

April
2019

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*

A PILGRIM'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK PAGES 8 & 9

April 14

Palm Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Holy Eucharist, Rite I
(No Christian Formation Hour)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 10:30 a.m. Gathering Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Paws, Prayers & Praise Holy Eucharist

Holy Week: Services nightly at 7:00pm

April 20

Holy Saturday

- 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil, Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Baptisms

April 21

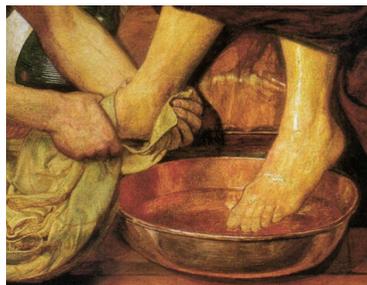
Easter Day

Don't forget flowers for the Cross outside!

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 a.m. Easter Holy Eucharist, Rite II *Full Choir*
(No Christian Formation Hour)
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Gathering Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. Festival Liturgy of the Resurrection *Full Choir*
- 5:00 p.m. Easter Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Maundy Thursday Family Service

- Holy Eucharist
- 6:00pm in the Parish Hall
- Specifically for children



EYC Spring Break Outing



See page 7

Men's Night Out

An Evening with our Admiral

Food & fellowship with
Gene Black

Sunday, 14 April
6:15pm in the Parish Hall

From our Rector

Years ago I was told, “Unless you’ve been broken some, you can’t really sing the Blues.” There is some universal truth there which applies to Easter and Holy Week. Blues music, at its truest, reaches to the depths of our emotions and touches the still raw pain and loss of life. There it finds its power and its beauty. By exposing the hurt, opening again the wounds... healing is possible, life can be found even in death. The primary reason the Blues resonates with most everyone is that eventually we all, to some degree, find ourselves hurt or lost or vulnerable and needing that healing and rebirth.

Holy Week is our liturgical means for experiencing the cross of Christ. Without Holy Week, Easter Day can seem to be about egg hunts, bunny rabbits, and big family meals. But if that’s all we get from Easter, we are left unprepared to deal with the hardship and loss that every life finds inevitable. Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday give me a taste of what Jesus experienced on the way to the cross and tomb. Walking the way of suffering with Him, makes the Sunday festival so much more of true joy. It is no longer a happy facade. Having been to the bottom, I know why the top feels so good. I invite you to experience the fullness of the Christ-life and participate in as much of Holy Week as you can. Your Easter will be so much more powerful.

Palm Sunday Men’s Night: “An Evening with Our Admiral”

Sunday, 14 April 14, 6:15pm in Tucker Hall we will have one of our occasional “Men’s Night Out”. We will have a good meal, discussion and fellowship, ending before 8:15pm. The occasion is an opportunity to celebrate and talk with one of our faithful, Gene Black, who is moving into a new position with the Navy at the end of the month. Humble Gene would never tell you that his “Clark Kent” identity is Rear Admiral Eugene Black, who is moving from command of the Truman Strike Group up to DC where he will work on future ships and weapons for the Navy. Gene will share some of the recent adventures of the Truman group on their North Atlantic training mission and have time for Q&A. Please [RSVP](#) so we can plan food/drink. (If you decide later to come, COME without reservation. We just need some ballpark number.)

YOUTH and Spring Break at Busch Gardens

HOW MANY YOUTH would you guess are *active* at ODEC? I just got a taste while trying to be sure everyone knew about our Busch Gardens / Water Country outings and ticket opportunity. In planning, I told a couple people we would probably be subsidizing 10-20 tickets.

Last week 32 Middle and High School members bought tickets and at least 20 others already had tickets or other plans. WOW!

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, our buses will run to Busch Gardens. It’s Spring Break and it’s time for fun. Plus, parents probably like something healthy happening during the week off from school. Bill Waide and I will transport youth (5th grade through 12th). We know there are lots of you ready to run! [Click here to sign up so we know that we have enough seats on the buses](#) and we know who wants to come. We depart ODEC at 9:30am - return about 6:30pm.

