

February 6, 2025



**The Rev. Becki Casey
Priest-in-Charge**

February 9, 2025 - 11 a.m. Worship Service

Ordination Thank You

Dearest friends... we made it!!! Thank you for all your amazing support and encouragement over the past six months. Moving here, meeting you all, learning about the parish, and participating in life of this worshipping community has been an amazing experience. I cannot tell you how encouraging it has been to be surrounded and uplifted by all your support for my ordination. There are not words to describe my appreciation for your incredibly generous gifts!!! Mostly, I feel grateful to God for the partnership we share in Christ's ministry. Let us all pray for many years of collaboration in God's work together through the ministry entrusted to us.

Readings for Sunday, February 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Psalm 138

Lay Servers - February 9, 2025

Vestry Person.....	Molly Sanford
Usher.....	Kay John
Acolyte.....	Molly Sanford
Lector.....	Sharon Hicks
Intercessor.....	Karen Czar
LEM.....	David Bagby
Altar Care.....	Susan Good/Katie Puryear
Fellowship.....	The Cotten's

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

9:45 a.m. Understanding the Bible - Rev. Becki

Minister's Musings

St. Agatha, A Teenager Inspiration

I don't know about you, but after the news cycles from the past few weeks, I feel exhausted. Unprecedented natural disasters, thousands displaced, multiple plane crashes, political drama, government upheaval, immigrants and previously protected groups of people under existential threat, and so many people facing the loss of federal employment. Simply staying informed under the barrage of information is a serious exercise! The emotional toll expended on wading through one's own response is grueling. Exposure to the responses of others, whose lives are directly impacted by our current moment, can be crushing.

When I feel overwhelmed, my first response is to go to prayer. My second is to seek solace and inspiration from the saints who have gone before us. This week, as I was looking at the saints' commemorations, I came across Agatha. The earliest saints are my favorite because they were so close to the time of Jesus that I feel they understood some things better than we must. Agatha was martyred in 250!

As my excitement grew to learn more about an early female saint, it quickly

deflated when I read her story. It is not a pleasant one. She lived during the time of the Decian persecution. At 15 years old, she took a vow of virginity before God, knowing her Christianity would be opposed. A Roman soldier fell in love with her and when she refused to marry him, he exposed her faith to the governor, who had her tortured. She remained steadfast, so he sent her to be violated in a brothel. When her faith persisted, she was further tortured. If you see her commemorated in art and iconography, she is almost always holding her bloody chest because her breasts were torn from her body. One of her miracles was in quenching the fires with which they tried to burn her to death. She is the patron saint of rape victims, those suffering breast cancer, and protection against fire. A powerful saint with a horrible story.

I am wrestling with God's message for us through Saint Agatha. It is human to want an easy life, to feel comfort, safety, and ease in this life. Jesus came to show us how to live through adversity. This world is infected with the disease of sin and none of us will remain untouched. Romans 8:22 says "the whole creation is groaning together and suffering". We all feel that. But verse 18 says that "creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God's sons and daughters". We may not have the power to stop wildfires or the influence to change government policy. But creation itself is desperate for Christians to step up wherever they are located and reveal God to this broken and hurting world.

Enjoy a cup of coffee. Hug your friends. Pray. Pet your dog. Stretch. Stay hydrated. Rest.

And then, let us all reveal the love and light of Christ to those with whom it is in our power to support. All creation is waiting for us to show up. May Saint Agatha be our inspiration.

-Rev. Becki

The Collect of the Day: Almighty and everlasting God, who strengthened your martyr Agatha with constancy and courage: Grant us for the love of you to make no peace with oppression, to fear no adversity, and to have no tolerance for those who would use their power to abuse or exploit; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever. 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, **Jill F.**, **Alfred** Goossens, **Vera** Griffin, **Brad and Lydia** Hansen, **Ginger** Hawkins, **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, **Kathryn** Thomas, **Robert** Ulrich and **Sylvia** Vior.

***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 Anglican Church in Australia. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. George's in Arlington, St. Margaret's in Woodbridge, and St. Peter's in Richmond.

We give thanks for the life of Marilyn Myers, late sister of Joe Myers. May she go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service.

Pub Theology Presents:

An opportunity to examine scripture, theology and personal reflections on

OBEDIENCE

Thursdays, February 6, 13, and 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Los Robles Restaurant, Main Street,
Stanardsville

"The road to the promised land runs past Sinai."

