

Church of the Resurrection From the Rafters

December 2025
Vol. XXIII, Issue 81



Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

This is my final Rafters article. As I write these words, my heart is both heavy with the sadness of departure and overflowing with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared together. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians, "I thank my God every time I remember you", and these words capture perfectly what fills my heart as I prepare to transition to a new parish ministry. Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when it means leaving a community that has become family. Yet I am compelled to share with you the profound impact you have had on my life and ministry. Your love, support, and faithfulness have been the very foundation upon which our shared ministry has flourished.

Throughout my time with you, I have been sustained by something far greater than my own strength, your faithful prayers. In moments of uncertainty, when preparing difficult sermons, during pastoral crises, and in times of personal struggle, I have felt the tangible power of your intercessions lifting me up. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" You have been that cloud of witnesses for me, not just observing but actively participating through prayer in every aspect of ministry. Your prayers have carried me through sleepless nights, given me wisdom, and filled me with courage. I have witnessed firsthand how your prayers have moved mountains in our community, healing the sick, comforting the grieving, and opening hearts to God's transforming love. Thank you for teaching me that ministry is never a solitary endeavor but always a community effort rooted in prayer.

You have lived out Jesus' teachings beautifully, not just with me but with one another. I have watched you comfort those who mourn, celebrate with those who rejoice, and offer strength to those who struggle. Your encouragement has reminded me daily why I was called to ministry. In your faces, I have seen Christ's love reflected back to me. In your words, I have heard God's affirmation of the work we have done together. You have been God's instruments of grace in my life, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

As I prepare to leave, I want you to know how confident I am in your future. The foundation of faith you have built here is strong and sure. The love you show one another and your community is a powerful witness to God's kingdom. Continue to be the light of Jesus in this community. Keep praying for one another, keep serving those in need, keep worshiping with joy and reverence. The work we have begun together will continue to flourish under God's faithful guidance and your committed hearts.

Thank you for letting me love you, thank you for loving me. Remember that I love you but most importantly God loves you.

Love, Mary Balfour



From your Senior Warden:

It has been an eventful month for the vestry and for our whole COR family as we prepare to say goodbye to Mary Balfour and give her our blessings as she begins a new ministry at the Church of the Epiphany. At the same time, we are beginning to imagine and pray about the next chapter God is preparing for us.

Over the past few weeks, many of you have approached me and other vestry members offering help, asking how you can support the church, and expressing your deep love for this parish. Your willingness to step forward has been a bright spot in this season. It shows just how strong and committed this community is.

Of course, times of transition can also bring questions: What happens next? How long will this take? What do we do in the meantime? These are natural concerns, and many of us, myself included, are asking them.

One thing that has brought me a lot of comfort is knowing that the diocese has a clear and well-tested process for clergy transitions, and they will walk alongside us every step of the way. Janey Wilson, the Clergy Transition Coordinator, has been fantastic. She told me the first time I talked to her that I could call her anytime and I think she might already be regretting that because I sure have taken her up on it.

She met with the vestry on November 3 and gave us some guidance on timelines and next steps and she gave us a little homework to do as we get ready for this transition. We have invited her to offer the same presentation to the parish on **Sunday, January 25**, when she will also serve as our supply priest. I hope you will make plans to be there and ask questions.

We have also secured clergy coverage for Sundays in the first quarter of the new year. Woo Hoo! Between Mike Flannagan, Chris Craig-Jones, and our own Mitchell Felton, we are grateful to have worship leadership in place. Obviously, this is not a long-term plan, but it gives us a solid foundation as we move into the next stage of discernment.

The vestry will continue to update the parish each month in the Rafters, because we know communication is essential in times like these. Please feel free to ask us questions and we will answer them as best we can.

