

January  
&  
February  
2023

# 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

Vestry Elections &  
2022 Year in Review

Sunday, 29 Jan @ 11:15am  
In-person & Zoom



### A TASTE OF VIRGINIA @ ODEC

Featuring  
Ankida Ridge Winery

Tickets \$30 in advance on Sundays  
Saturday, 11 February • 7:00pm - 9:00pm

cheese • coffee • dessert • door prizes • babysitting  
10% purchase discount • souvenir glass

This is an Ireland Pilgrimage Fundraiser

### Shrove Tuesday Sausage & Pancake Supper

21 February 5:30pm - 7:30pm


Donations gratefully accepted.  
This is a Youth Pilgrimage Fundraiser



### Black History Month Community Event

RACIAL WOUNDEDNESS: HEALING FOR  
OURSELVES AND FOR OUR WORLD

February 18  
3:00pm-6:30pm  
@ Old Donation Episcopal Church



A Healing of the Soul Ministry and  
Becoming Beloved Community of ODEC  
Collaboration



### Ash Wednesday

Holy Eucharist and Ashes

22 February 2023  
7am | noon | 6pm children's | 7pm  
7pm Live Stream



## From our Rector

Happy New Year...The Blessings of Epiphany be yours as we move

into 2023! Epiphany literally means revelation or manifestation of something — sort of like when the light pops on in your head and you say, “AHA! That’s what’s going on!” The season of Epiphany focuses our attention on the questions: *who is this Jesus*, and *what is he all about*? Traditionally the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, calling the disciples, changing water into wine at the wedding of Cana, and the Transfiguration for the last Sunday are the hallmark gospel accounts. Past those, Jesus’ revelation focuses on healing and proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

I like the parallels between Jesus making clear his mission and our own annual process of assessing life and setting plans for a new year. Many of us looked forward to make some plans and goals for this year. As Jesus’ identity and purpose become clearer, I hope to align my own identity and goals with his. That same process of realignment should be a roadmap for the Church as we chart new directions for the new year. I pray for the season of revelation to become part of your reckoning with your place in the world and life. Our new vestry will be going through that same process of assessment and planning.

**Our Annual Parish Meeting** will happen January 29 at roughly 11:15 in the Great Hall, following the 10:00am worship. We elect a new team of vestry leaders for 3 year terms, review the finances of the past year, talk about our plans for 2023 and how they are reflected in the budget. There is time for questions and discussion about the state of the parish and its direction. The meeting will be in-person and an accessible ZOOM session so you can participate.

We have four open positions for vestry and four nominations to present. Nominations may be made from the floor as well. You will see short notes about the nominees on page 6. Tom Weeks, Wayne Carruthers, Jenn Oakley, and Nick Rudnick are all wonderful, faithful people who have become more and more involved in our parish. I’m excited about the future.

**February is FUN at ODEC!**

**Wine-tasting fundraiser** on Saturday, 11 February, Parish Life is sponsoring a night with Ankida Ridge Winery as a fundraiser for our High School pilgrimage to Ireland. Saturday evening from 7-9:00, folks from the Charlottesville area winery will teach us about their wines as we also enjoy bread, cheese, and candies. There is more information on page X. This will be fun, good fellowship, and an introduction to some great wines while helping our youth!

**Young Historians Valentines cards** fundraiser is Feb 12. They are making beautiful “Victorian” style cards that you can purchase for your loved ones and friends.

**Super Bowl Subs** make a return this year. Sundays Jan 29 and Feb 5, we will take orders for sub sandwiches that will be available Feb 12, Super Bowl Sunday (otherwise known as the 6th Sunday after the Epiphany?). Made by our youth, led by our culinary stars, the subs have been a big hit in past years. Order some for your household so you don’t have to cook during the football game!

**Shrove Tuesday PANCAKES** on Feb 21. After last year’s fabulous Mardi Gras gumbo supper, we will return to our old English tradition of pancakes and sausage. We will serve from 5:30-7:30. It is always lots of fun. Weather permitting we will have pancake flipping races and contests.

