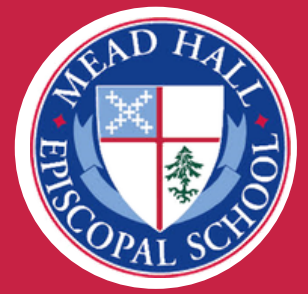


SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

# IN THE LOOP

Mead Hall Episcopal School



- **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**
- [Lower School News](#)
- [Development News](#)
- [Middle & Upper School News](#)
- [PTO](#)
- [School Store](#)
- [Panther News](#)
- [St. Thaddeus Church News](#)

## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

We welcomed the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, the Right Reverend Daniel Richards, to Mead Hall on Wednesday this week. The Bishop celebrated the Eucharist at both of our chapels and preached to our students.

He shared the details of the life of St. Ninian, a Priest from Scotland, who was born in 360 A.D. and studied theology in Rome, before becoming a priest and a bishop to his people. Bishop Daniel highlighted that he came from the other side of Hadrian's Wall, which the Romans had built to protect their empire in Britain from these northern people whom they feared. The Bishop used the image of this wall, Ninian's bridging of the wall, and the overcoming of the relationship of fear between the Picts and the Romans to share a message that we should overcome the fear of the other and the judgements we make based on fear. Bishop Daniel emphasized how overcoming the fear of those who we see as different provides the opportunity for the sharing of God's love. He finished with a call to the students to love others and to share God's love with others.

This is a wonderful message for us to reflect upon as we approach Mead Hall Sunday on September 27th. As a Christian school, we are grounded in the Gospel and called to live and share God's love. On Mead Hall Sunday, we celebrate our identity as an Episcopal school and as the parish day school of St. Thaddeus Church. We are grateful to St. Thaddeus for its sponsorship and support. The presence of the Bishop at Mead Hall this week was a reminder that we are supported in our educational ministry and life by the Episcopal Church and part of an amazing tradition of Episcopal education that began with Trinity School in New York in 1709. I am grateful to God for this identity, which is captured in Mead Hall's mission: Academic Excellence, Spiritual Growth, and Moral Integrity.

Mead Hall Sunday will be a celebration of our identity and our community life. We look forward to the students participating in the two services in the STC gymnasium (information on the next page) and welcoming school families and St. Thaddeus parishioners to the pancake breakfast in the STC cafeteria.

Blessings,  
Frank Sawyer

**JOIN US**



# MEAD HALL SUNDAY

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

*ST. THADDEUS CAMPUS GYMNASIUM*

**SERVICE TIMES: 9:00 AM & 11:15AM**

**9:00 AM SERVICE - WITH LOWER  
SCHOOL READERS AND SONGS**

**11:15 AM SERVICE - WITH  
MIDDLE/UPPER SCHOOL READERS  
AND BAND**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** WILL BE SERVED IN THE ST. THADDEUS  
CAMPUS GYMNASIUM FROM 8:30 AM TO 11:00 AM - NO COST  
FOR BREAKFAST, DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED!

MEAD HALL AND ST. THADDEUS FAMILIES WILL JOIN TOGETHER FOR WORSHIP. STUDENTS SERVE AS  
READERS, USHERS, ACOLYTES, MUSICIANS, AND GREETERS, AS THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY GATHER TO CELEBRATE OUR PARISH DAY SCHOOL.

***THE BOOK FAIR WILL BE OPEN FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES TO SHOP***  
**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US SUNDAY FOR PANCAKES AND FELLOWSHIP!**

# ADVANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

## COMING SOON:

### MEAD HALL'S ANNUAL REPORT

Be on the lookout—Mead Hall's Annual Report will begin arriving in mailboxes late next week! This year's report celebrates the people, programs, and generosity that continue to move our school forward.

Inside, you will find highlights from the past school year, stories of student achievement, updates on campus improvements, and a closer look at how the support of our families, alumni, and friends strengthens the Mead Hall experience.

We cannot wait to share the progress you helped make possible!