Preserving our heritage - building for the future

Most of us are very familiar with our building project. But, thanks to God’s continuing blessing, a good number of people have joined the parish in the couple years since we finished the initial phase of our capital campaign. A number of us that were not in a position to make a pledge and gifts are now able, and desire to be part of this vital addition. The money we raised already did major restoration of our historic church building. We also made significant improvements to our Christian Formation/Day School facility. Every month we continue to do small but important renovations such as the upgrades to our kitchen. Our hard-working Building Team is close to some decision points on the BIG work. To assure we do our very best, everyone should have an opportunity to participate in this vital project. We will send a note this month with updates and plans. It will include instructions about how you can give thanks for what God is doing at ODEC and be part of assuring we are doing God’s work *well* for the next 382 years!

C.S. Lewis & Disciples

C. S. Lewis is regarded as the most influential Christian writer of the 20th century. He was an Anglican whose writings of theology, practical Christian living and even fantasy (Lion, Witch, & Wardrobe) continue to help us understand Christianity. Locally, a study program uses his writings and associated authors to help people deepen their faith. Several of us have found it a wonderful addition to our spiritual life. They are now taking registrations for this “no-fee” program. [Click here](#) or ask Tom Cantrell for more information.

Young Historians

I am so pleased with the establishment this week of the “Young Historians Club.” This Sunday there will be a special coffee hour to recognize them. ODEC has such a rich history. Having young children and youth appreciate and celebrate it is a gift to all of us. Thanks to the Historic Traditions Commission!

See you as we walk the way of the cross and resurrection together,



From our Assistant Rector

This past Sunday (March 31) was Laetare Sunday, or Rose Sunday. If you were here for Sunday services, you hopefully noticed the rose colored vestments and altar hangings, and the pink flowers in the historic church. You might even have worn pink yourself!

“But, what is Laetare Sunday, and why do we do it?” you might ask (and some did).

It’s an excellent question. Lent, you likely know, is a season of repentance. Historically, it has been seen as a time to fast, to turn full and total focus to God, to deny earthly pleasures and contemplate how we’ve gone wrong, and how we might turn back around again. We focus on our *spiritual* walk with God, helped along by de-emphasizing the physical. This has been taken more or less seriously, to varying degrees, throughout history and in different denominations. But the problem with Lent is that such a strong focus on God can quickly and subtly turn into a strong focus on the self—on believing that you need to behave a certain way, or perhaps priding yourself on doing so, or getting so caught up in what you’ve given up that you forget what the point was in the first place. Laetare is Latin for “rejoice” and so Laetare Sunday is a day of celebration in the midst of Lent, where we remember that it’s by God’s grace that we are saved, not by our own acts of denial. All of these things we do in Lent are *good*, but without God and his love and grace, they are nothing.

If you want a better understanding, watch the movie *Chocolate*. A woman and her young daughter arrive in a small and intimate French town, and set about opening up a shop. The town is fully Catholic, its mayor has his hands in the teachings of the church, and it’s soon discovered that this duo is opening up nothing other than a *chocolate shop*. IN LENT. The movie is beautifully made, and can essentially serve as a commentary on how Lent can only truly be observed with Laetare built in.

So, as you continue for the next couple weeks with your own Lenten observances, remember always that it is God for whom we do all things, God for whom our lives are lived. If love and joy are not also a part of your Lenten journey, then you are missing an intrinsic piece of who this being you’re striving to be closer to is.

Laetare, O Jerusalem!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Vini", followed by a small cross symbol.

From our Youth Minister

When I think about what it means to be at home, certain images or phrases pop to mind. “Warm.” “familiar” and “safe” are the first I think of. Whether or not the word home connotes a positive feeling for you, the sentiment of being somewhere you belong is one we can all identify with. In fact, this is such an important feeling to me that I’ve written about it before. I’m sure you could add your own descriptions of what characterizes home for you.

