

Recognition of the Reverend Canon Callie Walpole
Friday Business Session of the 231st Diocesan Convention
of the Diocese of South Carolina
Friday, November 12, 2021

Remarks by Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley:

There are many of you who have, at no small cost, held this diocese together during the long, arduous road of the past decade. Were it not for all of you, the countless saints of this beloved diocese, we would not be here today. I would not be standing before you as your new bishop. For all of you, I am grateful. One among you, in particular, I want to give thanks for as we begin this Convention. That one has, among many other labors of love, chronicled your stories with her gifted writing and speaking. She has made sure that places sometimes forgotten by others had the tools you needed to carry on in trying times. Some of you have shared these stories with me as I have traveled the diocese these past several weeks. Hers has been a labor of love for many years for this diocese. She has tended this place like the gardens in her own backyard that she so loves. She has helped guide us all to the threshold of a new season. And she has welcomed me here with grace and love. I am speaking of The Reverend Canon Callie Walpole, daughter of this diocese.

Canon Walpole, would you come to the podium, please?

Callie, in reflecting on how we might offer you some small token of our gratitude for all you have done, my thoughts turned to your work with Voorhees College. As you know, I was able to tour Voorhees recently, and in the course of my morning there, Dr. Hopkins took me to the graveside of the woman who courageously, despite threats to her life, founded Voorhees—Elizabeth Evelyn Wright. As Dr. Hopkins and I stood together there, an idea was born—What if there were a garden there, marking her graveside—a place of quiet contemplation and inspiration? Dr. Hopkins and I talked of how exciting that would be. And, he and I can think of no better first project to begin that larger work at Voorhees than to begin with a collection of plants in your honor.

We also thought it would be good for you to have, in your own garden, one of the same plants that will be used in your portion of the Elizabeth Evelyn Wright garden. So, we are happy to present this *Sasanqua Camellia* to you today. Know also, that a plaque will be installed together with the plants given in your honor as part of the garden. Dr. Hopkins is working with us to set a date when you can join Voorhees for the planting.

Thank you, Callie, for the countless ways you have tended the garden that is this Diocese. Your enduring commitment to the people and churches of the Diocese of South Carolina have helped the diocese survive and thrive amid huge challenges over the past decade.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude for Canon Walpole, who has tended this garden well.

Cn. Walpole was presented with a camelia bush for her garden, and also a commemorative glass award with the following inscription beneath an engraved diocesan seal:

*Plantings for the Elizabeth Evelyn Wright Memorial Garden at Voorhees College
have been given by the Bishop and People of the Diocese of South Carolina
in Gratitude for the Ministry of
The Reverend Canon Lisa Calhoun Walpole
who has tended well
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina,
helping us to grow and thrive*

2021