As we enter the season of Advent, I've been struck by the irony, and maybe the grace, of going through this transition right now. Advent is all about waiting, not passively but with purpose; about preparing our hearts for what we cannot see or understand; and about trusting that God is already at work in the unfolding of things. I think this transition is asking this of us: to pause, to reflect, to stay grounded in the present moment even as we anticipate what comes next. Part of that present moment is the time we still have with Mary Balfour. Over these six years, she has blessed this parish with energy, compassion, love, grit, and deep pastoral care. In the coming weeks, I hope we can celebrate her ministry with joy, gratitude, and love.

Transitions are never easy, but they often reveal who we truly are. And what I have seen in recent weeks is your generosity, your steadiness, and your love for each other. It encourages me that COR is strong, faithful, and ready for the road ahead.

We will walk it together, one step at a time and I know that God will lead us.

-Salley Cathcart

*Prime Timers
Christmas Drop In*

December 11th
2pm-4pm

The Ellenberg's Home
117 Friendfield Lane

RSVP to Mary Van at 993-4338



**Advent and Christmas at
Resurrection**

DOK Annual Ornament Exchange

Tuesday, December 2nd 6pm-8pm
at the home of Julia Ball (415 Gatewood Dr.)
Please bring a wrapped ornament and an
appetizer to share.

DSS ANGEL TREE: ADOPT A CHILD

Sign up will be posted in the Gathering
Space.

There will be a party for children & staff on
Wednesday, December 3rd at 6pm.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 7th after the 10:30am
service.

Advent Book Study with Mary Balfour

Tuesdays (12/2, 12/9, 12/16, & 12/23) at
12pm during advent
Please bring a sack lunch.

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21st at both services

Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm
Christmas Day service at 10:30am



**ALTAR
GUILD
Volunteers
needed!**

The Altar Guild is a quiet, behind
the scenes ministry that prepares
the church for each service. We
are searching for some additional
people to help fill our ranks.

**For more information,
please reach out to
Beverly Wilson at
bhallwilson@gmail.com**



ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH
ARE INVITED TO
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE
KING

*Annual Ornament
Exchange*

Tuesday, December 2nd
6pm-8pm

at the home of Julia Ball
415 Gatewood Drive

Please bring a wrapped ornament and
an appetizer to share.

*Carpooling is recommended
Please RSVP to Julia at
ballj906@gmail.com





DECEMBER

YOUTH

GROUP

WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

***Wednesday, December 3rd 5:30pm-7pm**
WEY GOTE at Panera and Christmas shopping for children in the community.
Pick up and drop off at FPC. Bring money for dinner. Youth are welcome to bring a donation to put towards gifts.

***Sunday, December 7th 5:30pm-6:30pm**
SNY GOTE at Chili's. Bring money for dinner.

***Wednesday, December 10th 5:30pm-7pm**
WEY wrapping presents for children

***Sunday, December 14th Arrive at 3:30pm for costumes, 4pm Live Nativity at FPC & Caroling at Wesley Commons 5:30pm-6:30pm**
Youth will take the bus to Wesley Commons. Pick up from FPC.

***WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**
CHRISTMAS PARTY 5:30PM-7PM
at the PINSON'S HOME
(508 HENRIETTA AVE. E.)

***FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH YOUTH LOCK IN**
AT BIG AIR IN LAURENS
MIDNIGHT-7AM
MEET AT FPC TO CARPOOL AT 11PM
PICK UP FROM FPC AT 7:45AM
\$40 + BRING MONEY FOR SNACKBAR

Advent Book Study

with Mary Balfour

studying

"An Unlikely Advent"

by

Rachel Billups

Order your book
prior to the
book study
beginning on
Tuesday,
December 2nd!



Tuesdays during Advent

at 12pm

Please bring a sack lunch.

