.

Some folks honor their loved ones with candles and prayers. Some visit graves and leave flowers. Some cook a favorite meal or tell a favorite story. And then, every once in a while, you run into a reminder that honoring the dead doesn't always look like solemn hymns and quiet tears. Sometimes it looks like Florida.

Back when Greg and I were florists in Fort Myers, one of our regular customers came in with news that her dear friend had passed away. But she wasn't sad. In fact, she was almost cheerful — not in a disrespectful way, but in that "he lived exactly the way he wanted" kind of way. She told me he died doing what he loved.

Her friend, as it turned out, was an alligator wrestler. Yes, you read that correctly. A professional, licensed, "call me when the gator gets too close to the patio" alligator wrangler. In Florida, that's practically a civic duty. The canal systems in North Fort Myers and Cape Coral are practically their own ecosystem, and every now and then one of the locals — the reptilian kind — decides to wander a little too close to civilization. That's when the experts get called.

On this particular day, her friend geared up, went in, and — as she put it — "finally met his match." She said it with a kind of proud affection, like she was telling the story of a cowboy who rode his last rodeo. There was no tragedy in her voice. Just truth. He lived boldly, and he died boldly.

She asked us to send a plant to the funeral home that honored his passion. Well, my florist brain went straight into creative overdrive. I bought a medium-sized areca palm, a rubber alligator, and a posable safari Ken doll. After some strategic bending, twisting, and staging, the final arrangement looked like a miniature National Geographic reenactment: Ken climbing out of the reeds, one leg bent, the other straight — because the gator had taken him out. It was dramatic, ridiculous, and somehow exactly right.

We delivered it to the funeral home just like that. A few days later, our customer came back laughing, asking how in the world I came up with such a thing. I told her, "You said he loved what he did. I wanted to honor that." And the family? They adored it. They said it captured him perfectly.

That's the thing about honoring the dead — it's really about honoring the truth of who they were. Some people are quiet saints. Some are loud saints. Some are musical saints, floral saints, cooking saints, wrestling alligators saints. Remembering them doesn't have to be somber to be sacred. Sometimes the holiest thing you can do is tell the story exactly the way it happened, even if it involves a rubber gator and a Ken doll losing a leg.

Some folks said he reminded them a little of Crocodile Dundee — not because he was flashy, but because he faced the wild with a grin and a kind of fearless joy. And honestly, after hearing his story, I think Dundee himself would've tipped his hat.

As we move toward All Saints' Day, maybe we take a moment to remember the people who shaped us — the ones who made us laugh, taught us lessons, or left stories we still tell at the dinner table. Because whether your loved one was a choir singer, a farmer, a teacher, a parent, or an alligator wrestler… their life mattered. Their story mattered. And honoring that story, in whatever way fits, is one of the most meaningful things we do.

And wouldn't you know, as I finished writing this story, I turned on the TV and there it was — **Gator Boys**, in all its swamp□soaked glory. I had to laugh. Maybe it was coincidence, or maybe it was a little nudge from above reminding me that life has a way of circling back to the stories we're meant to tell.

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Episcopal CHURCH of the Ridge

Episcopal Church of the Ridge

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Website: .www.churchoftheridge.org

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The office is open for administrative needs, scheduling, and general inquiries.

The Rector is available for pastoral needs at any time. She maintains on-site hours for administrative work and keeps afternoons reserved for visitations, pastoral care, and community ministry. Appointments may be scheduled directly with the Rector.

Rector / Priest: Reverend Lathrop Mosley

Senior Warden: Bill Kotti Junior Warden: Muffy Sander

Bailey Pendarvis / Endowment,

Annette Quinby / Women's Formation

Andy Whitfield / Grants, Safety, Caleb Connor / Men's Formation

Scotty Scott / Treasurer, Joann Amos / Recording Secretary

We are a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

"The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards is our Bishop."



November 1: All Saints' Day; Baptism of Katie Boone's grandson: Magnus Elrin Young

November 8: Grace's Birthday Celebration

November 11: Office Closed – Veteran's Day

November 13-14: Diocesan Convention at Trinity Cathedral

November 15: Afternoon Service at Trinity

November 22: Healing Prayers after communion

November 22 – 27/28: Mother Lathrop on Mini-Retreat and Vacation for Thanksgiving

November 26-27: Office Closed – Thanksgiving

November 30: Advent 1; Covered Dish Lunch

December 6: Episcopal Church of the Ridge's Birthday Celebration

December 6: Edgefield Christmas Parade

December 13: Christmas Tour of Churches

December 20: Healing Prayers after communion

December 20: Afternoon Service at Grace

December 24: Christmas Eve at Trinity

December 25: Christmas Day at Trinity

December 24 – 31: Office Closed; Christmas/New Year's

January 24: Annual Meeting at Our Saviour

Bible Study on Zoom: 7-8 pm every Monday night.

Choir Rehearsal: Every Wednesday at 4:00. in Trenton

ACTS Food Distribution: 3rd Wednesday of the month

Bingo at Senior Center: 3rd Thursday of the month

Advent: The Season That Asks Us to Wait

Advent arrives at an interesting time of year.

