



ST. PHILIP'S ANNUAL REPORTS - 2025

**The Rector's Report will be given by Mother Betty Glover on
December 7 as part of her sermon.**

Senior Warden's Report – Al Snell

It has certainly been an interesting year here at St. Philip's. At our Vestry retreat in January, we quickly learned that Father Eric intended to retire in August. That announcement set in motion a period of transition which—as many have noted—can be filled with challenges.

During this period, we as a parish recognized the need to stay together, support one another, and navigate a few bumpy roads in order to come through it well. As we approach the end of the year, we have shown that we indeed did just that. While we remain in a transition mode, our many accomplishments demonstrate that we are moving through this process in the best possible way.

We were able to appreciate and celebrate Father Eric during his final months as our priest, and the sendoff and parting gifts he received were truly remarkable.

With his departure, it was time to look toward the future. For a time, we were between Rectors, which made the challenges before us very real. The responsibility of running the day-to-day business of the church and ensuring a positive worship experience now fell to us. The efforts of our office staff, volunteers, and the Vestry went above and beyond to make this happen. While there are too many individuals to name here, we must recognize Deacon Pam, Lorraine, and Karla for working tirelessly to keep operations running smoothly.

We worked closely with the Diocese and were greatly blessed to receive Mother Betty as our Interim Rector. We could not have asked for a better choice—she shows a tremendous love for St. Philip's and is doing everything possible to prepare us for our next permanent Rector.

We are also blessed with a dedicated team of volunteers who stepped up to take on the difficult but essential task of selecting our next Rector. The Search Committee is gathering parish feedback to help identify the right leader for our community. Much work remains, but we are in excellent hands.

It has been an honor to serve on your Vestry and as Senior Warden, and I deeply appreciate the efforts and support of every Vestry member. We have continued to conduct long-term strategic planning while also overseeing the temporal matters of the church. In every case, this group has been focused, willing to listen, and ready to make decisions based on the best interests of our parish.

Here's to a successful 2026.

Peace be with you,

Al Snell

Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report – Rick Pearce

To begin this report I would like to confirm the auditor's statement that our finances are in good order. As we continue to adopt the Realm digital accounting system, we are able to be prepared for the anticipated growth of our church.

The 2026 Annual Giving Campaign continues. As of 11/23/25 we have received 151 pledge cards with a total giving amount of \$ 631,202 which is a little below our approved budget for 2026; however, we have averaged just over 26 pledges in December for the past 7 years. I believe that we will receive these pledge cards and will meet our budget needs.

I have included a Statement of Activities which shows the 2025 budget, amount spent and the amount remaining to be spent. As you can see, our initial budget had our expenses \$ 39,361.65 below our income projections and that we are spending less by \$ 99,202.30. There are several reasons for this, with the largest being a reduction in salaries and benefits costs. The year-end gap will narrow down to about \$ 59,940.65 which we will carry over to 2026, to be divided between the Maintenance Reserve and the Insurance Deductible Funds.

Jim Belvin is still our Endowment consultant and is willing to talk with any parishioner who is thinking about setting up an endowment for St. Philip's. Please contact Jim. He likes to remain busy.

Yes, St. Philip's has investment accounts. We have two Schwab accounts through the Diocese of East Carolina. They manage the accounts for many of the larger churches in the Diocese. These

are the accounts that hold several endowments for St. Philip's. At present we have an account with Vanguard, which holds some Temp-restricted funds. Our checking, money market (i.e., Cash reserves) and our safe deposit box, are with United Bank and are FDIC insured. Our new finance committee is in place with Bill Coffin as Chair.

Over the past 5-6 months we have switched over to the Realm Accounting system which is fully digital and compliant with both the General Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and The Accounting Practices of the Episcopal Church. All of these changes were recommended by our recent CPA audit and reviewed by the Diocese of East Carolina. Karla Platt is our full-time bookkeeper and has just returned from a Realm Accounting Conference where she got advanced training in the Realm system. Karla is one of the most highly trained professionals in the use of Realm in the Diocese.