I have been married to a Navy service member for over four years, which meant I had to create home wherever I was, even if it was thousands of miles away from family. Two and a half years ago in September 2016, Drew and I arrived on orders to Virginia and soon after made our church home at Old Donation. We were seeking a community that would make us feel warm, familiar and safe. We wanted to build relationships, as well as invest in the activities. We helped out with Oyster Roast, attended services, and went to the newcomers’ dinner. We learned more about God through conversation and worship. We were invited to people’s homes for meals, and friendships blossomed. Soon we became part of the youth program as I accepted a job with the church. We met and spent time every week with our church’s youth, witnessing a piece of their lives as they navigated school, friends, and faith. We made ODEC our church base and we are so grateful for it. It has made our time in Virginia feel as close to home as we could make it.

Ever since having our daughter Maja, our need for a deeper sense of home has heightened. A place where family is a brief car trip away, instead of a long plane ride. Where we have a deep sense of peace and of being understood, of being known. We’re ready for that deepest, truest feeling of belonging, as new parents and as Drew is pending a career change. So, we will be finishing our time at ODEC the end of this month, and moving back home to the Pacific Northwest in May. We have been learning to look toward God’s provision and look forward to this next adventure together. We are going to miss our church community here at ODEC and we thank you deeply for welcoming us so fully, so warmly, into your lives. We’ve witnessed God at work here and we look forward to what else he has in store for us and our family.

~Marta

2019 Vestry

Bill Waide, *Senior Warden*
Michelle Stephenson, *People's Warden | Congregational Care*
John Sherman, *Building & Facilities Planning*
Holly Swanson, *Day School*
Rebecca Barrio, *Christian Formation*
Mitch Bean, *Outreach*
Brad Croteau, *Buildings & Grounds*
Brennon Pope, *Stewardship*
Chaille Lindo, *Good News*
Paige Martin, *Historic Traditions*
Tony Putzig, *Parish Life*
Joe Tucker, *Finance*
Peter Hood, *Youth Representative*

Maundy Thursday Family Service

Maundy Thursday offers a great experiential teaching for children with foot washing, Holy Eucharist, and stripping of the altar. We will have a family service at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall that is specifically for children. The service will be about 45 min.



Childcare will be available for the 7:00pm service in the Parish Hall.

A Note from the Treasurer

Want to Review ODEC Financial Information?

If you would like to monitor the financial health of the parish, please be aware that the latest ODEC General Fund financial report presented monthly to the Vestry is also posted for parishioner review in the "Vestry" wooden wall cabinet adjacent to the water fountain in the parish hall. You can read the summary report through the glass or feel free to open the door and take down the detailed report for closer review. Please return it back in the cabinet when finished.

The quarterly report of the Endowment Fund is posted in the adjacent "Endowment Fund" wooden wall cabinet. These reports are changed out in January, April, July and October after the Endowment Committee has met. Also included in the cabinet is a copy of the Endowment Fund Policies and Practices Manual. This publication is a convenient information guide approved by the Vestry and used by the five Fund trustees to manage the gifts received. If you would like a personal copy of the Manual, please contact Diane Miller, our Parish Accountant, at 757-497-0563 or Ned Kuhns at 757-552-0292.

The "Endowment Fund" cabinet also contains important information on ODEC's Legacy Society of 1637, including a list of current Society members who wish to be recognized as well as information on how parishioners may become members by remembering ODEC in their estate plans. Contact information for Earl Morris is listed there if you have questions concerning the Legacy Society of 1637 program.

Legacy Society of 1637

The Final Gift

A bequest provides the way to make a final gift to ministries of the church and/or charities one has supported throughout life. That single gift is often the largest one can make because it is derived from accumulated assets, from *all* one has. Even though the donor does not see it "work for the good of the ministry," there is tremendous joy in knowing the gift has the capacity to have tremendous impact in the lives of others.

A statement of faith is made with a bequest. It declares, "I want to see God's work continue." But more, perhaps, is the expression of confidence in those who will ultimately steward that bequest. It is, like no other act, an investment in the future.

