



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# PARISH PICNIC

**Sunday, 14 June**  
Following 10:00am Worship

**Bring Your Best Side Dish!**

**Foam & Water Fun -  
be prepared to get wet!**

# BELL RINGER

June & July 2026

**Celebrate Juneteenth with Music**

Old Donation celebrates Juneteenth  
Sunday, 21 June, 5:00pm  
Reception to follow

Evening Prayer and the I. Sherman Greene  
Chorale with sacred and secular music.

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

# From our Rector



Summer is supposed to be the season that slows down. Longer evenings, unhurried meals, a Tuesday afternoon that actually feels like a Tuesday afternoon. Church, though, has its own relationship with the calendar.

A summer garden doesn't slow down. It just changes what it asks of you. The work shifts from planting to tending, and the harvest keeps coming. You don't have to tend all of it. Just the part in front of you.

On Sunday, 21 June our Becoming Beloved Community group is hosting a Juneteenth prayer service and performance with I. Sherman Greene Chorale. Come. This one is worth it. I'll actually be away that week at the College for Congregational Development, where I've been invited to serve as an intern learning best practices for growing and supporting healthy churches. So this is a good week to show up for each other. Pastoral care and church services will have full coverage.

The week of July 13, Vacation Bible School takes root, and we need both the kids and the adults willing to show up and make it real. If you have youth to register or time to give, reach out to the [VBS team](mailto:vbsodec@gmail.com) at [vbsodec@gmail.com](mailto:vbsodec@gmail.com). And finally, sometime in August I'll be stepping away, this time to celebrate my first anniversary with Flávio and the honeymoon we never got around to having. Life moves fast. We're finally slowing down for that one. The rest of this Bell Ringer holds more of what this season is growing. Get your hands in the dirt!

Nelson+

## SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- ⊕ 8:00AM RITE I CHURCH
- ⊕ 10:00AM COMBINED RITE II
- ⊕ 5:00PM SUNDAYS@5

[WWW.OLDDONATION.ORG](http://WWW.OLDDONATION.ORG)

# Parish Life



**PARISH PICNIC**

Sunday, 14 June  
Following 10:00am Worship

Bring Your Best Side Dish!

Foam & Water Fun -  
be prepared to get wet!



## June Parish Potluck

It is time to eat together again. And it will be better than ever! THIS Sunday, 14 June, after 10:00am worship be ready for great food and fellowship.

Bring your BEST side or dessert. We will supply burgers and hotdogs.

We will have family fun, too, with water slides and foam toys, so be prepared to get wet!



Sunday, 14 June 11:15am

**Parish Potluck**  
w/Foam & Water Fun

Bring Your Best Side Dish!



**Midday Munchers**

Thursday, 18 June, 12:30 pm  
AJ Gators  
5218 Fairfield Shopping Center  
Virginia Beach



RSVP by  
Noon on  
Wednesday,  
17 June

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship Visits the Inferno

In our recent Men's Breakfast Fellowship meetings, we have enjoyed a number of programs presented by our membership. Most vividly, in May we took a look at Dante's 14<sup>th</sup> century narrative poem, The Divine Comedy. With colorful imagery and sonorous voiced narration on YouTube, we first visited Purgatory and the following week Hell. We made it back. Other programs have been a little less dramatic, including left/right brain characteristics; Ireland's "Troubles" 1972-1998; the April Fools calendar; a Grand Canyon rafting trip; the Army Corps of Engineers in South Korea; Earth Day; and the Strait of Hormuz geography and military significance. We even took a comparative look at the Apostle's Creed.

All men of Old Donation are warmly invited to join us every Wednesday at 8:00 in Canterbury Room. We enjoy the best coffee anywhere within a one mile radius.

# WORSHIP

## SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP

EFFECTIVE 14 JUNE

8:00AM RITE I CHURCH  
10:00AM COMBINED RITE II  
5:00PM SUNDAYS@5

WWW.OLDDONATION.ORG

### Summer Schedule

Beginning THIS Sunday, 14 June, we move to our Summer Sunday worship schedule. Through Labor Day, our schedule will be 8:00am Church; 10:00am Combined; and 5:00pm Church. We may have a couple of combined services in the Church. All other weeks it will be in the Great Hall. We had lots of positive feedback in past years from moving the 10:30 services to 10:00am.

