

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27th, 2026

10:30 AM in the Church

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

Rector

Welcome to our Church

WELCOME to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our weekly electronic newsletter! Email the church office at office@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org

E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



The Gathering

Prelude

Prelude in G Major

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #477 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

Descant

5 Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord

1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine,
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought;
3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee,
4 Where - fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou
5 Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord

Je - sus Christ is Lord;

1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine,
2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;
3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free,
4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now,
5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord;

and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.

1 that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine.
2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.
3 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry.
4 and given the Name to which all knees shall bow.
5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

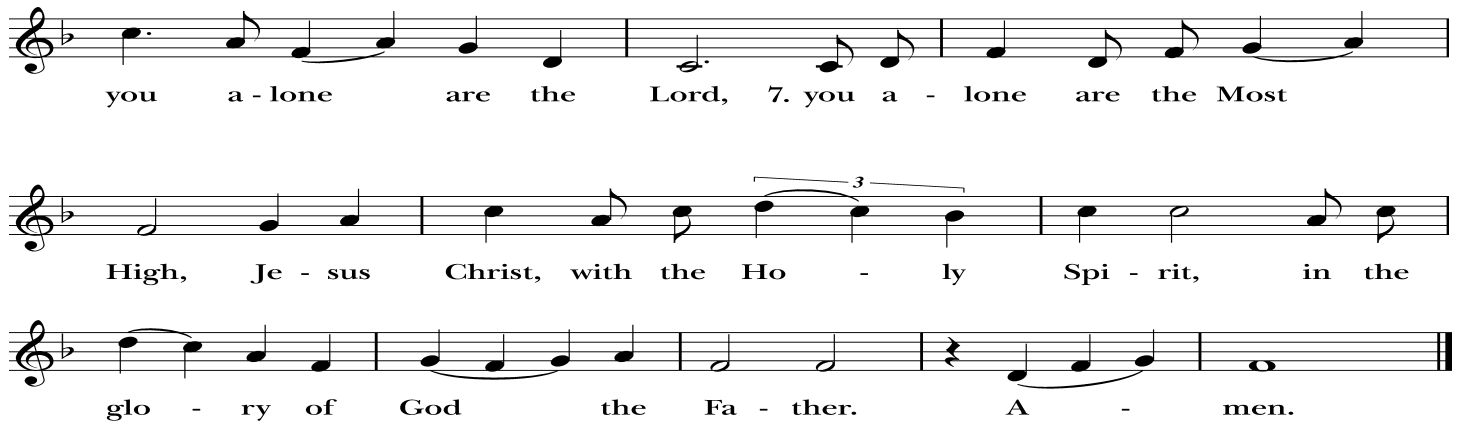
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider Let us pray:

**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.**

Glory To God S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 25:1-8

Ad te, Domine, levavi

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
**let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
**for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.**
Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
**remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**
Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore God teaches sinners in his way.
God guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches this way to the lowly.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are most comfortable.

Sequence Hymn #439 What Wondrous Love is This

Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Harmony (the melody is in the tenor)



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing





Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835. Music: *Wondrous Love*, from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; alt. acc. Carlton R. Young, (b. 1926).

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

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

All are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

A time of silence following the sermon.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
right - hand. He will come to judge and save.
last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

By faith, with thanksgiving.

Leader: May the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May we, with the leaders of the Church, and the leaders of nations discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, endure and flourish in us as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: May our families, our communal life and our wider communities be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth. This we ask:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: We give you thanks for our natural world, which you so lovingly created; help us be wise, careful, and loving caregivers of your creation. This we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, especially (your prayers are invited silently or aloud here)...For healing for all the world we pray,

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy and rejoicing in the power of your grace we pray:

People: **By faith, with thanksgiving.**

Presider: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share out humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable.

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Moment of silence observed.

**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.**

Absolution

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. **Amen.**

The Peace

✧ *“**The Peace**” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving

Presider: Walk in love...

Offertory Anthem

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Parry/Maker

(for text, see Hymn #652)

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are most comfortable

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody, with a longer note value (half note) appearing. The third staff includes a measure with a whole rest, indicating a pause in the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody, with a longer note value (half note) appearing. The fifth staff concludes the hymn with a double bar line. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Presider *continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all peoples to your grace and love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with our Patron, Paul, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction

S-154

This setting is not used in Lent.

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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God...
God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

In one kind--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.

In two kinds--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: 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 Blessing

Worship continues on the next page.

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #435 At the Name of Jesus



1 At the Name of Je - sus ev - ery knee shall bow,
2 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a Name
3 bore it up tri - um - phant, with its hu - man light,
4 Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
* 5 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
* 6 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,



1 ev - ery tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
2 from the lips of sin - ners, un - to whom he came,
3 through all ranks of crea - tures, to the cen - tral height,
4 name with awe and won - der and with bat - ed breath;
5 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true;
6 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry o'er the earth to reign;



1 'tis the Fa - ther's plea - sure we should call him Lord
2 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last,
3 to the throne of God - head, to the Fa - ther's breast;
4 he is God the Sa - vior, he is Christ the Lord,
5 crown him as your Cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
6 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



1 who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
2 brought it back vic - to - rious, when from death he passed;
3 filled it with the glo - ry of that per - fect rest.
4 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed, and a - dored.
5 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
6 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877), alt. Music: *King's Weston*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

The Heavens are Telling

Benedetto Marcello

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Short-term

Carol Canter, Sloan Bodford, Larry Sagebrush, Willie Barber, Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

Andy Southwell, Michael Morrison, Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Da'Shon Horton, Rose Andrews, Margo Hurd

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the office.





September 27th—Bram Koch

September 28th—Mike Adams

September 28th—Linda Schneider

September 29th—Mary Sue Pruitt

September 30th—Lorraine Hubbard-
Little

October 2nd—Amelia Koch

October 3rd—Karen McElwee

September 27th—Drew &
Pam Mayberry

September 29th—Carl &
Franz Yale



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Mike & Mary Southwell, Jim & Shelia Burch

Reader: Mary Southwell

Acolytes: Linda Schneider, Keyonii Staley

Ushers: Jeff Beard

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for September: Jeff Beard



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina

St. Paul's Vestry 2026

Jeff Beard

Jim Burch, Jr. Warden

Chuck Forester

Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden

Tana Myers

Diane Peabody

Bill Harris, *Secretary*

Linda Schneider, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*

Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*

Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*
office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Dean Carlton, *Sexton*