**Forming Disciples — lots happening in Epiphany! Wednesday nights**

We have restarted our Wednesday Food for body and soul. The first two were Lissie Rhoton+ teaching us about icons and Kipper DeGavre+ about the theology and practice of healing.

Our last three Wednesday presentations will be:

**Jan 25: Jeff Hood: What’s going on in Israel?** Jeff, who lived in Tel Aviv as the Defense Attaché to the American Embassy has helped us understand the politics, faith, and culture. With the current upheavals this will be an interesting discussion.

**Feb 8: Bob Randall+ Theological Turning Points:** Foundations of England’s faith and practice are in Ireland?

**Feb 15: Bob Randall+ Theological Turning Points:** The English Church: Elizabeth’s and not Henry’s!

**Sunday morning Adult Forums** continue our Bible study of the Old Testament books of Ruth and Esther. On Tuesdays, you receive an email with Scripture passages to read. We also send commentary notes and questions to think about. These focus our Sunday morning discussions.

**Healing the wounds of racism for the world and ourselves:** We are working with the Healing of the Soul Ministry on an interesting and important workshop for Saturday, Feb 18.

**Guest Preacher: Antipas Harris** will our preacher February 12. Antipas leads the Urban Renewal Council which we have supported on several projects and events in the past year. Antipas is one of the bright lights in the local work of Becoming a Beloved Community. See page 5 for some background on Antipas.



## From our Associate Rector

We have entered Epiphany, the season between Christmas and Lent, and I don't know if it's the return to the green liturgical colors, or the collective breath taken after the busy Christmas season, but Epiphany sometimes feels like a placeholder to me. The green altar colors remind me of the long stretch of ordinary time, so it sometimes feels like a throwaway season, but so much of our lives are made up of ordinary time. We revel in the purposeful Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter seasons, but much of the work of life gets done in ordinary time, in the regular rhythms of a life lived faithfully. I think there's something beautiful in that.

I urge you to take some time to notice how God might be working in the ordinary during this time, as well as jumping into some of our offerings this season

Starting 19 January, I invite any and all young(ish) adults (singles, couples, families) to join us for food and fellowship on the first and third Thursday nights of the month. We'll meet from 6:00-7:30pm in Alfriend House to eat and talk. Childcare will be provided. We hope this will be a relaxing time to connect with others in our church community

Our children have begun to learn about some of Jesus' parables in Children's Chapel for the season of Epiphany. When Lent comes, they will switch back to a lesson plan that follows the lectionary to join us in our observance of Lent.

You can also join me and our Thursday morning Bible study group at 11:00am after Holy Eucharist to walk through the book of Exodus. I give us some background and context as we read through the book at our own pace. Questions and reflections are more than welcome

On Sundays during Epiphany, we will walk through Ruth and Esther with the help of the Good Book Club, written this year by The Rev. Elizabeth Felicetti. Join us at about 11:15am after the 10:00am services to dive into those two books.

We will also continue our Wednesday programming with several different offerings through Epiphany. Come for dinner at 6:00pm and a program from 6:30-7:30pm. Watch the chimes for each week's topic!

See you soon! ~Lissie+

## From Our Youth Minister

Ever worked hard to study, train or put forth a large amount of effort to try to understand a concept or master a skill? When I was a green belt in Karate I remember several months of my training and practicing when I practiced my learned skills with two or three times the normal intensity with hopes that my Sensei would come over and tell me I'm ready for the next belt. The harder I trained, the "stronger" I thought I was getting- the farther and farther away from my goal I became.

I found myself in a position where I was humbled to think outside my little box, open my mind and seek direction from a new perspective to move forward. Exhausted and discouraged, I began to open my mind and discover ways to utilize and maximize motion to effortlessly produce great defense.

In our journey with God it can be easy to fall into a place where so much effort is put forth to "be a good Christian" or do marvelous work for God - that our own preoccupation with what we want to do for God may keep us from experiencing God's presence. I recently sat in on a wonderfully presented lesson and discussion on prayer with some ODEC youth. Opportunities to pray and connect with God in ways that may have been unfamiliar were made available.

In the book of Isaiah is it written, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8,9 ESV). In 2023 my goal is to help the youth of this parish discover new ways to make that connection with God.

