

Advent *Watch*
Rejoice
Behold *Prepare*



ST. CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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~ PHOTOS COURTESY OF LORA HAM



Safe Church Training

The Diocesan Office continues to offer Safe Church Training Workshops, both in-person and online. Registration for *Praesidium Academy* is available online. Specialized Training is offered for vestry members, clergy, and church staff. The schedule is listed below.

- Sat., Dec. 13, 2025, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Hungars, Machipongo
- Sat., Jan. 10, 2026, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk

Universal Training Workshops are suitable for Sunday school teachers and VBS volunteers (it does NOT meet requirements for vestry members, clergy, or church staff). To register for any of the workshops, visit the Diocesan website.

ANNUAL MEETING

134th ANNUAL COVENTION

The 134th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia will take place February 6 - 7, 2026 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Williamsburg. The Convention Reception will take place on Friday, February 6, from 5 p.m. -7 p.m. All those registered to attend the Convention are welcome.

The business meeting of Council will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are included with registration. As in the past few years, there will be some evening virtual events during the week leading up to the Convention, which will be recorded for later viewing.

Please refer to the *Tidings* and the Annual Convention webpage for the date and time for our Convocation's meeting date. Additional information will be posted on the Annual Convention webpage as it becomes available.



SERVING THOSE IN NEED

H.E.L.P. has remained vigilant in ensuring our neighbors in need can continue to access the services they desperately need. Please remember to donate to the food pantry for the needy in our community. St. Cyprian's monetary collection to support this program is held monthly on the fourth Sunday. Thank you in advance for your support. ~ *Alberta Reid, St. Cyprian's H.E.L.P. Coordinator*



Celebration of Advent Through the Arts

Hampton Episcopal Churches

We invite you to join us for our Advent Celebration series, which will be held on Wednesdays throughout the month. These services will feature an evening of traditional music, inspiring poetry, or captivating visual arts. Feel Free to invite family and friends for a memorable time of fellowship and dinner. Please see the schedule of events below.

- Dec. 3 – “Advent in Poetry” at Emmanuel
- Dec. 10 – “Advent in Visual Arts” at St. John’s
- Dec. 17 – “Advent in Music” at St. Cyprian’s

The soup and salad dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., with the program commencing at 6 p.m. Each service will conclude with a compline prayer at 7 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you to each gathering.



Stewardship by Vestry Member: Joy Dixon Strawn, MD

2 Corinthians 9:7 ~ “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

I am Joy Dixon Strawn and have had the honor of serving on the Vestry at St. Cyprian’s since 2024. Before ever serving in this leadership church role, I recall growing up as a child in St James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. My mom taught me the importance of prayer, church, Sunday school, and Summer Bible School. I recall church lessons that planted seeds of faith in me—seeds that have guided my life ever since. Upon becoming an adult, then graduating from Howard University Undergraduate Medical School, and Ophthalmology Residency program, I moved to Hampton, Virginia to take a job and establish my medical career at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

When in Hampton, I was invited to visit many churches but it was St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church and Father Hall at that time which drew me in towards this church. This church taught me what community really means—caring for one another, serving others and trusting in God’s blessings.

And that’s why I’m standing here today to ask that we all continue that legacy. To encourage each of us to give—not only of our monetary treasure but also of our time and our talents.

Our church is more than a building. It’s a living, breathing expression of God’s love. But it takes all of us—our prayers, our presence, our service, and yes, our financial gifts – to keep that love growing and reaching beyond these walls.

When you volunteer- whether you serve on a ministry team, help with outreach, teach a class, sing in the choir, or lend a hand behind the scenes – you are helping someone else feel the same sense of belonging that many of us have felt since childhood.