Peace

Rick Pearce

Treasurer

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Statement of Activities
1-25-11-30-25

Date Range: Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st
 2025

Accounts	Budget Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025	Actual This Year Year to Date	Budget Remaining Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025
Revenues			
Support			
Contributions	897,836.00	807,279.04	90,556.96
Other Support	21,200.00	4,112.21	17,087.79
Total Support	919,036.00	811,391.25	107,644.75
Other Revenues	10,400.00	10,192.73	207.27
Total Revenues	\$ 929,436.00	\$ 821,583.98	\$ 107,852.02
Expenses			
Administrative			
Personnel	490,598.23	409,918.57	80,679.66
Office	45,743.00	42,870.76	2,872.24

Vestry			
Facilities	57,975.12	36,639.79	21,335.33
Total Vestry	193,447.12	156,113.94	37,333.18
Insurance	45,752.00	36,953.07	8,798.93
Total Administrative	775,540.35	645,856.34	129,684.01
Ministry			
Outreach	4,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Worship	25,420.00	13,944.54	11,475.46
Parish Life	10,605.00	3,018.52	7,586.48
Spiritual Resources	4,220.00	737.58	3,482.42
Pastoral Care	54,989.00	53,988.97	1,000.03
Total Ministry	99,234.00	74,689.61	24,544.39
Fire Taxes	0.00	40.00	(40.00)
Total Expenses	\$ 890,074.35	\$ 721,628.18	\$ 168,446.17
Net Total	\$ 39,361.65	\$ 99,955.80	(\$ 60,594.15)

Deacon Pam Hayes/Director of Pastoral Care Annual Report

It has been another wonderful year of growth and opportunity for ministry at St. Philip's, especially for me. I enjoy my job as your Deacon, serving at regular Sunday services, special services and funerals. Plus preaching occasionally. I am also enjoying my role as Director of Pastoral Care. My diaconal ministry has always focused on pastoral care; I feel so very lucky to help expand the reach and scope within this congregation. It is such an honor to help Mother Betty, the Whole Person Ministry, and our wonderful pastoral care ministry teams meet the needs of our church family.

We are currently offering our third session of the bereavement program, Walking Through Grief, since we brought it back in 2024. We have a full complement of participants for the current session, and plan on offering this at least twice a year, spring and fall. What is truly wonderful is that we opened this to the community, and members of the community are taking advantage of the program. Kathy Medici is our wonderful facilitator!

I am still chairing the Pastoral Care Board along with my Deputy Chair, Susan Chase, and I remain chaplain to our chapter of the Daughters of the King. Last year at this time, I was in the discernment process for the priesthood. As most of you are aware, I withdrew from that process early this summer. As my life has evolved, I do not regret that decision in the least.

My goals for 2026 are to continue trying to expand my skills in the ways of pastoral care; to take continuing education classes with pastoral care as the focus, and to keep serving my family here as best I can, with my whole heart. You are an amazing, wonderful congregation. Let's keep St. Philip's moving forward this year, expanding our goals of caring for one another, and expanding our caring for the community. We are blessed!

Parish Administrator – Annual Report 2025

My role as Parish Administrator is wide- ranging and varied. My primary responsibility is to the Rector, Mother Betty. I keep her calendar of appointments and provide any administrative support she requires. I also support The Wardens and the Vestry in their missions. I am the supervisor to the Bookkeeper, Facilities Manager and Sexton.

Some of the other things I am responsible for include maintaining the Parish Register of members, transferring new members into the parish. This year we have officially welcomed 39 new members to date. I also maintain the Register of Church Services which includes the type of service, date, number of attendees as well as celebrant and preacher. Maintaining the parish directory on Realm as well as maintaining the website and parish prayer list are also among my responsibilities.

I produce all the bulletins (weekly, special occasion, funeral etc.), the weekly announcement sheet, weekly E-news and promotion of the parish in the State Port Pilot to share our church activities with the community.

