

# THE VINE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CATAWBA CLERGY NETWORK



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Details on our *2024 Fall Clergy Days* and *2025 Equip and Empower*: a rejuvenating daylong retreat this spring
- Information on *Communities of Practice*, small groups designed for mutual support
- An incredible opportunity to join a *Holy Land pilgrimage* in 2026!
- Application deadlines for our *2025 Thriving in Ministry mini grants*
- Looking back at Clergy Days 2024 with *Cole Arthur Riley*

...and more

Greetings from the Catawba Clergy Network! If we haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, I'm Anne Tambling, the new Director of the Clergy Network. It's an honor to step into this role and be part of such meaningful work supporting clergy!

A bit about me: I'm a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Divinity and an ordained Baptist minister with experience across a variety of denominations. Much of my work has focused on helping churches and nonprofits not just survive but also thrive amidst the challenges they face. Along the way, I've seen countless ministers who pour themselves into caring for others but often lack the opportunities to nurture their own well-being. I'm passionate about changing that!

The Clergy Network's mission is to provide opportunities for connection, growth, and renewal—through fellowship, community gatherings, inspiring speakers, continuing education, creative expressions for spiritual engagement, and much-needed moments of rest and restoration. We hope these resources encourage you as you continue your faithful work. Here's to finding new ways to thrive together!

Warmly,  
Rev. Anne Tambling  
Director, Catawba Clergy Network



# EMPOWER & EQUIP

A DAY OF RENEWAL

FOR CLERGY

APRIL 4, 2025

Sponsored by

**Catawba Clergy Network**

Catawba  
College



Salisbury  
NC

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Join us for a transformative day of fellowship, worship, and renewal!

*Empower & Equip: A Day of Renewal* is designed to refresh your spirit, strengthen your ministry, and equip you with tools for personal and professional growth.

What to Expect:

- Fellowship: Connect with like-minded clergy and build meaningful relationships.
- Renewal: Experience moments of quiet reflection and spiritual refreshment.
- Worship: Engage in uplifting worship in the beautiful Omwake Dearborn Chapel.
- Workshops: Participate in interactive sessions focusing on leadership, ministry skills, and personal well-being.



## Dates to Remember

April 4	Spring Retreat: Empower and Equip!
April 10	Information Session for Holy Land Pilgrimage
April 21	COP Grant Application workshop on Zoom
May 1	Application period opens for Clergy Thriving Grants
May 31	Application period closes for Clergy Thriving Grants
July 1	Application period opens for Community of Practice Grants
July 25	Application period closes for Community of Practice Grants
August 28	Leadership Training for Facilitators
October 2-3	Catawba Clergy Days



## PILGRIMAGE AND STORYTELLING: JOURNEYS OF PAUL

REVEREND DR. H. WILLIAM GREEN

On a Journeys of Paul Cruise in 2024, I was able to deepen my understanding of Paul's ministry, visit some of the ancient sites where he preached and established churches, and grow in my faith as I read Scripture with a fresh set of eyes and new insights. My wife, Polly Jo, and I enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to travel with a group from Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida and their pastor, Magrey DeVega, who gave lectures on the life of Paul and led us in inspiring worship services.

As a biblical storyteller, the highlight of my trip was being able to tell the story of Paul preaching his famous sermon in reference to "The Unknown God." (Acts 17:16-34) While standing at the Areopagus where Paul preached that sermon in Athens, I could imagine what it must have felt like to introduce Jesus to people immersed in pagan worship. As I looked behind the Areopolis I could see the highest hill in Athens known as the Acropolis, on which stands the Pantheon and its Temple to the "virgin goddess" Athena. Paul did not establish a single church in Athens and there were only a few converts when he left. Some would say that his visit was a failure. But he planted a seed. Within a few centuries what was once a forbidden religion swept the Roman Empire. Today there are countless churches in Athens, and in Rome you can visit the Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the traditional burial site of Paul.

I highly recommend enriching your life and ministry by going on a Journeys of Paul Cruise. You will visit and tour Rome, Corinth, Athens, Ephesus, and Crete. Added to the cruise are the beautiful Greek Islands of Santorini and Mykonos! You will enjoy many scenic treasures and taste culinary delights from other countries. You will have the opportunity to meet people and make new friends. And, of course, you can simply relax and be renewed. You will make memories to savor for a lifetime!

On the journey,

Reverend Dr. William Green



For information about the "Journeys of Paul Cruise," contact Educational Opportunities.

[WWW.EO.travel](http://WWW.EO.travel)  
(800-247-0017)



# GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!!



Lilly Endowment Inc.  
A private foundation since 1937

The Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded the Catawba Clergy Network a five year, \$500,000 sustainability grant that allows us to continue to provide resources to help ministers thrive, while working towards being self-sustaining as an organization by 2030. These funds will be matched by the generous support of Catawba College as well as community resources, denominational support, and donations from both churches and individuals. It is through this generous funding that we are able to bring you Clergy Days, Communities of Practice, workshops, retreats, and thriving grants; all at little to no cost to the individual!