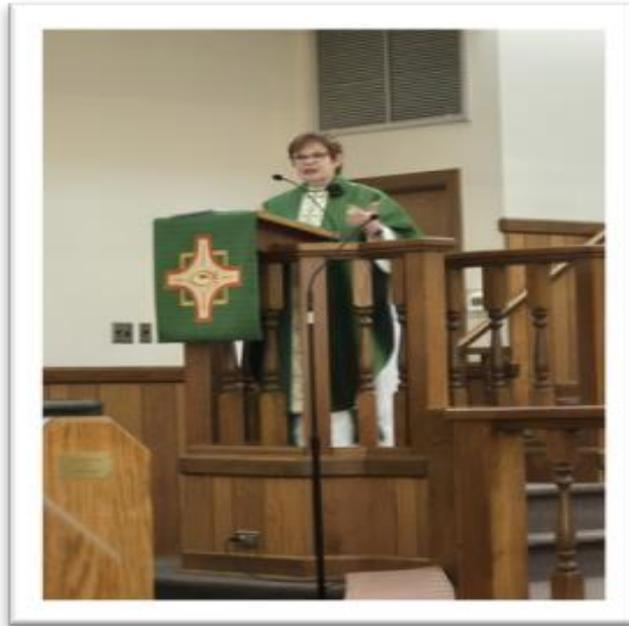
And when you give financially – when you make a pledge, large or small—you are investing in the next generation. You’re helping ensure that children and young adults will one day look back and say this church shaped my life.

We don’t give because we have to, we give because we’ve been blessed. We give because God has given us everything. And we serve because service is love in action.

So, as we enter this season of stewardship, I invite you to pray about how you can give of yourself - through your volunteer work, your pledges and your presence. Together, we can continue to make this church a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and lives are changed.

Thank you for all that you do- and for all that you will continue to do-to keep this ministry thriving and St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church for generations to come.

REV. DR. CARLA MCCOOK, CANON TO THE ORDINARY



The Rev. Dr. Carla McCook, Canon to the Ordinary, led the service for Rev. Dr. Hector Sintim and delivered a sermon on “*Jesus is Tested by the Sadducees.*” St. Cyprian's was honored and delighted to welcome her as our celebrant and guest preacher. We are grateful for her ministry. ~ **St. Cyprian's Church Family**

REV. DR. DEREK PRINGLE AND HIS WIFE, PAM

The Rev. Dr. Derek Pringle served as supply priest on November 16 and 23 during the absence of Rev. Dr. Sintim, who was on leave in Ghana, Africa. The St. Cyprian's community greatly appreciated their presence and contributions. We extend our sincere gratitude to Fr. Pringle for his dedicated ministry. ~ ***St. Cyprian's Church Family***



VESTRY MEETING

The monthly Vestry Meeting will be held on **December 9, 2025** at 11 a.m. The Vestry has been working hard to oversee and maintain the operations of the church. If you have questions, suggestions or matters to bring to the Vestry's attention, please contact one of the Vestry members. Any one of them will be glad to listen to you and to answer any questions. Thank you.

~ *Mary T. Jackson, Senior Warden*

NATIVITY SCENE FOR CHRISTMAS

The Men's Club is scheduled to put-up the Nativity Scene at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, December 13, 2025**, weather permitting. For additional information, please contact Clayton Winston.



HOLIDAY POINSETTIAS

Christmas will be here before we know it. Every year poinsettias and Christmas greenery decorate the church for the festive season. Let us beautify our church for Christmas again this year. If you would like to place an order, you can do so before **Sunday, December 14, 2025**. The sign-up sheet to place your order is located on the front hallway table. The cost of each plant is \$15.00. Thank you in advance for your generous donation. ~ *The Altar Guild*



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Every year we look forward to our annual Christmas Eve Service. Our annual Christmas Eve Service will be held on **Wednesday, December 24, 2023 at 6 p.m.** We invite you to join us for this special Christmas Eve Service as we celebrate the birth of Christ combining hymns and traditional carols. Communion will be offered. All are welcome.

The Christmas service will be held by zoom on **Thursday, December 25, 2025 10 a.m.** Parishioners will receive a Zoom invitation by email at a later date for this service.

Fr. Sintim will hold a Healing Service on **December 31, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. Further details will be provided later.



2025 YEAR-END PLEDGES

All pledge payments for this year, 2025, should be received at church by **January 2, 2026**. Payments received after this date will be credited to the new year, 2026. ~ *Lora Ham, Treasurer*



PLEDGE COMMITMENT FOR 2026

We received 31 additional pledge forms this year compared to the 50 submitted last year. We respectfully request that you submit your 2026 pledge form at your earliest convenience to enable us to begin preparing the 2026 annual budget. Thank you for your cooperation. ~ *Lora Ham*



ADVENT READERS AND CANDLE LIGHTING

We are pleased that our youth and their parents/grandparents will assist with our Candle Lighting Ceremony during the Advent and Christmas Season.

