

# The Bell Ringer

July &  
August  
2022



## 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

ODEC GREAT HALL

**SUMMER  
PROGRAMS  
STARTING  
20 JULY**

6:00pm Supper &  
Program



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# WEDNESDAY

20 July  
Movie: Encanto

27 July  
Music & Mission

10 August  
Movie:  
Into the Spider-Verse

17 August  
Movie: Enough Said

More information - see page 4

celebrating

# Christmas

24 JULY!



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Sacred Ground Circles will begin again at  
Old Donation the week of 19 September.

- Monday Evenings 6:00pm ~ 8:00pm
- Wednesday Mornings 9:30am ~ 11:30am

## From our Rector

*Summertime and the livin' is easy...* “easy” might be an overstatement, but “blessed” is surely accurate! Old Donation has been living through many transitions and what could be crises, but every challenge keeps turning into new opportunities for God to do amazing things. As we know, when God is called upon to meet a challenge, you better strap in for a wild ride! *Livin' here IS blessed!*

We've seen it all year. Significant changes in our staff with music and clergy, and we haven't missed a beat. Zach Moats' heavenly work on piano is receiving rave reviews. Lissie+ has gifted us with fine preaching and a wonderful singing voice in addition. Our 20 year old Johannus organ literally blew up in the electrical storm in May (Friday the 13th - maybe the Evil one had something to do with it?). I thought we were in deep, deep trouble. Insurance covered only half of the \$110K cost of a replacement. Yesterday a member called to tell me she was sending a check to cover the other half!

We have given an order to the Viscount Organ company. The new organ will be a considerable upgrade with new sound production technology. This Italian organ has the advantage of regular improvements and expansions of sound capability. While it will be voiced to a classic English pipe organ sound, it also can produce styles of German, French, and American organ makers. They are used in a number of local churches who have given highest praise. A rental organ will be delivered in August to keep us in good sound until our new instrument can be installed (God willing and the supply chain working) before Christmas.

Then we learned Tricia Crawford, our Day School co-director, had resigned for a job in the VB Public Schools system. Another impossible shoe to fill, because Tricia has done such an excellent job navigating through COVID and parent challenges and teacher challenges. She led well our terrific school these past couple difficult years. BUT, while an announcement can't be made for a couple weeks, we believe we have that vacancy filled extremely capably as well.

There are many challenges to come, but thanks to God's grace, we seem to be able to move forward each time.

### SUMMER FUN (Never boring at ODEC)

It's time to restore more of what we missed the past couple years. Next week we dive in again. **Summer Wednesdays** will revive our pre-pandemic pattern of relaxing with movies or lighter activity, coupled with food and children's programs. The movies selected all are part of our regular contemporary life but also full of spiritual

insights and lessons. Learning to see God's life and work in popular culture (and where it is NOT) is part of growing a discerning set of Christ's eyes and mind.

Our first week (July 20) begins at 6:00 with the Disney animated movie “Encanto” exploring gifts, community, and identity in a Colombian family. My daughter-in-law, Catalina Randall, will explain a little about Colombian culture and symbolism that will help us understand the movie. It is great for all ages, so we will set up viewing space for children.

The next Wednesday features an old fashioned hymn sing with some special music. Cheryl Spessert will present a very interesting review of her mission trip to Ethiopia this past Spring. Following a week for Commission meetings, we pick back up with the superhero “Into the Spider-Verse” (Aug 10) and a romantic comedy “Enough Said.” (Aug 17) With movies not geared for children, we will have a separate program for young children in the Canterbury room.

Needed: summer food coordinators! With these events, we could use a couple hands for food and arrangements coordination. It's a one-time and done deal, so if you can help one of the last three nights (July 27, Aug 10 and 17), let me know.

July 30 is a [family fun day](#) at the **Norfolk Zoo**. Lissie+ is designing a “**Creation Care**” exercise that will be fun and educational! Mostly it's a chance to get to know some other families at ODEC well and start rebuilding the sense of community and spiritual friendship that is essential to all life.

### FORMATION

Youth planning is happening this month. We are looking at a couple ideas for retreat and mission work that we might still pull off before school begins. Dos Santos - a ministry to Hispanic community on the Eastern Shore, has some work needs we are seeing if we can assist with.

### BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

Our Juneteenth remembrance was a moving and important step in our walk towards Christ's call for transformation and justice making. See [HERE](#) your vestry's statement that was read as a mark in time of what we've learned and done in this past year. We continue study groups and action work. We had an interesting and compelling introduction to the Rev. Dr. Antipas Harris this week. He told us about the Urban Renewal Center doing work in Norfolk and now Virginia Beach. There is work right in our neighborhoods that we may be able to be helpful with. Keep paying attention, praying, and let's change the world for Christ.



## From Our Associate Rector

If you spend any time reading the Old Testament, you will find a phrase that gets repeated over and over again: You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. The end of that statement goes through changes depending on where you find it in the Bible, but all sources agree that God is merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. This phrase appears in Exodus when God first introduces Godself to the Israelites, throughout the psalms, as the chief complaint of Jonah, and peppered throughout the prophets. The word which stands out in this statement is *chesed*, the word translated as “steadfast love.” You may have also heard it translated as “loving-kindness.” It is one of the many Hebrew words that we struggle to portray correctly in English because its meaning runs deep. You might think of it as “covenantal love,” a love which is not based purely in feelings but in commitment, the commitment that is meant to be shared between God and God’s people. If it were up to us alone to maintain this commitment, we would despair of ever keeping it, but it is God who takes the lead in remaining committed to us. But as we grow in Christ, continuing on the journey begun at our baptism, we are called to reflect this same kind of committed love, not just with God, but with God’s creation. As humans, we will mess it up and move forward in fits and starts, but we are supported on our journey, and we can learn to reach beyond ourselves because God first loves us. So, as I join you in looking forward to our future as Old Donation, we are prepared for the work because we know that God is committed to us and to all those we are called to love.

I have seen your love in action in the welcome we have received in joining Old Donation. It is the same welcome we are called to extend to others, and that I’ve seen you extend through various ministries. I have gotten to meet with the heads of the Day School and Congregational Care commissions already and look forward to meeting with Historic Traditions and Outreach commissions. There is a real hunger to care for our church and for our community here at Old Donation. I look forward to diving into Formation and if anyone is passionate about learning well, please let me know. I would love to have you as part of the Formation commission. Those are the commissions that I oversee as your clergy person, but I have seen your other commissions in action as well. I

## Sacred Ground

### Becoming Beloved Community

Sacred Ground is an Episcopal Church film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Old Donation has hosted five circles serving 67 people. Part of the National Episcopal Church program of Becoming Beloved Community, over 2,000 registered Circles have participated in this program since 2019 and the curriculum has been updated and revised based on feedback from 2,892 participants, facilitators, and organizers.



Sacred Ground Circles will begin again in-person at Old Donation the week of 19 September.

- Monday Evenings 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- Wednesday Mornings 9:30am - 11:30am

Be ready for sharing, story telling, and discussion. Each circle will meet every two weeks with breaks for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you are interested, please contact [Dan Ries](#) | 757-277-1907. For more information on The Episcopal Church’s Sacred Ground series on race and faith click [HERE](#).

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hope to be a helper, encourager, and teacher to you as you continue to carry out the mission that God has entrusted to Old Donation.

You’ve also helped us get settled into Virginia Beach. You’ve given us your recommendations for restaurants and beaches, and we’ve traveled up and down the coast and back and forth across Virginia Beach to try things out. Our favorite beaches are definitely Chic’s Beach and Chesapeake Beach, although if we want a little more exercise, we like Sandbridge for that. Leaping Lizard and Nara Sushi are favorite restaurants near the church, and Las Palmas and Crazy Trompos satisfy our Mexican food craving near where we live. We have put my artwork up on the walls at home and in my office, and that makes it feel like we’ve finally settled in. We are looking forward to some wonderful years with you!

Peace, *Lissie*+

## Celebrate Christmas on Sunday, 24 July!

Ready to sing carols and Christmas hymns? We'll collect school supplies for students at Pembroke Meadows Elementary School and have a Christmas tree in the Great Hall. You can click [HERE](#) to order directly from Amazon! Or, you can write a check to ODEC to contribute. Please put PMES on the subject line.



