

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



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



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](#).

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+](#).



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
PROGRAMS
STARTING
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 7th 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!

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

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

July & August Celebrations

July Birthdays

2 Bill Varmecky
Mason Dudley
3 Jim Bulleit
Kim Conklin
Karen Londeree
Sydney Dudley
Stan Burgett
4 Lauren Bennett
5 Joe Jacobs
Cindy Pare
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

August Birthdays

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

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 Recee 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



