

December
2017

The Bell Ringer



Old Donation Episcopal Church

*Old Donation Episcopal Church is a family: Welcoming All ✝ Growing in God's love ✝
Joyfully worshiping Jesus Christ ✝ Serving in the power of the Spirit*



Christmas Worship at Old Donation

Wed, December 20: 7:00pm Longest Night - Blue Christmas
Sun, December 24: 8:00am Rite I, 9:15am Rite II, 10:30am Rite II
5:00pm Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist
8:00pm Festival Eucharist with Choir
10:30pm Christmas Lessons & Carols
11:00pm Festival Eucharist with Choir
Mon, December 25: 10:00am Christmas Day Eucharist
Sun, December 31: 8:00am, 9:15am, 10:30am & Gathering Services
7:00pm Holy Eucharist & New Year's Eve Reception

St. Nicholas

will visit The Gathering
10:30am
Sunday, December 3rd



Advent

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, 3 December, 10:30am Church

Virginia Handbell Consort Concert

December 17th at 5:00pm

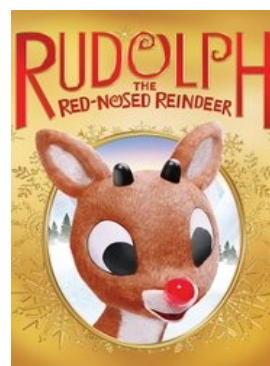


See page 10 for details

Movie Night & Cookie Extravaganza!

Friday, December 15th,
5:30pm

See page 10 for details



New Year's Eve Holy Eucharist & Reception

7:00pm in the Historic Church



Epiphany Holy Eucharist & Chili Supper

Saturday, 6 January - 5:00pm Holy Eucharist, 6:00pm Supper

see pg 10 for details

From the Rector

Chris and I are enjoying a week-long break in Arizona. I was born in Arizona (Williams Air Force Base in Chandler, where my father was stationed during the Korean War) but have never spent any time here since leaving as a baby. As always for our vacations, good food and strong coffee are mandatory. Vacations are also a rare opportunity for me to worship in new places to see what good ideas others might have. But mostly, I am 'vacating' my day to day routines and responsibilities, getting some rest, a chance to read for new projects or maybe even simply pleasure, and spending generous time with family (specifically family = Chris this trip).

Vacations can be Sabbath principle in action. We change what we do, ceasing normal work. We focus on the highest good and we rest. When we return to work, we are more effective and there is renewed energy and inspiration. But Sabbath reminds us that we work to provide a life, not live so we can work. Abraham Joshua Heschel teaches that when we focus on God and God's blessings during Sabbath, those become more apparent when we go back to work as we begin to see holiness in every aspect of life.

Most of us will have some time in the next month for holiday or vacation breaks. I hope for you a true sabbath time that permits you some true refocusing and rest that energizes. Just like anything else, it requires some intentionality and some discipline. But it is worth it. Sabbath time is designed as a gift from God.

Advent and Christmas Worship

This month's worship is filled with significance for Christians. Our worship team has been intentional about enabling reflection and celebration. Dec 3 is the first Sunday of Advent and at 10:30 in the Church we will use the traditional, beautiful "Lessons and Carols" for our readings and praise before communion. In the Gathering we will be visited by St. Nicholas. Dec 10 we will be visited by Rabbi Israel Zoberman (see below). Dec 17 will be "Rose Sunday" and we will feature the Mary readings, rather than a second week of John the Baptist. That evening we host the annual handbell concert. Dec 24 will be a very full day with six services between the morning of Advent 4 and evening of Christmas Eve. Pay attention to the schedule! If you use Advent preparation, your Christmas will be more meaningful.

The Rabbi Returns

Rabbi Zoberman and I will be have a conversational sermon at 8:00 & 10:30 services on Dec 10. He'll also be in

the "Power Hour" adult Sunday School class that morning. He and I were talking about the nature of Chanukah. I invited him to come and we would "tag-team" the sermon, talking about the meaning of Chanukah, Advent and John the Baptist. If that sounds like an impossibility to you, join us!