# Outreach

Your Outreach Commission has begun work on a new online presence to create deeper engagement through video. We are seeking content creators that can help us capture the impact ODEC's support has for those we serve. We plan to use this footage on our web site, in social media and other venues. If you have skills as a videographer/editor and a creative spirit we would love to work with you on this project. For more information please contact **Doug Weiss**.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

FOR

**Pembroke Meadows Elementary School**  
*our neighborhood school*



A Collection Box will be Located in the Narthex.

**amazon**

The QR Code makes it easy to order from their list! OR you can purchase separately and bring to the Narthex.



WE WILL COLLECT  
1-31 July

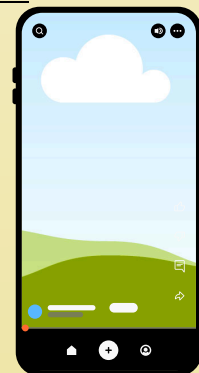
*Thank you for helping to get our friends off to a great start!*



Questions: Call Janette



757-403-4515



*Outreach in Action!*

*Thank you!*

Thank you for your generous donations to help the agricultural workers through Dos Santos Pantry and Thrift on the Eastern Shore. Your generosity contributed 172 long sleeve T-shirts to start the season and over 157 pounds of Masa.

In addition, bags of tennis shoes were donated and a truck load of overage from a recent yard sale. All were received at the Dos Santos Pantry & Thrift Store with smiles and thank yous.

# STEWARDSHIP

Click to Give



## 2025 Financial Audit

Old Donation has engaged the accounting firm of Cavanaugh Nelson, PLC to perform an audit of our financial statements for calendar year 2025. As part of that audit, Cavanaugh Nelson will mail giving confirmation letters to some parishioners. This is an important component of the audit. If you receive a request for confirmation please reply in a timely manner and mail your response directly to Cavanaugh Nelson. If you have any questions, please see Terri Piston or Nancy Ries.

The Gifts of God,  
Used by the People of God.



## Year to Date May 2026:

Pledge and Plate: \$295,904  
Pledge and Plate Budget: \$254,143  
Budget Received Difference: \$41,761  
Number of Pledges to General Fund 2026: 134  
Building Fund: \$5,075  
Clergy Discretionary Fund: \$3,742  
Worship: \$2,224  
Outreach: \$1,896  
Youth Mission: \$1,563

## Old Donation's Endowment

In 1999, Old Donation received a million-dollar undesignated bequest through the will of a faithful parishioner. An ad hoc discernment committee recommended that the Vestry establish an Endowment Fund, specifically set up so that investment income from this Fund would be used to fund the mission and ministry of Old Donation well into the future. Since that initial bequest, more than 25 individuals and families have left money to Old Donation through their wills, trusts, or insurance policies. The market value of the Endowment Fund today stands at more than \$6 million.

The main principle that underlies the vision of the Endowment Fund is that it empowers ministry, serving both current and future needs. The Endowment serves as God-given resources to do the work God has called us to do in ways that we could not do without it.

Due to the generosity of these individuals and families whose names are memorialized on our Legacy Tree, \$249,000 will be transferred in 2026 from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund. This transfer represents almost 27% of our budget revenue for this year, and it allow us to accomplish much more of our mission and ministry than we could possibly accomplish without it.

The Vestry has appointed five parishioners as Trustees of the Endowment Fund to oversee the management of the Fund and has adopted a Policies and Practices manual which codifies and documents the Endowment Fund policies and guidelines. These policies include an investment policy, spending policy, and gift acceptance policy. A copy of this manual is on the Endowment bulletin board near the kitchen.

Each year the Endowment Committee recommends to the Vestry a prudent spending rate for the upcoming year. Typically, this is 3%-5% of the market value of the Fund, averaged over a three year period. This year, the Vestry approved a distribution of 5%. The policy specifically acknowledges that from time-to-time urgent needs of the parish may arise to necessitate an exception to this policy. In such cases the rector will assess the particular circumstances giving rise to a perceived need to make an exception to policy. The circumstances should be judged to be truly extraordinary, with no other financial resources expected to be available in time to fulfill the urgent need. If appropriate, the rector will bring a recommendation to the vestry; final authority for granting such an exception rests with the Vestry. To date, such an exception to the spending policy has never been made.