### A NEW TAX BENEFIT FOR CHARITABLE GIVING

Beginning with the 2026 tax year, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to also deduct qualifying cash gifts to charitable organizations—up to \$1,000 for individual filers and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

This is a deduction from taxable income, not a dollar-for-dollar tax credit, but it creates a new opportunity for more families to receive a tax benefit while supporting Mead Hall. Donors should retain their gift acknowledgment and consult a tax professional regarding their individual circumstances. [Read the enacted legislation.](#)



#### Development Office Contact

Director Advancement & Development  
Emily Murphy  
[emurphy@meadhallschool.org](mailto:emurphy@meadhallschool.org)

## BEYOND THE BOARDROOM

Our Beyond the Boardroom series continues this week as we introduce Board Chair Stephanie Ludwick. Through this series, we invite the Mead Hall community to get to know the dedicated individuals whose leadership, experience, and commitment help guide our school's mission and future.



### MEET STEPHANIE LUDWICK:

*I serve as Chair of the Mead Hall Board of Trustees, now in my second year as chair and my fourth year on the Board. I lead the Executive Committee, am a member of the Advancement Committee, and serve as an ex-officio member of all other Board committees.*

*Professionally, I am the Manager of Physical Security for the Tritium Facilities at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), bringing extensive experience across multiple security programs. My leadership background also includes long-standing involvement in P.E.O., both at the local chapter level and the state level, where I served as President of the South Carolina State Chapter in 2019.*

*I have been a member of St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church since 1991 and have been active in Christian Formation for children, serving for several years as a Sunday School teacher. I participate in worship as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister and have even served as an Acolyte. From 2006–2009, I was a member of the St. Thaddeus Vestry, during which time I was the Vestry representative on the Mead Hall Board of Trustees—a role I greatly enjoyed. When I was invited to return to Board service years later, I was delighted to accept.*

*My husband, JR, and I were married at St. Thaddeus in 2018. My children, Em and Josh, both live locally, and Josh and his wife, Kiki, have two daughters—Holly (5) and Ava (2)—who bring great joy to our family. My stepson, DJ, and his wife, Summer, are also an important part of our family circle. I treasure the time I spend with my family and the deep roots we share in this community.*

*After touring the Upper and Middle Schools last year, I was impressed by the strong relationships between teachers and students and by the courtesy and respect shown throughout the classrooms. I believe deeply that Mead Hall is more than an outreach mission of the church—it is a place where students receive an exceptional education grounded in responsibility, leadership, and service.*

*I am honored to serve on the Board of Trustees and grateful for the opportunity to support the mission and future of Mead Hall Episcopal School.*

# LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

## Adventures in Social Studies

At Mead Hall, we view elementary social studies education like the growth rings of a tree. The youngest students build the innermost rings by learning about their family and community helpers. For example, our PS students have recently been learning about police, fire, and garbage workers along with taking a "field trip" to visit the school nurse, cafeteria and office staff.

Rings continue to grow around the core so that by 2nd grade, students are learning about our city's rich history as well as the geography and political structure of our state. Next week, our second graders will take a field trip on the Aiken Trolley to see the local sites they have studied in class.

Each year, we add rings of learning that help support the understanding of more complex ideas and structures in social studies. By fourth grade our students are learning the foundational events of US history. This week our fourth graders went to the Augusta Canal Museum to learn about cotton production and the industrial revolution.

I love that our school thinks about learning which is both developmentally appropriate and which builds upon itself to create a strong "trunk" of knowledge for students to take into middle school and beyond.



See you at school,

*Joanne*

## 4th Grade Field Trip



## Wednesday Uniforms

"Winter" chapel uniforms start **October 14**. Be sure to have a vest for boys and sweater and plaid skirt, skort, or jumper for girls. Also, both boys and girls should wear white button down dress shirts under sweaters and vests. [See our uniform information for details.](#) 

## Upcoming Dates

*Chick fil-A  
Don't forget! September  
23 is the last day to order  
for October 2*

### September

- 22 Field Trip - 2nd Grade Trolley Tour
- 24 Field Trip - 1st Grade to RPSEC
- 21-25 Book Fair
- 27 Mead Hall Sunday

