

February 13, 2025



The Rev. Becki Casey
Priest-in-Charge

February 16, 2025 - 11 a.m. Worship Service

Readings for Sunday, February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
Psalm 1

Lay Servers - February 16, 2025

Vestry Person.....Beppy White
Usher.....Dona Hutchinson
Acolyte.....Molly Sanford
Lector.....Norris John
Intercessor.....Sue Brown
LEM.....Susan Bagby
Altar Care.....Susan Good/Katie Puryear
Fellowship.....Pot Luck

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

9:45 a.m. Understanding the Bible - Rev. Becki

VESTRY MEETING - This Sunday Feb. 16, following worship service!

Minister's Musings

The Example of Absalom Jones

February 16th marks the Episcopal Church's commemoration of the Reverend Absalom Jones. Absalom was born into a slavery in 1746, but permitted to attend a Quaker school, was eventually freed, and became the first black man in America to be ordained a priest. His ministry paved the way for the Africa Church to become part of the Protestant Episcopal Church. In a landscape where African Americans were segregated in worshiping spaces, Absalom's efforts provided agency for black worshiping communities to have independent vestries and ministers. His work, during the years of the American slave trade, provided dignity and equality for those the rest of America assumed were inferior. He started a day school for African Americans who were excluded from public schools. And he appealed to congress to abolish the slave trade, advocating for emancipation for existing slaves.

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul said, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus". Nearly 1800 years later, the framers of the US Constitution wrote in their preamble, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". Absalom lived a generation after those words were written, and yet his own experience and the experience of his family and friends never lived up to either of the above sentiments. In 1979 the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer published the Baptismal Covenant that recognizes our need to, "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being". Somehow, we American Christians are still

conflicted about what these simple truths mean and how they should be lived.

The Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s pushed back against historically accepted discrimination leading to the development of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs meant to safeguard the equality our country professes as a value. Politically, these programs have been central to the polarization of Christians with vastly different views. Our current administration is dismantling these programs and people are left with polarized responses. When people feel scared, tempers flare. Christians, who profess allegiance to Jesus are not in agreement regarding how our government can best serve the values we profess.

Absalom was a man of faith who advocated for his Christian morality, the dignity of all people, and the right for the most oppressed and silenced people to be equally free and heard. He spoke against powerful systems that marginalized certain human lives. And he also served the people with whom he ministered. We may not all agree about government policy. Regardless, we must all participate in our common life through our voices and our votes. We may not all agree about how best to bring God's Kingdom, but we all have a responsibility to take up Christ's ministry through serving and caring for others more than ourselves. May Absalom's life of service be as an example for us.

-Rev. Becki

Collect: Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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, **Jill F.**, **Alfred** Goossens, **Vera** Griffin, **Brad and Lydia**

Hansen, **Ginger** Hawkins, **Zoe** Hubbard, **Shelby Jean** Hull, **Kim**, **Aaron** Milligan, **Marilyn** Myers, **Carol** Nowak, **Carolyn** O'Brien, **Chris** Palumbo, **Robert**, **Michael** Rider, **Pat** Roberts, **Steve** Sanford, **Ann** Skidmore, **Sarah**, **Carolyn** Stanley, **Joe** Stanley, **Kathryn** Thomas, **Robert** Ulrich and **Sylvia** Vior.

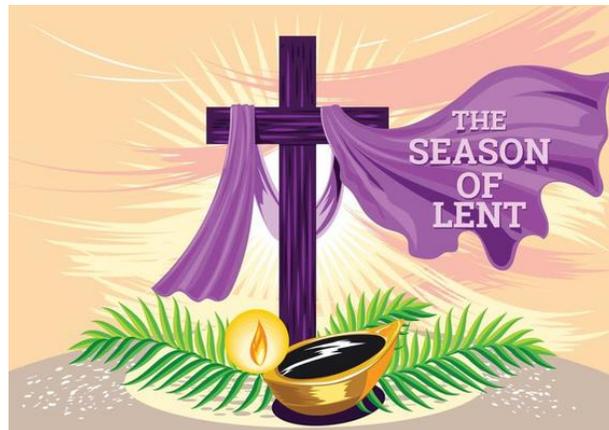
***If you wish to add or remove someone from the Parish Prayer list please send an email to Rev. Deacon Becki Casey @ beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com by Wednesday to ensure that it gets into the bulletin and weekly messenger**

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 Church of Bangladesh. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Hanover with Brunswick in King George, St. Anne's Parish in Scottsville, and St. John's in Tappahannock.