Feel free to bring a friend, come early for dinner and have a beer.

Help Needed for Children's Summer "Camp" a Ministerial Association Cooperative at Madison Presbyterian Church

If you would be interested in helping join efforts with other Madison churches to help provide a three-day, youth, summer "camp", here is an excellent opportunity. The dates will be June 17-19 or 24-26 from 9AM to 11:30AM. The camp will offer Crafts, Music, Snack, Outdoor Playtime and a Sack Lunch to take home.

Needed:

- 2 other "performers" for two of the days to portray a Bible Character (Karen will be Miriam)
- Adults on site to help
- supplies
- snacks
- sack lunches

If you are interested, please contact Karen at
Pastorkaren@madisonpresbyterian.com or 540-414-3193.




HEBRON LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS AN
ORGAN CONCERT
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2025 2:30 P.M.

Join us for a performance by Daniel Grotz
playing the 1802 Tannenberg organ.

Supporting the restoration & preservation of
Hebron Lutheran Church.
Don't miss this opportunity to listen to the
beautiful organ sounds in its charming,
historic setting.

Free concert - Donations accepted!
899 Blankenbaker Road Madison, VA

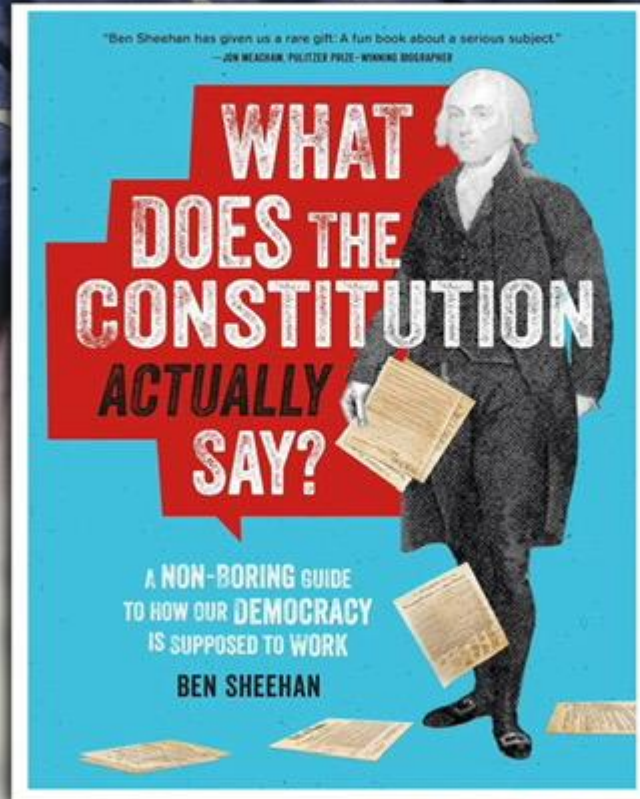
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP VIA FACEBOOK, VISIT
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HEBRONLUTHERANVA](https://www.facebook.com/hebronlutheranva) OR SCAN THE QR CODE.



STUDY THE CONSTITUTION!

SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY: 8TH, 15TH, & 22ND AT 11:00AM

PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL PARISH HOUSE



COFFEE & SNACKS PROVIDED

BOOK AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, ABE BOOKS, & THRIFT BOOKS

Searching for Hope: A Workshop with Bishop Susan Goff

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:30-12:00

Buck Mountain Episcopal Church in Earlysville is proud to sponsor a half-day of reflection with Bishop Susan Goff, retired Suffragan Bishop and author of *The Desert Shall Rejoice: Psalms from the Wilderness of Breast Cancer*. The Bishop will share insights she gained during a desert time and invite participants to reflect on how they have found hope in times of suffering and struggle.

The workshop is FREE and a light lunch will be provided. Please register by going to www.buckmountainchurch.org and clicking the appropriate link.

Save the Date

Friday, March 21st from 6-9:00 PM in the Parish Hall at St. Stephen's, there will be a dinner for Brad and Lydia Hansen in hopes of raising funds for a wheelchair van. The cost of the dinner is \$125/person and will include dinner and wine pairings. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the St. Stephen's office. In addition to the dinner, there will be an online auction. Be on the lookout for more details.



Email us

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