Worship at 9:15

Our original thinking for the 9:15 service was to give it its own unique musical identity, just as was true of our other three Sunday morning services. However, over time it fell into being the same as 10:30, except without choir leadership. As an experiment, we are incorporating new musical patterns for 9:15. We continue to use the great hymns that defined our tradition for processions. Hymns in the middle of the liturgy will use music from several genres, especially Taizé chants and new Christian music. Meredith Guzman remains our vocal leader, with added support from the Sundays@5 band, "Random Acts". We will use this new pattern through Epiphany season and evaluate. With this lineup, our four Sunday services include: 8:00 - RITE I, a mostly "said" service, singing only one hymn and one piece of service music; 9:15 with a blend of styles; 10:30 RITE II with formal traditional music and a choir; 10:30 "The Gathering" with a blend of traditional and contemporary led by a praise band. We hope this range of styles enables all of us to experience God as we "*worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*".

Oyster Roast Thanks!

On page 8 you will find a thank you note from Tony Putzig and Betts Werbiskis to all the parish. It was another outstanding day, supported by almost everyone in the parish. I want to add special thanks for Tony and Betts, whose leadership and management made everyone else's contributions effective. THANKS to you two for many hours of effort, and a successful result that supports this parish's outreach.

Pilgrimage to England

Next September, a group of adults from Old Donation are headed to England for a 12 day pilgrimage. Named "Canterbury Trails", we will focus on churches and people that are foundational to our Anglican heritage, including Canterbury, London, Oxford, and Salisbury. We will include a visit to King's Lynn, where Adam Thoroughgood was born and baptized, Stonehenge, Coventry Cathedral, and an opportunity to see "Romeo and Juliet" in the Royal

Continued on next page...

Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. Details are available from the office if you are interested. Sign up because there will be limited availability.

Stewardship

We are making slow but steady progress receiving pledges for next year. The vestry is working on the budget. We have roughly 2/3 of the pledges hoped for based on the number of active families. For us to maintain the momentum of the past years, we need everyone to do what they can. So, please pray and act.

Chris and I will be back from Arizona for Church this Sunday. See you then! Peace,



From our Assistant Rector

My friends, if you never read another one of my Bell Ringer articles, please read this one.

A couple of weeks ago I attended Soul Shop, a suicide prevention training program designed for church leaders. My background is in psychology, so while I cannot claim by any means to be an expert in handling suicide and depression, I have come across it a number of times in my studies and trainings. I drove to this training in Hampton Roads thinking it would be worthwhile to go, but debating whether my time would be best spend elsewhere. I drove home wondering how I could have been so naive.

There is no way for me to adequately address this topic in this brief article, but we have to start somewhere. Because the number of people impacted by suicide is staggering. Soul Shop breaks it down into four groups, the Faces of Desperation (because truly, that's what suicide is— desperation).

- Those thinking about suicide (6% of adults, 17% of a adolescents)
- Survivors of suicide - people who have lost someone to suicide
- Those who are *worried* about someone who's thinking about suicide
- Those who have been suicidal in the past, particularly if they haven't found a way to tell their story

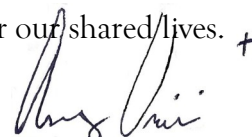
Take a moment and think. Do any of these apply to you, in a large or small way?

Some are deep in the trenches of these faces of desperation, others are far on the outskirts, but there are very, very few who can say that none of this applies to them. And so, we need to start talking.

Did you know that suicide is prevalent in the bible? I didn't. Here's my favorite eye-opener: Mark 5:25-34, the hemorrhaging woman. "A woman who had had a hemorrhage for *twelve years*, and had *endured much* at the hands of many physicians, and *had spent all that she had* and was *not helped* at all, but rather had *grown worse*."

If that is not the face of desperation, I don't know what is. This woman had nothing left. Had she not heard of Jesus and made this final attempt to touch his cloak and save herself, she likely would have ended her life. And what's more, unlike so many who came and cried out and stood in front of Jesus, this woman was silent. She didn't want to speak, draw attention to herself, even make Jesus aware of her presence. She didn't want anyone to know. Most people who are thinking about suicide don't talk about it. They don't want people to know, won't say anything, and if those of us not currently in the throes of desperation don't know how to feel them silently touching the hem of our cloaks, we won't know to help.