### October

- 1-31 STC Change for Laundry Love
- 1 Field Trip - 2nd Grade - RPSEC
- 2 Chick Fil-A Day
- 2 End of Quarter 1
- 5-9 Fall Break
- 14 Class Pictures - STC and APC
- 14 Guest Speaker - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- 16 Touch a Truck for PS, PK, K on APC
- 16 Report Cards open in FACTS
- 19 NO SCHOOL STC - STC Parent Teacher Conference Day

## The Book Fair is Coming!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to campus beginning **Monday, September 21** and running through Mead Hall **Sunday, September 27**. Students will have assigned times during the week when they will be attending the fair.

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!](#)



# MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

## MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCILS ATTEND SCISA FALL CONFERENCE

This week, Middle School and High School Student Council Executive Board members attended the annual SCISA Fall Conference at the South Carolina State House.

Middle School Executive Board members Nora Bruckner, Avery Cooper, Leighton Wyatt, and Ivy Parrott learned about the history of the State House, participated in the election process for the SCISA Middle School Executive Board, and gained hands-on experience with parliamentary procedure. Students learned how to write, present, debate, and pass a bill. Our council presented a bill proposing the addition of recycling within the school building, and it passed unanimously!

High School Executive Board members Walker Wiedenman, Charlie Farmer, Maggie Palmer, and Landon Spaeth participated in a similar experience. After learning about the history of the State House, students were assigned to either the House or Senate chambers, where they took part in a more detailed simulation of the legislative process. They listened to proposed bills designed to improve schools, discussed their potential impact, and participated in a formal voting process.

Throughout the day, both councils also had opportunities to spend time together, exchange ideas, and discuss ways they can continue strengthening and improving our own Student Council.

It was a valuable day of leadership, collaboration, and learning for all of our students!



## KAI HUSKEY AND CHASE SHEPHERD SELECTED FOR JUNIOR LEADERSHIP AIKEN COUNTY CLASS OF 2027

Kai and Chase will have an opportunity to "grow their leadership skills, while also learning about and directly serving our community". During the year, they will meet with other students from Aiken County schools and participate in team building exercises, hear about and visit local community organizations and leaders while also engaging in service opportunities. We look forward to hearing all about their experience!



## HELP OUR BATTLE OF THE BOOKS TEAM PREPARE FOR COMPETITION!

Battle of the Books is underway in Ms. Brown's class! Students are reading, studying, and preparing to represent Mead Hall at the SCISA Battle of the Books Tournament in January. To ensure every participant has access to the required titles, the team needs help adding several books to its collection.

These are the titles we have yet to obtain any copies of:

**Cheaper By the Dozen by Frank Bunker Gilbreath Jr.**

**Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath**

**My Life as a Smashed Burrito with Extra Hot Sauce by Bill Myers**

**National Park Mystery Series: Mystery in Rocky Mountain National Park (Book 1) by Aaron Johnson**

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

**Patriots, Redcoats, and Spies by Robert Shead**

If you would like to donate a requested book, please send it to school with your child. **Contact Mrs. Brown** ([abrown@meadhallschool.org](mailto:abrown@meadhallschool.org)) with any questions.

**Beta Club Tutoring**

Beta Club is offering tutoring services. Please email [wlawso27@meadhallschool.org](mailto:wlawso27@meadhallschool.org) or [ssmith@meadhallschool.org](mailto:ssmith@meadhallschool.org) if you would like to tutor or be tutored!

**SPEECH & DEBATE CLUB**

Open to students in grades 7-12  
**Next Meeting:**  
Tuesday, September 22  
7:30 AM in Mrs. Johnston's room

**Attention Battle of the Books Teams!**

We will meet Thursday mornings at 8am in Mrs. Brown's room (106).