Thank YOU!

**Thank you to Colt Puryear for the donation of the new church flags. See the photo above.
BEAUTIFUL!**

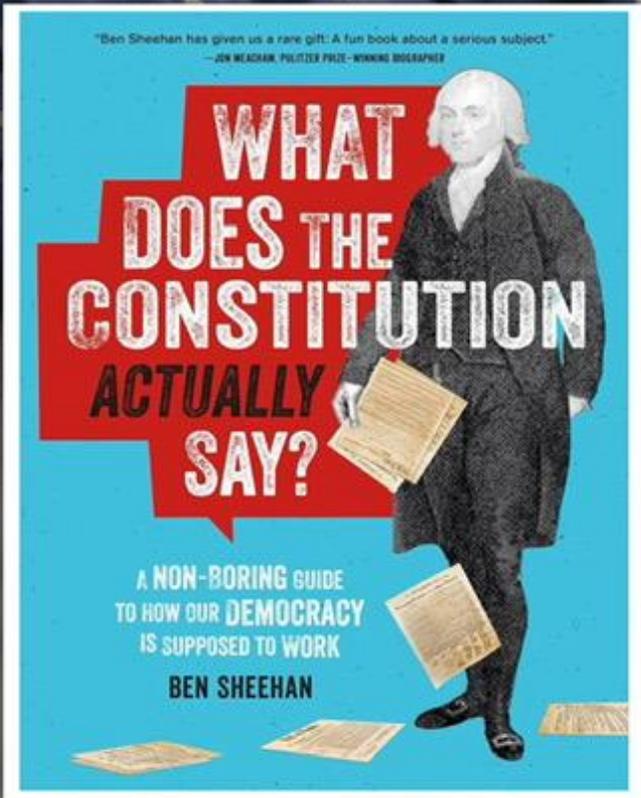


Upcoming Schedule of Events

- March 4th 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Burning of Palms
- March 5th 6pm Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes
- March 12-April 9th 6-7PM Wednesday weekly Max Lucado, *Help is Here*, video and discussion between potluck and choir.
- March 8th 9AM-12:30PM Grave's Mill Lent Retreat, joint with Grace

- March 15th 10AM-1PM Grace Church ECW Women's Lenten retreat and luncheon
- March 22nd Culpeper Region Small Church Conference, time and place TBD
- April 6th 4:30PM Seder Meal and Teaching at Beth Car Baptist with Madison Ministerial Association
- April 13th Palm Sunday
- April 17th Maundy Thursday 5:30PM Stripping of the Altar at Piedmont and then joint service at Grace 7PM
- April 18th Noon Good Friday Liturgy at Grace, 6-7PM Stations of the Cross at Piedmont
- April 19th 6PM-6AM Easter Vigil April 20th Easter Sunday, 7AM Sunrise Service at the Winslow Barn in Stanardsville, 9AM Easter Service at Grace, 10AM Potluck breakfast at Piedmont, 11AM Easter Service at Piedmont and egg hunt

STUDY THE CONSTITUTION!
SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY: 8TH, 15TH, & 22ND AT 11:00AM
PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL PARISH HOUSE



"Ben Sheehan has given us a rare gift: A fun book about a serious subject."
 —JEN WEGDAN, PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING BIOGRAPHER

WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION ACTUALLY SAY?

A NON-BORING GUIDE TO HOW OUR DEMOCRACY IS SUPPOSED TO WORK
BEN SHEEHAN

COFFEE & SNACKS PROVIDED
BOOK AVAILABLE ON AMAZON, ABE BOOKS, & THRIFT BOOKS

Pub Theology Presents:

An opportunity to examine scripture, theology and
personal reflections on

OBEDIENCE

Thursdays, February 13, and 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Los Robles Restaurant, Main Street,
Stanardsville

“The road to the promised land runs past Sinai.”

