

December 19, 2024



Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

Advent IV

December 22 - 11 am - Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

December 24 - 7:30 pm - Holy Eucharist

Readings for December 22, 2024

Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
Canticle 15 (or 3)
or Psalm 80:1-7

Lay Servers - December 22, 2024

Vestry Person.....Molly Sanford
Usher.....Donna Hutchinson
Acolyte.....Molly Sanford
Lector.....Jaynie Jackson
Intercessor.....Vickie Parker
LEM.....Susan Bagby

Altar Care.....Vickie Parker/Beppy White
Fellowship.....POT LUCK

WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study in the Sun room

Wednesday

4 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John

5:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice - Brad Jackson

Friday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Bill Birkhofer

Minister's Musings

Ministering Alongside God's Angelic Servants

The story of Christmas is one that has shaped the Western World's experience of the winter season. For all the celebrating and hoopla, the story emerged from a mere four chapters of Scripture. Only Luke and Matthew record the events of Jesus' entrance into the world. And within those brief accounts, there is nothing more said of Jesus other than what happened to him. He exerts no overt agency. He was conceived, developed, delivered from his mother's body, kept safe by his parents who travel from Bethlehem to Egypt, and eventually to Nazareth. But he performed no active role in any of this. In fact, like most births, the stories are about those impacted by the event, not about the one being born.

In Jesus' birth story, the ones who gain the most prominent notice are the ones we rarely see and even more rarely acknowledge, the angels. In these four chapters, angels appear in six different scenes! In these stories we see angels performing the roles of messenger, worshiper, and protector/warrior. Angels play a large role in our Christmas pageants, holiday decorations, and carols, but it is within these boundaries that our awareness of them tends to find its limits.

The Christmas story is one that invites us into the heart of God in a unique way. It illustrates a God who chose the vulnerability of an infant, entirely dependent on others for both existence and safety. Perhaps that is part of the reason angels play such an important role in the story. They act on behalf of humans in a supportive way, sharing joy, guiding and protecting alongside the human actors. They do not perform the work for humans, but they sure do aid

in accompanying them in it.

There is no reason to assume the activity of the angelic realm was limited to this moment in God's story. Hebrews 1:14 states that the role of angels is to act as ministers to us. God appointed them to help us do the work we have been given to do. It makes me wonder how our experience of life, worship, and work might transform if we were more aware of the unseen angels who work and worship alongside us. We are not alone in our pursuit of the Kingdom of God and our efforts to bring God glory. Does our faith extend far enough to allow this great mystery to bolster and motivate our lives and worship?

-Rev Becki

Collect: O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: **Mac Barber, Bernadette Blanding, Mike Cashman, David Cronk, Janice Edwards, Joanie Edwards, Alfred Goossens, Vera Griffin, Brad and Lydia Hansen, Ginger Hawkins, Daniel Hicks, Zoe Hubbard, Shelby Jean Hull, Kim, Aaron Milligan, Marilyn Myers, Carol Nowak, Carolyn O'Brien, Chris Palumbo, Robert, Michael Rider, Pat Roberts, Steve Sanford, Ann Skidmore, Sarah, Carolyn Stanley, Joe Stanley and Robert Ulrich.**

***If you wish to add or remove someone from the Parish Prayer list please send an email to Rev. Deacon Becki Casey @ beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com by Wednesday to ensure that it gets into the bulletin and weekly messenger**

Cycle of Prayer

Please join us in praying for our larger Church communities. This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we lift up The Church of the Province of Uganda. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Matthews in Richmond.

Poinsettia Orders

During this festive occasion, it is a joy to add to the church's beauty with a poinsettia on Christmas Eve. If you would like to contribute one as a commemoration, an attribution, or a gift, we want to celebrate that with you! Please submit the information you would like included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin no later than December 22nd to ensure our mutual celebration of all these generous blessings.



2025 Altar Flowers

There will be a sign up sheet for altar flowers for the upcoming year on the church bulletin board. The first Sunday pairing is January 12 and 19th



Thank you to all that provided flowers for our altar this past year!

Jerusalem Prayer

O Lord, our heavenly Father

At this Christmastime, we hear of tragic events in your Holy Land

And our hearts break at the terrible suffering of so many people.

We pray for a ceasefire and an end to war.

We pray for release for hostages and all prisoners unjustly held.

We pray for children in Gaza and Lebanon who have been made orphans.

We pray for people who have lost limbs and homes and all forms of income.

We pray for those who are starving, thirsty and dying from the cold.

Give to all who suffer the assurance of your presence and bring relief from all their traumas.