- Dec. 7, 2025 Family of Dorian Moore & Millard Stephen Smith
- Dec. 14, 2025 Family of Angela & Henry Russell
- Dec. 21, 2025 Family of Sherwin & Yolanda Angus
- Dec. 24, 2025 Clarissa McAdoo
- Dec. 28, 2025 TBA

We extend our sincere appreciation to all readers who will be participating in this year's candle lighting ceremonies.

CPR TRAINING CLASS

A CPR class, which also covered the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), was held at St. Cyprian's in the parish hall on Saturday, November 15, 2025. The church's medical team—Renee Barnes, Dr. Sherwin M. Angus, MD, and Yolanda Angus, FNP — coordinated the event.



Maria Watkins (top) and Alberta Reid (bottom) are pictured performing CPR training under the direction of Yolanda and Sherwin Angus.



THE KENDALL GALS



The new “Dynamic Duo,” Aisha and Stephanie Kendall, served together during our church service on November 16, 2025. They are pictured above enjoying spending time together during coffee hour.

VISIT WITH MR. LUCUIS WYATT



On Sunday, Sunday, November 16, 2025, Mr. Lucuis Wyatt welcomed Lora Ham, Audrey Cobb, Jean Carnegie, and Ele Pritchett for a warm and engaging visit. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and strengthen relationships within our parish family. Mr. Wyatt is doing great and he sends his love to his church family.

A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

We extend our sincere appreciation to all parishioners who contributed to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank's annual Mayflower Marathon for 2025. Members of St. Cyprian's donated a total of 252.2 pounds of canned and boxed food, supporting families throughout the peninsula during the holiday season. We would like to offer special recognition to Samantha and Rufus Burney for their significant individual contribution of 84.1 pounds, which greatly enhanced our overall effort. This year's donations surpassed last year's goal by 63.1 pounds. Thank you for your collective commitment and generosity. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season.

~ Circle 1 🥰🙏💕





SCRIPTURE READINGS

DECEMBER 7, 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- *Isaiah 11:1-10*
- *Romans 15:4-13*
- *Matthew 3:1-12*
- *Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*



DECEMBER 14, 2025 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- *Isaiah 35:1-10*
- *James 5:7-10*
- *Matthew 11:2-11*
- *Psalm 146:4-9*
- *or Canticle 15 [or Canticle 3]*

DECEMBER 21, 2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- *Isaiah 7:10-16*
- *Romans 1:1-7*
- *Matthew 1:18-25*
- *Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18*

DECEMBER 24, 2025 – CHRISTMAS EVE

- *Isaiah 9:2-7*
- *Titus 2:11-14*
- *Luke 2:1-14(15-20)*
- *Psalm 96*

DECEMBER 25, 2025 – CHRISTMAS DAY

- *Isaiah 52:7-10*
- *Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)*
- *John 1:1-14*
- *Psalm 98*

DECEMBER 28, 2025 – THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

- *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*
- *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*
- *John 1:1-18*
- *Psalm 147 or 147:13-21*

December Birthdays and Anniversaries



- | | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 12/9 | Samantha Burney |
| 12/10 | Ethan Matthew Pitts III |
| 12/13 | Lucinda Moore |
| 12/15 | Connie McCullough |
| 12/21 | Justin Bradford Davis |
| 12/23 | Dale Allen Ham |
| 12/23 | Betty Nealy Lewis |
| 12/23 | Luke Carpenter III |
| 12/24 | Che' Barnes |
| 12/26 | Renee Dial |
| 12/26 | Sydni Lorin Ham |
| 12/29 | Audrey Cobb |
| 12/31 | Allen Roy Jones III |
| 12/31 | Haywood Howard Davis |



- | | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 12/21 | Steve & Lora Ham |
| 12/21 | Marshal & Darlene Jackson |

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know by calling the Church Office (757-723-8253).



