

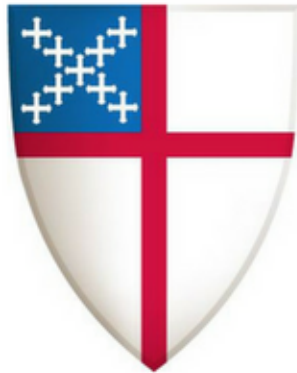
January
&
February
2017

The Bell Ringer



Old Donation Episcopal Church

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

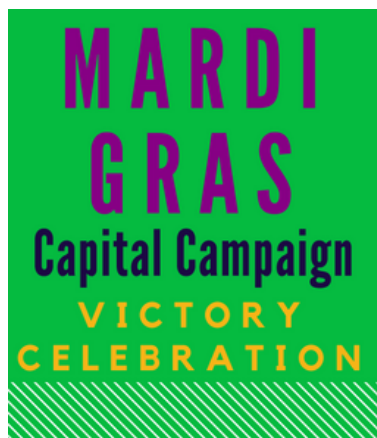


Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th

9:15am - 10:15am in the Historic Church
Vestry Elections & the 2016 Year in Review

Vestry Nominee Bios on
pages 8&9



SATURDAY
JANUARY
28
2017

STARTS
5PM
TO 8PM

PARISH
HALL

FUN FOR ALL AGES!

- NO COST
- DINNER & DRINKS
- LIVE BAND
- KIDS ACTIVITIES 5:30-6:30PM IN AFH WITH MAGICIAN | PIZZA

Youth Sunday

Sunday, 12 February

See page 7 for more information!

Newcomers!

MEET GREET EAT

SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM

see Judy Kuhns for information



From Our Rector

Christmas is a time of new life... and hopefully for family. Often, my family has a hard time getting together at Christmas (or any time) because we are so scattered. Once kids start getting older and have their own schedules and priorities it gets to be almost impossible. Through a series of unusual coincidences and agreements and needs, my siblings, our kids and our grandkids were almost all able to be together for a few days in Northern Virginia this year.

We had 25 Randalls together and another 3 came in the next day after a couple of us had to leave. Only ONE out of those 3 generations – who is stationed for the Air Force in Qatar – was unable to join. It was a remarkably joyful time. We did simple things, mostly just hanging out together and eating. But I loved the telling of the old stories and renewing the family traditions and seeing a host of little ones get along like they were long-lost pals – when it's actually the first time they've met. I also love that there are new family stories to learn. There are victories to celebrate, and losses that we gather around to console and counsel.

Upon reflection, I realize that's also what the Church does all the time when we are truly the community God dreams of. I give thanks for my family and I give thanks for our ODEC family. Often I say, for many of us, Church is the best family they've ever had. Join in. Be real. Look for those connections and you'll find that same fellowship, support, and bond that we all need. I give thanks to God for my genetic family and I give thanks to God for such a true community as ODEC.

Worship at Christmastime

It seems like a year ago, but we just finished the Christmas season. In the last month we have had some remarkable worship services that have combined the best traditional with some new creative moves.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were wonderful. We had 757 in attendance for our four services and as usual the St. Cecilia Choir music was breathtaking. A real treat were the twin violins at 8 and 11:00, led by our Jeannie DeDominick. And thanks goes to Juliana DeDominick who produced a full-length video of the Christmas pageant for our YouTube channel. Once again, Michelle Stephenson got over 40 young children to be perfect actors and singers for the pageant. She and her team do an outstanding job. Over the years the children have gotten younger, but seem to read and sing better. It is a blessing and we thank Michelle and her team!

But it would be a shame if the beauty and majesty of Christmas Eve caused us to overlook Advent 4, Dec 18, and our "Christmas in story and song." It was a version of Lessons and Carols that was initiated by Barb Schweiger. By including many different gifts from our members for music, dance and dramatic reading, it had a good feel of the whole congregation involved in offering praise to God. With a combination of the best classical music and contemporary and folk traditions, our talents were on broader display.

On the Feast of the Epiphany we tried a creative Eucharist that directly followed our family meal. In the parish hall, while still gathered around the tables with the lights dimmed, we began with the "phos hilaron" – praying for the gracious light of Christ to fill us. It had a sacred, quiet sense. From there lights gradually increased as we moved through the worship. Communion was served from the altar to a chalice and paten at each table. The choir led us and again we had the best of tradition with a new feel.