Lord, we hear that Bethlehem is not the calm and gentle town of our carols:

We pray for Christian families who have lost income through lack of pilgrims:

We pray for all families living in fear of military oppression

and who feel that hope of better days is far off.

Bring to all your hurting children the knowledge that their cries are not in vain.

Build in us the desire and will to strive here, in the Holy Land

And throughout the world, for your kingdom of justice, joy and peace.

We pray for all Christians in the Holy Land at the Christmas time, that they will find joy in the midst of pain. Especially we pray for the Diocese of Jerusalem, for Archbishop Hosam, the clergy and all the people of our sister churches there.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Saviour of the world.

Amen.

Canon Richard Sewell

Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem



Upcoming Dates

As we inch our way into holiday season, please be looking ahead with us. There are some exciting events coming up that you won't want to miss. Some are for attending. Some are for noting and marking with prayer support.

December 24: 7:30PM at Piedmont; 5 PM and 10:30PM at Grace - Christmas Eve Eucharist Services

December 29: Lessons and Carols at 11AM with Piedmont at Grace

January 19: Annual Meeting - Following worship service

February 1, 2025: Rev. Deacon Becki Casey's Ordination; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Arlington 10:30 AM

Christmas EVE Service

Piedmont Episcopal Church

Please join us at 7:30 PM
December 24th

For unto you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11



Day for ALL People 2025

Our annual lobby day, Day for All People (DFAP), is just around the corner! This year's DFAP will take place on January 15, 2025. The day begins with breakfast, a gathering to hear about our legislative priorities from staff, board members, and you. What I love about DFAP is meeting neighbors from across the state from diverse faith backgrounds who are concerned about justice in our legislative policies.

Meet with your legislators, attend workshops, and join people of faith and goodwill from across Virginia for a day dedicated to civic engagement. In partnership with our friends at the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), we will advocate for legislative priorities to improve all Virginians' health and quality of life.

[Register using this link! Early bird pricing is available for everyone who registers between now and December 31st.](#)

We provide free transportation to Richmond for attendees living in the South West and Shenandoah Valley, Hampton Roads, and NOVA regions! When you sign up, you can register to ride the bus.

Please share this information with your faith communities and encourage them to join us! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to assist you with registration and answer any questions.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Joyfully,

Faith Harris

Register Now

Two ways to support our work

Make a Recurring Donation Become a Climate Connector

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light is having a profound impact in communities and congregations across the state. But we can only continue to make a difference with your help. Join us!

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light is a 501(c)(3) and is registered with the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. You can write to this Department for all relevant financial statements and procedures regarding the solicitation of contributions. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We need volunteers to help us win our water, energy, and resilience campaigns.

Register to become a Climate Connector, Ambassador to the Trees, or Social Media Maven. Click the button below to get started.

It's great to be working with you!

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Connor Eppley, Communications Coordinator

Hannah Jensen, Administrative Assistant

Laticia Lee, Faith & Community Outreach Organizer

Kaycie Lassiter, Community Outreach Organizer

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**In His Service,
Deacon Kathryn**

Grief Support Group

**Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church St
Madison, VA**

January 7, 2025

**Place: Piedmont Fellowship House, next door to the church, living
room, enter through the kitchen door in the carport**

**Grace Episcopal Church, 97 Main St.
Stanardsville, VA 22973**

**Third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm
January 21, 2025**

Grief Support Group



No one should have to grieve alone.

Grace and Piedmont Episcopal Churches together with Gentiva Hospice are offering a support group that will provide spiritual and faith-based gatherings designed to accompany each person in their unique walk with grief from the loss of a loved one or any other of the losses that life immerses us in, loss of job, relationships, or way, the grief brought about from fear of the future, the news, or our culture.

Madeleine L'engle in talking about her own experience says, "Bereavement is not the truncation of...love, but one of its regular phases."

Join us as we learn to walk this new and difficult path together. We need one another.

Meetings:

Places: Piedmont Episcopal Church, www.piedmontepiscopalchurch.org

First Tuesday of each month at 6 PM, Enter the Fellowship House thru the carport, we will meet in in the living room,

Grace Episcopal Church, www.gracechurchstanardsville.org/general

Third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM, Come in the side door on Ford Avenue; we will meet in the Sunday School room to the left down the hall

Rev. Kathryn Thomas, Deacon @ 434-962-9103, kathrynhthomas@gmail.com

Chaplain Stephen Mathis, Gentiva, @540-742-7520, sjmathis89@gmail.com

Sharon Hicks, LPN, Piedmont Senior Warden, sharonsarbonne@aol.com



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