I schedule and coordinate all servers (readers, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers etc.) for each service. In conjunction with the rector, I coordinate all funerals, weddings and baptisms and all the associated personnel and paperwork. I also prepare a large portion of the Parochial report to the diocese, enter weekly contributions and pledges and assist with audits. I have maintained my Notary Public certification which is a service that is available to parishioners. I am also the clerk of the Vestry, and communicator for the Worship Ministry Board and the Board chair and Communicator meetings where I take notes and post minutes.

These are some my responsibilities which are all necessary for the parish to run smoothly. I get a real sense of joy from greeting parishioners and visitors each Sunday morning and I do my best to remember everyone's name as part of extending our ministry of hospitality.

I am so grateful for being part of the staff of St. Philip's!

Respectfully submitted

Lorraine Beamer

Annual Report – St. Philip's Facilities Board 2025

Dave Ham – Board Chair/Communicator

Bryan Wester – Deputy Board Chair

The Facilities Board is responsible for the physical health of St. Philip's campus including building integrity and maintenance, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, alarm systems and

appearance. Responsibilities also include grounds maintenance and management of the Memorial Garden. Campus space utilization is also overseen by the Board.

In September 2025 the Finance & Facilities Board was divided into two separate entities; the Finance Committee and the Facilities Board to facilitate appropriate attention to the matters and focus of the two groups. This report will address those matters relating to the facilities during the entirety of 2025.

Significant damage due to rot and degradation was repaired on the East side of the Sanctuary. This included replacement of siding and trim as well as pressure cleaning as needed.

Six of the nine HVAC units on the St. Philips campus were replaced due to age and performance. Problems were experienced with the new units post installation but have been corrected thanks to the efforts of Facilities Board members. The remaining units will be monitored as usual to ensure proper performance.

Numerous trees ~9, were removed along the East property line. These had become overgrown and could have potentially damaged the building if left unchecked.

In June a Maintenance Coordinator, Steve Ammons was added to the staff at St. Philip's. His responsibilities include the day-to-day maintenance of the campus; and he reports directly to the Parish Administrator and will work closely and take guidance from the Facilities Board.

The grounds at St. Philip's have undergone an upgrade and new landscaping over the past few years. This upgrade is complete and has yielded great results. The Groundskeepers will maintain the condition of the grounds and will make changes and replacements of plant materials as needed. The intent is to provide a beautiful campus that will enhance the worship experience for the congregation.

The Memorial Garden Committee has reconvened and will maintain focus on the future of the garden. Changes regarding vegetation and layout have been made to ensure that there is sufficient space needed for those currently committed grave sites.

With resumption of Celtic services now conducted in the Chapel of the Cross, several changes have been made to ensure the safety and security of the congregation. These changes include door security and lighting changes as well as the addition of new fire extinguishers. Facilities has worked with Safety and Security, Clergy, and the Celtic Service Committee to affect needed changes.

With responsibility for space allocation, Facilities has launched a "cleanout" program focused on campus storage spaces. The intent is to rid those spaces of unneeded materials and improve efficiency in the way storage spaces are used. Facilities will coordinate with ministry boards and other groups within the church to affect these changes.

Board minutes are published monthly on the St Philip’s website. Please direct questions or concerns to any board member.

2025 has been a very good year for the Facilities Board with many positive changes being made. The work of facilities volunteers is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to ensuring the condition and beauty of St. Philip’s campus.

2025 Outreach Annual Report

Chair: Liz Halbert

The mission of the Outreach Board is to be God’s hands and feet and to show His love by sharing His gifts with all His children in need.

The Outreach Board coordinates outreach volunteer activities and disperses funds to grant recipients. There are three main sources of funding – interest generated from the Outreach Endowment Fund, budgeted funds from St. Philip’s and money raised by fundraising events sponsored by ECW and Men on a Mission.

