

January 9, 2025



Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

**January 12, 2025 - Morning Prayer
Norris John - Officiant**

**January 19, 2025 - Holy Eucharist
ANNUAL Meeting**

January 26, 2025 - Holy Eucharist

Readings for Sunday January 12, 2025

Isaiah 43:1-7
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Psalm 29

Lay Servers - January 12, 2025

Vestry Person.....	Beppy White
Usher.....	Dona Hutchinson
Acolyte.....	Karen Czar
Lector.....	Joe Parker
Intercessor.....	Bill Birkhofer
LEM.....	Morning Prayer
Altar Care.....	Jaynie Jackson
Fellowship.....	Bill Birkhofer

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

Baptismal Identity

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of The Baptism of our Lord. Most Episcopalians were baptized as babies, so for people in small churches that don't have multiple baptismal services each year, the concept of baptism isn't one that comes up much. But baptism is not just about a one-time event. It is a foundational sacrament, from which everything we do in the church flows, and I think we should highlight it more! According to The Book of Common Prayer, "Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church". Baptism is our entrance into communion with Christ, fellowship with the Spirit, and participation with one another. Our world doesn't spend much time focusing on rituals, but this one is an outward symbol of our internal transformation. It is a BIG deal!

The baptismal service asks people to affirm certain things. Babies, who cannot make their own affirmations, have their families and presenters affirm their participation in raising the child according to these beliefs and intentions. While we agree to these things at baptism, they shape our lives in an ongoing way. We renounce Satan, sin, and evil. We place our trust and obedience in God. We proclaim, yes even Episcopalians, PROCLAIM by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. And my favorite affirmations are that we "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being".

These values are the things that shape our lives personally and corporately. The BCP also says, "the bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble", illustrated in the liturgical words "you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever". Approaching each day with the awareness of the unbreakable bond we have with God ought to shape

our motivations and empower our love for the world!

The prayer after Baptism is beautifully inspiring and I pray it for us all. It asks God to give us “an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works”. May it be so among us!

To help us remember our baptismal identity, some churches practice “asperges”. This is where a priest uses straw dipped in water to sprinkle congregants during the liturgy. I feel like the rubrics would support the use of a squirt gun. With an impassioned deacon on the loose, you may want to start wearing rain jackets on Sundays. Baptismal waters are inspiring!

-Rev. Becki

Collect: Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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, **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 West Africa. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Christ Church in Luray.

Remembering President Carter

At the news of former president Carter's death, President Biden issued a National Day of Mourning for January 9th. He said, "I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President James Earl Carter Jr.". If you would like to participate in prayer from Piedmont's sanctuary, it will be available for prayer on the 9th from 4pm through 6:30pm.

2025 Altar Flowers

There will be a sign up sheet for altar flowers for the upcoming year on the bulletin board at the back of the church. Thank you to all that support placing flowers on our altar.



Sunday Worship Partners

According to The Episcopal Church, the laity (people in the pews) play the most significant role in the life of the church (not the clergy). The Book of Common Prayer says that the ministry of the laity is "to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church" (BCP, p. 855). As we begin a new year, Piedmont would like to invite participation from everyone in our Sunday worship. We can always use help with worship leading on Sunday mornings, including intercessors (those who lead The Prayers of the People), acolytes, (those who carry the cross and help light candles) Lay Eucharistic Ministers (those who help administer the chalice), lectors (those who read the lessons), ushers (those who greet people and help bring the gifts to the altar), altar care (those who care for the altar before and after services), and fellowship hosts (those who provide for coffee hour in the parish house). Please be in prayer with us for God to raise up the helpers we need to help lead this Body of believers into worship on Sundays. If you have any interest in filling these rolls or questions about what this entails, please let Becki know.

Loaves and Fishes



Well, it's that time again!! Piedmont is scheduled to deliver nutrition packages to the Boys and Girls Club of Madison, as part of our cooperative ministry with Hebron Lutheran Church and Madison Presbyterian Church, on Friday, January 31st. The list of items to be purchased is included below.

Given our busy schedules and the possibility of inclement weather, if it's possible for you to sign up Sunday, shop next week and return your items by Sunday, January 19th, that would be greatly appreciated. We will pack following our service on Sunday, January 26th, and deliver early Friday morning, January 31st.

Once again, we thank you for supporting this vital mission to support the nutritional needs of our Madison children.

Loaves and Fishes Nutrition Package Items/Quantities (2024-25)

(Note: Some items may not be available where you shop, so please feel free to substitute equivalent items as needed, but try to assure low sugar/no sugar added.

Some items are prepackaged in bulk packages, so please purchase a sufficient number of packages to provide the needed quantity.)

Item Quantity 40 each

Campbell's Condensed Chicken Noodle Soup
Dole Mango or Pear Fruit Cups
Dole Peach Cups
Nature Valley Biscuit Sandwich with Almond Butter
Nissin Cup Noodles
Nissin Top Ramen Chicken Noodle Soup
Mott's Natural Applesauce
Kellogg Game Time Variety Pack Snacks
Kellogg Assorted Cereal Variety Pack
Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli
Quaker Instant Oatmeal Variety Pack
Planters Variety Pack Cashews and Peanuts
Small Bottled Water
Fresh Fruit (Seasonal)

We will have a signup sheet in the Parish House, following our Service on January 12th. Please sign up and indicate when you'll bring the items, preferably on Sunday, January 19th. We will pack following our service on January 26th.



January 19, 2025 - 11 AM

Join us for our annual meeting immediately following our Sunday morning worship service. Budget review, welcoming of new vestry members and discussion.

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.

**In His Service,
Deacon Kathryn**

Creation Care

Happy Epiphany!

You will probably remember the 3 Epiphanies celebrated by the Church over the centuries, and recognized by our denomination: the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the Wedding at Cana where He miraculously changed water into wine, all manifestations of the divinity of Christ Jesus. Important, vastly important for our faith as Christians, but for me the recognition that Christ's love that came down at Christmas was, and is for all, all the world, recognized by the arrival of the Magi, is also vitally important.

I believe that is what we are called to do, to show Christ's Love out for all the world. Is it easy? I think not. Presumably the Magi traveled at night through unfamiliar and dangerous territory. With Creation Care, we may be called to do the same thing, but Devastation is not the end for us who are Resurrection people.

We are called, I believe, to not linger at the seat of power or money, Herod's own; the Magi failed to return that way. We are called to follow the Dream that God gives us, just as they did.

Epiphany is about a journey, our journey to spread the Good News of Christ in the world, Emmanuel.

The following link is a YouTube video on "[Cancer Alley](#)" in Louisiana; it is from my homework in a group that is trying out the Creation Care Curriculum from the National Church, "Love God, Love God's World" Please watch and do give me your thoughts, whatever they might be.

We might not have a Cancer Alley here, but there are issues which are ours to do in both Greene and Madison.

Let's do what is ours to do with God's help.

**In His Service,
Deacon Kathryn**

Grief Support Group

Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church St
Madison, VA

February 4, 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 of each month

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, sjwmathis89@gmail.com

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



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