Feel free to bring a friend, come early for dinner and have a beer.





MARCH 8, 2025

LENT RETREAT

GRAVE'S MILL

Preparing Our Hearts

Christians have a long tradition of honoring the 40-day season of Lent in preparation for Easter. Historically this period was marked by reflection, prayer, fasting, confession, and almsgiving. In modern life, it can be challenging to carve out the time to honor Lent in a meaningful way. God is always calling to our hearts, but we often feel that pull distantly through the endless pressure of our schedules. If your soul feels a craving to connect more deeply with God and others, if you desire to pause the busyness of life and make space to hear the voice of God, or if you feel drawn into something you may not even be able to name, then this retreat is for you. Join us and explore what God's Spirit is stirring.

*Brunch style snacks and finger foods gratefully accepted!

Prayer

Meditation

Reflection

Discussion

Fellowship

Brunch

GRAVE'S MILL CHAPEL

104 Bluff Mountain Rd
Madison, VA

9AM-12:30PM

Sponsored by

Grave's Mill Chapel

Piedmont Episcopal Church
Madison

Grace Episcopal Church
Stanardsville



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 15th. The women of Piedmont Church and the women of Grace Church are invited to attend Lenten Lessons and Lunch at Grace Church, Stanardsville. Rev. Becki will be leading the women in meditations for our Lenten journey. A soup and salad

lunch will follow. We will start at 10 a.m. and finish by 12:30. All women are invited. More details to follow.



We are excited to share that our 2025 Lenten Creation Care Calendar has arrived! [Click here to download the calendar and access resources](#) about waste reduction, sustainable gardening, recipes for meatless Fridays, energy efficiency, and so much more! We hope this calendar will help guide your Lenten promises and reflections. Educating ourselves and others about Climate and Environmental Justice is an important way to protect our neighbors and the Earth. The resources we have curated for this calendar can help faith communities Care for Creation this Lenten Season, and year-round.

This year, VAIPL has adopted “Rooted in Hope, Growing Justice” as our 2025 theme. We recognize that we have many challenges ahead and that hope is the first step in overcoming these challenges. We look forward to joining you in action throughout the year as we grow healthy, just communities for all.

We offer our Lenten Calendar to you and your community. Share it with friends, family, co-workers, and members of your congregation! Additionally, [you can click here to print out the flyer above](#) and hang it up on your congregation’s bulletin board for others to download.

Enjoy this calendar, and may you have a peaceful and reflective Lenten season.

-- Team VAIPL

Download the Lenten Calendar Here!

Two ways to support our work

Make a Recurring Donation

Become a Climate Connector

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light is having a profound impact in communities and

congregations across the state. But we can only continue to make a difference with your help. Join us!

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light is a 501(c)(3) and is registered with the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23209. You can write to this Department for all relevant financial statements and procedures regarding the solicitation of contributions. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

We need volunteers to help us win our water, energy, and resilience campaigns. Register to become a Climate Connector, Ambassador to the Trees, or Social Media Maven. Click the button above to get started.

Directory Update for 2025

In the coming weeks, we will be working to update our parish directory. If you would like to provide a photo for the directory, please see Karen Czar. We will be available to snap a quick photo on Sundays! Also, if any of your information - address, phone number or email address has changed or you are new to our parish and would like your information added to this year's directory, let Sharon Hicks know. Thanks so much!

Grief Support Group

**Grace Episcopal Church, 97 Main St.
Stanardsville, VA 22973**

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - 6 pm

If you have experienced loss in your life - loss of a loved one, pet, career or however YOU may define "loss", you are welcome to join us. We offer support, encouragement and love.

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
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](#) [Update Profile](#) [Constant Contact](#) [Data Notice](#)

Third Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. Come in the side door on Ford Avenue;

we will meet in
Rev. Kathryn TI
Chaplain Stephe
Sharon Hicks, L



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