If this has struck a cord with you, please come talk to me. Or Fr. Bob, Fr. Fred, a friend, a counselor, anyone. Sometime in spring I'll be leading a shortened version of the Soul Shop training, but in the meantime, don't wait. If you need help yourself, find us. If you need help for someone else, find us. If you want to know *how* to help or what to do, find us. Together, we can fight the desperation that threatens to take over our shared lives.



From our Youth Minister

When I contemplate the season of Advent, the phrase that pops into my mind is “Waiting to be at home.”

I’ll preface this by admitting that I am not a patient person. As a child, waiting for Christmas was never an easy task to take on. Children’s Advent calendars filled with chocolate helped - but just barely. Even to this day, I often cannot wait for the ordinary days to quickly pass so that it can once again be Christmastime. It’s not about gifts or vacation time, or because I hate all the other days. It’s because Christmas is when my heart is truly at home. I pine for true peace and joy, and I’m certainly not alone in feeling that. Home is where I can really be myself and be deeply loved and known.

As you might know, neither Drew’s nor my family is from Virginia, so we have our share of feeling homesick for the West coast. Most of my family resides in Washington State; Drew’s in Oregon. We strive to feel as much at home as possible in Virginia, just as we have done in other places. But no matter where we live, I always feel impatient for a true, real sense of being “at Home” with Christ. Christmas makes this a reality, because it reminds us that God made his home among us in Christ, and we now also have a Home with him.

So, my question is this: as Christians, how do we manage our impatience for the arrival of Christ? How do we deal with our longing to be known, loved and at Home? How do we deal with waiting that never seems to end, in a world that often makes us feel unknown?

Perhaps we bring that true sense of Home to those around us. Since we are living in a state of “in between,” of waiting and anticipating, it’s easy to forget that there is something more than what we see. We start to believe that there isn’t much more to our lives than the everyday routine. That’s why in our season of waiting we need to remind each other that Home is right around the corner; in fact, it’s among us now. We work to fill this earth with the joy of Christ’s birth, a joy so palpable you can’t help but stop and notice. Perhaps then we’ll all start to feel more at Home, that we are truly known and loved. Maybe then Advent will seem less like waiting and more like intentional time to prepare for Christ. Let’s join and help bring this joy to others, as we wait for the arrival of the one who is preparing a true Home with Him.

Blessings,
~Marta

Worship

Advent Events



Longest Night - Blue Christmas on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm. A service for those who don’t feel particularly “merry” this season.

Christmas Eve Pageant and Eucharist on December 24th at 5:00pm has a cast of our children and youth for a traditional Christmas pageant and carols, true to the Scriptural accounts, followed by Holy Communion. There is no sermon and the service typically lasts less than one hour.

Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist on December 24 at 8:00 and 11:00pm. The full choir sings at both service times so everyone may participate in the best offering of thanksgiving to God. The 11:00pm service is preceded by 30 minutes of Christmas Lessons & Carols, starting at 10:30pm.

Christmas Morning Eucharist at 10:00am. This service is a quieter reflective service including carols and communion. It is often the perfect ending to a morning that might have started early with gift opening as we give thanks for the greatest gift of all.

Morning Prayer

7:30 every weekday morning through 22 December

A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!

Paws, Prayers & Praise

Holy Eucharist is December 10th at 5:00pm in the church. This is a great opportunity to bring a guest, furry or otherwise, who might not attend a regular Sunday service!



Poinsettias For The Church



If you would like to donate poinsettias for the Christmas services, they are \$12 and sign-up sheets are now outside the Parish Hall or order [online](#).

Building & Facilities

DESIGN TEAM

Preparing for the Construction Phase

It has been an exciting and progress filled month for the design team. Following the Vestry endorsement of the proposed design concept, we've spent time to determine the appropriate contractual process for ODEC, and to thoroughly understand the various compliance requirements for obtaining city approval before we can begin our construction.

