

August 16, 2024

Dear Grace and Piedmont Congregations,

Greetings from West Virginia!

I cannot tell you how excited and blessed I feel to have the opportunity to join your communities! From the first time I heard of you, I felt a stirring in my spirit. After joining you for worship this past winter, meeting many of you, and then walking through the discernment process with your search committee and vestries, I have experienced a consistent affirmation in my heart. God has genuinely gone before us, and I look forward to the ministry in store for us together.

Allow me to tell you a little bit about myself. I have spent a lifetime in Christian ministry, but only joined The Episcopal Church five years ago. For twenty years I ran an equestrian program at an evangelical Christian camp that operated year-round in rural, Southwestern Colorado. During that time, I was very active in the local church, leading Bible studies, and small groups, as well as singing, and doing youth ministry. I spent a few years removing myself from fundamentalist evangelical Christianity, during which I ran an organic grocery store/sandwich shop and catering service. Once I found The Episcopal Church and experienced the call to priesthood, I enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary and moved to West Virginia. Since starting school in 2019, I have been teaching horseback riding lessons to both traditional and handicapped students in several locations around Virginia.

I have always loved rural life and enjoyed a close attachment to nature. I am an animal lover and outdoor enthusiast. When I'm not outdoors, I prefer to be in the kitchen, around tables with friends, reading, or singing. I have two grown daughters with whom I am close in heart but not proximity. The eldest is married and living in Colorado. The youngest is at Bible college in Iowa. My favorite thing about The Episcopal Church, apart from the beautiful liturgy and traditions, is the freedom to explore Scripture with open curiosity and honest wrestling.

My deepest appreciation goes out to those who have worked so hard through the transition process to discern with one another and with me the call of God for our future ministry together! The next couple weeks will be spent moving and getting settled. I currently am beside myself with anticipation to meet everyone, get to know you, and settle into the life of our communities. God truly does answer prayer! Your hospitality, warmth, and the partnership I already feel in the work we have begun is a genuine gift.

With much love and eagerness to see you soon,

Rev. Deacon Becki Casey



Sunday August 18, 2024

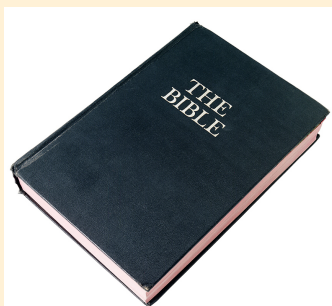
Piedmont Episcopal Church 11 am

AUGUST SCHEDULE for Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer

Bill Birkhofer - **August 18, 2024 - MP**

Rev. Deacon Becki Casey - **August 25, 2024 - HE**

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP



Readings for August 18, 2024

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58



Lay Servers - August 18, 2024

Vestry Person.....Norris John
Usher.....Dave Bagby
Acolyte.....Molly Sanford
Lector.....Dona Hutchinson
Intercessor.....Vickie Parker
LEM.....Morning
Prayer
Altar Guild.....Vickie Parker
Fellowship.....The Jackson's

Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs:

Malcolm (**Mac**) Barber, **Bernadette** Blanding, **Caitlin** Bomar, **Kathryn** Caswell, **David** Cronk, **Janice** Edwards, **Joanie** Edwards, **Vera** Griffin, **Brad and Lydia** Hansen, **Zoe** Hubbard, **Shelby Jean** Hull, **Kim, June** Shannon Koepke, Deedee Lyon, **Julie** Mayhew, **Marilyn** Myers, **Hardie** Newton, **Carolyn** O'Brien, **Chris** Palumbo, **Robert, Pat** Roberts, **Pat** Riddle, **Julinda** Roth, **Myia** Mackenzie Shifflett, **Ann** Skidmore, **Brenda** Smith, **Richard, Sarah, Joe and Carolyn** Stanley, Kathryn Thomas and **Robert** Ulrich

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

"Minister's Musings"

Saint Mary the Virgin

Thursday, the fifteenth of August, is The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin. Episcopalians, like most Anglicans, express extreme diversity in our understanding of and reverence for Mother Mary. For our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters, Assumption Day (the day Mary is honored for being bodily received into heaven) is a "solemnity," a "holy day of obligation". In other words, they will attend Mass to receive the eucharist and they will refrain from work. Assumption Day is one of only six days with this type of weightiness, so it is a big deal. Episcopalians revere Mary, but since we do not universally accept the theology of the assumption, our observance of this feast day can be easily overlooked. But Mary is a tremendous part of the gospel story and what her life teaches should not be overlooked.

Mary's life teaches us two particularly important lessons that we would do well to emulate. She was a willing servant of God. And she was a bearer of God.