~Bryan Parks, Youth Minister

**Oyster Roast was a tremendous success.** Last month I described the best aspects, which are 1) a witness to the community that ODEC is BACK, and 2) the great fun we had working together and meeting so many of our own members. NOW I can tell you the event was also a financial success! Total revenues were an amazing \$16,391 and profits were \$11,033. All those dollars go to support our outreach budget doing God's work in the community. \$11K is a great blessing. Next year will be terrific with a start back like that!



## Wednesday Night Programs



### The Israeli Knesset: *Politics & Policy*

Wednesday Night Program, 25 January, 6:00pm  
Presentation by Jeff Hood

We will pick up an old series of Church history sessions by Bob+. Since our high school youth are headed to Ireland, he will teach two adult classes on our Anglican faith. First on Feb 8, Bob will teach why he argues the English faith began as the Irish faith (and NOT Roman faith). We will cover how those origins came in conflict when Rome asserted their dominance. Feb 15, Bob will show why some assert our English Reformation faith and the Church that results is much more of Elizabeth I than of Henry VIII. Giving you some understanding of the character of our faith and also arguing points when your neighbor makes the oft-heard comment, "Oh yeah. You go to the Church started so Henry could get a divorce."

## Super Bowl Subs!

PRE-ORDER 29 JAN & 5 FEB  
\$12 EACH



PICK UP 12 FEBRUARY

This is an Ireland  
Pilgrimage fundraiser!



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Christian Formation

This year for Sunday morning adult forums in Epiphany, we are studying the books of RUTH and ESTHER. The study is particularly well written this year, which is no surprise to ODEC, because the Rev. Elizabeth Felicetti is the author for the commentary and discussion questions.



THE  
**GOOD BOOK**  
CLUB

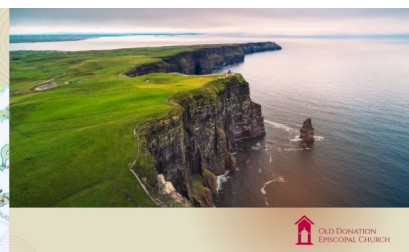
Elizabeth+ was our associate rector from 2007 to 2011. Her scholarly research and engaging writing make it a very thoughtful and engaging study.

Ruth and Esther both feature vulnerable but courageous women who in very different situations manage to do extraordinary things to survive and benefit others. These stories are as well developed as anything written since and also portray real life dilemmas and challenges which have held true all the way into our present day. They are worth your time. Tuesdays every week you receive materials for reading and consideration. Every Sunday at 11:15am (except Jan 29 due to the Annual Meeting) we will discuss in the Great Hall.

## Youth Formation Continues!

- Children's Chapel during the 10:00am services
- Middle School and High School meet at 11:15am each Sunday

### J2A Ireland Pilgrimage 2023



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Upcoming Ireland Pilgrimage Events:

- Sunday, 22 January 6:30pm at All Saints' for intros with each other.
- Saturday, 11 February 11:00am at ODEC for making sub sandwiches.
- Friday, 17 March 5:30pm at Eastern Shore Chapel for St. Patrick's Day event.
- Sunday, 21 May 6:30pm at ODEC for getting ready!



Know a youngster in 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade that would like to participate in professional training in dance or theatre along with under-served children from Virginia Beach? This is a free program, but requires a willing spirit to learn. You can support this program by volunteering, high school youth included, to shepherd the program participants. The Impact Arts Program led by Baila Fuzion Studio at the Williams Farm Recreation Center on Bayside Road will continue every Thursday evening at 5:45pm through the end of April. Click for [Information](#) and [registration](#). Contact [Dan Ries](#) 757-277-1907 for more information.



MOCA has an ongoing exhibit open to the public running now through 05 Feb entitled "Living Apart: Geography of Segregation in the 21st Century. The small interactive exhibit focuses on the history of 'red-lining' and segregation in Hampton Roads. It is an interesting look at segregation in our own backyard. A short visit is highly recommended .

MOCA is also presenting a free lecture event entitled "The Politics of Inequity" on Saturday, 21 Jan.

