SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

November 22nd, 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

Preserve Us, Lord, By Thy Word *J.S. Bach*

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #494 Crown Him With Many Crowns

(stanzas 1-3 and 5)





Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). Music: *Diademata*, George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).
Descant, Copyright © 1970, Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Opening Acclamation

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

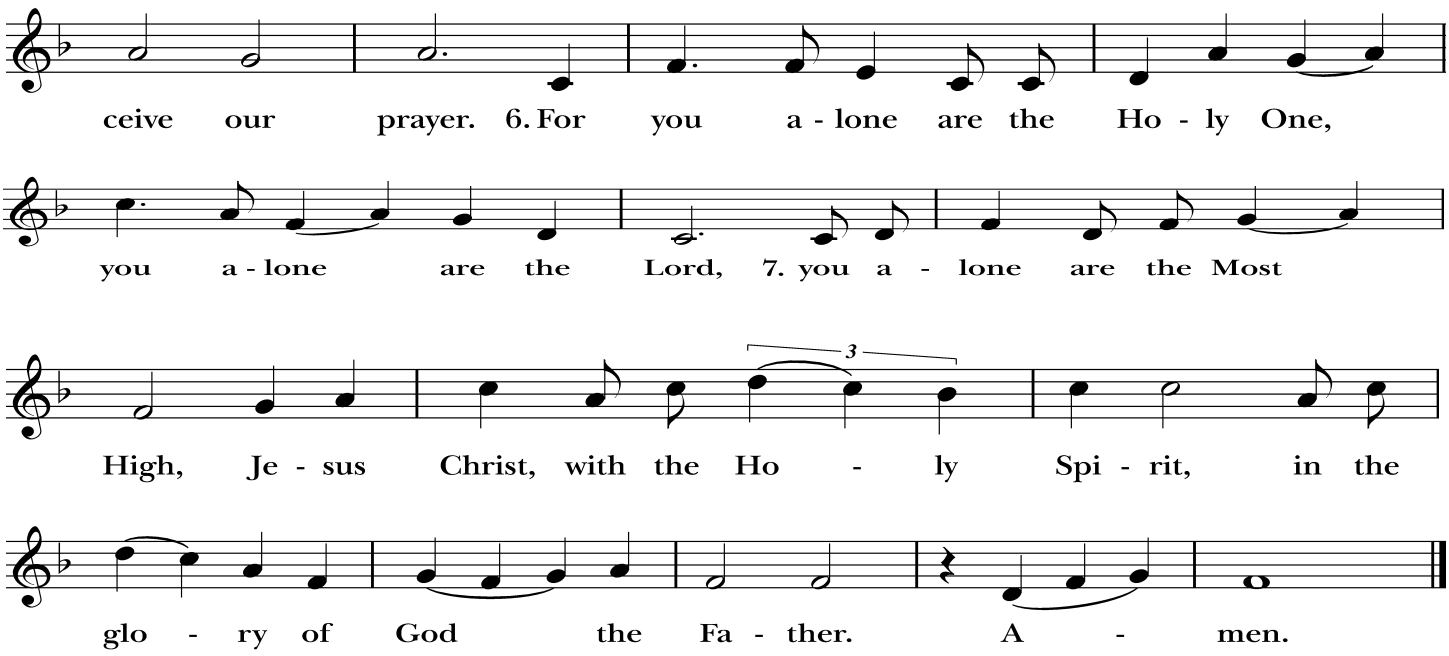
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

Gloria S-280





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.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading — Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Response — Psalm 95:1-7a

Venite, exultemus

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to God with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.

In God's hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are God's also.

The sea is God's, for God made it, *
and God's hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For this is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 #290 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come





Thanksgiving Day.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.
Music: *St. George's, Windsor,* George Job Elvey (1816-1893); desc. Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971) 77. 77. D

The Gospel — Matthew 25:31-46

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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



Prayers of the People

Plenty Good Room

Leader: Jesus said, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” Trusting in God’s abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Leader: Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this Financial Giving Invitation, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need [*especially those you would name silently or aloud*]. Surround them with your healing and your peace.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Leader: God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, [*especially those that you would name silently or aloud*], confident that they now rest in your embrace.

