

December 6, 2024



Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

Advent II

December 8 - 11 am - Holy Eucharist

**Readings for December 8, 2024**

- **Baruch 5:1-9**
- *or Malachi 3:1-4*
- **Philippians 1:3-11**
- **Luke 3:1-6**
- **Canticle 4 or 16**

**Lay Servers - December 8, 2024**

Vestry Person.....Beppy White  
Usher.....Dona Hutchinson  
Acolyte.....Karen Czar  
Lector.....Susan Bagby  
Intercessor.....Sue Brown  
LEM.....Sharon Hicks  
Altar Care.....Vickie Parker/Beppy White

## 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 December 8, 2024**



### **Prayer List**

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues an 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, 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](mailto: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 Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Emmanuel in Rapidan, St. James the Less in Ashland, and St. Andrew's in Burke

### It's Time to Order Poinsettias

This Sunday an order form will be available to order poinsettias. The plants are \$9.50 each. Cash payments can be placed in the offering, marked with your name "for poinsettias". Checks can be paid to Piedmont Church with the memo "for poinsettias". Please return the form to Vickie Parker.

### Minister's Morsels

#### Jolly Old St. Nick, the Icon

Friday, December 6th, is the feast day of Saint Nicholas of Myra. This is the same Saint who has become the very image of Christmas in the Western world. One can quickly become lost in the many mythologies of this man with a quick google search. The man himself who lived in the fourth century, was an actual bishop, but left very few verifiable details for the historical record. The oldest, most detailed account of his life was written about 500 years after his death and relied heavily on oral tradition. The stories, however, have developed into some beautiful and wild tales. While his mythology included stories of his calming threatening seas, saving virgins from prostitution imposed by poverty, and his generosity to children, my favorite tale involves him slapping the heretic Arius. For those curious about his legacy, according to Wikipedia, Saint Nicholas has become the patron saint for "sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers, toymakers, unmarried people, and students". It certainly seems that this man is so beloved that everyone wants to claim him.

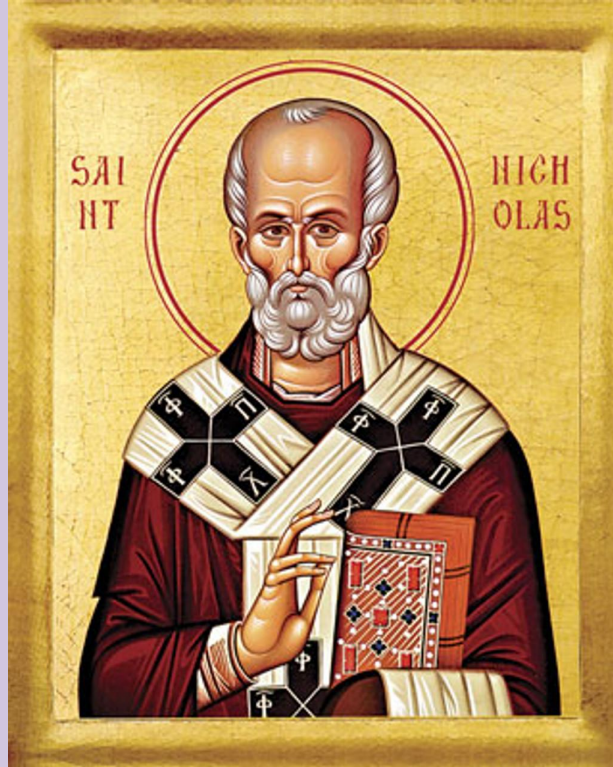
Long before the obvious marketing that Coca-Cola made for the notoriety of St. Nick; he was revered worldwide as a saint. The Protestant world doesn't spend nearly as much energy reflecting on saints as our Roman friends. But saints are revered for their virtuous lives, the challenges they overcame, and their model for us of faithful living. Later, artists created representations of the saints depicted in icons. Icons aren't just pretty pictures; they are visual narratives that depict theological truths. They give us a way of seeing into spiritual

ideas beyond our intellectual reasoning. In the same way, priests are said to be icons of Christ, providing the church a glimpse into the life of Christ. According to Saint Paul, God's people have all become part of the Royal Priesthood, acting as ministers of God for one another. Consequently, all our lives ought to reflect the life of God in such a profound way that Jesus' love can be felt everywhere we go. In my opinion, most of the ancient icons of Saint Nicholas show him with an over-large forehead that has a weird cleft in the middle that I find distractingly bizarre. No one really knows what he looked like. The oldest depictions we have of him date to roughly 1500 years after his death. Typically, I am someone who loves iconography. But, when it comes to St. Nick, I confess preferring the Coco-Cola version. Perhaps that is because I prefer the round belly, rosy cheeks, twinkling eyes, and overall merriment over the stoic, serious man who more closely images the real bishop of Myra. No doubt, he experienced more hardship than peppermint sticks. So, when it comes to the comfort of the soul, I find myself drawn to the ancient icons. Likewise, if I find myself sipping cocoa next to a crackling fire, I prefer the company of our modern version. But when life feels cold, the ground hard, and the challenges insurmountable, the ancient figure strengthens my inner heart.