Facebook Live

When it was apparent that Sunday would be a good Sunday for almost everyone to stay at home for safety reasons, we wondered what to do for Church. You probably remember that I live only a half-mile from Church and never cancel all services. But I also advise you all to stay home if it is not safe. Friday night after our Epiphany worship, Patti Somers threw out a suggestion of using Facebook Live to broadcast. I have seen members of the parish use it, but didn't know if it would be difficult. I have tried some professional internet broadcast services before for Christmas without much luck so was skeptical. BUT - it worked like a charm!

Ashley and I set up my iPad and had each reader do their work from the same spot. I tested the process the night before. When we gathered, we had 17 members who were present in the church. Fortunately 8 of them were choir or Gathering Band members, so we had singers! We did a full service with singing three hymns a cappella and a regular sermon and communion. We managed to do it in 30 minutes, which we thought was important to keep people with us. As the broadcast continued, it was remarkable because people responded real time, just as if they were in church. We had about 150 comments and responses as the service went on. It recorded something close to 250 people watching as we did it live. Lots of you

Continued on page 9...

From our Assistant Rector

I grew up going to church. My grandfather, though he died before I was born, was an Episcopal priest and church was a part of my life since before I can remember. But I do remember the first time that I sat in a service and didn't go to the nursery. I was so pleased to be sitting in that pew, to be a "big girl" ready to be in church with all the adults, and then when the service started and the priest walked in, I got a better surprise than I could have imagined. I stood up on the pew, nearly jumping with excitement, and pointing my finger at the priest I shouted,

"Look, Mommy! It's God!"

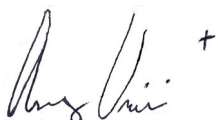
I had been hearing stories of God my whole life, God who was a father, who was loving and caring, who had created this magnificent world, who was always there in essence even if we couldn't physically see him. And like so many children, and so many adults, I had a picture in my mind of what God looked like. For me, he looked like an older man, with white hair, kind of soft and round... exactly, it turned out, what my priest looked like.

I say this not to make the point that priests are God - far, far from it! I say it because we all, every one of us, have an idea of who God is. Perhaps that includes what he looks like, perhaps it doesn't. For my part, though I constantly try to get that image of a portly white-haired man out of my mind when I think of God, that childhood image still remains tucked away in the recesses of my thoughts. It says something of who God, at his base essence, is to me: kind, grandfatherly, ready and willing to admonish mistakes but just as ready to forgive them with a hug.

This is a very broad image of God, but it's where I start. Who is God to you? What informs those impressions? Is it a childhood image, a story told by a loved one, a particular experience? Find that broad-stroke, first starting point, where God becomes not an idea but a tangible presence in your life. And once you find it, hold it close. Let it inform who *you* are and what you do. Let it expand and grow, so that you can better understand God, yourself, and the world around you. In this new year, seek God in His elemental state, as he was for you when you first met him.

And please, tell me about it when you do.

In Christ,



From Our Youth Minister

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! I can't believe it is 2017 already! Where did 2016 go? I am excited for this new year, and the new opportunities it will bring to each of us. We have our annual Winter Weekend trip on the horizon, and I am extremely excited. I am looking forward to hitting the slopes and getting a chance to hang out with the youth over the weekend. We will be staying at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Harrisonburg. We have stayed here in the past, and the church treated us very warmly. Please pray for safety as we travel and while we are on the mountain. Don't forget to pray for lots of snow - we don't want a repeat of last year!

We will be electing a new Youth Vestry Representative for the 2017 calendar year, so please keep the youth in your prayers as they determine who will represent them to the vestry. Ryan Piston did a great job last year, and we are sad his year as Youth Vestry Representative is finishing, but I know that we will find someone just as ready and eager to fulfill this role as he was. This is a wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to seeing who will take over this role for our new year.

Looking forward to the month of February, we will have our annual Youth Sunday on the 12th, where the youth of the parish will take over leading the services for the day. Every year the youth of the parish have turned out in great numbers to help with the various ministries on Sunday. I look forward to seeing our youth come together to once again make sure that everything runs smoothly, and I am excited to see who our preachers of the day will be. I know that I have gleaned some amazing insights from the previous youth sermons, and I know that this year will be no exception.

Please keep up to date with everything going on with the youth ministry by checking the weekly emails. You can also go to the youth website www.odeceyc.org to keep up-to-date on what is happening each month. Don't forget to check the middle pages of the Bell Ringer for any other information that I may have left out. Have a Happy New Year, and I pray that 2017 brings something new for each of us.