People: **Thank you for your Abundant Life.**

Presider: Loving God, you call us into your Abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children and plentiful resources for all to have enough. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

The Great Thanksgiving

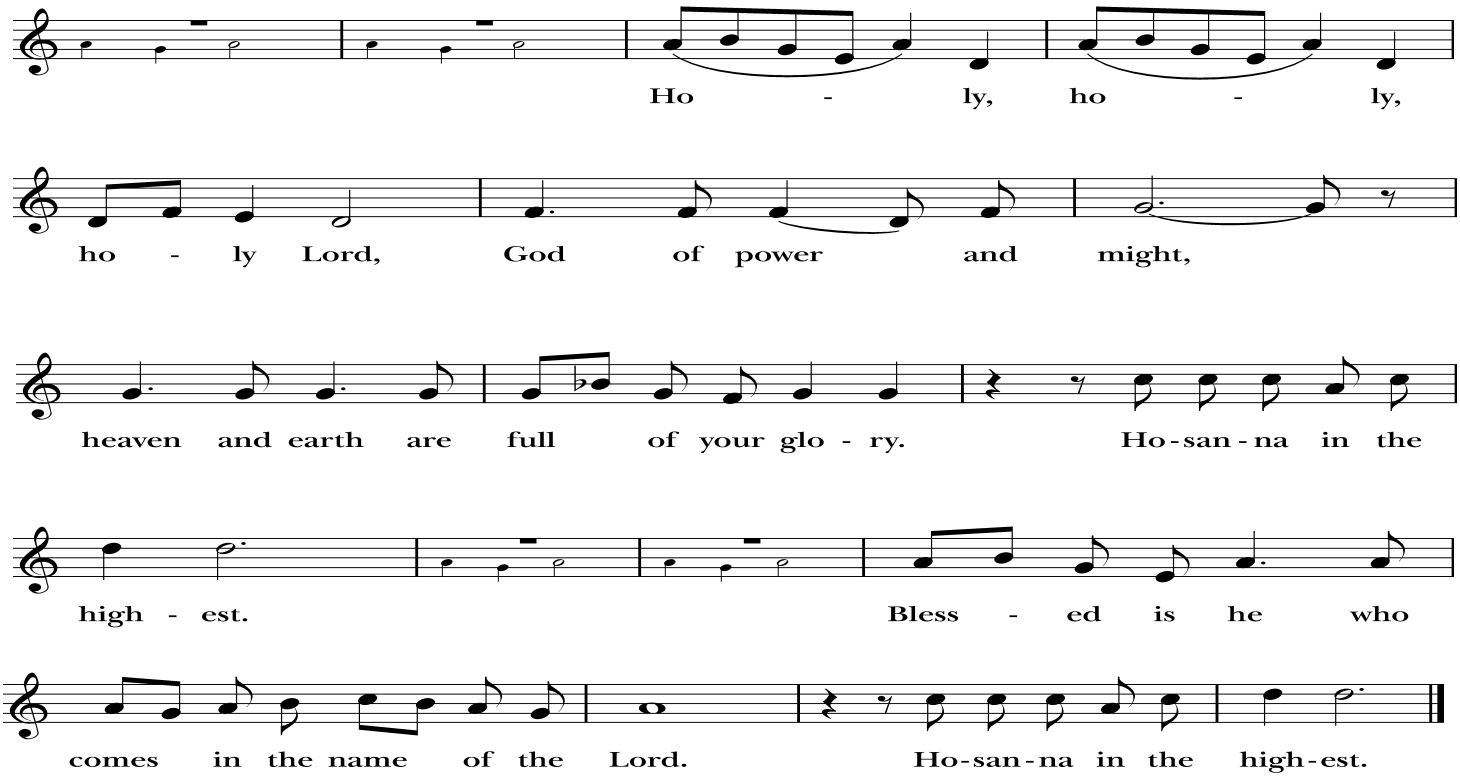
Please stand as you are most comfortable *Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP page 372*

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.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,



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

Please remain standing or kneel here.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in participation with you, our Creator, we might love and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of his mother Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without hostility or judgement. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your hope for an end to violence, he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who loved, lived and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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.

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's teaching, healing, death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your righthand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Presider: Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the love of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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.



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

As you go from here,
remember to love.
For love is what God asks of us;
it is the very heart and soul
of what it means to follow Jesus Christ.
So go from here to love and serve God
by loving and serving those you meet.

And may God—
who loved us first, and who shows us what real love looks like—
be with you and among you
wherever you find yourself in the coming week.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand or kneel as you are comfortable.

Recessional Hymn #460 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!
(stanzas 1-3 and 5)





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God *J.S. Bach*

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, Ann Reid, Elenor Wilborn, Sloan Bodford, Willie Barber, Kim Tetzlaff, Doug Merritt, Shannon Ryan, Jamie Tate

Long-term

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.



November 25th - Kendall Forester

No anniversaries this week.



Serving Today

Altar Guild: Pam & Drew Mayberry, Marianne Beamon

Reader: Gwen Temple

Acolyte: Julie Koch

Usher: TBD

Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley

Streaming Ministry: Rachel Minick, Gerry Peabody

Vestry Lock-Up for November: Scott Jessee

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*