

The Bell Ringer

November
2020



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*

From Our Rector

God is constant – constantly good and constantly good to us... even in this crazy year! Despite pandemics, racial reckoning, and politics running off

well-worn rails, There is so much to be thankful for and so much good stuff to do... IF we can stay Godly focused.

In the last week, a couple members have told me their only way to stay sane was to turn off Facebook and other social media. I remember a few years ago when Scott Bader-Saye taught a series in Lent, entitled “*Following Jesus in a culture of Fear.*” One of his cautions that stuck with me was to avoid TV / Cable / Internet sources for the news. He advised using printed media – because it is less (but not entirely) prone to the ups and downs and spins and biases of news that changes every 30 minutes... (or 30 seconds if you use Twitter). On days when I am at home, I find I just have to turn off the noise or frustration will quickly consume. Today, I am living by the old axiom, “believe none of what you read and only half of what you see!” It is wisdom come true.

On the other hand, God is actively working in our midst. A week ago on All Saints’ Sunday, we had as large a class of adults confirmed, received, and baptized as at any year. 26 (including 7 teens from our high school juniors and seniors) formally accepted Christ and God’s leadership for their lives. Some of these folks have been active with us for years. Some joined us after the pandemic shutdown hit and were brought into our fellowship through our online worship and bible studies. Bishop Susan Haynes celebrated and confirmed. She mentioned the joy and warmth she has experienced at ODEC on every visit.

Our schedule for in-person worship has made the most of what we can do. The 8:00 RITE I service has up to 30 people, our capacity unless families attend who sit together in a pew. Outdoor in the ODEC graveyard has been a tremendous blessing. We are usually between 100-120 and have had up to 185 comfortably sitting under tree cover. God has blessed us with September temps mostly until now. Twice we have moved back into the Parish Hall where (distanced) capacity is about 55.

Coming up

Our worship team is committed to making these next couple months of Advent and Christmas all that we can. We will take advantage of the technologies we’ve learned and use our spaces and “old ways” so as much as possible, you can experience Christ’s presence. You will see inside a number of events and efforts we are working on. We are exploring some ideas around caroling, distributing communion kits for those who cannot attend, and even Midnight Mass outdoors! We MUST be creative to be SAFE and FAITHFUL at the same time.

For Outreach, our team is supplying all the funds needed for the Mission of the Holy Spirit to have Thanksgiving Dinners this year. We also WILL HAVE ANGEL TREE, though we are still working on how to do it most effectively. “Feed My Sheep” has been providing meals every month in Norfolk and is looking into needs and practicalities of another “Coat Drive” for John the Baptist Sunday again. ODEC continues also to be “constant” – as God provides, we will pass along the blessings to those in need most.

Sacred Ground Circles: Our two study groups are finishing their deep dive into our national stories of race. I am very thankful for their commitment to this work. We must know where we have been and what we have done, before we can chart where to go. This Sacred Ground Circles program introduces us to history that most have not heard in school, because it is pretty hard to hear. But it is critical to better understanding some of today's troubles. We will be establishing another couple small groups for this class in January. If you are interested, please speak with [Dan Ries](#), [Jane Kiefer](#), or [Deacon Genevieve Nelson](#).

Book Study: "Living into God's Dream - Dismantling Racism in America": In December we will hold ZOOM discussions based upon essays in this collection. Pick up the book and read some. After Thanksgiving I'll publish a schedule and which essays we will discuss.

Stewardship: We will be constructing a budget for next year's mission and ministry these next two months. Pledges for your estimated giving for 2021 are needed. Holly Waide and her team have done a fresh work with the "Viral Giving" campaign. They pray that generosity reflecting God's blessings in your lives becomes contagious. Please [send in](#) (or [enter online](#) or call the office) your pledge as soon as you can. Our ministry is dependent upon your support.



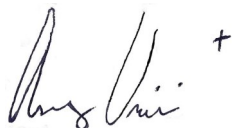
From Our Associate Rector

My dear friends,

We are finally nearing the end of 2020, a year which has seemed to have lasted a century. There has been loss and pain and struggle, and more change and strangeness than we can fully comprehend. But through it all, I hope you have all felt that ODEC has still been here for you. I know for me, the church has been a constant through the storm—even when nothing looks the same, I know that we will still be here, in some form or another.

And so, I promise you that as we near the holidays—Advent and Christmas in particular—we are going to do all in our power to help our community fully live in to the season. It will be different. We will have to let go of our thoughts of "if only..." and "last year we..." because we know that it will not be the same, or what our hearts most desire. But we are constantly thinking and talking about ways we can celebrate the season as a community, and we welcome your creativity and thoughts as well. Keep reading further in the Bell Ringer to see some of the things we have planned so far, and know that there will still be more to come. COVID or not, Christmas will be Christmas. NOTHING will stop the coming of Christ!!!