I suppose there's a place for both men in our lives. Ecclesiastes chapter three tells us there is a time and season for everything. Even within the holiday season, there is room for both the jolly and the stalwart. As we pursue our own role as priests and icons, may we have the wisdom to know when and how to emulate the saints and uplift one another. An may we bring good cheer in every place.

*--Rev. Becki*

**Collect:** Grant, Almighty God, that your church may be so inspired by the example of your servant Nicholas of Myra, that it may never cease to work for the welfare of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



## 2025 Altar Flowers

There will be a sign up sheet for altar flowers for the upcoming year on the church bulletin board. The first Sunday pairing is January 12 and 19th

Thank you to all that provided flowers for our altar this past year!







## Etlan Community Church's Christmas Mission

Saturday December 7, 9am - 1pm  
217 Church Hill Road, Etlan

Etlan Community Church will provide breakfast, basic need supplies, access to their food pantry and Christmas gifts for kids! EVERYONE is invited!

## 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.

December 14: Morning Advent Retreat at Grave's Chapel 9 AM - 12:30 PM

December 24: 7:30PM at Piedmont; 5 PM and 10:30PM at Grace - Christmas Eve Eucharist Services

December 29: Lessons and Carols at 11AM with Piedmont at Grace

*Jesus Born  
and Born Again*

Presented by  
*The Madison Choral Society*  
Directed by Ethan Wagner

Friday, December 6  
7:30 P.M.  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Orange, VA

\*\*\*\*\*  
Sunday, December 8  
4:30 P.M.  
Mt. Carmel Church  
Haywood, VA

## ADVENT RETREAT

WITH BISHOP SUSAN E. GOFF

*An Advent of Hope*

Saturday, December 14  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To register, please email,  
[office@hoco.org](mailto:office@hoco.org) with the number of  
people in your group.

Holy Comforter (Episcopal Church)  
4819 Monument Ave  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[www.hoco.org](http://www.hoco.org)

# Advent Retreat

## God is With Us

Inviting God Near While We Wait

Saturday, December 14th

9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Grave's Mill Chapel

104 Bluff Mountain Rd, Madison

Fellowship

Prayer

Reflection

Meditation

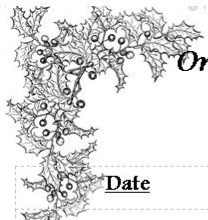
Discussion

Snacks

Sponsored by the communities of  
Grave's Mill Chapel  
Piedmont Episcopal Church, Madison  
Grace Episcopal Church, Stanardsville

\*Brunch-style finger food potluck items gratefully accepted.





## Orange/Madison Community December 2024 Concerts

All Concerts are FREE!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Organization/Place</u>
December 6th	7:30pm	<b>Madison Choral Society</b> St. Thomas Episcopal Church
December 8th	4:30pm	<b>Madison Choral Society</b> Mt. Carmel Church, Haywood
December 9th Sing Along	7:30pm	<b>Rapidan Orchestra</b> The Music Room in Orange
December 13th	7:30pm	<b>Orange Community Chorus</b> Orange Presbyterian Church
December 14th & 15th	5:00pm 7:30pm	<b>Singing Christmas Tree</b> Orange Baptist Church
December 15th	3:30pm	<b>Orange Community Band</b> Orange County High School
December 17th	7:30pm	<b>Messiah Sing-a-Long</b> St. Thomas Episcopal Church
December 19th	6:30	<b>BRAVO Concert</b> The Music Room in Orange

### Services of Lessons and Carols

December 13th	6:30pm	Walker's Chapel, Madison Co.
December 19th	7:00pm	Woodberry Forest School
December 24th	5:30pm	Orange Baptist Church
December 24th	7:30pm	Orange Presbyterian Church

## The Diocese of Virginia Presents A Creation Care Webinar November 12th

**Creation Care Webinar with Bishop Stevenson: Reflections on Hurricane Katrina**

Date December 12, 2024

Time 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Our new era of “extreme weather” promises storms that can smash infrastructure, wash away communities and lives, leave millions without power and the basic necessities of life. We are now also beginning to understand the lingering impact of “invisible” trauma on survivors, and the societal challenge of “climate refugees” within our own borders.

What tools exist for faith leaders, both ordained and lay, to prepare spiritually and to sustain their congregations in this new era? What does spiritual resilience look like for catastrophic weather events and their long aftermath?

Bishop Stevenson took up his post as Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Louisiana shortly before Hurricane Katrina struck in late August, 2005. Hurricane Katrina caused the deaths of at least 1,833 people while hundreds of thousands were displaced. A conservative estimate of damage was \$100 billion.

The Spiritual Resilience Working Group of the diocesan Creation Care Committee invites you to a webinar via Zoom with Bishop Stevenson, where he will share his insights from this experience.

December 12, at 4 PM. There will be time for Q & A.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples.

## Second Annual Coat Drive

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

Piedmont Episcopal Church, 214 Church St  
Madison, VA

January 7, 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 month at 6 pm

December 17, 2024

### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kathrynhthomas@gmail.com)

Chaplain Stephen Mathis, Gentiva, @540-742-7520, [sjmathis89@gmail.com](mailto:sjmathis89@gmail.com)

Sharon Hicks, LPN, Piedmont Senior Warden, [sharonsarbonne@aol.com](mailto:sharonsarbonne@aol.com)



Email us

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

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