God Bless,

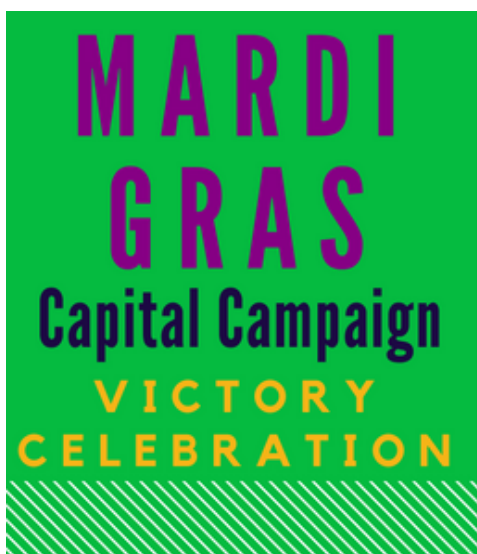
~ AJ Lambert

An Easy New Year's Resolution

Are you already finding it difficult to keep your New Year's Resolutions? Well, here's an easy one for some of you. Resolve to turn in your 2017 Annual ODEC Pledge card! While this "Resolution" is presented a bit 'tongue-in-cheek,' we are currently still waiting to receive a hundred or so pledges just from folks who pledged last year. Your Vestry counts on a robust pledge return rate to help it make decisions on that year's budget. It is really important for the health of the administration of all of our programs and missions. So, if you still haven't returned the annual pledge card you received in your Red Envelope, please plan now to bring your card in on Sunday, contact the church office, or pledge here [online](#).

Capital Gifts and Mardi Gras?

Our capital gifts campaign never really will end, but the most active phase of calling and discerning and soliciting is finishing this month. So, it is time to celebrate. Given that Mardi Gras celebrations have already begun in Mobile and New Orleans, we thought we might combine the themes to have a true ODEC THANKS-GIVING party. Saturday, 28 January, at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall we will have a night for all ages. Kids will have activities, including a magician in Alfriend House. There will be babysitters in the nursery. Adults will have a live band, supper and fun! We will have a few announcements about the capital campaign and a lot of fine food, fun, and fellowship. Don't miss!



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- DINNER & DRINKS
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- KIDS ACTIVITIES 5:30-6:30PM IN AFH WITH MAGICIAN | PIZZA

A Note from the Treasurer

For those parishioners who may want to pay their Capital Campaign pledge through the transfer of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) to Old Donation Episcopal Church's brokerage accounts, please contact Diane Miller, our Parish Accountant, for detailed guidance on how to efficiently accomplish the transfer.

Give to ODEC online!

It's easy, fast, and convenient. Make a one-time gift, or a recurring donation. No need to worry if you go on vacation, miss a Sunday, or lose your offering envelopes!

Online
Giving

Most of us, if we are honest, find a crown glittering with glory far more appealing than being on our knees doing the gritty, dirty work of the Kingdom of God. -Br. Kevin Hackett

Mission to the World

The last time I was in Twerebo was in 2008 on my first trip to Ghana. I spent a few days with some nurses doing health evaluations of children. Now, 8 years later, returning to Twerebo to do reading camp was exciting and emotional. I was excited to be in a “new” village working with new children and making new friends. And being humbled anew.

I was a little nervous as well knowing that the first reading camp here would be challenging-but in the end,



Janet Neumann reading to the children.

fantastically rewarding. The first day, as we pulled into the school grounds, there were our children, in their classrooms eagerly awaiting us. As we unloaded supplies, forty sets of eyes were locked on us, some filled with excitement,

others with trepidation, and some with fear. After we set up, the students were divided into groups by colored wrist bands so we could do our reading assessment. This is such second nature to me as we have done it so many times in another village, but here, in Twerebo, where most of the children had never seen or touched a Westerner...they were afraid and yet empowered just knowing that someone had come to be with them. Our reading assessment went on and on, with some children not knowing what to do, some not responding out of fear, and some speaking so softly that I had to have them put their mouths next to my ears.

Fast forward to our last day in Twerebo. What was the purpose of our coming to a new village? Was it to have a group of girls beg me to read to them, and with them, every day? Was it to show these children how reading can change their futures? Perhaps our purpose was to give Sakina her own books, the first she could call her own, to take home and read to her little brother. Or perhaps we here in Twerebo to share our love of teaching with our Ghanaian counterparts, and for one of them to say how

Continued in next column.

Healing Prayer

Starting in January several new healing prayer ministers will join the rotation: Judy Kuhns and Maria Swift at 8:00am; Patricia Colby at 10:30am; and Pat Davis and Courtney Pope in The Gathering at 10:30am. Jim and Frankie Ring will rotate as a healing prayer team at different services. The 9:15am service will have healing prayer ministers scheduled at least twice a month - George Butler and Martha Gentry.

Did you know that Old Donation has a healing prayer service on a week day? As part of the 10:00am Thursday Eucharist we have healing prayer at the communion rail in an informal and supportive atmosphere.