While Mary is perhaps most well known for The Magnificat, her song of praise

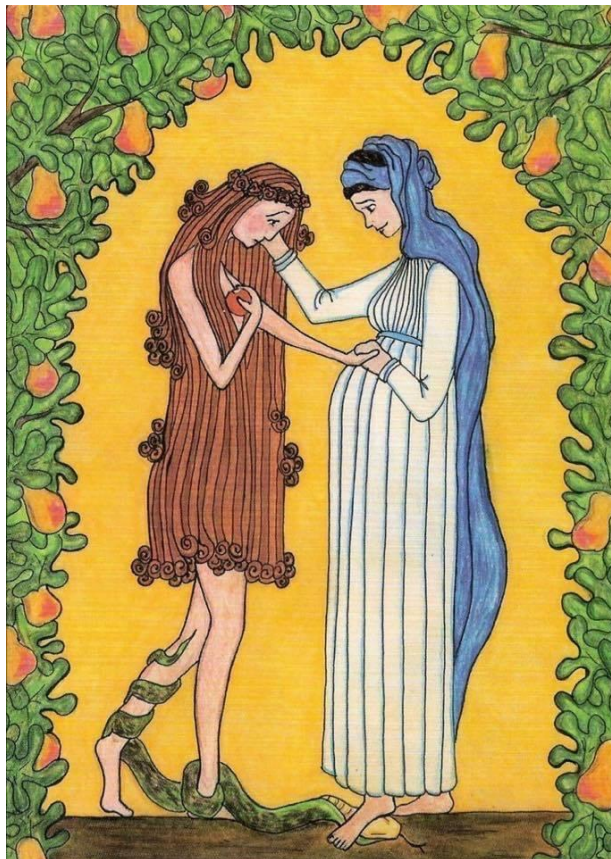
for God's faithfulness, her ability to praise God came from her willingness to say "yes" to God. When the angel came to her, prophesying her future role in God's plan for salvation, she agrees. There is no recorded hesitation or questioning in the encounter. In fact, her immediate approval of God's plan is called "Mary's fiat" which comes from the Latin word which means "let it be". For a young girl to agree so quickly when experiencing an angel's visitation with an unimaginable prophetic message, we must conclude that she already saw herself as God's servant. Thirty years later her son would echo this same sentiment, kneeling in a garden. I wonder if our responses to God are the same.

Mary is also known as the Theotokos, or "God-bearer". She received Jesus into herself and her allowed her entire life to become about him. For the rest of her life and for two thousand years since, she has never been known apart from Jesus. If we are to follow her example, we too ought to bear Jesus in our lives in this world. I wonder if we are as known for our participation with Jesus as we are for the things we do apart from him.

The Collect of the Day

May the Holy Spirit, by whose presence Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

-Rev. Becki



Wednesday Evening Potluck
Fellowship Dinners at 5:30 pm
will resume, followed by Bible
Study and Choir Practice at 6:30
pm!



Weekly Book Recommendation

Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis

See Link below

Please contact Deacon Kathryn Thomas for details

The Rev. Kathryn Thomas, Deacon
Family and Youth Ministries, Creation Care
Grace Episcopal Church
97 Main Street Stanardsville VA 22973
434-985-7716(W)
Piedmont Episcopal Church
214 Church St
Madison VA 22727
540-948-678 (W)
434-962-9103 (C)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rooted-rising-voices-of-courage-in-a-time-of-climate-crisis-tickets-948229097757>

WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John

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

Friday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer led by Bill Birkhofer

(There will be no choir practice or dinner on Wednesday evenings in August)

AUGUST Vestry MEETING 8/18/2024



**Taste of the Mountains Main Street Festival
August 31, 2024**

Mark Your Calendars! More information to come!

We will have a sign up sheet available this Sunday

**We have 1 1/2 hour slots to fill! A great opportunity to come
to out and support our Madison community and meet new
friends!**

**On the months in 2024 with a 5th
week
August and November**



We will be packing weekend food bags for 30 to 36 children from Madison County that live with food insecurity.

These bags will be packed on Sunday, August 25th after Church and delivered to the Boys and Girls Club in Madison, to be sent home on the Friday of the 5th week. Please see Bill Birkhofer for the sign up sheet for food donations!

These lunches will be delivered on September 5, 2024

The deck on the parish house is in need of replacement, as well as repair work needed to the deck doors and windows. THANK You for the generous donations already received! We continue to work toward our goal of completing this work by the end of the year. Thank you to Joe Parker for overseeing this project.



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.

- **Meeting: Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church Street, Madison, Virginia**
- **Times: First Tuesdays of each month @ 6 PM
September 3, 2024**
- **Place: Piedmont Fellowship House, next door to the church, living room, enter through the kitchen door in the carport.**

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

Please Remember!

The **Fourth Sunday** loose offering in our collection plate goes to **Piedmont's Outreach.**



Email us

Piedmont Episcopal Church | 214 Church Street | Madison, VA 22727 US

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