On the contractual side, we've been assuming that we would follow a traditional Design-Bid-Build delivery method of construction. This method involves contracting with an architect for construction drawings with follow-on design services, and then hiring a general contractor for construction. An alternate, and more popular method, is the Design-Build method, where a general contractor is hired, and would assume responsibility for all professional design services, as well the construction work itself. There are pros and cons for both approaches, but our team has determined that, due to the maturity of our design and potential cost savings, the Design-Build method is the best fit for us. We have received Vestry concurrence with this course of action. A Request for Proposal (RFP) document is being generated for review, and we expect to send it to two - five general contractors by 1 December.

On the city side, we have received relatively favorable informal initial response to our plans. The key next step is for us to submit documentation to the city to obtain a Conditional Use Permit. This documentation is extensive and must be submitted on the first of any month to start the review process. It generally takes the city 3.5 months for processing, and normally in the Design-Build construction delivery method, this process is accomplished by the contractor. We believe that we have all the necessary information for this document in hand and intend to submit it to the city on 1 December, as well. By doing so, we will save time by having much of the city work done concurrently with our team's reviewing and processing of the bids received from the general contractors.

In other effort areas, our work to re-point the church is well underway and will be completed prior to Christmas. The ODEC Kitchen Consulting Group has done excellent work to determine what improvements can be made to the kitchen. The kitchen upgrade plan will be reviewed, with actual work to begin as soon as spring 2018.

~ John Sherman, Vestry Liaison

Vestry

Interested in Serving on Vestry?

Nominations for Vestry are due in December. Potential vestry members are:

- "members in good standing" which means active communicants, confirmed or received.
- members of the Congregation who are faithful in worship, prayer and stewardship of their gifts and financial resources and involved in the life of the parish by attending parish events.
- willing to provide their God-given leadership abilities to the parish as liaisons to a Commission of the Vestry. Having experience serving on a commission is helpful.
- willing to make a three year commitment to be available for monthly Vestry meetings, usually the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, and for Vestry Commission meetings, usually the first Wednesday evening of the month.
- able to communicate daily via email and conduct business using electronic attachments.
- willing to be the "eyes and ears" of the Parish and represent its needs and concerns.

For more information, or to express interest contact Vestry members: Sharon Payne, Carol Gurioli, Jeff Hood, Rich Kuhr, or the Clergy.



2017 Vestry

Sharon Payne, *Senior Warden*

Carol Gurioli, *Day School*

Jeff Hood, *Stewardship*

Rich Kuhr, *Finance*

John Brown, *Buildings & Grounds*

Vicki Dorsett, *Congregational Care*

Laura Horvath, *Parish Life*

Chip Saunders, *Evangelism*

John Sherman, *Building & Facilities Planning*

Michelle Stephenson, *Historic Traditions*

Holly Swanson, *Christian Formation*

Bill Waide, *Outreach & People's Warden*

Eliza Aydar, *Youth Representative/Christian Formation*



ADVENT | EPIPHANY

WITH GOD'S HELP

POWER HOUR



All That's Cool in Sunday School

Our next Cycle begins!
Join us as we learn "All About the Bible"

December Workshops

Movie: A Charlie Brown Christmas with Rebecca Barrio and Meg Warneke

Art: Making our Best Gift with April Improta

History: Jesus' Family Tree with Heather Floyd

*A special thank you to last month's Cycle teachers:
Courtney & Brennon Pope, Ann Butler, Mairin Genova*

Youth Sunday School

Rite 13 (Grades 6 & 7) - Our Rite 13 students will learn more about Advent and the Creation story, and take a deeper look into why we pray.

J2A (Grades 8 & 9) - The group will take a look at what it means to share God-given talents with others, and why being silent helps us hear God. In addition, they will be working to serve those in need.

J2A-C (Grades 10 & 11) - The confirmation class will explore how it can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, and engage in a community outreach project.

12th graders and college freshmen: A new group is in the works just for you! Holly Waide & John-Michael Payne will lead a time of Sunday morning fellowship. Stay tuned!

The Old Testament Scriptures

Jump into the historical context and literary import of the first books of the bible, a foundational document of Western thought and Christian and Jewish faith. Videos presented by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine from Vanderbilt University. Discussion facilitated by Mary Poteet and Marti Jones in the library.

Power Hour: Telling Truths

What is 'the truth' really? How do we understand it today, as Christians? Truth is an elusive concept, but not beyond our grasp. Join us for a three week series as we delve into a biblical and faithful understanding of how we tell our truths and who we can use, today and throughout history, as our models.