The Adult Forums on Sundays in January, and Wednesday night programs in February will be focused on how and why the healing accounts we read in the New Testament are a promise for healing today. The Rev. Nigel Mumford will be guest speaker on Wednesday, February 15. Watch for more announcements!

~ Carol Gurioli

he will take what he saw back to his school for his students. Yes to everything! I left my heart in Twerebo the day we left. I left it with students who, until that week, have never seen or used scissors. I left my heart with a group of little girls who wanted nothing more than to read to someone.

Twerebo is a very poor village. One of the few products they have are pawpaws (similar to papayas). On our last day, two children brought two bags overflowing with pawpaws to thank our team for coming. As Samuel placed the bag in my hands, he said, Uncle Zach...thank you for being here. Thank you for helping us read. Please sir, do not go away for too long. Come back.”

This week, we tilled and planted seeds in a new village, Twerebo. Our camp had 40 children who greeted us each day practically shouting the song we taught the first day. There were laughs and struggles and many poems and songs repeated throughout the week. And there were hugs and tears as we said goodbye this afternoon. *These dear children experienced the love of God in a way that for many of them was new. And the US team who came experienced God's love in a new way, as well through their dedication to learning and their smiles. The children left with books and lessons and the knowledge that they are loved. They saw that they CAN improve and they CAN read. They*

~ Zach Neumann

Adult Forum

Healing Stories in the Gospels

Healing the sick in body, mind and spirit was a major part of Jesus' earthly ministry. In this series, we will explore two or three healing encounters in depth, looking for connection to healing in our own lives. Led by Carol Gurioli

Jan 15: Accounts of Jesus' healings provide a mode for healing today. Faith, that is, being willing to ask for healing, is an essential step that requires courage.

Jan 22: A person of faith can ask for healing for a other. We will examine stories where a person was healed as the result of a petition by others.

Jan 29: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING! No forum today, please attend the meeting in the church at 9:15!

Feb 5: Jesus' compassion caused him to heal others, even when the person does not ask for or believe the healing is possible.

The Gospel of Matthew

Over the last three Sundays in February, Father Bob and Mother Ashley will lead an exploration of who Jesus is according to Matthew. You'll find his life is portrayed a little differently here than it is in other Gospels, and we'll take a closer look at that together. What does Matthew's view of Jesus have to say to us today?

More Forum Options...

What Anglicans Believe

In theology, the classic question is, "How do we know what we say we know about God?" In this course we will examine some of the great stories of the Bible and how they shape our understanding of God and our liturgies. Led by Kipper deGavre in the library

Jan 15: Liberation: God Frees His People - Exodus 1-15

Jan 22: Covenant: God Frees His People - Exodus 19-20

Jan 29: Incarnation: God is With Us - Luke 1

Bible Study

Sunday Adult Bible Study begins again with a new video series looking at the non-canonical Gospels. Curious about the Gospel of Thomas? Come to the Music Room at 9:30am on Sundays.

Wednesday Nights

Pilgrimage Unwrapped

A four week Wednesday night series presenting the many ways God was revealed in the ten days of adult pilgrimage to Israel. Our January program will attempt to give you a taste of our experiences. We will have our normal Wednesday routine of 6:00 Eucharist and 6:30 supper, with program at 7:00. The meals will be prepared by our pilgrims to give you a taste of Israel each week.

Jan 18 – PLACES continued! There was too much to share to cover in one evening, so we're back for another round.

Jan 25 ~ PEOPLE: Our trip was enriched because of a series of planned meals with people from diverse experiences and perspectives. Our panel will review our unique meals and discussions with Samaritans, Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

Feb 8– PRESENCE (and presents): Spiritual blessings were part of every day. Our group will share how we experienced God and what we learned.



Healing is Here

During the final two Wednesday Nights in February, we will spend time talking about healing– in body, mind, and spirit.

Feb 15: Fr. Nigel Mumford, priest at Galilee Episcopal Church, will join us to give an introduction to the healing power of God. Fr. Nigel is considered to be an expert in healing ministry, and holds a monthly healing service at his parish.

Feb 22: Fr. Bob will take a look at some of the questions that come up around the Christian idea of healing. What do we mean when we talk about it? How does medicine come into play? What should we expect?

Other Events

Family Fun: Join the Mardi Gras Victory Party on Saturday, 28 January. There will be childcare, and also a magician and activities specially for the kids!

Sharing your Faith: a small group session led by Tom Cantrell. Using the course book "Practicing the Art of Sharing Your Faith with Others" by the C.S. Lewis institute, this group will give you the opportunity to begin tackling the hard questions about Christianity, learning how to voice your faith, and so much more. The first meeting will be on Feb 8 from 8:15-9:30pm, and will determine subsequent meetings. [Email](#) Tom Cantrell or call him at (757) 679-2933 if you're interested or have any questions!

