Pilgrimage: And we are on the way!

It is now 5 years since our last youth spiritual pilgrimage. All the arrangements were made for us to go in 2020. Now we are ready, finally. Our group of 14 youth and 3 mentors will be joined by 8 more youth and 3 mentors from Eastern Shore Chapel and All Saints. We leave this Sunday, 18 June after the morning services and return 10 days later on Wednesday, 28 June.

This will be our eighth High School pilgrimage to Ireland or England/Scotland since 2005. We’ve used them as a culmination to Sunday School formation. Extended time with clergy and mentors to dig more deeply into the Anglican spiritual life and faith rarely happens unless we set time apart from the regular busy life. In Ireland we will explore the lives of Irish saints, climb a mountain or two, talk with new friends about the “Troubles” in Derry and Belfast, and have some great fun while living the model of a spiritual community. It is challenging for all of us because this is not a “tour” but a spiritual pilgrimage. Yes we visit some fabulously beautiful and historic places like Croagh Patrick, Glendalough, the Giant’s Causeway, and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. But we spend our time learning and absorbing. The ancient monastic-centered church in Ireland, legends of saints like Brigid and Brendan and Kevin, and talking with current Irish people about faith and life become our food for mind and soul. We come with certainties and doubts and in a different land find ways to test and grow.

We will spend time in Westport and Dublin of the Republic of Ireland and Derry and Bally Castle in Northern Ireland. Housing is in youth/backpacker hostels, and the youth prepare most of our meals. A hired coach bus takes us everywhere. We will post each day to our blog so you can keep up with where we are and what we do. Families contribute about ⅓ of the cost and the rest from fundraisers. Your generosity is truly an investment in the spiritual maturity that is a by-product.

This is one of my favorite ministries and I’ve led 6 of our 8 pilgrimages. When done well, it is one of the most important gifts we provide youth. We have a good team of adults to keep everyone safe and to guide this journey. All we need now is lots of prayer support. So keep us in your hearts and on your lips for these upcoming 10 days.

Click the above graphic or HERE to read our blog!
From our Rector

The Holy Spirit is “... busting out all over.” I know the song says JUNE is busting out. Around Old Donation, however, the Spirit is alive and moving and I suspect it will seem so all Summer. With the return of Pilgrimage for our youth, Vacation Bible School for children, reinvigorated acolytes, the return of our fabulous associate rector Lissie+ and August movie nights for Summer Wednesdays for everyone, the “lazy, hazy” days of Summer will not be ours.

One sign of the Spirit is when we feel challenged to do something that stretches us or pushes us farther than we might on our own. Reading gospel accounts like we’ve had lately reminds me that following Jesus is not always comfortable. Challenging both church and state, dining with undesirables, forgiving unforgivables must have had his disciples constantly wondering, “What’s he going to do now?” In fact, the gospels record some of those discussions among his followers. This Sunday’s gospel is when Jesus sends them out to do the work they’ve watched him do. They went with some trepidation, but came back renewed, now recognizing what God could do if they were willing to be vessels of the Spirit. Healing, new life, and new relationships came as they moved out of comfort into challenge. They grew spiritually as they stepped forward.

You might find your talents put to God’s work as we are in a time for developing new ministries and recreating old. Some might be challenge. Some might be a perfect fit. Keep watching and listening and you might find a tug of the Spirit. If you try something and it doesn’t work right, there will be something else. A church works best when everyone finds some way to participate in some form of ministry.

It might be simply daily prayers for the needs and concerns of our parish family and faithfully showing up at worship and offering your finances. Others might be drivers or shepherds for our work with the Urban Renewal Center and Impact Arts programs. We need ushers for Sundays and photographers for events. Hospital visitation is resuming as is newcomer gatherings and our Fine Arts Concert Series. Small home repair projects with Faith Works, Bible study and children’s ministries are all happening. And VBS is one month away! Find something that both fits and challenges.

**Summer Schedule for Worship**

As we did last year, we will use combined worship service at 10:00am for the Summer months, beginning June 18.

This helps us with the quality of our worship when vacations can reduce who is available. It is also easier if we find some Sundays for outdoor worship. So Sundays will include 3 services: 8:00 RITE I, 10:00 Hybrid RITE II and Gathering, and 5:00 Informal RITE II. The second Sunday of each month at 5:00 continues to be “Paws, Prayers, and Praise” a Eucharist to which your pets are invited to attend.

**Acolytes**

You’ve probably noticed that our team of acolytes is growing again! About 7 young people have been trained since Easter and are serving on a regular basis, making it so we usually have a full grouping on Sundays again. If you are interested in exploring if you want to serve in this way, contact Megan Wilson, our Acolyte Master. There is room for many more.

