

October 25, 2024

Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

October 27 - Holy Eucharist

November Schedule

November 3, 2024 - Morning Prayer

November 10, 2024 - Holy Eucharist

November 17, 2024 - Morning Prayer

**November 24, 2024 - Holy Eucharist
Bishop's Visit**

Readings for October 27, 2024

Job 42:1-6; 10-17

Psalms 34:1-8, (19-22)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

Lay Servers - October 27, 2024

Vestry Person..... Sharon Hicks
Usher..... Dona Hutchinson
Acolyte..... Karen Czar
Lector..... Susan Bagby
Intercessor..... Briarley Rogers
LEM..... David Bagby
Altar Care..... Dona Hutchinson
Fellowship..... Molly Sanford/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

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](#).

The Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe
Nov. 2, 2024

In this historic and joyful season, we invite you to pray for guidance for our church and our new presiding bishop as he leads us in envisioning the reign of God in our midst. May our celebration unite us as a sacramental community, and may we be filled with new energy to bear witness to God's work of redemption.

When: November 2nd at 11:00 am

Where: The service will be live streamed on this page: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/investiture/> and on the Episcopal Church's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalian>





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 The Scottish Episcopal Church. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we remember La Igelsia Cristo Rey and La Igelsia San Jose in Arlington, St. Mary's in Berryville, and St. Peter's in New Kent.

Remembering Our Saints

We will be celebrating All Saints Day on Sunday, November 3rd. 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!

A Week of Prayer for the 2024 Election October 30 - November 5

The Community of Deacons in the Diocese of Virginia invites its congregations and members to A Week of Prayer for the 2024 Election Season. Congregations and Individuals can sign up to participate in this vigil by praying individually or in community. [Learn more and sign up to pray.](#)

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"

Saint James and Unconfined Love

This week we celebrate the feast day of Saint James. The brother of our Lord was known for many things, but (in my opinion) his most significant contribution to the Christian tradition was his understanding of the heart of God.

Thousands of years later, we take it for granted that Jesus' gospel was available to everyone. But at the time, Jesus and his followers existed in a Jewish world. Jesus himself was Jewish and spoke from a Jewish perspective. For Jews, the only way to gain access to God was through keeping The Law. Therefore, they assumed that following Jesus, a Jewish teacher, meant starting from a place of Jewish religious observance. Additionally, the teachings of Jesus were given within a Jewish social context. While Jesus was constantly pushing against those constraints, he still lived and taught largely within them.

So, when the disciples were left to decipher the radical messages of Jesus, without the benefit of Jesus' physical presence among them, they struggled for understanding. Saint James was at the forefront of the arguments that included gentiles. While others maintained the ancient framework of adherence to the Law, James advocated for the "outsider" to be permitted in, without having to first embrace a different social context or religious practice.

It's difficult for us to understand how radical that would have been. For example, take a moment to conjure in your mind the groups of people you find the most different or offensive. Seriously. Think about traditions with social practices you find abhorrent, people who don't share your values or priorities. Now imagine a pastor telling you that they don't have to conform to your standards to be loved by God. For us to understand how radical the gospel sounded, we must stretch our imaginations in our own context.

According to Rachel Held Evans, "The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive isn't who it keeps out but who it lets in." We have lived so long in a "Christian" world that we risk forgetting that Jesus was not a Christian. To be Christian, we must live into the example of Jesus and of James who embraced others, even the most different, the most difficult to love. Wrestling with this complexity has always been part of the Christian tradition. May we be brave and humble enough to question the confines we put around our understanding of Christianity.

-Rev. Becki

Collect: Grant, O God, that, following the example of your servant James the Just, brother of our Lord, your Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *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 Saturday October 26, 2024, starting at 9 AM at Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church Street, Madison, Va 22727.

Parish House Deck Renovations Update!

This past week brought many changes to our parish house. The pecan tree was removed on Monday. Deck work continues with renovations and painting. Please stop and check out the beautiful progress made!

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.



Happy Birthday Piedmont

We give thanks today and always for God's steadfast love and abiding presence as we celebrate the 190th anniversary of Piedmont's consecration in 1834. As we look back and peer ahead, let us re-commit, individually and as the Piedmont family, to acting as the body of Christ and to sharing His love with all.

November Vestry Meeting - OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Our vestry will meet in November to begin discussions regarding our 2025 budget. One area of discussion will be the distributions of funds to local outreach programs. MESA, Boys and Girls Club, Madison Literacy Council, Madison Day and Taste of the Mountain Festival are some of the local programs we offer financial support to. If there is anyone that would like to offer any suggestions for programs or organizations that might be in need of assistance, please contact Rev. Becki or vestry members.



Senior Lunch with the Methodists

Madison United Methodist Church is hosting a community wide, senior brunch on November 7th from 10:30am to 1pm. The meal is free of charge. Come meet our neighbors, enjoying food, and fellowship together!

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

Madison Ministers' Association

Wander Into Advent

Join us for a evening of enlightenment as we prepare our spirits for Advent. We will begin with dinner at Piedmont Episcopal, followed by the Message at Madison UMC. We will conclude our wandering at Madison Presbyterian with dessert and a special activity.

DEC 3rd: 5:30-8:00 PM



All Are Welcome

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!

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

Second Annual Coat Collection

We will be collecting new and gently used coats between Nov 1st and Nov 25th. You can drop off coats on the carport, at Piedmont Episcopal Church parish house, right next to the church. 214 Church St. Madison, VA. Please call Karen at 908-337-9754 to let her know when you drop off or if she needs to pick up coats.
Sponsored by churches in Madison County.

MESA

Madison Emergency Services Association

Saturday DECEMBER 7, 2024

10 am - 12 noon

927 Orange Road

Madison, VA 22727

There will be FREE Coats of all sizes for all ages!



Grief 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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