Just when the world is telling us to hurry, Advent quietly tells us to **wait**.

The stores say, "Hurry! Only so many shopping days left!"
The calendar says, "You have HOW many things to do this week?"
The kitchen says, "You volunteered to bake WHAT?"
And somewhere in the middle of it all, Advent whispers, **"Be still. Something wonderful is coming."**

That may be one of the gifts of Advent.

For four weeks, the Church gives us permission to step back from the rush and remember that Christmas is about so much more than getting everything done. We light the candles one by one. We hear the old familiar words of Scripture. We sing the hymns we have known for years. And we wait.

Not an impatient, foot-tapping kind of waiting.

Advent waiting is hopeful waiting.

It reminds us that God is at work even when we cannot see exactly what He is doing. It reminds us to watch for light when the days are growing darker. And it gives us a little breathing room before we gather around the manger once again.

Will there still be presents to wrap, cookies to bake, cards to address, and things we suddenly remember at the last minute?

Of course.

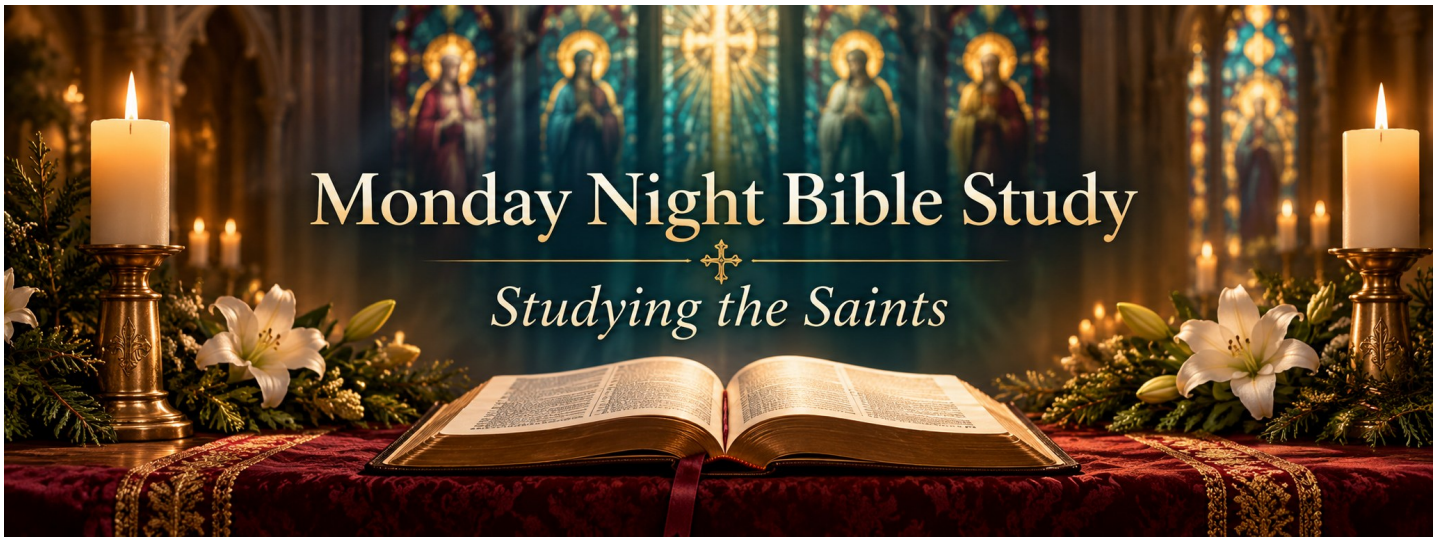
But perhaps somewhere between the lists, the errands, and the Christmas festivities, we can pause long enough to notice the candles glowing.

One. Then two. Then three. Then four.

Christmas is coming.

But soon it will be Advent...

Let us not hurry past it.



Studying the Saints

Our Monday Night Zoom Study Group continues to study the saints, focusing on American saints, although we will explore other saints as well. During the month, we will focus on the saints who are on the calendar for that month.

Mother Lathrop begins each night with some information from Lesser Feasts and Fasts and other resources. She encourages you to take the time and do some research on your own and bring an interesting fact, something you didn't know about the person, a fascinating story or anything else you find out about the saint.

The most up to date list of all the Lesser Feast and Fasts is found at Lesser Feasts and Fasts. All the major Saints, such as the disciples as well as major feast days, are listed in the monthly calendar: Liturgical Calendar for 2026. The beginning of the Book of Common Prayer in the Calendar of the Church Year section is also a good resource.

November 2: All Souls; Adeline Blanchard Tyler and her companions – Caroline Elizabeth Guild, Eveline Black, and Catherine Minard (first Episcopal deaconesses, 1856)

November 9: The Consecration of Samuel Seabury (first Episcopal Bishop, 1784)

November 16: Herman of Alaska (missionary, 1837)

November 23: Clive Staples Lewis (Apologist and spiritual writer 1963)

November 30: Kamehameh and Emma of Hawaii (King and Queen,1863 and1885)

December 7: Channing Moore Williams (Bishop and missionary, 1910)

CHURCH OF THE RIDGE

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