The National Acolyte Festival just announced it will be held on Saturday, 7 October after several years off due to the pandemic. We will run the bus up with our acolytes for a fun day of acolyte training in the Washington National Cathedral. We have attended for decades and are happy it is resuming. It is always a great day for our acolyte team.

**Confirmation and Reception**

Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes, will make a visit to ODEC Sunday, 30 July for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. If you want to know more about it, any of our clergy or vestry are happy to talk. A good number of our youth from pilgrimage and other adults have been prepared. When I return from Ireland, Lissie+ and I will hold an information meeting and also provide an update class if you would like to be included.

**Guides for Day School**

Our Day School Vestry Commission is looking for new members! If you’re proud of our wonderful school and would like to see it continue to thrive, join us! We meet once a month for one hour. The group acts as a board of governors and guides for our policies and plans. The Old Donation Episcopal Day School (ODEDS) has typical enrollment of 80 to 100 students from age 2 through Kindergarten. It is a happy place with 60 years of positive early childhood formation, earning itself a great reputation. If you’ve ever had experience with education, or raising children, or life, you have some of what we need. You can serve 1-3 years in this role. Please contact Katie Alpigini with any questions or speak with clergy.
Our Newest Members

- Missy Sullivan
- Gus, Nancy & Eros Interiano

Rise in Glory:

- Deanna Jacobs
- Jim Ring

You Belong at Men’s Breakfast Fellowship

What do these conversations have in common—time capsule in our church cornerstone; the Gospel of St. John; origins of interstate & U.S. highways; Navy planning, programming, budgeting and execution? These are some of the programs men of ODEC have enjoyed, along with prayer, fellowship, conversation, the occasional groaner joke, and coffee every Wednesday at 8:00am in Canterbury Room. It’s a friendly gathering, and you can bring your own breakfast. All men are invited to come, especially those still in the work force, as we dismiss promptly at 9:00am.

Unfinished Projects Group

Do you have a craft or project you need to work on and you want some company? Join us this Sunday, 18 June, 11:15am - 1:15 pm in Canterbury Room. Our group meets monthly. Contact Maureen or Vicky if you have questions.

We Celebrate our Graduates!

High School: Kell Perry, Abbie Myers, Brenna Pope, Gianna Snowden, Joshua, Julia & Zachary Conklin, Zach Galvez, Kerah Howeth, Matthias Iyer
College: Eliza Aydar, Jenna Crumley, Ryan Piston
Graduate School: Blair Hood

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Your 2023 Vestry

- Lisa Teeling, Senior Warden
- Mike Ginder, Christian Formation
- Arun Iyer, Finance & People’s Warden
- Marti Jones, Buildings & Grounds
- Patricia Cheshire, Congregational Care
- Jane Kiefer, Becoming Beloved Community
- Charlie Swift, Historic Traditions
- Megan Wilson, Parish Life
- Wayne Carruthers, Day School
- Jenn Oakley, Outreach
- Nick Rudnik, Stewardship
- Tom Weeks, Evangelism
- Regan Teeling, Youth Representative

News from our Day School

We are enrolling for the fall with availability in our 2’s, 4’s and Kindergarten. Please spread the word!

Do you love children? Are you looking for a part-time position? Reach out to us, we are hiring a 3-day threes teacher and a 4-day assistant for the fall. Come join our team!

~ Amy Borden & Jody Baker, Co-Directors

Outreach!

- We increased our commitment to JCOC’s housing efforts through their HELP • HOPE • HEALING campaign
- ODEC provides financial support to over a dozen local, national & international charities:
  - Housing ministries, including Seton House & VA Supportive Housing
  - International ministries, including Ghanian Mother’s Hope & World Pediatric Project
  - Youth ministries, including boy scout troops & Canterbury Campus Ministry
  - Prison Ministries, including Kairos and Grace Inside

- Upcoming volunteer opportunities:
  - Feed My Sheep - food delivery Sunday, 18 June after 10:00am worship
  - Beach Bags - prep Saturday, 24 June, 9:00am
  - JCOC - feeding Saturday, 15 July

