



The Episcopal Diocese of the Virgin Islands

Diocesan Newsletter

Funeral of The Very Reverend Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson



Nobody prepares for a sudden death. On April 15th, the Cathedral Church of All Saints lost its Dean and Rector, the Diocese lost its Canon to the Ordinary for Pastoral Care and Formation—a pastor, a friend, a confidant, an encourager, and a forerunner of a message of radical love. Although Dean Wilson's time was short, her character was contagious; everybody knew her and respected her dearly. It was a testament to the dedication to serving God and His people with unwavering faith, compassion, and wisdom. Her pastoral heart, scholarly mind, and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

On June 20th, scores were gathered from around the Diocese and wider Episcopal Church, which included the Canon for African Descent Ministries, the Reverend Canon Ronald Byrd Sr, Past President of the Union of Black Episcopalians, Canon Annette Buchanan, and the Right Reverend John Harmon, Bishop of Arkansas.



The service featured a variety of talents combined and individualized, along with the sharing of fond memories. The Diocesan Choir provided soul-stirring renditions, accompanied by Mr. Howard Jones on the organ and Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis directing. Canon Annette Buchanan read the Eulogy, The Right Reverend John Harmon, Bishop of Arkansas, preached, and The Right Reverend Rafael Morales Maldonado, Bishop



Provisional of the Virgin Islands, presided.

Canon Buchanan told the gathering how determined Dean Wilson was to return to these islands despite being advised not to as she continued her treatment. It is concluded she knew why, Bishop Harmon suggested Sandye came back to a place where she first felt a called to ordained ministry and served and ended such ministry in the very place. While

Bishop Morales encouraged the Diocese to keep the vision alive and to serve for Jesus Christ as Sandye would want us to do.

Although Dean Sandye has gone on to the presence of God, in this time of grief, we find comfort in knowing that she now rests in the eternal peace of our Lord and Savior. We ask for your continued prayers for her family, friends, and all whose lives were blessed by her ministry.

"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master." - Matthew 25:23

YouTube Link: <https://youtube.com/live/Q3sTcZHsEFs?feature=share>

Electronic Booklet: <https://www.flipsnack.com/heatherpd/flipbook-the-very-rev-canon-dr-sandye-wilson-1.html>

Bishop Provisional Pastoral Visit to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1st Ave, Sugar Estate.



The Friendly Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, was visited by Bishop Provisional, the Right Reverend Rafael Morales Maldonado. Bishop Morales was pleased to be among the faithful gathered on Sunday, June 21, 2025. During the morning celebration, those gathered in person and via Facebook were able to sing a song in both Spanish and English. This was a creative means of welcome and inclusion since the Bishop's first language is Spanish.

Bishop Morales encouraged the people to continue serving and loving as Jesus Christ mandated. Furthermore, the Bishop believes that his visits will help to define and spread an ethos of love and togetherness across the diocese.

The Rector of the parish is the Reverend Lenroy Cabey.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church Patronal Festival-55th Anniversary



In unity, members of St. Croix Deanery joined members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Castle Coakley for their feast of title celebratory activities. The theme for 2025 was: "St. Peter Church keeping Christ alive in 2025!" The time of celebration concluded with the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, 29th June 2025. The service was filled with jubilant singing as the St. Croix Deanery Choir, under the

leadership of Mrs. Monica Jacobs, led the worship experience. Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis played the organ. The Priest in Charge, the Rev. Fr. Alric Francis Sr., was the celebrant, while the Rev. Amonteen Doward and Cleverton Beckford concelebrated, and the Rev. Deacon Trevaughn Todman preached. Rev. Todman encouraged the saints to continue praying, encouraging one another, rebuking sin, and convincing each other, all while maintaining love for Christ and for one another. The church becomes more substantial and impactful only when we are united for the common good.

A Luncheon followed the service to honor three of their members: Lucy Carty, Margary Vanterpool, and Shirley Smith at Teddy's. All three women have offered their lives to God as they serve in the church and the wider community. They have fought the good fight but have not finished the race. They continue to inspire other persons to serve and not allow life's challenges to disrupt their purposes.