The Endowment Committee consists of Chairman Paige Martin, Mike Ginder, Will Crocker, Cara Hall, and Jenn Oakley. They will be happy to answer any questions about the Endowment Fund.

# SCOPE

## SCOPE invites

**Singles + Couples + Parents + Episcopalians** of any age to attend our twice monthly meetings! We are excited to continue our time together with discussions and group events! Please look below for upcoming dates and activities! Questions? [Email Father Nelson!](#)



**18 June** - Game Night - babysitter secured and we're going to bring our best hors d'oeuvres

**9 July** - Service Project - TBD but thinking about something focused on helping kids during the summer vacation period; food theme TBD.

**23 July** - Kids and Prayer! Food theme TBD.

## Upcoming EYC & EYC-Kids

- **Sunday, 14 June: Parish Picnic & FOAM PARTY**

It is that time of the year again! Come together for food, fellowship, and FUN. We will have our Foam Party again this year, waterplay games, and an assortment of lawn games for the WHOLE family to enjoy. Wear your bathing suit, bring a change of clothes, and we will see you there!

- **Sunday, 14 June: Graduate recognition**
- **13-17 July: Vacation Bible School**

**YOUTH  
Formation**

## Vacation Bible School!

Connect with Kids you as you get out into God's creation this summer at VBS. We are excited to announce the 2026 VBS, Connect with Kids registration is now OPEN for children pre-k through rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Follow [this link](#) to sign up! Want to volunteer? Click [here!](#) Or view our [Amazon Wishlist](#) for items to support this year's various stations and activities. Questions? Email your co-directors, [Sherry and Mairin.](#)



A dark blue graphic with a background of colorful puzzle pieces. The text is in yellow and white. It reads: 'Vacation Bible School' in large yellow letters, '13-17 July 2026' and '9:00am - Noon' in white. Below that, it says '#KidsConnect' in yellow. At the bottom, there is a yellow arrow pointing to a QR code with the text 'Scan to Register!' and the Old Donation Episcopal Church logo.

# Adult Formation

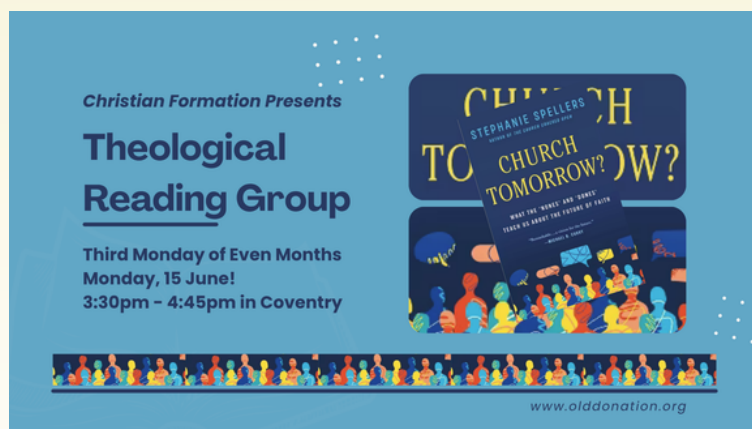
## Adult Christian Formation Doesn't Happen Just in a Classroom

Christian formation is the process by which we strive to grow into spiritual maturity, "to the measure of the full stature of Christ," as the Letter to the Ephesians reminds us. Obviously, that is a tall mark to be measured against. For this reason, the journey of Christian formation is lifelong. It doesn't stop when we graduate from school or when we are confirmed. And it may include different components at different stages in our lives. Christian formation is not only lifelong but life wide, seeking balance through community, learning, prayer, and service. (That balance is sometimes called a Rule of Life when intentionally articulated.)