WE PRAY FOR OUR BISHOP:

Susan B. Haynes

We Pray for Our Ministry for Postulancy:

Cornelia Taylor

WE PRAY FOR PARISHIONERS:

Juanita Alexander, Ardelle Anderson, Daisy Bell, Jeffery Corbin II, Keri Corbin, Sandra Corbin, Crystal Diggs Gray, Patricia Dixon, Regal DuBose, Lorraine Edwards (*aunt of Crystal Diggs Gray*), Samuel E. Ewell, Jr., Olive Ezell, Olivia Ghanem (*mother of Fr. Sintim*), Gene Harden, Betty Lewis, Marc Miller, Delores Minor, Ron Minor, Gwendolyn Newsome, Shane Otey, Eleanor Pritchett, Alberta Reid, Angela J. Russell, Henry P. Russell, Jr., Barbara Savage, Minnie Stiff, Vernell Walden, Wayne Walden, John Watkins, Sr., Bernice Wilson, Lucius Wyatt and Millard Steven Smith

WE PRAY FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Derrick Edmonds, Lois Martin, Margaret Comegys, Clay Cane, Alexa Munoz, Leonard Alexander, Cheryl Maxson, Doris Harris, Marcus Reid, Jeannie & Paul Saunders, Beverly Amaya, Lily Holloman, Allison Jordan, Greg & Patrina Newton, Kenneth Bullock, Peggy Winston, Dominique Jordan, Tony Leroy Duncan, Edith & Sana Harris, Jasen Fykes (*grandson of Eleanor Pritchett*), Sophia & Wendell McCloud (*sister and brother-in-law of Lucretia Clayton*), Shawna Mathias (*sister of Crystal Diggs*), Joy Staton, Christine Calhoun, Jeffrey Peele, Oliver Christian (*brother of The Rev. Earl R. Christian*), Howard Moore (*brother of Lucretia Clayton*), Philip Whitaker (*brother of Crystal Diggs*), Tyrone Comegys, Russell Rhorer (*brother-in-law of Samuel Ewell, Jr.*), Evita Ogden (*niece of Alberta Reid*), Phillip Wilson, William & Margaret Boyd (*nephew of Gwendolyn Newsome*), Barry Lockett (*neighbor of Lora & Steve Ham*), Yvonne Hargrove (*sister of Stephen Ham {Lora}*), Betty Rivera (*neighbor of Lora & Stephen Ham*), Nettie Smiley (*friend of Portia Goode-Herd*), Lorean Hester (*Stacey Hester's Mother-in-law*), Julyn Sheppard (*wife of the late Jerome Sheppard*), Doris Powell, Jaden Cooper (*nephew of Crystal Diggs Gray*), Jill & Mike Wojcik (*neighbor of Gwendolyn Newsome*), Thomas Dru Montague (*grandson of DeLaine Headen*), Claire Martine (*sister of Gwendolyn Newsome and aunt of Sharon and Sylvester Newsome Jr.*), and Lorean Hester (*mother of Earl Hester*)

WE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

LaToya Artis (*niece of Dr. Minnie Stiff*); Major Luke Carpenter, III (*grandson of Bill and Fannie Walls*), U.S. Marine Corps; John "Holland" Watkins (*son of John & Maria Watkins*), U.S. Navy; and LT. Joy Maria Watkins (*daughter of John & Maria Watkins*), U.S. Coast Guard



DECEMBER 2025 SCHEDULE

Service	12-7-2025	12-14-2025	12-21-2025	12-24-2025 6 p.m.	12-28-2025
Altar Guild	Gail Boyd Jones; Maria Watkins	Lucretia Clayton; Lora Ham; Eleanor Pritchett	Stacey Hester; Fannie J. Walls	Jean Carnegie; Fannie J. Walls	Jean Carnegie; Fannie J. Walls
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie Kendall	William Walls Jr	Dorian Wilkerson	William Walls Jr	Dorian Wilkerson
Prayers of People	Stephanie Kendall	William Walls Jr	Dorian Wilkerson	William Walls Jr	Dorian Wilkerson
Acolyte	Lucretia Clayton; Tamyah Smith	William Walls Jr	Lucretia Clayton; Tamyah Smith	William Walls Jr	Lucretia Clayton; Tamyah Smith
Ushers	William Walls Sr.; Steve Ham	Connie McCullough; Regal Dubose; B. T. Brandon	Lucretia Clayton; John Watkins	Earl Hester; Stacey Hester; Mark Farquharson	Earl Hester; Stacey Hester; Mark Farquharson
Eucharistic Visitor	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled
Daughters of the King	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	None Scheduled



DECEMBER 7, 2025 (The Second Sunday of Advent)

