

October 18, 2024

Sunday October 20, 2024

October SCHEDULE for Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer

Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

October 20 - Morning Prayer

October 27 - Holy Eucharist

Readings for October 20, 2024

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Lay Servers - October 20, 2024

Vestry Person.....Beppy White
Usher.....David Bagby
Acolyte.....The Cotten's
Lector.....Dona Hutchinson
Intercessor.....Bill Birkhofer
LEM.....Morning Prayer
Altar Care.....Dona Hutchinson
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

Vestry Meeting Sunday 10/20/24

Sermons and Newsletters

If you missed church on Sunday and are curious about the sermon or if you lost the newsletter in your junk mail folder, both items are available on the website. You can find us online at

<http://www.piedmontepiscopalchurch.org>

Sermons are listed under the "Worship" tab or click [here](#). Newsletters are listed under the "News" tab or click [here](#).



Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: Malcolm (**Mac**) Barber, **Bernadette** Blanding, **Caitlin** Bomar, **David** Cronk, **Janice** Edwards, **Joanie** Edwards, **Vera** Griffin, **Brad and Lydia** Hanson, **Ginger** Hawkins, **Zoe** Hubbard, **Shelby Jean** Hull, **Kim, Marilyn** Myers, **Carolyn** O'Brien, **Chris** Palumbo, **Robert, Pat** Roberts, **Ann** Skidmore, **Sarah, Carolyn** Stanley and **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 Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we lift up Christ Church in Winchester and St. Aidan's in Alexandria.

Remembering Our Saints

We will be celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, November 3^d. All Saints' Day is the yearly commemoration of the saints we love and see no longer. Our celebration will include saints whom the historic church venerates, the local saints who helped build and do the work of the kingdom here in Stanardsville, and the specific people who we have loved and who have felt like saints to us. This year we will be celebrating our beloved saints by listing their names in the bulletin and naming them together in our worship service. This list of names is called a "necrology." Please email the office the names you would like included so we can celebrate them together!

All Saints and All Souls Evening Service

The transition from October into November contains a host of celebrations in quick succession. It's the time of year when the veil separating the visible world from the unseen is said to thin, making us all more aware of the life that exists beyond this one. Reformation Day and All Hallow's Eve are on October 31st. All Saints' Day is November 1st. And All Souls Day is November 2nd. Because it is such an important holiday, our church will be celebrating All Saints' Day together on Sunday.

However, on Friday night, November 1st, we will have a special evening service at 5pm. Together we will learn about and celebrate the communion of saints who run this race alongside us. Rev Becki will offer some of the church's teaching about these feast days. Kendall Tata will be presenting family history to help us recall the saints who helped build the ministry of Grace Episcopal Church. Corporately we will worship, pray, light candles, and meditate on the mystery of our eternal ministry in Christ. Please join us!

Praying Together on Election Day

Our national presidential election is one month away. As the time draws near, our country risks the harm caused by increased fear and division. But the love of Jesus and the protection of God is nonpartisan. The greatest tool to remind us of God's presence, to push back our worries, and to join our hearts together regardless of our political differences, is prayer. On November 5th, the church sanctuary will be open from 3-7pm. The Rev. Becki will be available to lead prayers or host others in silence.

Please come pray with us! If you would like to host a portion of this prayer time, please let Becki know.

Election Night Virtual Prayers

On the night of the election, from 8-10 pm, the diocese is hosting an online prayer session. It will be hosted by newly ordained Bishop Elect Sean Rowe, and he will offer an opening reflection, and then others will lead a variety of prayers and time of silent reflection. Registration is available free online at this [link](#).

"MINISTER'S MUSINGS"

A Praying People

Did you know the Hebrew Bible, with its more than 600 laws, never commands the people to pray? Did you know Jesus never commanded his followers to pray? The Old Testament offers many examples of people who did pray, but it was not a part of any covenant, nor the ten commandments, not the whole of The Law. Jesus clearly spent a lot of time praying and he led his disciples in prayer. Then he taught his disciples to pray, saying “when you pray.” It was never commanded because it was assumed.