Many of us think of adult Christian formation at ODEC as classroom-based in one form or another: Sunday Forum, Thursday Bible study, a Lenten or Advent study. But balanced spiritual formation actually happens as much outside the classroom as in it. We grow into "the measure of the full stature of Christ" along the same pathways Jesus took in his own ministry--in bringing together a community that lives as the Body of Christ; in learning together using Scripture, tradition, and reason to see God's Holy Spirit at work in the world around us; through time spent both together and apart in prayer and worship; and in service together to others, locally and globally, wherever we find need.

Again it is a tall mark to be measured against, and that is why the Christian Formation Commission cannot provide everything needed for the balanced formation of Adult Christians: community, learning, prayer, and service. It takes partnering with all the commissions at ODEC for that! **This list**, not comprehensive but at least a starting point, may help you think about where your own Christian formation needs can be nurtured more fully at ODEC. And remember that it's not community OR learning OR prayer OR service that makes a spiritually mature Christian. It's all of them. Which of these is most prominent in your life right now, and which could use a little boost to bring balance in your spiritual journey?

If you are interested in helping plan adult Christian formation opportunities for the coming 2026-2027 program year, please contact **Karen Meridith** 757-297-7283. We begin our work in June.



### Theological Reading Group Begins Monday, 15 June!

You are invited to join the new Theological Reading Group to read and discuss 5 accessible theological books over the course of the year, just one meeting per book. This is an informal group. No registration or commitment required. All you need to do is read the book and drop in to offer your insights and questions.

The group will meet in Coventry, 3:30-4:45 pm, on the third Monday of even months (except December): February, April, June, August, and October. Click **HERE** for the list of 2026-2027 books.

On June 15 we will discuss Stephanie Spellers' newest book, Church Tomorrow?: What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us About the Future of Faith. Why are younger generations passing on church? What spiritual pathways and communities are they creating? Spellers asks them directly and considers how their insights could help to shape the future of Christian community.

Karen Meridith will facilitate initially, but we may pass that role around as the group wishes.

# BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

## Sacred Ground

Sacred Ground at Old Donation is back! Join over eighty parishioners who have shared this life-changing experience in a spirit filled and informative film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith.

Meetings are scheduled every two weeks for eleven sessions. We are planning a Fall Circle starting in late September, Mondays 6:00pm - 8:00pm. If you are interested in participating in this program contact [Dan Ries](#) 757-277-1907. For more information on Sacred Ground click [HERE](#).



## Celebrate Juneteenth with Music

Old Donation will celebrate our national Juneteenth holiday on Sunday, 21 June, with the I. Sherman Greene Chorale performing sacred and secular music. ODEC has recognized Juneteenth since 2020.



The I. Sherman Greene Chorale will perform in a concert of Prayer & Praise at 5:00pm, 21 June, in our Great Hall. A reception with light refreshments will follow so we can meet and talk to the singers. A free-will offering will be collected at the concert to support Old Donation's Rachal Scholarship Fund. It offers a scholarship named after Rachal to a student at Norfolk State University. Rachal was an enslaved woman owned and sold by Lynnhaven Parish, whose fate is described in Old Donation's colonial-era vestry book.

**The I. Sherman Greene Chorale** is a local choral group named in honor of Mr. I. Sherman Greene, a Booker T. Washington High School Choir Director, who organized this semi-professional community ensemble in 1972. Currently, it hopes to expand interest in area high school singers through workshops and special co-performances. ISGC invites college students to audition, participate, and perform, and in doing so, they receive a stipend after each performance.

The Musical Director is Dr. Lydia Toliver. The chorale offers a variety of sacred and secular music including a soaring rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing", a variety of Negro Spirituals, and other musical genres, in particular, by African American Composers

Juneteenth is America's celebration of June 19, 1865, when the people of Galveston, Texas, were informed by Union General Gordon Granger of the January 1, 1863, Emancipation Proclamation issued under the authority of President Abraham Lincoln and the end of the Civil War, bringing freedom of all enslaved people in every state. Juneteenth became an annual celebration in Texas and slowly grew in prominence, becoming a national holiday on June 19, 2021.