Financial Peace University: Janet Neumann and Hank Luhning will present a course on financial education, adapted from Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The class will be held in Alfriend House on Saturdays in February from 9:00 - Noon. Childcare is provided. Please RSVP by the end of January!

Feb 4: Debt reduction, money relationships, and savings

Feb 11: How to budget

Feb 18: Building an estate and protecting loved ones

Feb 25: Good debt, bad debt, and the power of giving

Young Adults- a fellowship group for anyone in their 20s and 30s! We will continue to meet on Thursday nights from 6:-7:30 in Alfriend House. Childcare is provided, and so is dinner and fun! Come join us, and contact Mother Ashley with questions or to [RSVP](#).

Youth Vestry Representative

It is time to look for our next Youth Vestry Representative! We are grateful for Ryan Piston's work and input over this last year as he served on the vestry. I know that he has been a wonderful addition to the Vestry, and has completed his term well. We are now in the selection process to find our next representative. All youth in 10th or 11th grade are eligible to serve on the vestry, so please send [AJ Lambert](#) an email if you would like to run for this position. It is important that any youth who runs for the Vestry be able to attend the Vestry meetings once a month on Tuesday evenings. A vote will take place on Sunday, January 29th to determine our new Youth Vestry Representative.

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

January

Sunday, January 15th - No EYC

Sunday, January 22nd - EYC

Middle School: 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm

High School: 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, January 29th - EYC

Middle School: 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm

High School: 6:00-7:30pm

February

Sunday, February 5th - EYC

Middle School: 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm

High School: 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, February 12th - EYC

Middle School: 4:30-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm

High School: 6:00-7:30pm

Sunday, February 19th - Cloud 9

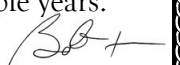
Middle School: 3:00-5:00pm

High School: 5:00-7:00pm

Youth Sunday! - Feb 12th

Youth and Young Adults: You ARE the church. Like the octogenarians and young families and twenty-something singles, you are one of many who make up our amazing community of God's people. To celebrate this, we plan a Youth Sunday each year so that the ministry of our young people is brought into the heart of our worship to bless all. If you're a youth (6th-12th grade) and are ready to sign up for a ministry role as a reader, greeter, chalice bearer, acolyte, or prayer leader, see AJ to get plugged in.

On Youth Sunday our preacher will be Joanna Gerace. Joanna has been a bright spark of JOY during my 12 years here and is a life-long member. I am happy she has accepted the invitation to bring a word from God to us that demonstrates what good things God continues to do among us here. Joanna has served as a vestry representative and been active in Sunday and youth programs. Our youth continue to be a blessing, thanks to all of *you* - and especially thanks to our youth Sunday School mentors and to AJ and Elizabeth Lambert who have been faithful shepherds these last couple years.



Vestry Candidates 2017

Michelle Stephenson Galvez



My name is Michelle Stephenson Galvez and I would love to serve you and our parish on vestry. I grew up attending Protestant services at various Air Force base chapels and when I had my own children, started going to Episcopal churches at different Navy duty stations. My mother (Sue Stephenson) came to visit us in Suffolk in 2003 and we took a historic buildings driving tour of Virginia Beach. I had called ahead and arranged a tour with a

costumed Colonial docent of Old Donation Episcopal Church. We then moved to California and Mississippi and ODEC was simply part of my photo album. But in 2008, when I moved to Hampton Roads for the third and final time, I put my new zip code into the Episcopal church's online find-a-church and Old Donation was the nearest parish. I've been a member of ODEC ever since. I've been active in many ways around the parish: directed the children's Christmas pageant, taught Sunday school, been a youth programs advisory council member, attended the Under the Hill adult formation class; and I'm currently on the lector, Eucharistic minister and intercessor roster for the 10:30 am service in the historic church.

I have a Bachelor's degree in print journalism and studied international politics and also public administration for my Master's degree. I was a combat medic in the Army National Guard, ran rescue for the Virginia Beach volunteer rescue squad, volunteered for 12 years at four different Navy commands, wrote military family life newspaper columns freelance, taught preschool and was a stay-at-home mom to my three children. I rejoined the work force a few years ago implementing resiliency programs for military families. I currently work for the non-profit USO and manage a program which helps service members transition to civilian life smoothly and successfully. I am divorced, and my children Isabella, Grace and Zachary are now in college, high school and middle school. I would be honored to give my time and talent to our parish on the vestry.