Financials ending November 22, 2025

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
Month as of 11/18/2025	\$25,146	\$37,500	\$1,144	\$1,458	\$13,166	\$37,136
Year as of 11/18/2025	\$374,361	\$412,500	\$21,405	\$16,041	\$387,198	\$431,385

December 2025 Ministry Schedule	December 7 The Second Sunday of Advent	December 14 The Third Sunday of Advent	December 21 The Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 28 The First Sunday after Christmas Day
Vestry of the Month: Salley Cathcart and Dick Daffin				
8:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite I				
1st Lesson and Psalm	Graham Duncan	Dean Faden	Mary Van Ellenberg	Mary Bright
2nd Lesson	Dick Daffin	Chuck McDonnell	Dick Daffin	Mary Bright.
E.M.	Dick Daffin	Chuck McDonnell	Tom Rohrer	Gerald Normandt
Usher	Stephen Tucker	Walker Moore	Phil Ellenberg	Dean Faden
10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II				
1st Lesson	Mary Charles Haigler	Eddie Barber	Summer Booker	Andrew Hodges
2nd Lesson	Lucas McMillan	Catie Robertson	Lori Stone	Jane Merrill
E.M.'s	Norm Fawcett Connie Hammett	Cindy Hughes Karen Whitfield	Frank Wideman Eddie Barber	Karen Whitfield Cindy Hughes
Crucifier	Breyden Smith	Carolyn Hasting	Breyden Smith	Breyden Smith
Book Bearers	John Cobb	Margaret Ann Hasting	John Cobb	TBD
Torchbearers	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

December 2025 Ministry Schedule	December 7 The Second Sunday of Advent	December 14 The Third Sunday of Advent	December 21 The Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 28 The First Sunday after Christmas Day
Acolyte Leader	Jennifer Little	Sarah Hasting	Adrian Little	Jennifer Little
Ushers	Richard & Salley Cathcart	John Hasting Dan Hobbs	Larry Carson Allen Hughes	Eddie Barber Abney Wallace
Prayer Team	TBD	Eddie Barber	Celie Mescall	TBD
Nursery Volunteers	Sherri Ward Delaney Floyd	Aly Haigler Mary Bright	Marty Cobb Delaney Floyd	Kim Russell Delaney Floyd
Hospitality	Rita & Pete Marshall	Adele Moreau	DOK	Marilyn Bennett & Billy DuPre
Blessing Box	Resurrection Staff	Resurrection Staff	Resurrection Staff	Resurrection Staff
Flower Guild	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flower Delivery	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm

Readers: Graham Duncan and Summer Book
E.M.'s: Dick Daffin and Karen Whitfield
Crucifier: Carolyn Hasting
Book Bearer: Margaret Ann Hasting
Torchbearers: Michael and Riley Floyd
Acolyte Leader: Sarah Hasting
Ushers: Al Merrill and Rebecca Merrill
Nursery Volunteers: Delaney Floyd and Mary Bright

Christmas Day Service at 10:30am

Reader: Stephen Tucker
Eucharistic Minister: Chuck McDonnell
Usher: Walker Moore

December 2025

December Birthdays

1-Eric Gonzales, Anna Bettis Padgett
3-Andrew Hodges, Christian Roper
4-Virginia Glenn Donaghy
6-Meisha Cobb, Susie Hinkel, Emma Jones
7-Katherine McDevitt
10-Michael Floyd, Riley Floyd, W. Lee Roper II
13-Dan Hobbs, John Tennis
14-Miles Berry, Kevin Whitehead
15-Grant Kassemi, Laura Shealy
16-Elizabeth Padgett
17-Karen Whitfield
19-Ashley Woodiwiss
20-Mary Joe Ferguson
22-Frank Wideman III
26-Tiffany Shoemaker, Abney Wallace
27-Sandy Gresham
28-Janet Munns
30-Buster Brooks, Martha Champaigne
31-Dolores Kampert, Laurie Thompson

December Anniversaries

16-Tom & Joanne Hochheimer
16-Charlie & Ginger Long
17-Jason & Mary Charles Haigler
18-Jim & Mary Bright
20-Buster & Edie Brooks
22-Jeffrey & Robin Lanford
27-John & Hope Scurry
27-Chuck & Leslie McDonnell
28-Peter & Rita Marshall
28-Archie & Summer Booker
29-James & Marilyn Gobble
30-John & Judy Park
30-Benjamin & Shana Southard-Dobbs

