

May 15, 2025



Piedmont Episcopal Church

214 Church Street
Madison, Va 22727

The Rev. Becki Casey
Priest-in-Charge

May 18, 2025 - 11 a.m. Worship
Service

Wherever you are on your spiritual
journey, you
can find a home here.
Our doors and hearts are wide open!

Readings for May 18, 2025

Acts 11: 1-18
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
Psalms 148

Lay Servers - May 18, 2025

Vestry Person.....Beppy White
Usher.....Beppy White
Acolyte.....Jim Landolt
Children's Church.....Susan Bagby
Lector.....Dona Hutchinson
Intercessor.....Rev. Becki
LEM.....Susan Bagby
Altar Care.....Kay John/Sharon Hicks
Fellowship.....Susan Good

WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study with Rev. Brad Jackson

Wednesday

4 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John

5:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice with Rev. Brad Jackson (**Resumes 6/4**)

Friday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Bill Birkhofer

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



Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: **Mac Barber, Bernadette Blanding, Sharon Carter, 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, Ryan Mahanes, Hannah Moyer, Mary Moyer, Carol Nowak, Carolyn O'Brien, 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. Becki Casey @ beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com by Wednesday to ensure that it gets into the bulletin and weekly messenger.**

Please join us in praying for our larger Church communities. This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Alban's in Annadale, St. James's and St. Stephen's in Richmond.

Minister's Musings

The Grace of Unshielding

We live in such comfortable times. If it's hot outside, come into the air-conditioning. Have an iced beverage. Don't suffer the discomfort of the heat. If it's cold outside, stay indoors, cozy out of the snow and ice, turn on the gas fireplace so there's no need to collect firewood or clean up ash. Most of us no longer suffer the frustration of hanging laundry on the line when it rains or freezes. We have sidewalks to avoid the mud. Even our gym memberships have us exercising in sterile, climate-controlled environments to make our discomfort as pleasant and predictable as possible.

And praise God for the mercy of the time and place in which we live!

Today, however, I feel grateful for the grace found in experiencing the earth unshielded. I just returned from a three-day camping trip at Virginia Beach. After observing the wet conditions forecasted, I almost chose to stay home, but I was hungry enough for the ocean that I was willing to take the risk. Gratefully, a parishioner loaned me a pop-up canopy, so I was admittedly not entirely unshielded. And the temperatures were akin to what I imagine the Garden of Eden was like, so there was no excess heat or chill to contend with. But there was rain, and quite a bit of it.

Sometimes the greatest gifts come packaged in the most unexpected ways. We imagine a catastrophe because our hopes settle on something specific and anything outside our preset parameters feels unacceptable, even devastating. But God's grace is never limited to our expectations.

The grace I found at the beach was nearly limitless. The rain scared off a large number of campers, so the campground was delightfully vacant. The few compatriots left, seemed to have no interest in challenging storms, so avoided the beaches and left me miles of shoreline to myself multiple hours every day. I don't know if it was the weather, the sparseness of the beach, or just serendipity, but I got to watch bald eagles successfully fishing in the bay. In fact, the absence of human life on the shore had the crabs and marine life more active than I had ever seen. Additionally, wet firewood burns longer, so when the rains stopped, I enjoyed deliciously long hours by the campfire. And the sound of rain during the night makes for amazing white noise induced slumber.

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the shelter of an indoor environment as much as anyone. But today I am grateful to be reminded that the grace of sights,

smells, tastes, and feels are always available to us if we are willing to accept what is presented to us. Too often we insist on what we know, what we think we want, what we expect. It is a joy to remember God inhabits all the places, even the ones we avoid. And when we are willing to step out from under the shields we place around ourselves, we have the opportunity to experience grace in ways beyond the limits of our own imaginations.

May we all be inspired to trust God to appear beyond the boundaries of our shields!

- Rev. Becki

Worship Leader Training

If you would like to begin or continue with Sunday Worship participation in the role of:

Usher
Acolyte
LEM
Lector
Intercessor

Please join us for a training on Saturday, May 24th and 10AM in the Piedmont Sanctuary for an hour training. Those desiring to participate as LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) will stay for an additional hour. You will receive a document via email that will cover the details of the roles pertaining to your specific area of interest. When we gather on Saturday, we will discuss those roles, run through specific details, answer questions, and pray over these valuable ministries. Becki will be blessing you and commissioning you to serve. If you have any questions or if you have not already let Becki know that you would like to participate, please let her know as soon as possible.

Piedmont Parish Directory Completed!

Our 2025 parish directory is completed! Copies will be available starting this Sunday. Please pick up a copy. Thank you to all that helped gather and update this information and prepare this year's directory.

Thank you to all that donate to **MESA**. The needs are great in our community and these needs change almost weekly! The current needs at this time include toilet paper and paper towels. All donations are greatly appreciated.

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