## PANTHER PLANNER

[View Full Calendar](#)

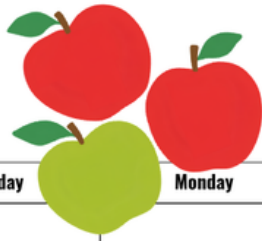
**SEPT. 21-25**  
Homecoming Week

**SEPT. 21-27**  
Bookfair  
STC

**SEPT. 25**  
Pep Rally  
end of day

**SEPT. 25**  
Homecoming Dance  
8-10:30 p.m.

**SEPT. 27**  
Mead Hall  
Sunday at St. Thaddeus



# September

PTO  
NEWSLETTER

| Sunday                     | Monday            | Tuesday | Wednesday                    | Thursday | Friday                             | Saturday |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
|                            |                   | 1       | 2                            | 3        | 4<br><i>Chick-fil-<del>l</del></i> | 5        |
| 6                          | 7<br>NO<br>SCHOOL | 8       | 9                            | 10       | 11                                 | 12       |
| 13                         | 14                | 15      | 16<br>PTO<br>DAY             | 17       | 18<br>TSHIRT<br>DESIGNS<br>DUE     | 19       |
| 20                         | 21                | 22      | 23<br>OCT. CFA<br>ORDERS DUE | 24       | 25                                 | 26       |
|                            | BOOKFAIR          |         |                              |          |                                    |          |
| 27<br>PANCAKE<br>BREAKFAST | 28                | 29      | 30                           |          | <i>Chick-fil-<del>l</del></i>      |          |

## Chick-fil-a Day

10.02.26

ORDERS DUE SEPT. 23

SANDWICH \$7  
8 COUNT NUGGETS \$7  
COOKIE \$3  
WAFFLE FRY CHIPS \$3

Order in FACTS under "student lunch"

Please be sure that you stay logged in until the final confirmation page. If your order shows as RED, your order did not go through. Orders that BLUE are completed.