David Eckhardt

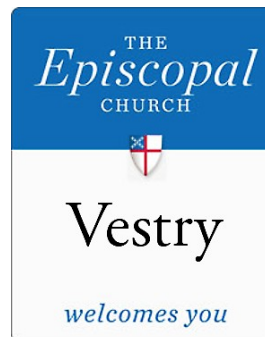
I am David. It's likely that if you didn't know my name, you have seen me around ODEC for these past years. I'm retired and single, with four children and five grandchildren. I'm a member of the Historical Traditions Commission and for the past couple years I have been the primary coordinator and planner for the monthly JOY dinners. I've previously served on the vestry at All Saints Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach.



After a successful career in industry, I managed my own real estate company for 19 years and then decided it was time to pursue my own loves and interests. As an example, I'm currently studying Mandarin Chinese at ODU. I love Old Donation and participate in as much as I can. I

feel I have the time, experience and talent to make a contribution to ODEC during this period of growth. I'd like to do that as part of your vestry.

We will elect four vestry members during



our Annual Parish Meeting on January 29 at 9:15. We have three retiring members: George Butler, Stacey Howeth and Bill Dullaghan. (Phyllis Haas left us last summer and was not replaced.) Qualifications include being an active member (over the age of 16) on the rolls of this

parish (who has been confirmed or received as a member of the Episcopal Church); someone who participates in the regular life of worship and minis-

try; a person who contributes to the mission and ministry of the parish; and will commit to a regular life of prayer and support of other vestry members and the parish.

The work of vestry is spiritual and functional leadership of our ministry. The vestry is responsible for discerning direction, establishing budgets for operation, and serving as a liaison to the various ministry commissions. There are monthly meetings of the vestry and periodic meetings of the commissions. It is not overly time consuming, but at times in the year requires more attention for planning and retreats. Presence and participation in the life of the congregation is of the highest value.

Bill Waide

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and I joined Old Donation three years ago. My wife Melissa and I along with my youngest Sabrina usually attend the Gathering. I also have three other grown children.



I work as the Director of Government Sales for FSloffice, an office furniture and supply company that I have been blessed to work for the last 23 years. I grew up in Virginia Beach. Free time these days are spent on the water as

much as possible. We decided it was time to simplify a little so we moved to a condo on the bay, joined a boat club and are enjoying the "Salt Life".

Over the years I have been very active in churches. Three terms on Vestry, and a few years as Register. One of my favorite ministries has been serving as a Lay Minister serving communion. I was also involved with the youth as a Sunday School Teacher, and being very involved in the youth programs including Happening, along with all the other EYC diocesan events. Melissa and I coordinated and took our J2A class to New York on a pilgrimage and then started and lead several mission trips for the EYC kids.

Here at Old Donation, Melissa and I have become very involved with the Outreach ministry. We are the organizers and leaders of the "Feed My Sheep" mission which feeds on Sundays for those in need in Norfolk. We have also been liaison to the Covington Boys Home. We have also helped AJ in Youth Ministry. Worshipping with the teenagers is part of what drew us to ODEC and the Gathering. Although the music in the Historic Church will always be "home", the uplifting contemporary music brings me to Chanco with the youth, and the great times spent there. As I contemplated Vestry, one of my favorite songs kept coming to mind. Here I am Lord.....

made comments as it progressed or afterward. And now that it has been on the page three days, we have over 1,300 views. We had former members tune in from Spain, Hawaii, Texas, Georgia and many other places. We are going to discuss using this in a roundtable at Diocesan Council. I'd like to set up some folks here to talk about what future use we might find for this remarkable capability. If you have some thoughts or expertise, let Ashley or me know.

"Pilgrimage Unwrapped"

Our 10 days of pilgrimage to Israel last November was full of learning and awe-inspiring moments. Our group of 25 will present a four week series on Wednesday nights to help you get a glimpse of what we experienced. Times and details are on the Formation page, but I want to highly encourage you to join us. Our time was unique in the opportunities to get to know such a diverse set of people in holy places with truly holy people.

Annual Meeting

We will hold our annual meeting January 29 at 9:15 in the Historic Church. As in the past, we will move the 9:15 worship to the Parish Hall. All adult Sunday School classes are cancelled so everyone can attend the meeting. We still have children and youth classes, though sometimes the J2A and RITE 13 classes attend the meeting together.

At our meeting we will review 2016 to understand where our ministries are doing God's work well and where we need to focus for the next year. We will have a review of finances for 2016 and the budget plan adopted by the vestry just the week prior. It has been a very active year and so much is planned for 2017. We hope you will all be present to add your inputs and get your questions answered.

We also elect vestry members at the meeting. We have four spots, in addition to the youth representative who will be elected by our young people. We still have opportunity for you to be nominated, so if you are interested, please mention it to one of the clergy, the Parish Administrator, or a vestry member.