There is also the capacity to influence others. A bequest does that, too. It says, "You can do this too." It is possible for many no, *all*, to take this step and make a difference. The example of one can influence others to consider their circumstances and plan accordingly.

Talking about bequest plans with loved ones is as wise and generous as making them. Do not let others be surprised, rather, let them anticipate your final gift - as an act of Christian stewardship and thanks GIVING. After all, *all* one has is a gift; let the final act be one that declares; **"Thanks be to God.."**

For information about Planned Giving to the Trustee's of Old Donation Episcopal Church Endowment Fund contact the church office or Earl Morris, 757-464-1062.

What's Going On...

Ladies' Game Night

Friday, 5 April @ 7:00pm
Alfriend House

Bring a snack/drink to share if you like.

Questions? Need a babysitter? Contact [Martha Wilson](#)

Historic Traditions

Come celebrate with The Historic Traditions Commission Sunday, April 7. The Commission and the Young Historians Club (and volunteer parents) will host coffee hour after the 10:30 services. All these history buffs will be in colonial attire and sharing colonial style tastings. Come join the group who honor our ODEC history.



JOY

Dinner Group

Friday, 12 April
5:30pm @ El Azteca

RSVP: [David Eckhardt](#) 395-0008

Paws, Prayers & Praise Holy Eucharist Palm Sunday

April 14th at 5:00pm

Bring a guest, a pet, and yourself!

Women's Kairos #47

VCCW Goochland, 2-5 May, 2019

Cookies needed! Return by Wednesday, 1 May @ noon)
Pray and sign the prayer vigil links!

LISTEN • LISTEN • LOVE • LOVE

Men's Night Out

An Evening with our
Admiral

Food & fellowship with
Gene Black

Sunday, 14 April
6:15pm in the Parish Hall

Please click
[HERE](#) to
RSVP so we
can plan for
food!

Order of Cape Henry

Saturday, 27 April at Fort Story (enter at 89th Street)
2:00pm wreath laying
3:00pm chapel

It's Time To Order Your Easter Lilies!



Beautiful lilies adorn our worship spaces on Easter Day. Plants are \$12.00 each and may be ordered in thanksgiving or in memoriam. Sign up online [HERE](#).

Ministry of the Baptized

Preparation for Living as Christians

Ministry of the Baptized equips us to serve not only here at ODEC, but at home, at work - anywhere! Join your clergy and fellow parishioners on: **April 28, May 19 and June 9** for lunch after 10:30am worship. Gatherings last for 75 minutes. The first focuses on the theological basis of our ministry, the second on our individual strengths, and the third on important skills for service.

Our program is based on Verna Dozier's interpretation of the lay person's Christian responsibility in her book *The Dream of God*, an excerpt of which we will read at home prior to our first meeting. We will complete an online individual strengths assessment prior to discussing it in the second session and we will review a communication and organizational behavior program in the third session.

Contact [Sharon Payne](#) 567-0162 for more details, or to save a seat! Reservations are required in order for you to receive materials and to get a lunch count!

Annual Council Delegates: It is time to elect delegates from ODEC to be our Diocesan Council representatives. Council will be 28-29 February, 2020 in Williamsburg. Our vestry will elect 6 reps and 2 alternates. The parish pays your lodging and meals. If you wish to be considered, send an email to [Father Bob](#).

Play Ball!

Come out and cheer on our very own Bell Ringers!

April 5, 6:45 & 7:45

Bayville Farms Municipal Park,
Field #2

April 12, 8:45 & 9:45

City View Municipal Park, Field #1

April 26, 6:45 & 7:45

City View Municipal Park, Field #4





Sundays 9:15am-10:15am

This month: NO classes on April 14 & 21

Sitting in the Dark

Growing Through Poetry of Pain

We have one more session in what has been an engaging and thought-provoking series on human pain and suffering, and how we respond— both when we're in pain, or when those around us are.