**Education for Ministry (EfM)** was developed by the School of Theology at The University of the South. The four-year course connects faith to daily lives through reading and discussion. Encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with your experiences of the world as you study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. Weekly meetings are led by trained mentors. Think theologically, reflect faithfully, shape your faith into action, and speak civilly when confronted by opposite beliefs. Join us! Contact Ann Butler (757-618-5755) or Sue Stephenson (757-402-0823).

## Creation Care ~ Zoo Day

Bring your family to the zoo on Saturday, July 30 to meet other Old Donation families, learn a little about creation care, and have a great time visiting the animals! Bring clean and dry trash for a creation care art project and lesson outside the zoo in Lafayette Park at 10:00am. After the lesson, we will be free to roam the zoo together. If you don't have a membership to the zoo, the tickets are \$12 per person, \$36 per family cap. Please sign up [HERE](#). Pay ODEC by cash or check with the memo "Zoo Day." Questions? Contact [Lissie+](#).

# Family Fun

## Creation Care Zoo Day

Saturday, 30 July  
10:00am

OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SCAN ME



**Give to ODEC from your IRA!** If you are 70 ½ or older, you can use your IRA to help make an impact upon the mission of Old Donation Episcopal Church. You can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualified non-profit like the Endowment Fund of Old Donation Episcopal Church.

This gift does not generate income, so you benefit whether you itemize on your taxes or not. If you are 72 or older, your gift can be used to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

The Endowment Fund of Old Donation Episcopal Church was founded June 1, 2000. The Fund is managed by five parishioners Trustees elected by the Vestry. "The investment income from this Fund to be used in accomplishing God's work at Old Donation in ways that would not be possible absent such income."

For more information about the Endowment Fund - Legacy Society of 1637 contact the Church office, or [Earl Morris](#), 757-464-1062.

## You Can Give to ODEC Online

Online  
Giving

It's easy, fast, and convenient. Make a one-time gift, or set up recurring giving.

No need to worry anymore if you go on vacation, miss a Sunday, or lose your offering envelopes! Check it out!

**Evangelism** - Wait! Don't skip over this article because I used the "E" word, it's not a bad word. Evangelism is about spreading the Good News, sharing God's love through hospitality and being a welcoming community.

Evangelism has been a bit slow getting started back up after the COVID shutdown, but that's because it takes time to evaluate what has been done and what needs to be done.

For those that started attending ODEC before March 2020, you probably received a loaf of homemade bread and information about Old Donation within a short time after filling out the visitor card. We're going to be starting up a version of that ministry, instead of calling it Bake and Take, it'll be Bake and "hand out", we won't automatically be taking the bread to people's homes, we'll try to give them the bread and information during one of their first visits. We need bakers and folks to hand out loaves on Sunday mornings!

In addition, our coveted ODEC crosses will be available. Hurray! We'll be reviving the Greeter corps too. Greeters work hand in hand with ushers, their advantage is that they can escort a guest to a seat and make sure they are comfortable and be available to answer questions about Old Donation and the service in general.

Interested in this happy, welcoming, good news sharing commission? Reach out to [Marti Jones](#), or 757-567-5010.

**Do you have a new address?** Please email the [Parish Office](#) to update your information!

ODEC GREAT HALL

**SUMMER  
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20 JULY**

**6:00pm Supper &  
Program**



OLD DONATION  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**WED  
NES  
DAY**

**Wanted! Day School News** ...There is an exciting employment opportunity at the Day School! We have an opening for a Lead Teacher for our Monday/Wednesday/Friday three-year-old classroom. [Please email us](#) at for more info!

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship: The 2nd Best Hour of the Week (after Sunday worship!)

Wednesday mornings at 8:00 men of Old Donation assemble in the Canterbury Room for conversation and a program. Our breakfast is B.Y.O.B (Bring Your Own Breakfast), and we supply coffee. Join us! We invite all men of the parish to attend!

Some weeks include spontaneous discussions of secular and spiritual topics, such as "Would Jesus forgive Vladimir Putin?" We have watched DVD episodes of "The Holy Land Revealed" about the centralization of the worship of God in the Jerusalem temple by the Jews of the 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and the life of the Essenes at Qumran. We listened to an episode of a podcast "The Secret War of Willis Hodges", a free black man of pre-Civil War times in Princess Anne County. We had guest speaker, parishioner Cheryl Spessert, share her ten days in Ethiopia this spring as part of Three Roots International, a nonprofit working to build economic self-reliance. And we have tackled the conversation about gun control after the massacres in Buffalo and Uvalde. No need to RSVP!