J2A - Making Plans Our current J2A class of 9/10th graders has been doing their studies and making plans for the next year. With guidance from their mentors and consultation with parents and Fr. Bob, they've set their sights toward the next youth pilgrimage. In June of 2018, IF they raise the funds needed, they plan to do pilgrimage in southern England with a short trip across the water to the north coast of France. Their mentors include David Beach, a former British Army officer who knows the territory and guided a similar pilgrimage in 2012. The youth were particularly drawn to the French addition, knowing it is the 100 year anniversary of WWI, and they hope to visit some of the large war cemeteries. They continue their studies in faith and practice of the Christian life and also now will be doing detail plans for pilgrimage. Their fund-raising plans include the second ODEC golf tournament, likely this Spring. Look for news!

What's Going on...

Paws, Prayers & Praise

Holy Eucharist

February 12th at 5:00pm

This is a great opportunity to bring a guest, furry or otherwise, who might not attend a regular service!

Newcomer's Dinner!



We will have a newcomer's dinner on February 19th at 5:30pm. This dinner is for anyone who has begun attending within the last year. It's also for returning members, so that our clergy can get to know you better. If you would like to attend, please contact Judy Kuhns: jkuhns809@cox.net or 757-343-6740

STUFFERS NEEDED

If you have an hour or so to give to your Church Family to help send out the monthly Bell Ringer (and to have a little bit of fun), join us as we stuff, sticker, label, and fold. You will have a good time, here some good stories, have a few laughs and just generally have a BLAST! Please call and talk to Pam Campbell at the church office or on her cell at 667-9416.

Acrylic Painting! Come enjoy a relaxing afternoon of acrylic painting in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 15 January 2 - 5pm. We'll be painting a still life of sunflowers. Cost is \$25 per person. Come dressed to paint, all supplies are provided and we'll have snacks, too. Newcomers to painting are welcome! Taught by Martha Wilson. RSVP to [Martha](#) by email - or text/call 310-430-2306. Bring a friend and have fun!



2016 Vestry

George Butler, Senior Warden
 Bill Dullaghan, Christian Formation
 Stacey Howeth, Outreach
 Carol Gurioli, Day School
 Jeff Hood, Stewardship
 Rich Kuhr, Finance
 Sharon Payne, People's Warden, Building & Facilities Planning
 John Brown, Buildings & Grounds
 Vicki Dorsett, Congregational Care
 Laura Horvath, Parish Life
 Chip Saunders, Evangelism
 Ryan Piston, Youth Representative/Christian Formation



JOY

Dinner Group

Friday, 27 January

5:30pm @ Leaping Lizard

Friday, 24 February, 5:30pm @ Braise

RSVP to [David Eckhardt](#) 757-340-4811

davideckhardt2002@yahoo.com



Help Wanted!

Greg Allman sang "I'm no Angel." No, he's not, but maybe YOU are!! If you can answer a phone, have a pleasant disposition, and as little as 2 or 3 hours available during normal working hours, consider giving some time to be an Office Angel. There's a real need so please, contact [Louise](#) if you're interested.

P.S. Halo not required.

Ladies' Game Night

Friday, 3 February

7:00pm, Alfriend House



Yappy Hour! February 11, 2017 in the Parish Hall. From 4-7pm Enjoy food, music, and silent auction items! Tickets are \$15 in advanced and \$20 at the door. This event is Michaela Vecerkauskas senior project.

Old Donation Episcopal Day School Registration for 2017-2018



Parishioner's Date:
January 18, 2017



Classes for Ages 2 - Kindergarten
 Early Drop and Extended Day Available
 Registration forms are available
 online at www.olddonation.weebly.com

odeds@olddonation.org

Call anytime for a tour! 499-2283
www.olddonation.org

I can't believe it is already time to register the 2017-18 school year! Please note the date for Parishioners! Registration opens to you before we open registration to new families on the 19th! We also have two openings NOW in 4s! Happy New Year!