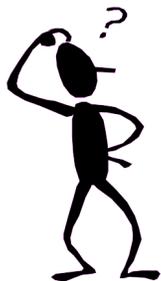


Join us on April 7, as we conclude our conversations and get ready to carry God's light into the darkness!

The Revelation Continues...

The course that began in Epiphany and continued through Lent is reaching its conclusion! This has been a very in-depth look into the book of Revelation, which needs one or two weeks yet. Meet with Fr. Bob in the library on April 7 and 28, for the epic conclusion!

Sticky Stuff



The Bible is easy to understand and all makes sense, right? WRONG! There is a lot of really confusing and challenging stuff in there, including some things Jesus said. Join Fr. Bob and Mother Ashley as we take a look at some of those challenging passages, and try to make sense of them together.

April 28, May 5, & 12 in the Parish Hall.

Children's Sunday School

Sunday, April 7 - Children's Seder Dinner for all grades, with Rebecca Barrio

Sunday, April 14 - No Sunday school (Palm Sunday)

Sunday, April 21 - No Sunday school (Easter Day)

Sunday, April 28 - A new cycle begins! The Body of Christ: through story and games, art, movie, and kitchen projects.



Youth Sunday School

Rite 13: The Rite 13 youth will be studying more this month about prayer & religious orders, and faith & trust, what it means to "embrace the creed."

J2A: The J2A group this month will learn about how we are all ministers of the church, and how confirmation is the beginning of our spiritual journey, leading us to more participation in the life of the church, not less.

11th, 12th & Beyond



The group continues to meet on Sunday mornings with Holly Waide and John Michael Payne in Father Bob's office! We are continuing our exploration of spirituality with a Lenten focus this month! If you are interested in the group, or have any questions, reach out to [Holly](#) for more information.

What is God Doing in Your Life? Telling our Stories

A Lenten Program for Wednesday Nights

During his ministry, Jesus often told stories to help the people understand the meaning of his message. His words set Galilee on fire; crowds gathered to listen and went home to tell others of the power of his story. We, too, have life experiences that have impacted and transformed our lives. Our Baptismal Covenant ask us to share our stories as well. We say yes to the question, "Will you by word and example share the Good News of Christ in God?" In this Lenten program we will examine ways to that we can tell those stories to help others to hear the Good News.

This excellent series, led by the Good News Commission and clergy, will conclude on April 10; 6:00pm Holy Eucharist; 6:30pm supper, 7:00pm program. You don't want to miss the finale!

Buddies Helping Buddies

Our own Kaitlyn Piston was recently featured in a [WTKR News 3](#) report for creating a leadership workshop for kids with disabilities at Cox High School. The program is called "Buddies Helping Buddies." Her involvement with the Special Education community is part of her passion and desire to be a Special Ed teacher. Thanks, Kaitlyn, for giving back and being the hands and feet of Christ at your school!



Episcopal Youth Community

EYC Hours (unless noted differently)

Middle School: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm-5:45pm

High School: 5:45pm-6:45pm

Sunday, April 7 - EYC with Holly Waide and John-Michael Payne

Sunday, April 14 - No EYC (Palm Sunday)

Tuesday, April 16 - Spring Break! Busch Gardens!



9:30am - 6:30pm

Ride the bus!

Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

Sunday, April 21 - No EYC (Easter Day)

Saturday, April 28 - EYC goes to Paintball

Stay tuned for details!!

Middle & high schoolers all welcome, bring a friend.

CREW

(Christians Reuniting Every Week)

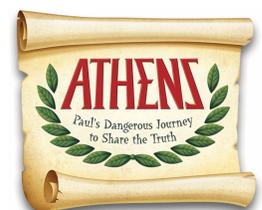
A group for young(ish) individuals and families to gather for support, fellowship, and prayer. April 4 & 11 we'll gather in Alfriend House to continue a class on Spirituality and Gifts.

5:30-7pm, childcare and dinner provided, donations accepted to help cover costs.

Contact [Mother Ashley](#) for details or to sign up!