## Kairos for Women!

After so long, we will return to the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland (VCCW) this October.

Lives are redeemed in one of the darkest places on earth - prisons, and it takes a virtual army of volunteers to be the hands and feet of Christ in this mission. Many of us will enter the prison for the 3-day event, others will remain outside the walls to prepare meals, contribute monetary donations, posters, home baked cookies, write letters, and provide round-the-clock prayers throughout the Kairos weekend.

Interested? Speak with [Frankie Ring](#) or [Kelly Routh](#) at ODEC!



## Grace Notes and Accomplishments:

Williamsburg-James City Public Schools' principal **Dr. Daniel J. Miani** has been named the 2022 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia by a panel of principals and superintendents representing the Principal Awards Committee of the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP). Congratulations, Dan!

## Your 2022 Vestry



Holly Waide, *Senior Warden*  
David Beach, *Buildings & Grounds/Planning*  
Sonni Matthews, *Becoming Beloved Community*  
Will Walker, *Finance*  
Jonathan Halvorson, *Formation*  
Arun Iyer, *Stewardship & People's Warden*  
Marti Jones, *Evangelism*  
Lisa Teeling, *Outreach*  
Patricia Cheshire, *Congregational Care*  
Jane Kiefer, *Day School*  
Charlie Swift, *Historic Traditions*  
Megan Wilson, *Parish Life*

## Paws, Prayers & Praise

Eucharist is August 11th at 5pm in the church. This is a great opportunity to bring a guest, furry or otherwise, to Sunday service! Beach attire & flip flops welcome!

## Welcome!

### Our new members:

Ellen & Rick Vinson  
Elizabeth Downs  
Cary & Raymond Cross  
Katie, Kevin, Abby, Nate & Hannah Byrne  
Kim & Dave Rush

### Our newly baptized:

Abigail Enoch  
Tommy Culpepper  
Deacon Caro  
Navarra Caro

May God's love be the pattern for ours. May God's wide embrace, God's boundless generosity, God's reckless mercy, God's steadfast and unfailing love be our rule and guide, today and always. -Br. David Vryhof

# July & August Celebrations

## July Birthdays

- 2 Bill Varmecy  
Mason Dudley
- 3 Jim Bulleit  
Kim Conklin  
Karen Londeree  
Sydney Dudley  
Stan Burgett
- 4 Lauren Bennett
- 5 Joe Jacobs  
Cindy Paré  
John Wills  
Claire Ventura  
Allison Walpert  
Brian McCullough
- 9 Christian Brown  
Thomas Enoch
- 10 Evie Miani  
Bennett Wubker  
Brody Casey  
Maggie Wall
- 11 Dick Lee  
Catherine Rubel
- 12 George Chandler
- 13 Bella Galvez  
Robette McLellan
- 14 George Rhudy  
Jacob Brittain  
George Pinckney
- 15 Judy Gregg
- 16 Audra Snowden  
Emily Rich  
Amber Rudnik
- 17 Ann Butler  
Joshua Burton
- 18 Ryan Piston  
Sam Ghormley  
Sid Kilgore  
Katharine McLellan  
Dean Nordhues
- 21 Lisa Duff  
Tracy Jackson
- 23 Pam Painter  
Rusty Williams  
Ryan Culpepper  
Julius Ventura
- 24 Maureen Anderson  
Danielle Davenport  
Eliza Aydar  
Pam Tucker
- 25 Carol Jarvis  
Bob Alpigini  
Priscilla Wheaton

- 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
- 30 Anne Hagan
- 31 Janette Crumley  
Maria Swift  
Donna Richardson  
Reina Carey