We humans come from God and were designed to be in communion and communication with God. It's as inherent to our nature as is breath. Sometimes folks get sanctimonious about prayer, but the reality is that our whole lives are lived before God. Prayer is merely a recognition of that in the moments that make up our lives. We feel grief and cry out to God. We need help and ask for the things beyond our control. We get good news and exclaim, “thank God”. It isn't a performance, and it isn't about following a script. God doesn't even require words, just our attention.

One of the best things about being a Christian is the awareness of God's unflagging presence with us. Anywhere, everywhere, at our highest highs, in our lowest lows, when we're embarrassed and trying to hide, or proud and standing tall, God is beside us, waiting for us to invite God in.

The apostles learned the value of prayer in shocking ways, watching Jesus raise the dead, heal the sick, and feed the hungry and then going out and doing those same things themselves. Perhaps that is why prayer is then commanded nearly 300 times in the epistles. They KNEW the power of God's Spirit was active through people's prayer and they didn't want anyone to miss out on the relationship or the efficacy prayer provided.

I admit to never having seen anyone physically raised from the dead. But I have seen people healed in body, soul, and spirit through the power of prayer. I've also experienced the peace, joy, comfort, and transformation that prayer provides. At a time when the world is fraught and everything in the news and media breeds anxiety and despair, I am purposing to renew my own spirit through the practice of prayer. I urge you to try it. God's Spirit is alive and at

work among us. I promise.

-Rev Becki

Gracious God, Teach us how to pray, as you taught your first disciples. Make us humble of heart and forgiving. Help us pray for one another so that we, too, may experience your love, mercy and forgiveness all the days of our life. Amen

Piedmont Episcopal Church's chapter of **Daughters of the King** is inviting all parishioners and everyone in Madison County and surrounding counties to an hour of prayer and reflection for peace and unity. **Quiet Hour** will take place on Saturday **October 26, 2024**, starting at **9 AM** at **Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church Street, Madison, Va 22727**.



Parish House Deck Repairs NEWS!

Last Sunday, the Vestry approved motions and accepted the bids from Absolute Improvements and Favorite Tree Service. Work began this week! New siding and windows were replaced. The tree work is scheduled to begin next Monday. Please feel free to stop by and check out the progress!

Many THANKS to the generous donors that have supported this project and made it possible to have these much needed renovations completed. Thank you to all those that have supported this project with your time and care for our parish house.



Thank you to all who have selected Sundays and donated flowers for the altar. There are still a few dates available for anyone who would like to place flowers on the altar. Flowers will be used for two weeks; the cost is \$60. Please add your name to the list on the church bulletin board or advise Vickie Parker, altar guild chair. Dates available are Oct 27 & Nov 3 - Nov 10 & Nov 17



Bishop's VISIT

The Rt. Rev.d Edwin (Ted) Gulick will be visiting Piedmont Episcopal Church on November 24th. That may seem like as if it is in the distant future, but if you wish to be Baptized, Confirmed, Received, or Reaffirmed during this visitation, please let me know. I would love to help prepare those who are interested in furthering a commitment to Christ in these ways! - Rev. Becki

Thanksgiving Service

We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing

Mark your calendars! Piedmont Episcopal Church will be hosting an interreligious Thanksgiving worship service on behalf of the Madison County Ministerial Association on Wednesday the 27th at 5pm. Please consider joining us as we follow the example of Jesus who crossed religious and social boundaries to heal our divisions.

Fall Formation with Grace

We are excited to begin our Fall study group! Meetings will be held in Grace Episcopal Church's parish hall on Sunday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 beginning October 13th through November 17th. This Fall we will be discussing more deeply the content of the sermons, and the questions raised from the lectionary texts. Come ready to wrestle, seek meaning, and discover new ways to live out our faith together.