The current areas of focus determined by the Outreach Board through 2025 are:

- Families and Children
- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Substance Abuse Recovery
- Local Disaster Preparedness
- International Mission

Grant recipients for 2025 through November are –

Day 4 Hope	\$8000	Expenses for underserved children back-to-school event
Brunswick Partnership for Housing	\$5000	Emergency shelter fund
Brunswick CC Scholarship Happer’s memory	\$2000	Funding for culinary student at BCC in Kim
SOIICF Food Pantry	\$750	Proceeds from MOAM Hot dog sale
Christian Recovery Center Orchard	\$5000	Funding for new residential facility – Bryant’s
Brunswick Bands	\$2000	Music student assistance program
Matthew’s Ministry 550 students	\$5775	Cost of one week of weekend food assistance to

Brunswick Partnership for Housing \$9000
facility

Pre-development costs for new housing

Total = \$37,525.00

Ministries with representatives on the Outreach Board include –

Diaper Ministry - St. Philip's Diaper Ministry has continued to serve the diaper needs of Brunswick families for the past 12 years. Currently, we are distributing diapers of all sizes and incontinence items to 600 individuals through the Diaper Bank of NC and the Brunswick Baptist Association. Volunteers have wrapped over 40 cases of diapers, given donations of diapers and funds, and have served at the DBNC each month distributing items. We hope to continue for as long as possible. Diapers and donations will be accepted at the ECW Annual Meeting in December. For more information, contact Maryann Darzano.

Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship (SOIICF) - SOIICF is comprised of representatives from nineteen area churches. They manage the Food Pantry in Boiling Spring Lakes (1297 individuals served monthly) and provide Emergency Human Needs aid as well (approximately \$2000 per month). SOIICF also sponsors the Lenten Wednesday services, the Hunger Walk, the Thanksgiving worship service, MLK activities, Day4Hope and services at a nursing home. Day4Hope is a back-to-school readiness event for needy children and was held this year at Odell Williamson auditorium. They were able to serve over 270 children this year – up from 145 last year! Medical, dental and vision exams, haircuts, backpacks filled with school supplies, books, pillows with handmade cases, food, hygiene bags and gift certificates for clothing, shoes and socks were all provided at no cost to them. We had great participation from St. Philips – donation of \$8000 and about 20 parishioners volunteered! For more information, contact Margaret Melando.

Brunswick Partnership for Housing - BPH provides services for more than 500 homeless individuals and families annually and advocates for the development of permanent, safe and affordable housing in Brunswick County. They provide outreach and case management, emergency shelter through area motels and transitional housing for homeless families. This year BPH has acquired land adjacent to their property where they plan to construct affordable and workforce housing. Our donation will assist them with predevelopment soft costs – appraisal and legal fees, engineering and application fees to the City of Southport. For more information, contact Sally Learned.

Chapel Docent Ministry - The docent ministry allows for the opening of our historic chapel to be enjoyed by the community and visitors to Southport. Trained docents are present when the chapel is open to answer any questions. They have provided tours for most holiday weekends

this past year but still lack the support for coverage to enable consistent weekly openings. When able, tours are provided Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am – 2pm. We welcome anyone wanting to join us in this enjoyable ministry. The Chapel will once again be open during the Southport Historical Home Tour on December 13th, though they will not be an official stop. Refreshments will be available in the Chapel Annex. For information, contact Deb Alt.

Lil' Bit of Help - The remaining funds from the \$5,000 grant awarded to Lil' Bit of Help in 2024 supported the mission work begun at St. Paul's by the Sea Anglican Church and School in Corozal, Belize. These funds were used to complete the church sanctuary's window replacements and to install a new sound system. Lil' Bit of Help board member Doug Cottrell—who lives part of the year in Belize and attends the church—helped oversee both projects and continues to keep the organization informed about ongoing needs. In addition, board members and donors provided new school uniforms for children unable to afford them, as well as new drums for the school's marching band. This past October, Lil' Bit of Help founders, Shirley Desnoyers and George Ball, traveled back to Belize to deliver donated altar dressings and candelabras to St. Paul's by the Sea, and provide additional help to other schools in the Diocese of Belize.