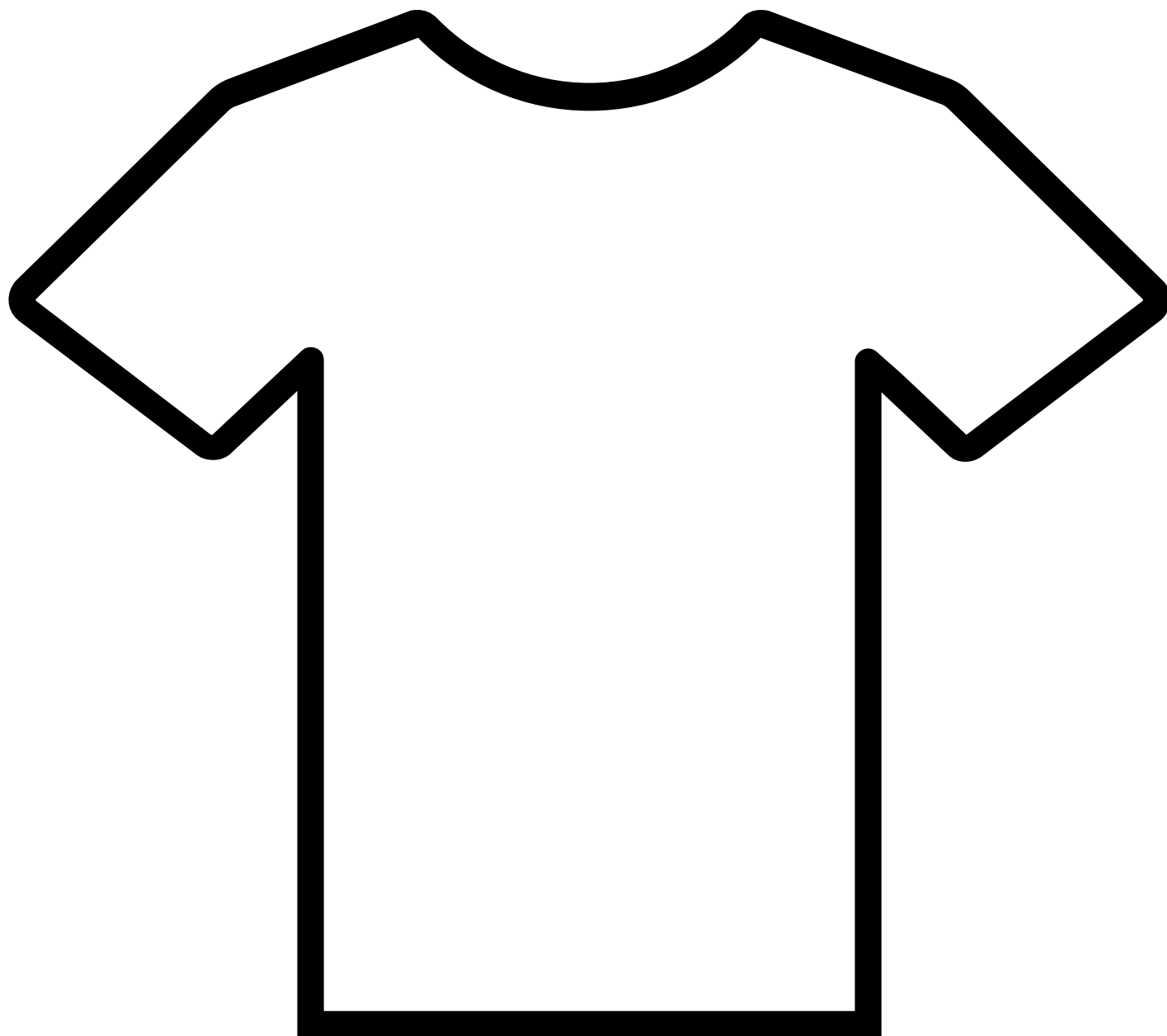


WE ARE UNABLE  
TO ACCEPT LATE  
ORDERS



# 2027 Strawberry Festival T-Shirt Design Competition

Time to get creative! We are excited to give YOU the opportunity to design this year's Strawberry Festival T-Shirt! Submissions will be voted on by PTO and the top designs will be sent out to our Mead Hall Community for final judgement! Design submissions are due to PTO by September 18<sup>th</sup>.



STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

You may submit your design to your teacher or email a copy to [pto@meadhallschool.org](mailto:pto@meadhallschool.org)  
Please feel free to use more paper for your artwork if needed!



# **SCHOOL STORE HOURS**

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**MONDAY** **8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.**

.....  
**TUESDAY** **8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.**

.....  
**WEDNESDAY** **8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.**

.....  
**THURSDAY** **8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.**

.....  
**FRIDAY** **8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.**

.....  
**FOR APPOINTMENTS:**

**EMAIL [MHSTORE@MEADHALLSCHOOL.ORG](mailto:MHSTORE@MEADHALLSCHOOL.ORG)**

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# MEAD HALL PANTHERS

## JV Volleyball

Double Wins! Congratulations to our JV girls on their two game wins this week against Victory Cristian and Curtis Baptist. Coach Nikita is confident they will keep that same momentum going into next week's games against SAB and CCA. Way to go girls!



## MS Flag Football

The MS Flag Football team is celebrating a victory with their 38 - 14 win over Augusta Prep on Monday. Coach Nick thanked the team their tremendous amount of hustle stating the win was "earned and well deserved."



## MS Tennis

MS tennis has had continued success on the court - most recently challenging Westminster. Congratulations Panthers boys team on winning all your matches 5 - 0. They will play Augusta Eagles on September 17<sup>th</sup> at The Fertmata Club of Aiken.

## Varsity Volleyball

The Lady Panthers did not disappoint this week. Miyanna led the team to a victory over Sand Hills with 6 kills and 3 blocks. Maggie Palmer helped lead the team to a win over Curtis Baptist with 10 kills. Panthers fell short against Victory Christian on Tuesday night but Coach T stated "these wins were a team effort! Everyone played a part and trusted each other." Congratulations!

## MS/V Swimming

Panther swimmers had another great meet hosted by South Aiken swim team last Wednesday. Great races and fast swims. Ben Berdie achieved a state qualifying time for the 100 Back Stroke. Asher Thomas had a great showing as well along with Maggie Wood and Becham Thomas who had major drops in their events. Coach Marks noted that Team Captains Kai Huskey and Ben Berdie are wonderful leaders and help support and instruct the younger swimmers. Well Done!