Prayers of the People:

Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families: Bill Arnold, Don Bergman, Bruce Craven, Paul Criswell, David Dougherty, Joe Ferguson, Troy Glawe, Jim Gobble, Nan Hines, Diane Lawson, Bill and Sandra Lewis, Mirta Lindsey, Rita Marshall, Mary Jane Mobley, Walker Moore, Erich and Sarah Normandía, James Poore, Corrine Price, Domer Ridings, Mary Jo Tolbert, Nancy VanWaldick, Shirley Walker, Gary Ward (Sherri Ward's husband) Bryan Biggart (Karen Whitfield's son), Kit Cathcart (Salley Cathcart's niece's baby), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell's sister), Dennis and Gwenda Dobbs (Ben Dobbs' parents), Hailey Greene (Karen Bright's niece), Robyn Griffin (Cindy & John Hughes' daughter), Sandy Hammett (Connie Hammett's sister-in-law), Harlan Hunt (Dawn Puderbaugh-Hodges' father), Cheri Hutchison (Jo Ann and Bob Brewer's daughter), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little's mom), Al Mitchum (Sandra Lewis' brother), Carol Ann Pry (Susie Hinkle's niece), Hayley Rillon (granddaughter of Cindy & John Hughes), Jerry Ross (Ross Ann Steifle's uncle), Mason Shirley, and Polk Van Zandt (Mary Balfour Dunlap's father).

And for these persons: Durham Bley (Wells and Ryan Anderson's friend), Nannette Earnest (Karen Bright's cousin), Dick Hull (Laurie Thompson's friend), Nancy May & Jenny Perkey (Cindy Hughes' friends), and Larry and Judy Younce.

The **altar arrangements** are given in memory of Simons Ravenel Lucas, Anna Natalie Bettis Lucas, Elizabeth Simons Lucas Burns, Howard L. Burns, James C. and Maude Burns, Simons Lucas Chase, Mary Elizabeth and James Padgett, Jane Jeter, Virginia Self and William Aubrea McDaniel Jr. by Anna and James Padgett (**December 7**); in loving memory of Larry Carson's mother Willie Belle Carson and in honor of the anniversary of Libby Carson's parents, Betsy and Lionel Flack by Libby and Larry Carson (**December 14**); the Christmas trees are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for our greatest gift, the Christ-child born to save the world; and in loving memory of Joe Fennell, given by the Fennell and Hasting families. Wreaths and poinsettias provided by parishioners donations to the Christmas decorating fund (**December 21**); in loving memory of Bill Perry, my husband and my parents, Elma Louise and Stanley Putman by Lorah Perry (**December 28**).

The **presence candle for the month of December** is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Faden by Dean Faden.

From the Rafters

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Greenwood, SC 29648-3283
Phone: 864-223-5426

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Email: cor@episocopalgreenwood.org

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PLACE LABEL HERE

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

VESTRY MEMBERS

Salley Cathcart , Senior Warden
Charlie Long, Junior Warden
Michele Anderson
Diana Carver
Dick Daffin
Ryan Floyd
Sarah Hasting
Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges
Jean E. Shirley
Stephen Tucker
Kelly Wiseman
Beverly Wilson
Archie Booker, Treasurer

CLERGY AND STAFF

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector
Dr. Barry Wilson, Interim Choir Director
Beverly Wilson, Interim Organist
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant
Cate Hamilton, Director of Tutoring Program
Mary Allyn Hedges, Communications Coordinator
Cox Accounting, Financial Contractor
Mary Bright, Nursery Attendant
Delaney Floyd, Nursery Attendant
Jade Green, Youth Minister
Glenn M. Donaghy, RN, Parish Nurse