

Episcopal Diocese of Virginia: 2025 Northern Neck Region Annual Report

Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples.

Telling Our Stories – Sharing Our Gifts

The Northern Neck Region of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia is composed of twelve church communities and the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury. The Very Reverend Rod Gordon is the Dean of the Northern Neck Region. The Reverend William Stafford-Whitaker of Wicomico Parish is the region representative to the Diocesan Executive Board.

The Northern Neck Region held four Region meetings in 2025 (quarterly), and additional meetings were held by the Region Executive Committee and other sessions including the Shrine Mont teaming initiative with the Northern Neck Boys and Girls Club and Lay Eucharistic Minister Training and Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training by Cople Parish.

In March, the Vitality Listening Tour with the Reverend Shirley Smith Graham was held at St. Stephen's Church in Heathsville and well attended with over 60 participants representing all churches in the Northern Neck Region. Also in March, the "Rebuild with Us" Silent and Online Auction was a great fundraising success with proceeds benefitting the rebuilding of St. Peter's in Oak Grove.

In April, we congratulated Deacon Deb Lockhart for her Profession of Life Vows, and we congratulated Deacon Judi Thomas who was ordained on April 26th. In May, Region scholarships were awarded to youth campers attending Shrine Mont this past summer.

In September during our region meeting at Grace Church in Kilmarnock, the Region made presentations to our new Deacon Judi Thomas and a donation from our Region to the St. Peter's rebuilding fund. We gave thanks to Treadwell Davison (lead) and the Northern Neck Region Collaborative Ministry Task Force on completion through their work and service over the past three years in establishing a framework to nurture the robust continuation of the rich faith traditions of the Episcopal community in Virginia's rural Northern Neck. At the end of our meeting in September, we attended the beautiful Celtic service at Grace led by the Reverend Kim Glenn (see figures 1 and 2 for pictures from this event and meeting).



Figures 1 and 2: Picture of the Altar for the Celtic Service at Grace Church in Kilmarnock in September and picture of Region members during our September meeting

Our gratitude and best wishes are extended to the Reverend Kristen Farrington, previously of Cople, on her new duties at Christ Church School in August. During this past half of the reporting year, we welcomed the Reverend Kim Fox as Rector of St. Mary's Whitechapel and Trinity Lancaster and the Reverend David Jutsom to St. Stephen's, Heathsville.

The Northern Neck Region congregations continued many successful outreach ministries this year, including the Regional Episcopal Youth Community (EYC), Yard Sales (year-round), Thrift Shops, Support for Local School Children and Teachers, Monthly Food Pantries, Market Days, Community Dinners, and many more. Special events and fellowship opportunities were hosted at our churches throughout the year, including Blessings of the Fleet, Oysters & Oldies, Octoberfest, Celtic Walking, Strawberry Festival, Monthly "Friday Night Live" Entertainment, Celebration of St. Francis Month and Blessing of the Animals, Monthly FYI Northern Neck Lectures, "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday, Homecomings, Bluegrass Sundays, and Lessons and Carols.

In closing, we share our Region prayer for all Regions across the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia:

O God, by your grace you have called us to a goodly fellowship of faith to be the Episcopal Church in the Regions of Virginia. Bless our Parishes, Laity, Clergy, Religious Orders, all Staff and Volunteers who work together in proclaiming the good news of God in Christ. Bless our Deans, our Presidents, and all who serve in roles of leadership within our Regions. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully Submitted by Linda Hutt, Northern Neck Region President