Sun.	Dec. 7 th	9 a.m.	Bible Study
Sun.	Dec. 7th	10 a.m.	Wreath Blessing and Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sun.	Dec. 7th	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II – <i>YouTube Live</i>
Sun.	Dec. 7 th		Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Donation
Sun.	Dec. 7 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Tue.	Dec. 9th	11 a.m.	Vestry Meeting- Conference Room
Wed.	Dec. 10 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Wed.	Dec. 10th	5 p.m.	St. John's (Advent in Visual Art)
Thurs.	Dec. 11 th	11 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	Dec. 11th	12 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs.	Dec. 11 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Thurs.	Dec. 13 th	10 a.m.	DOK Xmas Tree Decorating/Nativity Set-up

DECEMBER 14, 2025 (The Third Sunday of Advent)

Sun.	Dec. 14 th	9 a.m.	Bible Study
Sun.	Dec. 14th	10 a.m.	Wreath Blessing and Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sun.	Dec. 14th	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II – <i>YouTube Live</i>
Sun.	Dec. 14 th		Peake Childhood Center Donation
Sun.	Dec. 14 th		Deadline to Purchase Poinsettias
Sun.	Dec. 14 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Wed.	Dec. 17 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Wed.	Dec. 17th	5 p.m.	St. Cyprian's (Advent in Music)
Thurs.	Dec. 18 th	11 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	Dec. 18th	12 p.m.	Bible Study
Thurs.	Dec. 18 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Thurs.	Dec. 18 th		Newsletter Deadline for Photos/Announcements

DECEMBER 21, 2025 (The Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Sun.	Dec. 21 st	9 a.m.	Bible Study
Sun.	Dec. 21st	10 a.m.	Wreath Blessing and Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sun.	Dec. 21st	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II – <i>YouTube Live</i>
Sun.	Dec. 21st	10 a.m.	Stewardship Sunday/ Rev. Sintim Presentation
Sun.	Dec. 21 st	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Wed.	Dec. 24 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Wed.	Dec. 24th	6 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service
Thurs.	Dec. 25th	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Service - Zoom
Thurs.	Dec. 25 th	11 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal-Cancelled
Sat.	Dec. 27 th	10 a.m.	DOK Zoom Meeting- Cancelled

DECEMBER 28, 2025 (First Sunday after Christmas Day)

Sun.	Dec. 28 th	9 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	Dec. 28 th	10 a.m.	Wreath Blessing and Candle Lighting Ceremony
Sun.	Dec. 28 th	10 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II – <i>YouTube Live</i>
Sun.	Dec. 28 th	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Sun.	Dec. 28 th		H.E.L.P. Sunday
Wed.	Dec. 31 st	5:30 p.m.	Healing Service
Wed.	Dec. 31 st	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Consecrated Communion Pick-Up
Thurs.	Jan. 1 st		New Year's Day

Happy Holidays!!!

May this holiday season fill your life with good health and prosperity. We wish you happiness, blessings, and immeasurable joy during this special holiday season and throughout the coming year! Thank you for everything you do to support St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. ~ Vestry and Fr. Sintim



Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Diocesan Bishop

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Hector K. E. Sintim, Priest –in-Charge

Worship Services and Times

Sundays

10 a.m.

The Staff

Phyllis Holland-James, Director of Music Ministries

Bettie J. Swain, Parish Administrator

The Vestry

(Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month – 12 p.m.)

Mary T. Jackson (2025,) Senior Warden

Charles Wynder Sr., (2027), Junior Warden

Lisa B. Youngblood (2027), Register

Jean H. Carnegie (2025)

Marshall Jackson (2027)

Connie McCullough (2025)

Alberta W. Reid (2026)

Joy D. Strawn (2026)

Fannie J. Walls (2027)

Lora P. Ham, Treasurer

Mark Farquharson, Webmaster/Audio Visual Technician

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 65

Hampton VA 23669-0065

Phone: 757-723-8253

Rev. Dr. Hector E. K. Sintim - 757-690-6739 (Cell)

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays/ 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

E-Mail: Office@stcyprianshamptonva.org

Website: <http://www.stcyprianshamptonva.org>

YouTube: St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Hampton, VA

Follow Us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/St-Cyprians-Episcopal-Church-Hampton-Va-30770105>

Saint Cyprian's Church is named after Cyprian, the first Bishop of Carthage, North Africa (248-258). He spoke for reconciliation of the Church with those who had denied their faith. Cyprian was beheaded for refusing to worship pagan gods and deny Christianity. Thus, he became a martyr of Christ's Church universal.