

SECOND ANNUAL
HOMECOMING



**HISTORIC ST. ANNA'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Organized 1893

September 1, 2019

650 Bacon Road, Littleton, NC

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. – BBQ Dinner on the Grounds

HOLY EUCHARIST

Processional Hymn

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation, by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.*

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

All *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen*

Celebrant Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

All *Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King: God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy thou only art the Lord, thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in

us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Lector A reading from Sirach, also known as Ecclesiasticus (10:12-18)

Lector The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Lector Psalm 112

Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last forever.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

Lector A reading from Hebrews (13: 1-8; 15-16)

Lector The word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!

As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;

bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke the 14th chapter.

All Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
All *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon The Rev. Brian E. Benton

The Nicene Creed

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Anna, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

All Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace

Announcements and Recognitions

The Offertory

Today's contributions will benefit the care and maintenance of this historic church property under the direction of the St. Anna's Historic Properties Committee of the Diocese of North Carolina.

Hymn

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.*

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for the building of St. Anna's, we are now gathered to honor it in God's Name. *Amen.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

All Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus

Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Let us pray together:

All Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Hymn *Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,*

Let us march on till victory is won.

*Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand.
True to our God, True to our native land.*

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

WELCOME TO ST. ANNA'S!

You are cordially invited to enjoy a barbecue lunch on the grounds arranged by the Historic St. Anna's Committee and members of St. Alban's, Littleton. We are especially grateful for the cooking and other help of Pastor Elder James Fitts and members of In Jesus Name Christian Ministries who are making St. Anna's their church home and helping maintain the building and grounds.

GUEST BOOK AVAILABLE

Please sign the guest book and feel free to include a note about your connection with St. Anna's, along with your contact information if we do not already have it.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Celebrant & Preacher

The Rev. Brian E. Benton

Lectors

Elder James Fitts

Blair Henry

Ushers

Butch Creamer

Bill Heflin

Musician

Marvin Newsom

THE HISTORIC ST. ANNA'S COMMITTEE

The Rev. Brian Benton, Committee Chair & Vicar, St. Alban's, Littleton

Members of St. Alban's, Littleton

Bambi Edwards

Bill Heflin

Blair Henry

Hope Neuer

Moira Underwood

Former Members & Friends of Historic St. Anna's

Shirmaine Faison Baltimore, Gainesville, VA

Samuel Darden, Littleton

Ophelia Gould Faison, Littleton

Pastor Elder James Fitts, In the Name of Jesus Christian Ministries, Littleton

Representatives of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

J. Robert Boykin III, Chair of the Historic Properties Commission

The Rev. Brooks Graebner, Historiographer of the Diocese

Lynn Hoke, Diocesan Archivist

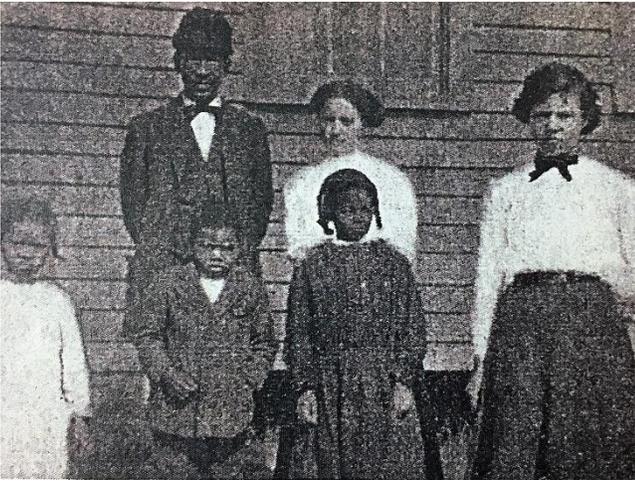
Dru York, History & Archives Committee

HISTORIC ST. ANNA'S, LITTLETON, NC

Prepared by Brooks Graebner, Historiographer of the Diocese of North Carolina

The story of St. Anna's mission actually begins in the late 1880s in Henderson, North Carolina, where Virgil N. Bond was living with the family of the Hon. Henry Plummer Cheatham and attending St. Augustine's School in Raleigh. Bond was studying to become both a minister and a teacher, and so he conducted a Sunday School for African Americans in Henderson. The newly-appointed Archdeacon for black ministries in the diocese, the Ven. William A. Walker, reported visiting Bond's Sunday School in Henderson in 1891.