### Antipas L. Harris, PhD

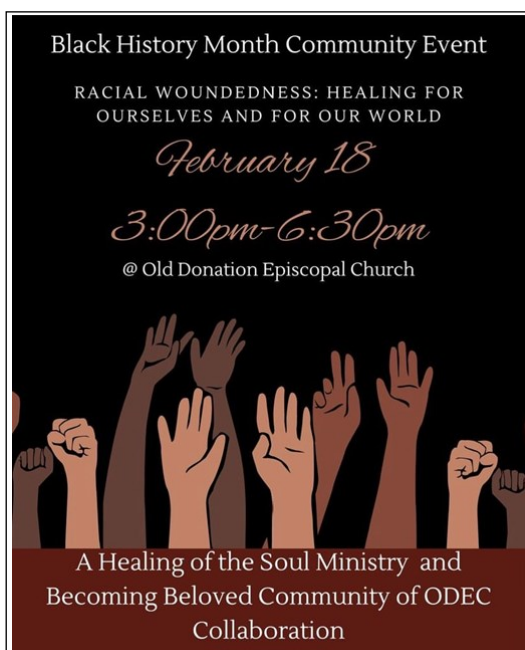
Dr. Harris has dedicated his life to the work of social justice and leading at the intersection of faith, education and public life. He believes people are eager to see things change for common good; faith has an ongoing role in public life and social vitality; and true education is critical reflection on all of life which gives one meaning, faith, service, victories, and challenges. Dr. Harris is the founder and President of The Urban Renewal Center in Norfolk with focus on:



- Homeless services including workforce development, jobs, shelter and meals.
- Impact Youth Arts Program providing underserved youth with instruction in performing arts.
- Beloved Community Program to build stronger relationships in diverse communities and heal racial brokenness.
- Volunteer advocacy support including tutoring for children, mentoring for incarcerated persons in Norfolk City Jail and assistance as they navigate paths of success, securing required personal identification and preparation of resumes and job applications.

Dr. Harris has a Bachelor's degree from LaGrange College, Master's degree from Emory University, Master's degree from Yale University, Doctor of Ministry from Boston University, and Doctor of Philosophy from St. Thomas University.

Old Donation has partnered with URC recent programs. He will be preaching at Old Donation on Sunday, 12 February.



### Saturday, 18 February 3 - 6pm

Save the date! This is a collaboration between Old Donation and Healing of the Soul Ministry for Black History Month. Please join us for discussions and presentations exploring racial woundedness and healing. More info to follow on keynote speakers who are pillars of our Beloved Community. Want to help? Contact [Dan Ries](#) 757-277-1907. We need: Community advertising and promotion, set up/clean up, refreshment prep & servers, greeters & parking attendants.

*"The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men".*

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



## Vestry Candidates 2023

### Wayne Carruthers



Wayne first showed up at Old Donation almost 8 years ago. He and his wife Maureen Oliver quickly joined in to many of our study programs and worship as well as helping with various projects. Wayne is a CPA, with lots of experience with non-profits. He is also a former Baptist deacon and has done almost every-

thing that you find in Church ministry. At times he has been part of Men's Breakfast, Thursday Bible study, and different worship services. He is happy to be more deeply involved with ODEC through working on vestry.

### Tom Weeks

As far back as I can remember, I had a strong faith. I attended a Baptist church regularly until I was 18 and then sporadically while in college. When I met my wife, Sharon, and started attending church with her, my faith continued to grow (her father was a Lutheran minister). Our young family with 3 boys moved into the Witchduck area about the same time her father retired from the ministry, so we started attending ODEC. We were active members of ODEC for about five years, leaving for another church for the youth program.

After being away from ODEC for 25 years, our church closed to in-person worship for five months due to the pandemic. We tried on-line worship for a couple of weeks but didn't feel that it met our spiritual needs, so we started looking for an in-person service we could attend until our church reopened. One Sunday morning my wife noticed ODEC setting up for an outdoor service, so we came and had a wonderful experience. As we became regulars, we were inspired by the dedication of the ODEC members and staff. Everyone was very friendly and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the many worship opportunities. My goal is to work however I can to help bring God's kingdom to earth where we love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.