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.

October 27: Pledge Sunday (please bring your pledge card or send it in beforehand)

November 1: All Saints/All Souls 5pm service at Grace

November 2: Bishop Rowe's investiture (be watching for a zoom link)

November 5: Election Day (please vote and then pray at the church or online)

November 7-9: The Diocese of Virginia's Annual Convention (please be praying for our church's leadership)

November 24: Bishop Ted Gulick's visit to Piedmont

November 27: Interreligious Thanksgiving Service at Piedmont at 5pm

December 3: Wandering into Advent beginning at Piedmont from 5:30-8pm

December 14: Morning Advent Retreat at Grave's Chapel

Vestry Service

One of the deeply valuable ways that members contribute to this church is through their participation serving on the vestry. According to The Episcopal Church, the role of the vestry members is “to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church’s mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.” This year’s vestry did the challenging work of finding a minister to replace Anne. Moving forward, we have a strong and enthusiastic team who are excited to work together in stewarding the mission of Piedmont Church. Each year, vestry members rotate off and the church elects new ones to serve. At the end of this year, we will be thanking Jaynie and Norris for their tremendous service, and we will be seeking new members to fill their shoes. As we each discern our part in stewarding God’s resources into the future of Piedmont Church, please prayerfully consider if God may be inviting you to serve as a member of the vestry. Please thank your vestry members for all their work on our behalf! And if you have questions about serving in this way, please ask a vestry member!

Creation Care

While the Creation Care Committee of the Diocese was putting forth the workshop at the Roslyn Center in Richmond with the Rev. Dr. Faith Harris of Interfaith Power and Light as the keynoter, the remnants of Hurricane Helene were cutting a swath of destruction through an area of North Carolina that was known as a “climate haven”, a sanctuary for folks that relocated from the coastline and other places to be safe from dangerous weather.

The next hurricane, Milton, has already passed, and the cleanup of the most dreadful devastation continues in this inland area that had no expectation or preparations of and for the forces of wind and water. Water supplies may be months in coming and electricity is still not connected in many remote areas. First responders are relying on donkeys to carry supplies and providers of healthcare into areas too remote or impossible to reach by more traditional methods.

So what is our takeaway from this warning from our environment and as people of faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

For me, as a scientist, my head can only take me to those areas of gloom and doom. There is ample research and statistics to be had about the warming of the oceans that made Milton and so much else to come not only possible, but probable.

There are also more than ample numbers on the displaced and hungry, those embattled souls left searching for sanctuary, but, But as a believer in Christ Jesus, my takeaway and my commitment to this work is this quote from Brian McLaren, in Life After Doom.

“To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.” But hope requires action!

Our Baptismal Covenant in our Book of Common Prayer reiterates our promises to our God, that we will seek and serve Christ in our neighbors,

whether they be two-legged, or four, or one thousand, or none. Water is our neighbor, as well, and in the love of our Lord, the Living Water, there is so much that we can do to preserve that gift of God for all.

In His Service,

Deacon Kathryn



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



Bereavement Support Group

No one should have to grieve alone.

Piedmont Episcopal Church together with Gentiva Hospice is offering a bereavement support group that will provide spiritual and faith-based gatherings designed to accompany each person in their unique walk with grief. Bereavement is not only the loss of one's beloved, but can be the loss of your way or direction as well. 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.**

Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church Street
Madison, Virginia
First Tuesday of each month at 6 pm

November 5, 2024

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**

November 19, 2024

**For more information, please contact:
Rev. Kathryn Thomas, kathrynhthomas@gmail.com
Sharon Hicks, sharonsarbonne@aol.com
Pastor Stephen Mathis, sjwmathis89@gmail.com**

Looking for a Way to Help?
Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development
can be made online at <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/>
Checks payable to ERD may be mailed to
P.O. Box 3006, Harlan, IOWA 51593-0024.



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