Dec 3: Telling Truths: The 5 W's - Who, What, When, Where, Why (and How)? We'll take a look at truth from all angles, and begin to examine the biblical significance behind the concept. Led by Mother Ashley.

Dec 10: Telling Truths: The Jewish Perspective - Biblically speaking, the first people who come to mind when talking about truth are the prophets. We'll take a look at what the Jewish (and therefore also Christian) understanding of what they had to say, focusing on Isaiah's Suffering Servant. Led by Rabbi Israel Zoberman.

Dec 17: Telling Truths: The Prophets and Beyond - Though not explicitly named as such, the New Testament is full of truth-telling prophets. From Mary, Anna, and Simeon to James and Paul, we'll examine what prophets looked like during and after Jesus' time, and what they might have to say about telling the truth today. Led by Ann Butler.



Confirmation Class

If you are interested in being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, or want to know more about what that means, come to **the music room** on Dec 3, 10, & 17 to find out what we're all about! Led by Kipper DeGavre.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 3 - Pageant Sign Up

Pageant sign up sheets will be in children's Sunday School classrooms, and Parish Hall the week after. Please provide an email so we can send the script home for practice. Children up through 6th grade needed!

Sunday, December 10 - Speaking Parts Read-Through 12:30pm in historic church. This is only for those with speaking parts.

Sunday, December 17 - Pageant Rehearsal 12:30pm in historic church. This is for all roles.

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Pageant Program starts at 5pm. Be at Alfriend House between 3:30-4:00pm. Heather Floyd will be giving direction that night.

Parents, please contact [Marta Cohen](#) if you have any questions, or to sign your child up. Thank you for your support of our annual pageant!

Coming Soon: Sharing Your Faith

When: Monday nights, 7:00-8:30, beginning January 8

Where: Library

Back by popular demand, Tom Cantrell will be leading a repeat of the Apologetics course "Sharing Your Faith with Others" that he led last year— an in depth conversation about how to talk about your faith. Space is limited to the first ten people who respond, so be sure to contact [Tom](#) right away if you're interested, or to get more information!

Wednesdays in January!

Starting 10 January.

HE 6:00pm, Supper 6:30pm, Studies 7:00pm

Young Adults

Our young adults group will meet on Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm for the first two weeks of December. We'll be at Alfriend House on Dec 7, and at the Floyd's house for a Christmas party on Dec 14. Contact [Mother Ashley](#) with any questions!

EYC

Episcopal Youth Community

Sunday, December 3rd

Middle School: 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm

High School: 6:00-7:30pm



Sunday, December 10th

Thanksgiving Dinner 1:00pm - 4:00pm in the Parish Hall. Instead of our regular meeting, EYC will engage with our friends in the Turkish community for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. All grades of EYC are encouraged to participate. There will be families with children and we will play games and do crafts with the kids.

Sunday, December 17th - All EYC Christmas Party 4:30-7:00 pm at Alfriend House. Supper at 5:30pm. Come for Christmas movies & games, as well as cookies and cocoa! Bring your favorite holiday treat and wear an ugly Christmas sweater if you have one!

Sunday, December 24th - No EYC

Merry Christmas Eve!

Sunday, December 31 - No EYC

Happy New Year's Eve! We'll return January 7.



J2A Polo & Sweatshirt Sale "He is so hard to buy for!"

Tired of that thought? Be sure to add a new ODEC sweatshirt, hoodie, or polo shirt to Santa's gift list this Christmas. Featuring the new ODEC logo, these are the nicest items we have featured in a while. Any order made before 10 December will arrive in time for Santa's elves to put under the tree!





This weekend, a relatively small incident put our family into a situation we've never encountered. We did things we had to do because we didn't have a choice.

We had a minor mechanical issue driving down I-95 on Sunday that needed attention, but it was clear that the part couldn't be fixed until Monday. We were fortunate, we

weren't stuck on the highway, and the garage we pulled into had a hotel a block away with room for our 70 lb dog and us. We also knew that the next day we'd be on our way. However, we quickly realized that a lack of a car in suburbia meant relying on others for a ride. It meant running across a busy highway to get something to eat or go to the store. We became one of those people you see on the side of a busy road after dark that make you wonder what they are doing there. Isn't there someplace else they should be? Don't they know they're going to get killed crossing a busy road in dark clothes at night? What's wrong with those people?

