

November 8, 2024



Rev. Deacon Becki Casey

### November Schedule

November 10, 2024 - Holy Eucharist

November 17, 2024 - Morning Prayer

November 24, 2024 - Holy Eucharist  
Bishop's Visit

### Readings for November 10, 2024

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

### Lay Servers - November 10, 2024

Vestry Person.....Sharon Hicks

Usher.....Beppy White

Acolyte.....Molly Sanford

Lector..... Dona Hutchinson

Intercessor.....Karen Czar

LEM.....Sharon Hicks  
Altar Care.....Kay John/Sharon Hicks  
Fellowship.....POTLUCK

## 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**



### **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](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 The Church of South India (United). In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we remember St. Martin's in Richmond.

### "MINISTER'S MUSINGS"

#### Living in the Messy Middle

##### Psalm 63

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

Psalm 63 was written by David while he was in the Judean wilderness, fleeing from a host of enemies, including his son Absalom. The wilderness is a scary place. Threats exist on all sides, from humans, wild creatures, and the climate itself. Resources are thin. There is no clear destination because it is a place of wandering. Being in the wilderness is about enduring without knowing how long or what comes next.

The Psalm 63 reading comes from the lectionary texts associated with this week's commemoration of mystics Richard Rolle (1349), Walter Hilton (1396), and Margery Kempe (1440). These saints lived through The Hundred Years' War, the plague of The Black Death, the Peasant's Revolt, and The Western Schism (The Church's division over papal authority). They knew what it was like to have their social, religious, and political fabric torn apart. By definition, The Middle Ages were a time between times. The world was changing, and the saints clung to their faith to see them through it.

Psalm 63 demonstrates David's way of navigating the messy middle of life in an uncertain and changing world. He is honest about the way it feels. Then, rather than luxuriating in ruminations about the past, when he was the unrivaled and beloved king of the nation, or bemoaning his current frustration and fear, he turns his eyes to the one whose faithfulness remains constant through it all. Even if the threats of the wilderness did steal his life, David knew that God's love is better than life. With that confidence intact, David purposed to praise God.

I am writing this on Tuesday morning after casting my ballot, awaiting an unknown election result. You will be reading this while I am at Convention, casting votes helping determine The Church's future. This week we all walk

together through our own experience of the messy middle. While we endure the world shifting under our feet and, perhaps, bemoan our wilderness wanderings, may we follow David's example and take solace in the power and glory of God.

- Rev Becki

Collect: Direct our hearts, O Gracious God, and inspire our minds; that like your servants Richard Rolle, Walter Hilton, and Margery Kempe, we might pass through the cloud of unknowing until we behold your glory face to face; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## Creation Care

With the current state of the world, doom scrolling is so very easy to do. Given the tensions over our election, wars in places that are considered holy or not by we who are Christian and, of course, the environment. Everyone is voicing their opinion from the fact that the climate crisis is a hoax to the crepe hangers sounding the end of the world for our kind. While not to make light of the seriousness of all the dilemmas facing our species and our world full of so many species, all those created and loved by our God that we worship, are intentionally and lovingly known; Pope Francis writes in *Laudate Si': On Care For Our Common Home*, "The entire material universe speaks of God's love....Soils, water, mountains: everything is...a caress of God."

It is easy to give into despair, but as Christians, I believe that we **MUST** not. Neither are we allowed to indulge in inaction. Again in *Laudate Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that we must, "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

It is our most disadvantaged and the children, especially, that will suffer first, but according to Science and our own observations, we all will, not eventually, but in the near future.

But, Christina Leano writes in *Rooted and Rising*, that "with Creation, I chant inwardly one of my other favorite phrases from *Laudate Si'*, "for we know that things can change."

She continues, "Thanks to the power of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of God speaking to us through Creation, I live in this faith that things *can* change- the impossible can become possible."

Like Christina, I live into that faith, but it is only with our being the hands and feet of Jesus, that the impossible will be possible. I invite you all to join me in a conversation about establishing "green" teams, whatever we may call it and whatever it may look like.

In His service,  
Deacon Kathryn



### Diocesan Convention

The annual Convention for The Diocese of Virginia will be held in Fredericksburg November 7-9. This is a time for clergy and lay church members to gather in prayer, discernment, and decision making for the future of the diocese. Please be in prayer for those in attendance! We look forward to sharing what we learn with you upon our return.

### 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.

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

PEC's last Loaves and Fishes packages (40) for this year will be delivered to the Madison Boys and Girls Club on Tuesday, November 25. Please use the following list as you shop for your weekly or holiday food needs, filling in the



shopping list available in the Parish House this Sunday, November 10th. Please bring your items on November 17th if possible but no later than November 24th, as we will pack the bags on the 24th for delivery on the 26th. **Thank You for your generous donations and support to this interfaith ministry!**

Campbell's Condensed Chicken Noodle Soup  
Dole Mango Fruit Cups  
Nature Valley Biscuit Sandwich with Almond Butter  
Nissin Cup Noodles, Chicken Flavor  
Mott's Natural Applesauce - No Sugar Added  
Kellogg's Game Time Variety Pack Snacks  
Kellogg's Assorted Cereal, Variety Pack  
Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli  
Member's Mark Diced Peach Cups  
Quaker Instant Oatmeal Variety Pack  
Nissin Top Ramen Chicken Noodle Soup  
Planters Variety Pack Cashews & Peanuts

## 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!**



CASA Volunteers needed for children in foster care in Greene and Madison



Learn more about  
CASA Volunteers



Looking for a way to make a difference in a child's life? Piedmont CASA is now providing advocates for children and youth in foster care in Greene and Madison. As a CASA Volunteer, you will be the voice for a child in need. Your advocacy will bring hope - and a better chance at a better future. Join our team of dedicated CASA Volunteers and make a difference in your community today!

pcasa.org  
434.971.7515



## 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.**

**Grace Episcopal Church, 97 Main St.  
Stanardsville, VA 22973  
Third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm**

**November 19, 2024**

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

**Place: Piedmont Fellowship House, next door to the church, living room, enter through the kitchen door in the carport**

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



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