## MS Golf

The boys had a great afternoon playing at The Patch in Augusta. Panthers did well with all scoring in the low to mid 40s. Preston Boyd had his best competitive score of the season with a 44. The team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with an overall score of 171. They will play again on September 16<sup>th</sup> at Jones Creek and September 21<sup>st</sup> at Houndslake Country Club.



## Games at a Glance

9/21 MS Golf @ Houndslake Country Club 4:00

MS Flag Football vs Augusta Christian 5:00



HOMECOMING GAME - Tailgating starts at 3:30 p.m.!!



9/22 MS Tennis @ Augusta Prep 4:00

JV/V Volleyball @ South Aiken Baptist 5:00/6:00

9/23 Varsity Cross Country Wilson Hall/Thomas Sumter Academy  
Invitational at Patriot Park in Sumter 5:00

9/24 MS Tennis @ EDS (Newman Tennis Ctr) 4:00

JV/V Volleyball @ CCA 4:30/5:30

MS Flag Football @ Savannah River Academy 5:00





# MEAD HALL PANTHERS

**FLAG FOOTBALL  
TAILGATE PARTY**  
*in celebration of*  
**HOMECOMING WEEK**

**MH PANTHERS** **VS** **AC LIONS**

**TAILGATE STARTS AT  
3:30 PM** | **GAME TIME  
5:00 PM**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST**

**GRILLING ALLOWED!**

**20 SPACES AVAILABLE!**  
Reserve your spot by emailing  
Emily Murphy at  
[EMurphy@meadhallschool.org](mailto:EMurphy@meadhallschool.org)

*Food + Friends + School Spirit*

**BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND COOLER**

**LISTEN TO MUSIC**

**MIX AND MINGLE WITH PLAYERS**

**HANG OUT & PLAY GAMES**



# MEAD HALL PANTHERS

Thank you to our sponsors!! 

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*Panther Pride!*



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**GO PANTHERS!**

THANK YOU TO OUR  
PRESENTING SPONSOR

  
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*Panther Pride!*



*Truly  
Grateful  
for you.*

Interested in becoming  
a sponsor?

CLICK HERE 





# Worship Service

## Sunday

**7:45 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles

**9 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Contemporary Music**

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

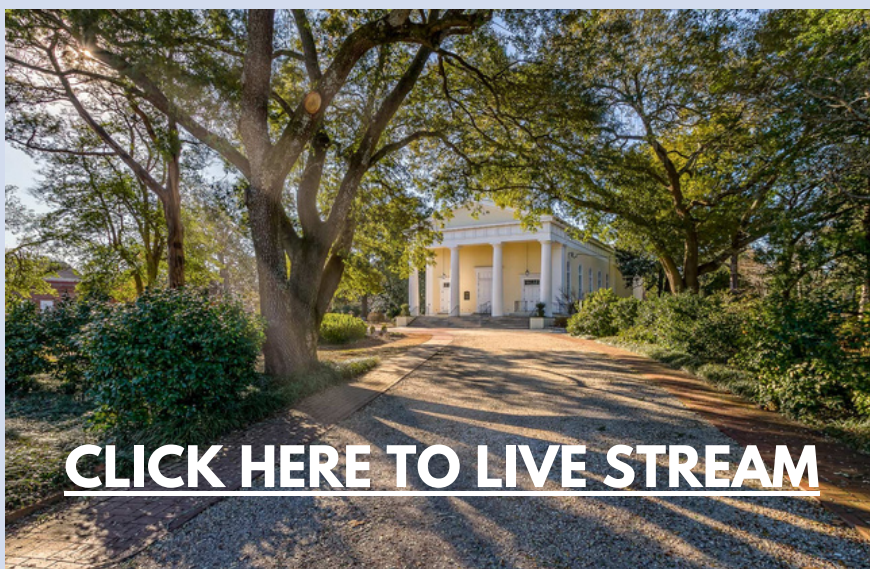
**11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Choir & Organ**

Being held in the Cheatham Parlor

## Wednesday

**11:30 am - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing**

Being held in the Chapel of the Holy Apostles



**[CLICK HERE TO LIVE STREAM](#)**