In 1892 the Cheatham family relocated to Littleton, and Virgil Bond moved with them. He completed his studies at St. Augustine's in 1893, and with the active assistance of Mrs. Louisa Cheatham, herself a St. Augustine's graduate, made plans to open a mission school. Together they enlisted Bond's classmate, Clara Leary, to come and teach. The school opened with three students (the Cheatham children) in October 1893. Within a year, there were 49 students, and by 1895 the number swelled to more than 90.



Virgil N. Bond with assistants
The Carolina Churchman, July 1912



St. Anna's Church, 1912
Photo by Archdeacon Henry B. Delany
Delany Papers, Saint Augustine's University Archives

The school opened in borrowed space, but Bond was already planning for a permanent location. He purchased a lot in April 1893 at the corner of Ferguson & Harvey. In 1894 he commenced building the chapel and school house which would remain the home of the St. Anna's mission. By 1899 the congregation numbered 11 families and 37 baptized members, and there were now two schools: a day school with three teachers and 64 students, and an industrial school with four teachers and 66 students.

For the first few years of operation, the mission's members were still regarded as part of St. Alban's parish. But from 1896 on, the spiritual life of the congregation was supported by the monthly ministrations of the Archdeacon for black ministry in the diocese and the rest of the time by Bond himself, serving as lay reader and catechist.

In 1900, to sustain the expanding work of both academic and vocational education, Archdeacon John H. M. Pollard arranged with Bond for the purchase of a 31-acre farm on the east side of Littleton. The chapel was moved to this new site, and beginning in 1903 the mission began to carry the name St. Anna's. Archdeacon Pollard and his family moved to Littleton, and for the rest of Pollard's tenure as Archdeacon, Littleton became the effective base of operations for diocesan black ministries.

The school suffered a devastating fire in 1906. It consumed the nine-room house which served as a classroom building and residence for the teachers. Archdeacon Pollard died in 1908, and the Ven. Henry B. Delany was named to succeed him. The work continued in Littleton, but Delany's base of operations remained in Raleigh, where he continued to reside on the campus of St. Augustine's School.

By this time, parochial schools were being supplanted by public institutions, and members of St. Anna's were prominently involved in local public education, most notably G. Ellis Harris and his daughter, Helena Harris. G. Ellis Harris, like Bond, was a graduate of St. Augustine's who came to Littleton to teach. In 1903 he wrote—and St. Augustine's published—the *North Carolina Constitutional Reader*, a text designed to help blacks meet the new literacy requirements for voting. Helena would likewise graduate from St. Augustine's, and her teaching career in Littleton would lead to the naming of the Gymtorium at McIver High School in her honor. At St. Anna's she was a leader in the Woman's Auxiliary branch, and she served as President of the diocesan Auxiliary's Negro District from 1937 to 1940.



**St. Anna's Church in 1938 Diocesan Property Survey
(appears to be core of present church building)**



**St. Anna's Parish House in 1938 Diocesan Property Survey
(appears to be church building pictured in 1912)**

From its inception until 1959 St. Anna's received the ministrations of black clergy, who often served the neighboring black congregations in Warren County as well. That pattern shifted in 1959, and from that date forward, St. Anna's was served by the white priests at St. Alban's, Littleton, or All Saints', Roanoke Rapids. In 2007 St. Anna's closed its doors, and in 2011 it was designated a historic property of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

St. Anna's languished, unopened and unattended, until 2018, when an active oversight committee was formed. In October of that year, Fr. Brian Benton, Vicar of St. Alban's, conducted the first service of public worship at St. Anna's since its closing. September 1, 2019, has been set aside for a Second Annual Homecoming Service to celebrate the hallowed heritage of this church and mission school.