### Nick Rudnick



Nick Rudnick and his wife, Amber, have attended ODEC since January, 2022. After grad school, Nick was commissioned into the Navy, and flies the F/A-18 Super Hornet, stationed at Oceana.

Nick & Amber are from Alabama, and Amber attended St. Luke's Episcopal School in Mobile.

Both Amber and Nick have served ODEC on the Stewardship Commission, and have been overjoyed to join this caring, growing, and vibrant Christian community in Virginia Beach. Nick and Amber have two gorgeous cats named Cuddles and Cozy who bring so much happiness to their lives.

Nick is excited to serve ODEC in this new role, and willing to help this parish in any way he can.

### Jenn Oakley



My family and I moved to Virginia Beach in the summer of 2018 and were introduced to Old Donation Episcopal Church by Gretchen Hood later that year. We found our way into the Gathering on our first Sunday and knew we had found our church home. Will and I hadn't realized that we could feel so comfortable with a 4 year old and a 1 year old in a church service. Now that Joseph and Bryn are 8 and 5 (where has the time gone?), we have all found new ways to be involved, build new relationships, and have even more reasons to love the ODEC church family. I am honored to be considered for a position on the parish vestry. I am excited to share my time and talents with this church that gives so much back to its members and the community.

## Stewardship

### 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 2023 Annual ODEC Pledge card! While this "Resolution" is presented a bit 'tongue-in-cheek,' we are currently still waiting to receive pledges from folks who typically pledge. 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, please plan now to bring your card in on Sunday, contact the church office, or pledge here [online](#).

### Valuing our Blessings

Total Pledge and Plate Received	\$679,939
Total Pledge and Plate Budget (YTD)	\$700,000
Budget Received Difference	(\$20,061)
Number of Pledging Units to General Fund	179
Building Fund	\$159,198
Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$53,362
Worship	\$9,000
Outreach	\$30,131
Julia Tucker Scholarship Fund (Day School)	\$471

### Give to ODEC online!

It's easy, fast, and convenient. Make a one-time gift, or a recurring donation. Don't worry about missing a Sunday, or messing with offering envelopes!

Online  
Giving

**Help Needed!** Do you have 3 hours available on a Monday or Thursday? We need Office Angels! Volunteer regularly, or only on a substitute basis.

Our Office Angels are invaluable in helping our staff. They answer phone calls, stuff bulletins, and greet our visitors and parishioners. There is usually time to read a book, too!

Contact [Gretchen Hood](#) to lend a hand!

### Thursday Night Dinners Young(ish) Adults & Families

1st & 3rd Thursdays in Alfriend House  
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Come to relax and talk to other adults in our church community. We welcome all: married, single, or have kids...if you like to eat and want to get to know others this is your place! Thursday Night Dinners on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays 5:30-7:00pm. Dinner and childcare are provided, and we will get to know each other and engage in light formation. Come check us out!

**Acolytes are in Demand!** Since we now run our full schedule of services, we need more acolytes. We can train and work with children as young as 8 years old. It is a good way to get your children involved and experiencing worship when they are at the altar assisting. Speak to clergy or [email us](#) or [Megan Wilson](#).



### Young Historians in Action!

Sunday, 5 February: Make Victorian Valentines! We will meet in Salisbury Room @ 12:15pm and learn more about Valentine's Day.  
Sunday, 12 February: We will sell the Valentines after services.



### A TASTE OF VIRGINIA @ ODEC

Featuring  
Ankida Ridge Winery

Tickets \$30 in advance on Sundays  
Saturday, 11 February • 7:00pm - 9:00pm

cheese • coffee • dessert • door prizes • babysitting  
10% purchase discount • souvenir glass