Nothing.

There was nothing wrong with us except a run of bad luck in circumstances beyond our control. How many other good people in our community live daily in similar circumstances beyond their control? A lot. Probably more than either you or I realize. Shouldn't they catch a break? That's where Stewardship comes in.

The mission of Old Donation touches a lot of lives that most of us don't see. It feeds hungry people who don't know where else they'd get a meal. It comforts those suffering loss and facing extreme hardship. It embraces folks who need a supportive refuge from temptations that threaten them. How many people do we help? I don't know. I doubt that anyone truly knows. But whether it's thousands, or just one, this is what we do. It's what we have to do.

Those whose lives are in peril can't rest on the fact that everything will be better tomorrow. Imagine living like that. Now imagine living like that without the gifts from God they receive through us. If you've waited to make a pledge, are procrastinating about bringing it in, or just don't think your pledge makes a difference, please take time this week to reconsider. Your pledge may be just the break your neighbor needs.

[Click here to pledge online](#)

~Jeff Hood

Vestry Liaison to Stewardship

[Click to print a pledge card](#)

Stewardship

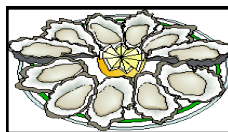
Legacy Society of 1637

When you next come to the altar to share in the communion of all the saints, ponder the legacy of those saints who now are present in spirit only, what they have left to be shared by you, your Old Donation family, and those of generations to come. Think of the legacy you will leave.

For more information, contact the church office, or Planned Giving member Earl Morris: 757-464-1062 or email at: burrova@verizon.net



Oyster Roast Thank You



What a great Oyster Roast we had! This was our 84th, and we keep getting better. The outpouring of support was overwhelming: from donations, to the silent auction, white elephant room, the bake sale, and book room.

Wonderful volunteers assisted in the kitchen, and those outside preparing our delicious oysters fed us full of good food! Our parish gathered together and shared time, filling our souls with joy, all while raising over \$14,000 for our Outreach Ministry!

We were blessed with amazing weather and a fun filled day that will long be remembered.

Thank you very much to **all** who volunteered, and those who came out to support the great work our congregation does in the name of the Lord!

Blessings to all, - Tony Putzig and Betts Werbiskis

Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Merry Christmas from your Day School!

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is such a wonderful time of year. The children are so excited... talking about Santa and presents, etc...but we like to turn their thoughts away from themselves and talk about how they can help others! We started the season off with a can food collection which was delivered to The Mission of the Holy Spirit.

In December:

our 3-year-olds collect funds to support F.O.R. Kids Inc. The teachers purchase toys, clothing and toiletries that the teachers deliver just in time for Christmas!

our 4-year-olds bring in stocking stuffers for the Salvation Army stocking program

and our kindergartners are encouraged to do an extra chore at home to earn money for the Church's Angel Tree project. The class counts all of the money and the teacher shops and brings back the gifts for the children to see.

While taking an active role, the Day School children experience the joy of giving! If you would like to see our sweet children, stop by anytime between 9:00am and 12:00 or join us for our Christmas Sing-A-Longs on December 13th or 14th at 11:30am in Tucker Hall.

REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019

Registration for Previous Families and Parishioners will be filled on a first come/first served basis beginning Wednesday, January 17th at 11:30am.

REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 11:30AM
IN THE DAY SCHOOL OFFICE.

Please e-mail [Janet](mailto:janet@olddonation.org) or [Jody](mailto:jody@olddonation.org) for the registration form or download it from the [Day School website](http://www.olddonation.org).

PREVIOUS FAMILIES & PARISHIONER DATE:

January 17, 2018

11:30am: Day School Office

Classes for Ages 2 - Kindergarten

Early Drop and Extended Day Available

odeds@olddonation.org

Call anytime for a tour! 499-2283

www.olddonation.org

Treasurer's Notes...