We need additional parishioner involvement to help with our growing outreach ministries. Interested? Please attend our next meeting on Wed, 5 July at 6:30, or contact Jenn Oakley!
June Birthdays
1  Catherine O'Reilly
   Fred Warneke
   Doug Weiss
   Sue Doll
   Benjamin Lacher
2  Cheryl Hummer
   Ronny Barrio
   Bill Hart
3  Gloria Thompson
   Randy Bolin
   Fred Olds
4  Jane Kiefer
   Maureen Loflin
5  Alek Sas
   Katherine McCullough
   Karla Hyman
   Kevin Byrne
   Nathan Byrne
6  Michelle Vasquez
   Bailey Improta
7  Amy Buckius
   Susan Jones
8  John Jarvis
9  Rosemary DeLacey
   Janet Stephenson
10 Debbie MacDougall
    Cole Jackson
    Trevor Darr
11 Kurt Kreassig
    Erin Foley
    Tyler Hancock
    Jake Culpepper
12 Isabel Sterzing
    Charmaine Rosenfield
    Tracy Darr
13 Janet Amiott
14 Cameron Renneckamp
    Elise Enoch
15 Dan Miani
16 Kent Ross
   Ginny LeGrande
17 Kaitlyn Piston
    Megan Piston
    Hunter Shih
    Jack Alpigini
18 Janie Bowen
    Kristen Carter
    Lyle Swanson
    Dani Culpepper
19 Patsy House
    Gary Hummer
20 Phyllis Awbrey
    Danita Jacobs
    Anne Hawkins
    Brian Coyle
21 Jeff Hood
    Ethan Aydar
    Bill Walpert
22 Zoe Gurioli
23 Jake Fenter
    Anne Marie Schneeberger
    Nancy Long
    Connie Purrington
25 Doralee Dullaghan
    Libby Putzig
26 Peter Hood
27 Bill Miller
    Will Oakley
28 Mairin Genova
    Ivy Kilby
    Vernon Murray
29 Dottie Dudley
    Courtney Miani
    Carol Gurioli
30 Cathie Brown

July Birthdays
2  Bill Varnecky
    Mason Dudley
    Jim Bulleit
    Kim Conklin
    Sydney Dudley
    Stan Burgett
4  Lauren Bennett
5  Joe Jacobs
    John Wills
    Claire Ventura
    Allison Walpert
    Brian McCullough
9  Thomas Enoch
10  Evie Miani
    Brody Casey
    Maggie Wall
11  Dick Lee
    Catherine Rubel
12  George Chandler
    Bella Galvez
14  George Rhudy
    Jacob Brittain
15  Judy Gregg
16  Audra Evans
    Amber Rudnik
17  Ann Butler
    Brendon Ash
18  Ryan Piston
    Sid Kilgore
    Katie LeGrande
    Dean Nordhues
21  Lisa Duff
    Navarra Caro
    Tracy Jackson
23  Pam Painter
    Rusty Williams
    Julius Ventura
24  Eliza Aydar
    Pam Tucker
25  Carol Jarvis
    Bob Alpigini
26  Scotty Carter
27  Dave Carter
    Alex Bradley
    Raymond Cross
28  David Bowles
    Ed Hanawalt
    Scott Crumley
    Roy Hoffman
29  Truman Baxter, Jr.
    Mike Lindsey
    Kama Mitchell
    Shelby Longmire
31  Janette Crumley
    Maria Swift
    Donna Richardson
4  Reina Carey

June Anniversaries
2  John & Liudmila Malone
5  David & Mary Scott Burt
6  Scott & Patti Somers
7  Maureen & Dave Jacques
8  Glenn & Laura Scott
9  Larry & Samantha Brittain
11  Philip & Michele Purrington
12  Gordon & Sean Haight
14  Dan & Nancy Ries
15  Tricia & Thom Sare
15  Fred & Mary Poteet
    Amanda & Peter Huntley
16  Eleanor & Barry Richards
22  Elizabeth & Donald Downs
24  Ed & Sharon Butts
    Kate & Steve Keck
    Terry & Linda Ritter
25  Jorge & Monika Jara
27  John & Marguerite Duncan
    Ben & Margie Garrett
    Carol & John Jarvis
    Kurt & Danielle Kreassig
    Jim & Keren Perrini
    Lissie & Chris Rhoton
28  Sally & Phillip Todd
30  Judy & Russ Sheldon

July Anniversaries
1  J. D. & Bonney Ball
6  Janet & Stu Forbes
7  Beth Jones & Eric Anderson
8  Jeff & Gretchen Hood
11  Troy & Karen Dudley
    Janette & Scott Crumley
14  Susan & Tom DeMayo
16  Marisa & Bill Walpert
18  Janet & Jim Blohm
20  Michelle & Larry White
21  Brennon & Courtney Pope
22  Jane Wales & Dan Hartwell
24  John & Leslie Fenter
    Trent & Sally Dudley
27  Lisa & Aaron Teeling
29  Katie & Bob Alpigini