# Becoming Beloved Community

## Lest We Forget

Lynnhaven Parish was established in 1637 on land that was part of English colonization in the early 1600s. This area was the homeland of the Chesepian people and the southern tribes of the Powhatan Confederacy. It is only right that we, who continue to worship here, acknowledge those who have inhabited these lands for thousands of years.

For two centuries Lynnhaven Parish, which became known as Old Donation Church, benefited from the institution of slavery. Among its parishioners and clergy were those whose wealth derived from owning enslaved persons or supporting slavery. Records indicate the Church itself owned enslaved persons. The economics of the slave system were embedded in the economic life of this region and the nation. The reality of the systemic racism, segregation, and denial of economic opportunities following the abolition of slavery has profoundly shaped the country, the world, and our church.

Understanding the history of the church concerning race is crucial to the work of reconciliation and racial healing. We continue to become aware of ways in which our church benefited from the subjugation of indigenous people and those of African descent.

- **We acknowledge the wrongs done.**
- **We lament and express remorse for the damage inflicted in the name of the church.**
- **We commit ourselves to taking steps toward restorative justice.**



*But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. -Deuteronomy 4:9*



**RACIAL  
RECONCILIATION**



**BECOMING  
BELOVED COMMUNITY**

# Vestry, Graduates & Thank you!

## Kairos #55 says "Thank you for Cookies & Prayers"

Becky Suchy and I cannot say thank you enough for all the support that ODEC continues to give to the Kairos Ministry at the Virginia Correctional Center for Woman in Goochland. Kairos #55 was a great success! Many lives were changed and impacted by the Agape Love shared in kind, both on the inside and from the out.

**Cookies!** SCOPE guys and gals, y'all did a phenomenal job baking 58+ dozen cookies!!! Wow! And to all the other ODEC bakers who took our total take to 101+, Thank You, twice over!!!

**Prayers!** The prayer chain was a beautiful thing to behold, and every word in prayer and praise lifted up was deeply felt. The precious Holy Spirit of God was alive, well, and active all weekend as Jesus' healing was offered, and a dark place called 'prison' was filled and fully radiated with God's light!

So again, Becky Suchy and I say, "THANK YOU" from the bottom of our hearts!!! ODEC, y'all are the best! ~Frankie Ring





**Our  
2026  
Vestry**



Bill Waide  
Senior Warden



Chris Chandler  
People's Warden, Parish Life



Dan Ries  
Christian Formation



Charlotte Zito  
Welcoming & Belonging



Mike Ginder  
Day School



Tony Richardson  
Becoming Beloved Community



Eric Spence  
Historic Traditions



Beth Steinbruck-Phillips  
Congregational Care



David Beach  
Stewardship



Leslie Brunick  
Outreach



Tom DeMayo  
Buildings & Grounds



Frankie Ring  
Welcoming & Belonging



Noah Larsen  
Youth Representative

## EfM Graduates

Valerie Gurioli  
Sonni Matthews  
Mel Phillips

## Graduates

**High School**  
Chris Sniffen  
Isaac Hudgins Zito  
Mirabella Caro

**School of Law**  
Jenna Crumley

**College**  
Aubrey Taylor

## Old Donation Episcopal Church

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church  
The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop  
The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Rector

Gretchen Hood, Director of Administration  
Sarah Wilson & Jody Baker, Day School Directors

Mailing Address:  
4449 N Witchduck Rd Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
[odec@olddonation.org](mailto:odec@olddonation.org) | [olddonation.org](http://olddonation.org)

## School is out....

## Let the Summer Fun Begin!

- We are still enrolling for the fall. Spread the word about our wonderful Day School!