2017 Charitable Deductions

For those who so generously support Old Donation Episcopal Church with their monetary contributions, please be aware that donors must deliver checks **on or before Sunday, December 31, 2017** in order to claim a charitable deduction for 2017. According to IRS policy, checks that arrive to the church on or after Monday, 1 January, 2018 will not qualify for a deduction in 2017, even if the check is past-dated to 2017, or was actually written in 2017. However, under the so called "mailbox exception," checks that are written, mailed **and postmarked** in 2017 will be deductible in 2017 even if the church does not receive them until 2018.

Therefore, to ensure you receive the proper credit for a 2017 contribution on your end-of-year statement, please ensure checks are placed in the Sunday, December 31, 2017 offering, or mailed **and postmarked** by December 31, 2017. Your help in this matter will be appreciated.

~Ned Kuhns

CY 2017 Commission Expenses

We want to close our 2017 financial accounts records as early as possible in the coming year. **To accomplish this, a cutoff for the submission of all Church expenses for 2017 has been established as of Friday, January 5, 2018.** All commission members who have expenses to be paid with 2017 Church funds should submit those expense documentations by that date. Requests for payments received after January 5, 2018 will be recorded against budget year 2018 funds.

~Ned Kuhns, Treasurer



Valuing our Blessings

Total Pledge and Plate Received	\$560,043
Total Pledge and Plate Budget (YTD)	\$531,000
Budget Received Difference	\$29,043
Number of Pledging Units to General Fund	214
Building Fund	\$391,769
Mission of the Holy Spirit	\$7,106
Outreach (all other)	\$11,161
Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$6,966
Worship	\$3,392
Julia Tucker Scholarship Fund (Day School)	\$1,444

Parish Life



Ladies' Game Night

Friday, December 1st
7:00pm - 10:00pm,
Alfriend House

Ornament Exchange & Singing!

Ornament Exchange, and Fire Pit gathering (weather permitting), singing and favorite Christmas stories or inside game playing.

Bring your favorite holiday snack to share and a drink of your choice, or not. Hot drinks provided.

Let [Martha Wilson](#) know if you need a babysitter.
310-430-2306 (call or text)

NO LADIES' GAME NIGHT IN JANUARY!

Young Adults

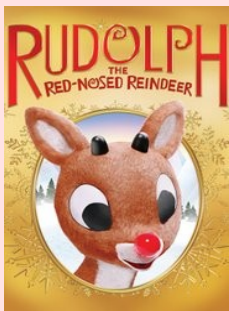
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JOY Dinner Group

Friday, 15 December
Il Giardino Ristorante, Great Neck
RSVP to David Eckhardt: 395-0008



Movie Night and Cookie Extravaganza!



Pizza, Movie & Cookies!
Friday, 15 December 5:30pm in
the Parish Hall

Please bring a dozen cookies
for sharing.

RSVP by December 13th!

Special Music:

Virginia Handbell Consort

Sunday, 17 December 17

5:00pm in the Historic Church.

A reception follows in the Parish Hall.



Outreach

Beans & Rice Ministry

Help distribute on the 1st Saturday of every month
9:00-11:00am in the Historic Church.

December 2nd & January 6th

Feed My Sheep

Sunday, 10 December

The 2nd Sunday of every month ODEC prepares and serves a mid-day meal to folks in need in Norfolk sponsored by Outreach as "Feed My Sheep." Usually the meal is prepared in the kitchen the morning before. Servers depart directly after the 10:30am service. Please email [Melissa Waide](#), or call 718-8599 if you are interested in helping now or in the future. Peace!

Advent Resources



You can find your daily Advent Inspiration on
[Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#) starting 3 December.



Advent Devotional

2017 - "JOY TO THE WORLD"

Luther Seminary invites you to use the 2017 Advent devotional, "Joy to the World," for personal use this Advent. Click [HERE](#) for print version. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for daily emails.