This is an Ireland Pilgrimage Fundraiser

## January & February Celebrations

### January

1 John Brown, Sr. Betty Sherman Janet Neumann	12 Barbara Drew Benjamin Perry Jerry Cerqua	25 Stuart Forbes Russ Sheldon Marcia Torres	Isaac Zito	Martha Wilson
2 Ronald Hall Fred Poteet	13 Ainslie Anderson Christina Merry Grace Horvath	26 Will Walker Dick Bolen Don Gibboney	7 Kell Perry Richard Kuhr Owen Haight	Ricky Barrio Alexzandir Balling
3 Darden Purrington	David Beach	Adam Mistr	9 Colin Martin Peggy Allen Ginny Bandeleian	19 Glenn Scott Sandy Colman Stephen Fleming
4 Boo Burroughs Samantha Brittain Arun Iyer	Naomi James	27 Carrie Liverman Pearl Windle Parker Schmidt	Hannah Hunt Sterling Taylor Ollie Randall	Bryan Nordhues
5 Dillon Miller Cassie Wellford	14 Jan Packard 15 Joan Miller Cata Randall	28 Mike Casey 30 Reef Casey Cheryl Kepner	10 Ann Perry Smith Mistr	20 Barbette Timperlake Cheryl Sutherland Reagan Ferrandino
6 Brenden Jones Deacon Caro Louisa Zito	16 Terri Piston Lochlan Hoover Lynn Coull	31 Bowen Huntley	11 Gracie Galvez Sabrina Waide	21 Summer Johnson
7 Harry Lustig, Jr. Dave Wilkinson Robert Johnson	18 Rob Brown Dave Rush	<b>February</b>	12 Bob Perrine	22 Laura Scott Kelli Hoover
Joseph Oakley	19 Colton Erbe Audrey Schmidt	1 Emerie Caro	13 Rachel Ruhl Robby Ruhl Zachary Hughes	23 Gloria Brown Rose Piluden
8 Robyn Waltrip Bryan Pinckney	20 Karen Ludwig Mary Jo Bradley	2 Lindsey McCarty	14 Bill Dudley, Jr. Matt Piston	24 Annamarie Ginder
9 Tom Gerace	21 Mark Erickson	3 Linda Kuhr	15 Henley Hoover	25 Emily Mistr Sonny Back
10 Michele Purrington Fred Myers Patti Somers	22 Kathryn Cintron	4 Kathleen Weinberg	16 Al Allen Rob Bradshaw Carolyn Hayes	26 Jane Robinson Susan Ruhl Jonathan Teeling
Allison Small	24 Mike Jones Anna Sas George Weeks	5 Joanna Gerace Anna Brunick	17 Zach Neumann Diane Shaver	28 Joey Cheri John Rice
11 Zachary Suttle	Edward Warneke Susan Crockett	6 Tom Crockett, Sr. Brittany Bailey Kieran Anderson	29 Greg Randall	

### January Anniversaries

- 12 Tom & Joan Crockett
- 14 Dan & Janie Bowen
- 17 Tara & Justin Erbe  
Cindy Murphy & Bob Schneeberger
- 21 Carol & Bill Hart
- 22 Timothy & Christina Merry
- 27 DiAnn & Lew Friedrichsen
- 28 Bob & Chris Randall
- 30 Gary & Katherine Kline
- 31 Mel Phillips & Beth Steinbruck-Phillips

### February Anniversaries

- 4 Jenn & Will Oakley
- 6 Yvonne & Mike Reynolds
- 12 Chris & George Chandler
- 13 Brian & Diane Miller  
Pearl Windle & Richard Drumwright
- 14 Amy & Reese Young  
Cata & Greg Randall
- 16 Haley & Spencer Wilson
- 20 Laura Alt & Phil Lacher
- 22 Kent & Debbie Ross
- 26 David & Pamela Bowles

**We welcome our newly  
baptized!**

*Benjamin Michael Warneke  
Braden William Ginder*

**We welcome  
our new members!**

Scott, Pam & Seth Pickett

**Our Newly Married!**

Starr Plimpton & Cliff Lewis

**Old Donation  
Episcopal Day School  
Registration for  
2022 - 2023**

**Happening Now!**

Ages 2 - Kindergarten  
Early Drop and Extended Day

Registration forms are available  
online at  
[www.olddonation.weebly.com](http://www.olddonation.weebly.com)

[odeds@olddonation.org](mailto:odeds@olddonation.org)  
call for a tour! 757-499-2283

**Rise in Glory:**

Hank Kellam  
Joe Hughes  
Peter Drew