At St. Peters in Orangetown, painting of picnic tables (made possible by a donation from Judie Ratcliffe, St. Philip's), and other miscellaneous needs were attended to. This church school is the ONLY school in all of Belize, teaching Life Skills to special needs students to help prepare them to be employable after their schooling. Shirley spent some of her day there baking bread with the students.

Since returning, a list of items needed by the schools has been provided in hopes of our assistance. These are very impoverished areas, away from the benefits of tourism dollars. We hope to assemble another mission trip in the coming year and that St. Philip's will choose to be a part of that mission.

ECW and Men on a Mission - Because they raise funds for outreach that are transferred to our account, both of these groups have representation on the Outreach Board for voting on recipients of grants. This year the ECW established a scholarship grant at Brunswick Community College's culinary school in memory of Kim Happer, a beloved member of ECW and fantastic cook! They hope to continue to fund it for years to come. For information, contact Judie Ratcliffe and Bill Faherty.

Angel Tree - For the 2024 Christmas season St. Philip's provided gifts of clothes, toys, and school supplies to 83 children ages 6 months to 17 years old. We also provided gift cards to two parents (\$100 each) in need of funds for clothes and food. We worked with the South Brunswick Middle School counselor who provided names of 20 children, Day4Hope provided 50 names of children and Brunswick Partnership for Housing provided 13 names.

This year we are working with the same three groups as well as South Brunswick HS and have names of 74 children. Wrapped gifts are to be returned by December 7. Evan and Gayle Peterson continue to manage the program.

Remodel of Chapel Annex for use as a Welcoming Center – A committee has formed to research the use of the first floor of the Chapel Annex as an outreach center to the community. Ideas for use are meeting space for 501(c)3 groups, cooling shelter during designated high heat days and/or during Southport festivals, after school tutoring, etc. The space will never house overnight guests. An architect has designed the space to include a second restroom, additional storage area and a remodeled kitchen. We are awaiting approval of the project from various boards, the Vestry and feedback from the congregation. Look forward to updates in 2026.

2025 Parish Life Ministry Board Annual Report

The Parish Life Ministry Board includes several ministry boards that work together to build community at St. Philip's. These ministry boards include Hospitality, ECW, Gather Round the Table, Men on a Mission, First Sunday Breakfast Club, and the Newcomer's ministry.

The Hospitality Ministry implemented a new twist on our weekly coffee hour beginning in September 2025 with the development of Coffee Teams. A parish-wide "Mission Possible" was the rally cry and we now have Coffee Teams schedule until our summer hiatus begins in June. Hospitality Ministry also succeeded in hosting 104 parishioners to a Progressive Dinner to celebrate Mardi Gras in February. In addition, The Hospitality committee hosted two New Newcomer receptions, both with approximately 12-15 new members present at each reception. Due to a rain-out our Annual Brunswick Town service was held in the church, and the Hospitality Ministry members pivoted to make sure approximately 200 of our parishioners were dry and had a wonderful picnic lunch, including ice cream. July found the Hospitality Ministry hosting our Farewell Luncheon for Fr. Eric upon his retirement. We were able to seat 92 in the parish hall and 40 in the Narthex. December our Hospitality will wrap up the year with our Annual Parish Meeting luncheon, and a Wassail Reception after our Advent Lessons & Carols service.

ECW meets monthly and their annual Fall Festival was the largest fundraiser to date. After last year's first attempt at, a new White Elephant fundraiser, the women of ECW rebranded the event and succeeded with a very successful Rummage Sale. New to the ECW activities the ladies organized a High Tea which was a sellout! Next year they will schedule it the week after Mother's Day and raise the price. Most of the proceeds from the ECW events go to support local outreach in Brunswick County.

The Men on a Mission group is newly reformed with a focus on bringing the men of the church together for fellowship and service. Their intent is to be an additional fundraising arm of

the church. The 4th of July hot dog sale during the parade proved to be a winning activity again this year. In addition, MOAM supplied BBQ chicken for our Homecoming gathering in September. YUM was had by all!