Birthdays

01 Finn Malcom
 03 Jennifer Schmidt
 Kim Tibbitt
 04 Katie Parker
 Susan Stephenson
 Shannon Somers
 05 M. Scott Laine
 Martha Gentry
 Nancy Fitch
 Bruce Woodhouse
 06 Jonna Walker
 Tim Colvin
 Matthew Rose
 Madison Myers
 Jim New
 08 Heather Mills
 Greg Burroughs
 Peggy Newman
 Deb DeMarco
 09 Evan Weintraub
 Jessica Epps
 Amber Smith
 10 Kevin Keller
 11 Rebecca Schweiger

Gary Kline
 Yvonne Reynolds
 Brian Weems
 Jonathan Crockett
 12 Sean Hurley
 Megan Johnson
 13 Karen Dudley
 Katie Osterman
 14 Donald MacDougall
 Kelly Good
 Dave Smith
 15 Forrest Newhall, III
 Barbara Lifland
 Jackie Murray
 Kelly Routh
 17 Dean Buckius
 Heather Heying
 Bethany Walpert
 18 Debbie Rose
 Dan Ries
 Joseph Varnecky, III
 Shannon Koprowski
 Nolan Miani
 19 Rebecca Barrio
 Connor Malcom

Holly Waide
 20 Bob Randall
 Keith Houtwed
 21 Lenore Quandt
 Trudy Gross
 22 Ginny Cranford
 Kane Eaton
 23 Boo Thiele
 Jesse Malcom
 David Eckhardt
 24 Michael Davis
 Lew Friedrichsen
 25 Lukas Howard
 26 Ethan Merry
 Coyle Moore
 Kai Baxter-Smith
 27 Laura Buckius
 Lily Koprowski
 29 Adela Merry
 30 Timothy Merry
 31 Malcolm Thiele
 Betsy Morris
 Kevin Lind
 Megan Barrio
 James Baker

Anniversaries

1 Dick & Ellie Kreassig
 5 Holly & Patrick Swanson
 8 Peter & Ann Hatchard
 13 Paul & Darlene Castellano
 15 Dave & Denise Wilkinson
 Jean & Bill Holt
 17 Ashley & Ben Urquidi
 18 Dan & Courtney Miani
 Leslie & Robert Miller
 Keith & Meredith Moore
 19 Brian & Katie Wubker
 Barbara & John Guthrie
 20 Felix Tsai & Judith Hanson
 27 Marta & Drew Cohen
 31 Jane & Frank Tibbitt
 Cheryl Kepner & Jimmy Kolb



Rise in Glory:

Pete Owens
 Irene Span
 Catherine Lipoli

Annual Epiphany Chili Supper

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH
 5:00PM HOLY EUCHARIST
 &
 6:00PM CHILI SUPPER

BRING A JAR OF YOUR FAVORITE CHILI FOR THE POT | FOR MOHS BRING A CANNED GOOD & GENTLY USED TOY



Come, share in our community chili supper to celebrate Epiphany. We will have huge pots - ground beef, chicken & vegetarian. You make some chili with your own recipe and toss it into the appropriate pot with everyone else's, and see how God blends all the recipes together into something wonderful. We ask children who have new toys to bring an older, gently used toy to donate. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. Sign up on the Parish Life bulletin board!

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Meeting of
 Old Donation Episcopal Church
 is scheduled for
 Sunday, January 28th
 9:15am in the Church.

Weekly Worship Schedule

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
9:30-10:15am Christian Formation
10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30am The Gathering

2nd Sunday of the Month

5:00pm Paws, Prayers & Praise
Holy Eucharist

Thursday

10:00am Holy Eucharist
11:00am Bible Study



OLD DONATION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith, IV, *Bishop*
The Rev. Robert J. Randall, Jr., *Rector*
The Rev. Ashley E. Urquidi, *Assistant Rector*
The Rev. Fred Poteet, *Associate Rector*
Marta Cohen, *Youth Minister*

4449 N. Witchduck Road, Virginia Beach, 23455

Phone: 757-497-0563

odec@olddonation.org | www.olddonation.org

OLD DONATION EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Janet Brown & Jody Baker, Day School Directors

Phone: 757-499-2283

Ages 2, 3, 4 and Kindergarten

Day School Hours: 9:00 am - 12:20 pm

Monday - Friday

Early Drop Off & After School until 2:20 pm

odeds@olddonation.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Old Donation Episcopal Church
4449 N. Witchduck Road
Virginia Beach VA 23455

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