Janet Brown & Jody Baker
 Co-Directors

January & February Celebrations

January

1 John Brown, Sr. Betty Sherman Janet Neumann	11 Irene Span Page O'Flaherty Zachary Suttle	23 Tom Ackiss Mike Jones George Weeks	Kieran Anderson Sonya Grossgold Dot Tripician	Rob Bradshaw Carolyn Hayes Zach Neumann
2 Ronald Hall Fred Poteet	12 Barbara Drew Benjamin Perry Charlie Wilson	24 Mike Jones George Weeks Edward Warneke	7 Kell Perry Richard Kuhr Jade Tsai	17 Diane Shaver Mike Check Martha Wilson
3 Ruth Ann Campbell Darden Purrington	13 Ainslie Anderson Christina Merry Ashley Urquidi	25 Stuart Forbes Will Walker, III Dick Bolen	Felix Tsai, Jr. Gene Allender Donna Bulleit	Ricky Barrio Alexzandir Balling Glenn Scott
4 Boo Burroughs Samantha Brittain	14 Patricia Wilson Nancy Arnold Joan Miller	26 Will Walker, III Dick Bolen Don Gibboney	8 Sara Check Robert Epps Colin Martin	19 Stephen Fleming Barbette Timperlake Evelyn Wool
5 Dillon Miller Brenden Jones Scott Poteet	15 Nancy Arnold Joan Miller Terri Piston	27 Carrie Liverman Parker Schmidt Jacob Miller	9 Peggy Allen Ginny Bandlelean Hannah Hunt	20 Cheryl Sutherland Luke Taylor Laura Scott
6 Mike Vecerkauskas Harry Lustig, Jr. Dave Wilkinson	16 Terri Piston Lochlan Hoover Keith Moore	28 Jacob Miller Mike Casey Reef Casey	Sterling Taylor Ann Perry Gracie Galvez	22 Kelli Hoover Gloria Brown Wayles Haynes
7 Robert Johnson Robyn Waltrip	17 Keith Moore Rob Brown Angeline Groce	30 Reef Casey Brian Wubker Paul Verburg	10 Sabrina Waide Bob Perrine Rachel Ruhl	23 Savannah Vaughan Jane Robinson Susan Ruhl
8 Tom Gerace Harper Peters	18 Rob Brown Angeline Groce Alexia El-Attar	31 Paul Verburg Bowen Huntley <i>February</i>	11 Robby Ruhl Bill Dudley, Jr. Matt Piston	24 Jonathan Teeling Heidi Stanley Sandra Wills
9 Michele Purrington Fred Myers Patti Somers	19 Ryan Parker Karen Ludwig Mary Jo Bradley	2 Lindsey McCarty Gregory Epps Linda Kuhr	12 Al Allen	26 Kevin Epps Joey Cheri
10 Allison Small Mark Erickson Kathryn Cintron	20 Karen Ludwig Mary Jo Bradley Mark Erickson	3 Kathleen Weinberg Joanna Gerace Anna Brunick		
	21 Mark Erickson Kathryn Cintron	4 Tom Crockett, Sr.		

January Anniversaries

- 3 Melanie & Jon Waggoner
- 12 Tom & Joan Crockett
- 14 Dan & Janie Bowen
- 22 Timothy & Christina Merry
- 27 DiAnn & Lew Friedrichsen
- 28 Bob & Chris Randall
- 30 Gary & Katherine Kline

February Anniversaries

- 4 David & Jo Beach
- 6 Yvonne & Mike Reynolds
- 13 Brian & Diane Miller
- 14 Amy & Reese Young
Barbara & Jim Webster
- 15 Preble & Isabell Staver
- 20 Lee & Sally Gordon
- 22 Kent & Debbie Ross
- 25 Jack & Joyce Barry
- 26 David & Pamela Bowles



Dates for 2017 are
July 17-21

ODEC Calendar & Meeting Space

If you are part of a group, and using ODEC space, please be certain to contact the parish office. We need to know of any **changes, additions, or deletions** in order to keep the calendar up to date. We try to accommodate everyone, but need your help to keep current!

THANK YOU! Scott, Dave, Andy!

When the blizzard hit last Saturday, Bruce Woodhouse, our sexton, called to have our parking lot cleared by our regular service. No response! So, I was worried that anyone who tried to make it Sunday morning might make it on the streets, but never get far into the church lot. BUT, when I turned the corner onto Witchduck Road, worry turned to joy. Someone had not only plowed our road and parking lot, but shoveled all the sidewalks as well. Usually George Butler, Steve Kamperschroer and a couple others end up with hours of work to make it safe to get in the church. It was in good shape already when I showed up at 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

A little sleuthing work told me who were the heroes. **Dave Burt, Scott Crumley, and Andy Ash** came out Saturday and with help from Scott's 'Bobcat' and a lot of hard shoveling, we had a usable parking lot. THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

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

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*

Mr. AJ Lambert, *Youth Minister*

Paul Hudgins, *Organist & Choirmaster*

4449 N. Witchduck Road, Virginia Beach, 23455

Phone: 757-497-0563 Fax: 757-497-9291

Church E-mail: odec@olddonation.org

Parish Web Site: www.olddonation.org

Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Janet Brown & Jody Baker, Day School Directors

Phone: 757-499-2283 Fax: 757-497-9291

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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