~Sarah Wilson and Jody Baker, Co-Directors

## Birthdays

### June

- 1 Catherine O'Reilly  
Fred Warneke  
Doug Weiss  
Chris Sniffen
- 2 Cheryl Hummer  
Ronny Barrio  
CJ Godoy  
Thomas Delaney
- 4 Jane Kiefer  
Maureen Loflin
- 5 Alek Sas  
Katherine McCullough  
Karla Hyman  
Susan McCulley
- 6 Bailey Improta
- 7 Susan Jones
- 8 John Jarvis
- 9 Rosemary DeLacey
- 10 Trevor Darr
- 11 Kurt Kreassig
- 12 Isabel Sterzing  
Tracy Darr  
Jackie Bennett
- 13 Janet Amiott  
Missy Sullivan
- 14 Cameron Rennekamp  
Elise Enoch  
Evelyn Reed
- 15 Susan McCulley  
Vicky Koch
- 16 Kent Ross  
Ceil McCoid
- 17 Kaitlyn Piston  
Megan Piston  
Hunter Shih  
Jack Alpigini  
Robin Taranto
- 18 Janie Bowen  
Kristen Carter  
Lyle Swanson
- 19 Gary Hummer
- 20 Phyllis Awbrey  
Katrina Mellinger  
Karen Meridith
- 21 Jeff Hood  
Ethan Aydar
- 22 Zoe Gurioli
- 25 Doralece Dullaghan
- 26 Peter Hood
- 27 Bill Miller  
Will Oakley  
Amy Gallardo
- 28 Mairin Genova
- 29 Dottie Dudley  
Carol Gurioli
- 30 Cathie Brown  
Audrey Renehan  
Janet Castro

### July

- 2 Mason Dudley
- 3 Jim Bulleit  
Sydney Dudley
- 4 Lauren Bennett
- 5 Joe Jacobs  
John Wills  
Brian McCullough
- 7 Diane Lawson
- 9 Thomas Enoch
- 10 Brodie Casey
- 11 Catherine Rubel
- 12 George Chandler  
Will Drews
- 13 Bethanny Sammons
- 14 Jacob Brittain
- 15 Judy Gregg
- 16 Audra Evans  
Jack Renehan  
Caleb Larsen
- 17 Ann Butler  
Brendon Ash  
Ryan Balsly
- 18 Ryan Piston
- 19 Ann McGibbon  
Navarra Caro
- 20 Nicholas Stephens
- 21 Lisa Duff  
Gary Newsome  
Jon McKail
- 23 Pam Painter  
Jeannie Wyatt-Filer
- 24 Eliza Aydar  
Pam Tucker
- 25 Carol Jarvis  
Bob Alpigini
- 26 Scotty Carter  
Sara Farrell
- 27 Dave Carter  
Raymond Cross
- 28 Scott Crumley
- 29 Truman Baxter, Jr.  
Mike Lindsey  
Shelby Longmire  
Kama Mitchell
- 30 Franklin Marzullo
- 31 Janette Crumley  
Maria Swift  
Donna Richardson  
Reina Carey

# June & July

## Anniversaries

### June

- 2 John & Liudmila Malone
- 5 David & Mary Scott Burt
- 6 Scott & Patti Somers  
Maureen & Dave Jacques  
Za Tilt & Jack Renehan
- 8 Glenn & Laura Scott
- 9 Larry & Samantha Brittain
- 10 Kristl & Hayden Tomlin
- 14 Dan & Nancy Ries  
Tricia & Thom Sare
- 15 Fred & Mary Poteet
- 16 Eleanor & Barry Richards
- 21 Joyce & Thomas Delaney
- 22 Elizabeth & Donald Downs
- 24 Ed & Sharon Butts  
Terry & Linda Ritter
- 25 Jenn & Greg Rennekamp
- 27 John & Marguerite Duncan  
Carol & John Jarvis  
Kurt & Danielle Kreassig
- 30 Judy & Russ Sheldon

### July

- 1 J. D. & Bonney Ball
- 6 Janet & Stu Forbes
- 7 Beth Jones & Eric Anderson  
Jan & Gary Donovan  
Amy & Ian Gallardo
- 8 Jeff & Gretchen Hood
- 11 Trey & Karen Dudley  
Janette & Scott Crumley
- 14 Susan & Tom DeMayo
- 18 Janet & Jim Blohm
- 19 Monica & Brian Larsen  
Ric Filer & Jeannie Wyatt-Filer
- 24 John & Leslie Fenter
- 26 Trent & Sally Dudley
- 27 Lisa & Aaron Teeling
- 29 Katie & Bob Alpigini

### Newly Baptized

Danielle Colucci

### Welcome New Members

Keith Jones

# Celebrations