Athens VBS! July 8-12, 2019

Our Vacation Bible School has a new date. **ATHENS** VBS will be 8-12 July. Many have already requested registration forms, and they are **HERE!** We are also actively recruiting helpers!! Ready to volunteer (adult or teen!)? Contact [Patti Somers](#).



A Pilgrim's Guide to Holy Week

Holy Week lies at the heart of the Church year and at the very center of our life in Christ. Who we are - what we are as Christians, is inseparably bound up in the events these special days recount. While all times and seasons are filled with the grace of God, the anniversary of our redemption draws us into singular awareness of that grace. In it we are brought up short by the length and breadth of the Father's love.

From the earliest times, the church has kept a yearly remembrance of the Lord's passion and resurrection. This commemoration was a special occasion of thanksgiving for the blessing received in Christ. The commemoration was more than a nostalgic revisit to a dusty past, however glorious and meaningful that might be. It was, rather, a re-living of salvation-filled occurrences. Moving beyond simply an observance, the celebration involved an inner experience in which what happened to the head happened to the members...the experience of the master became the experience of the disciples.

Christianity is not simply a doctrine or way of life. It is also an event: something that happened and continues to happen. The salvation-bearing events of these blessed days that once happened to Christ now happen to us.

The rites of Holy Week are a liturgical representation of what it means to be 'in Christ.' In this spirit, then, we enter the meaning of these days of 'countdown' to Easter. We make our way not as tourists viewing an attraction, but as pilgrims passing way-markers en route to the 'abiding city' -the Heavenly Jerusalem.

Passion Sunday

This great and holy week opens on a note of rejoicing. A festive mood surrounds the entrance into the city of Jerusalem for Christ our King. Our worship begins with the Liturgy of the Palms: a solemn procession punctuated with acclamations of triumph. However, as the Book of Common Prayer suggests, the forthcoming Passion becomes a dominant theme. The change in atmosphere from the palm procession into the reading of the Passion comes with almost whiplash suddenness. Already the cross casts its somber, serious shadow; and the jubilant shouts of "Hosanna" give way to the angry demands of "Crucify him!" as the narrative of the Passion Gospel unfolds. The color of the day is red, symbolizing the blood shed by Jesus on the cross.



From our post-Easter vantage point, we recount the events of the day through the lens of the resurrection. What were, for the first celebrants, genuine cheers for a tragically misunderstood messiah, are for us, veiled affirmations of the Easter victory. Yet even within us, there is the poignant reminder that we, too, often fail to recognize the real Christ.

The strange interweaving of joy and sorrow, approval and rejection, loyalty and betrayal...is evident even in the palm branches we wave in procession. We save them with great care, take them home and place them behind an icon or crucifix. They are sacramentals of the costly Kingship of the One who yet reigns in the midst of our daily contradictions and compromises.

Monday & Tuesday, 7:00pm

"Do we really need the cross?" Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week will feature meditations on the cross. Why is the cross such a central element of our devotion and theology? What is God doing through Jesus on the cross?

What it means to us when Jesus says, "Take up your cross and follow me."



Each night we will prayerfully reflect and contemplate about what the gospels are trying to teach us and what St. Paul might mean when he claims, "I know nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified." or "may I never boast,

except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Tenebrae, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

This ancient service of Tenebrae (or darkness) is an extended meditation on the Passion, typically using Old Testament prophecies and canticles—often sung. The name comes from the tradition of gradually extinguishing candles and lights



as the service progresses, ultimately ending in darkness and silence. The last light is snuffed after reading Psalm 51. A loud noise is made near the end, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the crucifixion. No benediction is pronounced at the end. The congregation leaves in silence or remains in the Church for prayer and contemplation. It is an unhurried service with much silence.