## August Birthdays

- 1 Marcella Lindsey  
Kaylyn MacDonald  
Rose Martin  
Peyton Johnson  
Frankie Ring
- 2 Davilyn Piluden
- 4 Jacquelyn Baxter
- 5 Janet Forbes  
Rodney Montana
- 6 Jenn Rennekamp  
Logan Johnson
- 7 John Guthrie  
Debbie Ross  
Brenda New
- 8 John Sherman  
Elizabeth Malcom  
Blair Hood  
Jo Beach  
Cindy Murphy
- 9 Mary Charles Burt  
Ginny Campbell  
Paula Raines
- 10 Carvell Taylor  
Sharon Need  
Miriam Erickson  
Zachary Galvez
- 11 Caroline Crouch  
Ricki Schmidt
- 12 Margie Garcia-Garrett  
Jenna Crumley  
Chris Rhoton
- 13 The Rev. Lissie Rhoton
- 14 Kathleen Heck  
Ryan Long  
Tonya Koenig

- 15 Audrey Schulz
- 16 Chaille Lindo  
Killian Medlin
- 17 James Miani  
Owen Erickson  
Cliff Lewis
- 18 Joan Crockett  
Kate Keck  
Hunter Enoch  
Zachary Conklin  
Julia Conklin  
Joshua Conklin  
Chris Stephenson
- 19 Nancy Ries  
Haven Smith-Hyman
- 20 Marti Jones  
Clara Grossgold  
Ned Piluden
- 21 John Duncan
- 22 Eleanor Irvin  
Kinsey Kreassig  
Gabriel Mayorga  
Giovanni Mayorga  
Robert McCarty
- 23 Michael Improta  
Steve Kamperschroer  
Dorothy Freeman  
Christine Gregerson
- 24 Karen Intrieri  
Carolyn Gerace
- 25 Paige Martin  
Haley Wilson  
Nicholas Bulleit  
Chantalise Downing  
Jack Anderson
- 26 Leslie Miller  
Jim Pernini  
Caraline Rubel  
Susan Hickman  
Brenna Pope
- 27 Lily Burroughs  
Nancy Cantrell
- 28 Recce Young  
Carol Hart
- 30 Chris Brush  
Jenn Oakley  
Kelly Nordhues
- 31 Betty Munden  
Bill Waide

## July Anniversaries

- 1 J. D. & Bonney Ball
- 2 Steve & Leah Moore
- 6 Janet & Stu Forbes
- 7 Beth Jones & Eric Anderson
- 8 Jeff & Gretchen Hood
- 11 Trey & 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
- 26 Trent & Sally Dudley
- 27 Lisa & Aaron Teeling
- 29 Katie & Bob Alpigini

## August Anniversaries

- 4 Betty & John Sherman  
Jo & David Beach
- 6 Rachel & Brendon Ash
- 7 Jonna & Will Walker
- 9 Patsy & John Harris
- 10 Shelby & Gary Longmire  
Toni & Peter Hogg
- 11 Jenifer & Steve Kamperschroer
- 14 Holly & John Michael Payne
- 18 Gisella & Jim Battersby  
Kat & Jake Fenter
- 19 Gene Black & Lori Blaisdell  
Katherine & Brian McCullough
- 20 Cheryl & George Hummer  
Frankie & Jim Ring
- 23 Ginny & Mark Sinclair
- 24 Ned & Judy Kuhns
- 25 Nancy & Chester Long
- 26 Barbara & Errol Lifland
- 28 Leslie & Andy Gallop
- 29 Elise & Hunter Enoch
- 31 Gloria & Bill Thompson



## Weekly Worship Schedule

### Sunday

8:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Eden Chapel

5:00pm

Sundays@5 Informal HE

### 2nd Sunday of the Month

5:00pm

Paws, Prayers & Praise HE

### Thursday

10:00am

Healing Prayer HE

### Monday Wednesday Friday

12:00pm

Noonday Prayers

## Old Donation Episcopal Church

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, *Bishop*

The Rev. Robert J. Randall, Jr., *Rector*

The Rev. Lissie Rhoton, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Fred Poteet, *Priest Associate*

### Mailing Address:

PO BOX 68067 Virginia Beach, VA 23471  
odec@olddonation.org | www.olddonation.org

## Old Donation Episcopal Day School

757-499-2283 | oded@olddonation.org

Ages 2, 3, 4 and Kindergarten

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 12:20 pm

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Old Donation Episcopal Church  
4449 N. Witduck Road  
Virginia Beach VA 23455