The First Sunday Breakfast Club hosted 10 church-wide breakfasts throughout the year between the 8AM and 10 AM services. It is a dedicated group that loves to feed us!

The Dine-In, Dine-Out ministry has brought together well over 100 of our members this fall and winter in groups of 8 and enjoying meals in each other's homes, or at favorite restaurants throughout the Southport / Oak Island area.

The church has enjoyed other events hosted by the Parish Life Ministry Board which have included Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in February, this time diming the lights and adding a jazz combo to create a great atmosphere.

New ideas for 2026 are in the making. The Parish Life Ministry enjoys providing celebrations to see God as we continue to build community at St. Philip's via loving each other and sharing that love in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Bernard, Chairperson, Parish Life Ministry Board

Spiritual Resources Annual Report

Our mission: to deepen our love of God and strengthen our love of others by building, enriching and maintaining an informal understanding and practice of Christian faith and spirituality.

Board Chair: Rose Dahill

There were a number of offerings/ programs that were available this past year.

Theology Uncorked:

A gathering of parishioners who meet twice a month to discuss spiritual and faith topics/questions in relaxed, casual small groups off our church campus. It has been revamped and it is now lay lead by Rose Dahill and Kim Bernard.

Presently, we meet at Southport Tap and Cellar.

Discovery and adult forum classes:

Clergy led, new classes TBD

Women's Spirit Sister's group:

Beckie Armstrong leads a group of 9 women in weekly spiritual discussions.

Zoom Bible study:

Canon Jim lead a group of parishioners each week via zoom. The classes are no longer offered within St Philips and we encourage anyone with interest in starting a bible study to speak with clergy.

Library:

We said good bye to Stefanie Christos who did a wonderful job in setting up our library with a cataloguing system which she oversaw for many years.

We welcomed Petra Peterson who has already added her personal touches to make the library appealing and well organized and has been busy learning the catalog system.

Labyrinth:

Debbie Evans continues with oversight and ordering new pavers as required.

Book Club:

Susan Heller continues to lead a monthly lively book club discussion that has encouraged fellowship.

Seekers zoom group:

Susan Chase leads a group of women in spiritual discussions of faith and spiritually twice a month.

2025 WORSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**Statistics:**

Avg Sunday attendance: 8:00 - 58

10:00 - 122

5:00pm -22

Avg. Summer Service attendance: 42

Baptisms: 2

Weddings:0

Renewal of Vows: 2

Blessing of a Marriage: 0

Funerals: 5

Worship Ministries at St. Philip's are achieved through the strong support of our dedicated parishioners who volunteer their time and talent. We have over 150 volunteers that assist in the different worship ministries that the church offers.

St. Philip's usher ministry team consisting of over 40 volunteers, led by Steve Russell, offer support to both clergy and parishioners, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment at all church services. Over 17 of our ushers have completed First Aid and CPR training. Ushers are also up to date on our new Safety and Security Policies.

St. Philip's is fortunate to have a very able Choirmaster and Organist, Debbie Skillman, to direct our music program and lead our extremely talented choir. They not only provide music at the 10:00 services, but they support the church throughout the year with all the extra services during Holy Week, Christmas, and many other special services.

Approximately 43 volunteers participate as Lay Readers. Trained by our clergy, volunteers lead us in reading our lessons and psalms each Sunday.

Behind the scenes, the Altar Guild, coordinated by Janet Wester and Kate Singley, prepares the altar for Worship on Sundays, Wednesday Noon Service, Funeral Services, and other special services throughout the year. They also keep the brass, silver, and linens clean. The Altar Guild consists of 23 members.

The Flower Guild is coordinated by Debbie Raker, and Jan Fairley. The talented team members provide fresh altar arrangements throughout the year for weekly Sunday services, Holy Week, Easter, Christmas, funerals, and other occasional services. The Flower Guild team recycles altar flowers after the last Sunday morning service for distribution to parishioners. The flower ministry also includes flower dedications to honor loved ones and special occasions.