Maundy Thursday

10:00am, 6:00pm & 7:00pm

As a hidden pattern of rejection and betrayal begins to emerge, there is a momentary respite. At the close of the day, Christ initiates the Eucharist. For a small gathering of his immediate companions in a rented upper room, he prepares a meal in conjunction with the Passover. In the liturgy, we are gathered in spirit with the disciples to receive from Jesus. At this Last Supper, when Jesus gave us the Sacrament of his love, he stated, "I stand in the midst of you as one who serves." He enacted his words by washing the feet of his disciples. Giving them and us a graphic picture of servanthood, he issued a mandate for us to follow his example. "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you." The moving scene is so imprinted on the memory of the Church that we use that gospel account and re-enact the washing of the feet. The day is known as Maundy (Mandatum = Commandment) Thursday.



The concluding acts are the stripping of the altar. The altar (being a symbol of Christ) is stripped of its adornment—recalling to us how he was stripped of his garments during the Passion. A vigil is conducted in the Church all through the night with people taking one hour shifts, recalling Jesus' words from Gethsemane, "Could you not stay awake with me for one hour?"

Good Friday

Morning Prayer, 7:00am

Stations of the Cross, 12:00noon (Town Center)

Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00pm



In ancient times, this day was called the "Friday of the Passion and Death of the Lord." It is a day of probing recollection and prayerful contemplation of the cross on which the Redeemer of the world hung.

The sorrow of Good Friday is not bereavement for a dead Christ. According to his own words from the cross, we are not to weep for him, but for ourselves. The sorrow of repentance that leads to newness of life is the sorrow of Good Friday.

The fact that this is the only day in the year that the Western Church does not celebrate the Holy Eucharist intensifies the atmosphere of desolation. We depart to ponder anew our Lord's final words from the cross, "It is finished."

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil, 7:00pm

The "most holy night of the year" begins in the darkness that descends from Good Friday's events. From the darkness that covers all, a spark leaps forth. In the graveyard, the newly kindled fire (which symbolizes Christ's resurrection from the tomb) visually announces the rising of Christ from the dead. With the lighting of the Paschal Candle, we begin the Great Vigil of Easter.

Initially this liturgy centers on firelight, the visible token of Christ, who proclaimed himself the "Light of the world." As the darkness of the Church is pierced by the single shaft of light, the Paschal candle is borne forward toward the sanctuary. The deacon's joyous acclamation, "The Light of Christ" and the people's response, "Thanks be to God" follow the light as the new light is shared with each person until the church is bathed in its radiance. The ancient Paschal song, the Exsultet, is chanted, calling heaven, earth, and all people of God to rejoice in the resurrected Lord. Wondrous events of salvation history are recounted in a series of Old Testament readings.

The focus shifts to baptism, as this night was the primary time for baptisms in the early church. What better day for baptisms could there be than this, as we go under the waters of the death of our old life, so to be raised by God into new life! The climax of the service and of all Holy Week is the Holy Eucharist—the sacramental re-enactment of Christ's Pasch (Passage or Passover) from death to life for the salvation of the world. Our response to the tremendous mystery is a resounding "Alleluia"

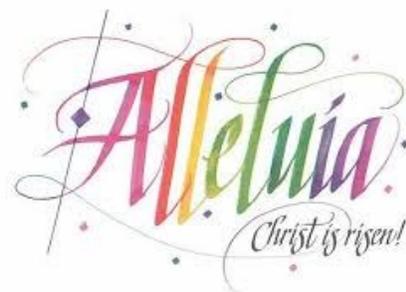
Easter Day

We bring flowers from our gardens and yards to decorate the wooden cross that stood in front of the church for all of Lent. The Festival Liturgy is characterized by triumph and joy.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Alleluia!



Day School News

Thank you for coming out to support our 3rd Annual Art Auction! It was so nice to see everyone together having a great time and supporting our scholarship fund.

Our 2's - kindergarten will be honoring their mothers at a tea in May. They will serve muffins and fruit and sing songs filled with love and admiration!

This school year is winding down but enrollment for next year continues! We have openings for 2 year-olds - Kindergarten. Thank you for spreading the news!