*Consider joining a*

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

A clergy community of practice ("COP") is a small group of ministers that is intentionally focused on ways to do ministry better and to thrive as Clergy. COPs focus on self-care as well as the support and wisdom we can gain from regular gatherings with peers who offer new perspectives and resources. All clergy COPs are self-directed and focused on the needs and interests of participants. In addition, they are convened by trained facilitators who help assure the groups run smoothly and effectively. If you are interested in joining a Community of Practice email Anne Tambling at [atamblin@catawba.edu](mailto:atamblin@catawba.edu).



## WE WANT TO HELP YOU THRIVE!

The Catawba Clergy Network offers *two different competitive grants* designed to help you thrive as a minister! Our **Clergy Thriving Mini Grants** are designed to support activities which would increase your opportunity to thrive. These grants award up to \$2,000 to successful applicants and cover a variety of needs, including conference attendance, retreat creation, cohort materials, ministry innovation, personal and educational trips, and more. Our **Community of Practice Grants** of \$500 are designed to support active members of COP groups and help them engage. Each grant has different requirements and is funded through a separate application process. We will be holding a training workshop on February 28 at 10:00 AM on Zoom to guide you through the process of applying for these grants and answer any questions you might have.

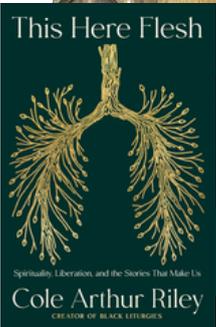


*Need help with grant requests?*

### Grant Application Preparation Workshop

Thursday, April 21 10:00AM on Zoom

[Join the Meeting here](#)



## *Clergy Days 2024 An Overwhelming Success!*

Clergy Days 2024 was an overwhelming success, with over 120 people participating in the workshops, and almost 200 people in attendance for the keynote address. We were thrilled to welcome Cole Arthur Riley, author of "Black Liturgies" and "This Here Flesh" as our keynote speaker and the leader of one of our many workshops.

*Look for more great speakers and seminars at  
Clergy Days 2025, October 2-3!*



*Consider joining a*

## **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND!**

Have you ever considered a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? Do you find yourself curious about the landscapes where the Scriptural stories are situated? Do you want to have a way to “paint a picture” of stories for the Bible and bring them to life for your congregation? The Catawba Clergy Network will be sponsoring a 12-day guided pilgrimage to Israel in **July, 2026**. We have designed this pilgrimage as what we feel will be a transformative 12-day spiritual journey through the Holy Land, tailored for pastors seeking renewal, inspiration, and a deeper connection to the biblical landscape. The pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Christ while engaging in meaningful prayer, reflection, and fellowship. You will be able to explore the locations of stories from scripture and walk where Jesus walked! The pilgrimage will include the following:

- **Mount of Olives & Gethsemane:** with breathtaking views from the Mount of Olives, the Chapel of the Ascension, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Church of All Nations.
- **Old City of Jerusalem:** Walk the cobblestone streets of the Old City. Visit the Western Wall, the Temple Mount, and the Pools of Bethesda. Follow the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where tradition holds Jesus was crucified and buried.
- **Bethlehem & Shepherds' Fields:** Visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation in the Shepherds' Fields.
- **Galilee - Capernaum & Mount of Beatitudes:** Travel north to Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee. Visit Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, and Tabgha where Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes
- **Nazareth & Cana:** Visit Nazareth and explore the Basilica of the Annunciation and walk through Mary's Well. In Cana, recall Jesus' first miracle and reflect on the significance of transformation.
- **Mount Carmel & Caesarea:** Ascend Mount Carmel, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. Continue to Caesarea, the ancient Roman port city where Paul preached the gospel.
- **Jaffa & Reflection on the Mediterranean Coast:** Visit the charming ancient port of Jaffa, where Peter received his vision to welcome the Gentiles. Enjoy time of quiet reflection by the Mediterranean coast.

There will also be ample time for prayer and reflection as you encounter God in the sites that you visit. This an opportunity to deepen your own faith and bring back renewed spiritual insight and a profound sense of connection experiences that you can share with your congregations! Join us for an informational session on Zoom on Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 to get more details!

[Join the Meeting Here](#)



## *Spread the Word!*

The Catawba Clergy Network is a vital resource that promotes thriving for clergy of all denominations. The Network has grown to over 250 members and the number of clergy attending Clergy Days has doubled since last year. We have 22 Community of Practice Peer Groups with a demand for more of these groups to provide supportive community. We want to continue to expand the reach and the resources of the Network and increase the number of individuals we can help with our Retreats and workshops, peer groups, and clergy thriving grants. We also want to spread the word to make these resources available to more pastors and clergy.

How can you help? Consider the following:

- Pass along information about the Network to your clergy friends who may also benefit from these resources.
- Share information about the Network to your churches and denominations.
- Connect with us on Facebook
- And consider supporting the Network through your own individual donations so we can continue this good work! Simply scan the QR code above!

For more information, contact Anne Tambling at [ATamblin@Catawba.edu](mailto:ATamblin@Catawba.edu)