The Summer Service Ministry on Oak Island offers a casual outdoor service for parishioners and summer visitors to the area. Mary Russell and a team of volunteers coordinate and organize the services which are led by current, retired or visiting clergy. These services are held at Register Park on Oak Island from Memorial Day Sunday to Labor Day Sunday.

Training classes for all ministries have been held periodically throughout the year.

Our Worship Board with one representative from each ministry, our communicator, and priest, meets once a month.

Thank you to all that serve and make St. Philip's a special place to worship.

Ricky Evans, Chair
St. Philip's Worship Board

Vestry Candidate Profiles 2026

Each candidate submitted answers to 4 questions.

- 1. First an introductory paragraph to tell about yourself including which service(s) you attend, and how you have been active in the life of our parish; what previous parish or diocesan leadership experience do you have? –*
- 2. What gifts has God equipped you with, either from previous employment or from previous church experience, that may be helpful in serving St. Philip's parish?*
- 3. How might God be calling you to serve as a member of St Philip's vestry?*
- 4. If not elected to vestry at this time, how else might God be calling you to serve at St Philip's?*

Doyle Brinson

My name is Doyle Brinson and I have attended St. Philip's since 1989. My wife, Linda, and I raised our two children at St. Philip's where we always found it welcoming and inviting. Due to work and travel I was a sporadic attendee for twenty years but since 2022 I have been fully retired and am able to devote more of my time and energy to the church. I attend the 8:00 service and the Wednesday noon service and serve as an usher, Eucharistic minister and Eucharistic visitor. St. Philip's is special to me and our family and I am grateful to be considered for service on the vestry.

A large part of my career has been spent working in the areas of school leadership, school finance, and leadership development for aspiring future leaders. Through various experiences I have been engaged with students, parents, teachers and administrators at many levels and have a respect for diversity and differing opinions and perspectives. I believe God equipped me for such work and over time enabled me to develop skills in these areas. I am a work in progress and know I have much room for growth. The willingness to learn has served me well.

As I considered serving St. Philip's and sought guidance in that consideration, I came to believe that I had something to offer to our worship community and to our community at large. I take seriously the use of gifts in the area of service, support and time and believe each of us can help make our church a place where we can worship and serve each other and our community.

Serving St. Philip's and our community is something I think is important. If I am not chosen to serve on the vestry I am certain I can find some place in our church to serve that will help us grow and develop. I am humbled to be considered for vestry service.

Chris Romig

My name is Christopher (Chris) Romig. My wife, Mary Kay, and I moved from Springfield, Virginia, part of the greater D.C area, in the summer of 2018. I retired from the Army in 2007 with 27 years of service; the latter half of my career was spent in financial management as a Comptroller and Resource Manager. Post-Army I worked in the private sector for eight years before returning to government service as a Professional Staff Member on the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mary Kay and I both attended Catholic grammar and high schools and were practicing Catholics until the early 2000's. The revelations of the many scandals coupled with a feeling of a lack of spiritual fulfillment resulted in us leaving the Catholic church in search of something more. We found a wonderful Anglican church that was warm, welcoming, and left us feeling uplifted after each service. We were looking for that same atmosphere and spiritual fulfillment when we moved here. We are blessed to have found that at St. Philip's.

I attend the 8:00 service and have actively served the parish as a lector, and a member of the coffee service and groundskeeping ministries.

The greatest gift God has equipped me with is a desire to serve. My career as an Army officer honed significant skills in leadership, training, communication, planning, execution, and process improvement. I also have experience in budget formulation and execution. I believe these qualities and skills coupled with God's gift of a heart for service will allow me to contribute to the parish in a positive and impactful manner.

St. Philip's is in a time of transition, and a change of leadership is seldom easy. The vestry will play a vital role in shepherding the parish through this time. To do so, the vestry must be a cohesive team that works together to sustain all the goodness our parish enjoys while steering it forward to thrive in the changes and challenges that will inevitably come. I believe God is calling me to be part of that team.