~ Tricia Crawford and Jody Baker
odeds@olddonation.org

Sitting Vigil

After the Maundy Thursday service on 18 April, we sit vigil overnight in the church. Two people are needed for each hour-long time slot. We also welcome one person to sit vigil from home. The vigil ends with Morning Prayer at 7:00am on Good Friday. Click [HERE](#) to sign up online.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship Enters Lent

On Ash Wednesday, spearheaded by Dick Kreassig who furnished doughnuts and fruit after the 7:00am worship service, the Men's Breakfast Fellowship entered the season of Lent. We meet each Wednesday at 7:00am in Tucker Parish Hall for breakfast and discussion. We dress a little oddly, sometimes we look a little ragged, but the fellowship is sincere and embracing. For \$2.00 to cover the food cost, we gather with a prayer, eat, and then discuss whatever topic that day's program leader raises. With bad jokes, often about ourselves—but occasionally beginning with “A Priest and a Rabbi went into a bar”—and then a program, we share an hour together.

In recent weeks Bob Perrine spoke about North Carolina's lost colony; Dick Kreassig led discussion on the declining middle class and the concentration of wealth in our society; and Vaughn Wilson explored “The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life”. All men are welcome. Come, make us part of your Lent.

Building & Facilities

In last month's Bell Ringer you met David Beach, who has joined our construction team as the overall Project Manager, reporting to Dave Burt, the chairman of the Building & Facilities Planning Commission. David has hit the deck running and has already made significant contributions to the team. He is now meeting frequently with the architect and our general contractor and as we get into actual construction will be our daily on scene representative. David is sharing an office at the church with Marta Cohen. He can be reached by phone through the church number and by email at dbeach@olddonation.org. If you see David around, please say hello and thank him for stepping into this challenging key position in our church.

Kitchen update.

Many of you have noticed the changes being made in the kitchen. We have completed installing stainless steel on all of the counter tops, and the island has been reversed so that it opens toward the ovens. It will be modified to provide open storage for large pots, pans and miscellaneous cookware items. The drawers in the pass through counter will be repurposed to hold our silverware items. The dishes, bowls and coffee mugs in the wall near the coffee maker have been emptied, and placed into their appropriate holders, and the wall will be removed. Permanent storage for these items will be on dollies located in the vestibule in Tucker Hall between the table storage and the chair storage. Some infrequently used kitchen items will be permanently stored in Alfriend House. Storage racks (similar to those in the pantry) have arrived, for use in Alfriend House. As this article is going to print, we will be reorganizing the permanent storage in the pantry, kitchen and Alfriend House.

~ John Sherman, Vestry Liaison

Kitchen Clean-up and Clean-out!

Did you leave a dish or anything else in the kitchen? NOW is the time to take it home! All unneeded items will be donated.

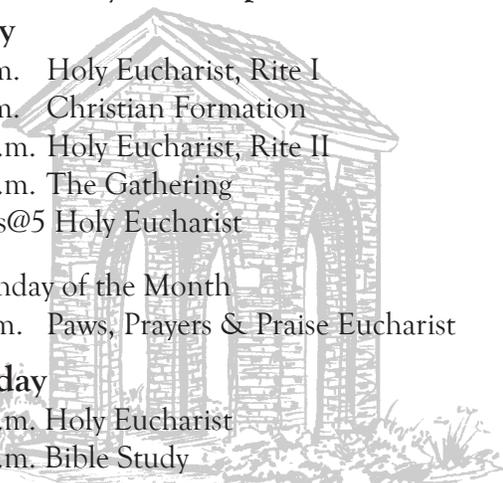


Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday
 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:15 a.m. Christian Formation
 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 10:30 a.m. The Gathering
 Sundays@5 Holy Eucharist

2nd Sunday of the Month
 5:00 p.m. Paws, Prayers & Praise Eucharist

Thursday
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
 11:00 a.m. 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, *Associate Rector*
 The Rev. Fred Poteet, *Priest Associate*

4449 N. Witchduck Road, Virginia Beach, 23455
 Phone: 757-497-0563
 odec@olddonation.org | www.olddonation.org

Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Tricia Crawford & 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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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