I will continue to serve as lector and on the groundskeeping and coffee service ministries if not elected to the Vestry at this time.

Mary Russell

My husband, Steve, and I have been grateful members of St. Philip's for more than ten years. Many parishioners know Steve from his previous Vestry service, and it has been a joy to grow in faith together here. We first discovered St. Philip's through the Oak Island summer services, where we were welcomed so warmly that we immediately felt at home. I am a cradle Catholic and Steve is a convert, and St. Philip's has become a cherished spiritual community for both of us.

Over the years, I have been active in several ministries. I have served as a Eucharistic Minister, usher, and reader. I assisted Peter Del Sol with the Oak Island summer service for many years and have been blessed to lead that service myself for the past three seasons. I also conduct the Sunday service at Terra Bella Senior Living, a ministry that has connected me with many wonderful residents. These experiences led me to join the Worship Committee, where I enjoy working with others who care deeply about our parish.

My professional and personal experiences have shaped gifts that I hope continue to serve our parish well. I spent much of my career in sales, and later worked as an administrative assistant to three principals at a large middle school of 1,200 students. That environment taught me patience, calm under stress, and the ability to listen carefully and respond with compassion—especially when unexpected situations arose.

I learned how important it is to make people feel heard and included, a value I believe is essential in church life. I try to bring a cheerful spirit, steady presence, and willingness to help wherever needed. I feel God may be calling me to serve now because St. Philip's is entering a hopeful new chapter. With a new rector joining us soon and new opportunities for growth ahead, this is a meaningful moment in our parish's story. I would be honored to support our clergy, welcome new members, encourage existing members to stay engaged, and help maintain the warm, inclusive spirit that defines St. Philip's.

If I am not elected, I will happily continue the ministries that bring me joy—supporting worship, leading the Oak Island summer service, and conducting Sunday services at Terra Bella. I am grateful for the many blessings St. Philip's has brought into my life, and I look forward to serving our parish family in whatever ways God provides.

Marty Younts

My name is Marty Younts. I attend the 10:00 a.m. service at St. Philip's and have done so since 2011. My husband, Tommy, and I sing in the choir—perhaps you have seen me in the front row. Throughout my years at St. Philip's, I have served on Vestries with Father Barry, Mother Betty, Reverend Meg, Father Reggie, and Canon Jim. Under Canon Jim's leadership, I helped develop the plan that transitioned St. Philip's from a Pastoral Church to a Program Church. I have loved watching our parish flourish in this model, and I feel eager and ready to experience this next chapter in a leadership role.

I believe God created me with a strong sense of organization, which over time grew into well-developed leadership skills. I approach leadership collaboratively and have learned that effective leadership begins with attentive listening. These skills served me well as a school principal, a director, and later in a Fortune 50 company. I also connect easily with people. At one time, I could name every member of St. Philip's. Although our membership has grown—especially during the pandemic—I look forward to meeting every new face and reconnecting with those I do not yet know.

During my daily devotions, I ask for God’s guidance. Recently, I have felt a persistent pull toward serving on the Vestry. I cannot fully explain it—only that if I wasn’t being pulled, then I was being gently pushed. This sense of calling has been steady and unmistakable, and I am responding in faith.

If I am not elected to the Vestry at this time, I remain ready and eager to serve in other ways. I have previously served as Treasurer of the ECW and would welcome the opportunity to serve on their board again. I have also served as the Shepherdess for the Fall Festival. And of course, I will continue to serve joyfully in the choir. Should the Vestry role not materialize, I am placing my name forward for additional opportunities where my gifts may be useful.

At the November 18th, 2025 Vestry meeting the following appointments were made to fill current vacancies on the Vestry:

Tracy Baltz and Kris Holt will each fulfill 2 year vacancies.

Angela Urquhart will fulfill a 1 year vacancy.