Joy and peace to you all,



From Our Deacon

With so much time spent on screens lately, I've been listening to more podcasts to give my eyes a break. I was listening to Thresholds with Jordan Kisner when I heard a glimpse of the kingdom in her interview with celebrated poet and novelist Ocean Vuong. He recently released a collection of poetry called "Night Sky and Exit Wounds."

Vuong described a threshold event in his life where he was walking in a cornfield after his shift at Boston Market. While eating leftover cornbread-cake, laughing and talking with his coworkers, he comes to the realization that he must make a change in his life. He sees a vision of writing and describes the threshold as having an incredible idea where he felt so powerful yet standing in quicksand.

As a Christian, I recognize that feeling of power while standing in quicksand. Celtic Christianity has called them thin places, where the kingdom of heaven overlaps with the earth. Maybe sometimes these spaces are as grand as a clear call from God such as Paul's conversion, but I find they are more often conveyed through a smaller medium; certainly through the bread and wine we share with one another each week, but also through a shared slice of cake or a coat given for warmth. These events have the potential to turn our lives upside down for when we see a glimpse of the eternal kingdom of God, we see what is truly solid and what we once thought of as stable ground becomes flimsy and fluid beneath our feet.

POSTPONED—Oyster Roast 2020

As much as it pains us to say this, we have made the difficult decision to postpone this year's Oyster Roast. While efforts were being made to hold a social event off-campus, we ultimately decided to hold off on this for the safety of our community. We've seen an increase in COVID cases not only in the USA but in our own state and city. We'll explore the possibility of doing something together next year, but for now, our commitment to exercise caution in the care for our neighbor takes precedence.



What are YOU thankful for?

This has been quite a year, with more challenges than we can count. We have faced huge losses in our community, and we know that many all around the world are suffering. And still, we know that there is much to give thanks for. We invite all in our parish to take a short (10 seconds max) video of yourselves sharing what you're thankful for this year, and send it in to odecwebteam@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Day Service

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Don't forget you'll need to [RSVP](#). A reminder will be sent!

The Longest Night

Every year ODEC holds a "Christmas" service on the longest night of the year, for all those who are not feeling very merry to gather in worship during the holiday season. This year's service will look different, and will be held in person and via livestream on December 21st at 7:00pm. We feel the service will be more important than ever this year, so please stay tuned for more information and spread the word to your friends and family.

Virtual Christmas Pageant

You've heard it announced—this year's Christmas Pageant is going virtual AND intergenerational! Nearly all speaking roles have been cast, but that doesn't let anyone off the hook. We need animals! We need angels! We need voices to fill out our Christmas Choir! We need *you*. Look for an email with details early next week.

Advent Wreaths



One of our main events every year on Advent 1 is our advent wreath making event. This is yet another thing that is different this year, but we don't want anyone to go without a way to mark the season at home. So, on Sunday November 29, stop by the church anytime between 8am-12pm to pick up a metal advent wreath form and advent candles from under the Bell Tower. We'll be sending out a notice with sample wreaths and prayers for you to use at home. Cut branches from your yard, or come by the church to cut some there to add to your wreath, and decorate your wreath however your family sees fit! Be sure to take a picture of the final product and set it in.

Nativity Pictures



We know from firsthand experience that *many* in our parish have beloved and unique nativity sets that come out each year during the Advent and Christmas season. If you are one such person, please take a picture of your nativity set and [send it to us](#), so we can share the beauty that each nativity set brings to the season.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Are you tired of staying home and not connecting? Would you like someone to talk with you weekly? Please let the clergy or Stephen Ministry know if you would like to have a Stephen Minister call you. We listen, give support, and care! Please contact Barbette Timperlake to be paired with a Stephen Minister. timperl8k@yahoo.com

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. Ashley Urquidi, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Fred Poteet, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Genevieve Nelson, *Deacon*

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Old Donation Episcopal Day School

757-499-2283 | oded@olddonation.org

Ages 2, 3, 4 and Kindergarten

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Outdoors

11:30am Facebook Livestream Morning Prayer

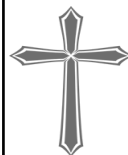
Weekdays

12:00pm Facebook Livestream Noonday

We have a Baby!



Sophia Grace
Neumann



Rise in Glory

Dorothy Conklin
Peggy Economidis
Gwen Cataldo

We have Member Updates!

Baptized & Confirmed

Arun Iyer

Confirmed

Ethan Aydar, Ricky Barrio, Zachary Bowles, Dillon Browning,
Ginny Burt, Kathy Hessmer, Summer Johnson, Katharine McLellan,
Rodney Montana, John Michael Payne, Joseph Putzig, Kate Weintraub

Received

Deb Fortin, Annamarie Ginder, Mike Ginder, Nancy Harris,
Sten Hessmer, Starr Plimpton, Jenn Putzig, Tony Putzig,
Cata Randall, Steve Stocks, Tony Suchy, Becky Suchy

New Members

Laura Alt & Phil Lacher

November Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Lynette Lewis | 10 JoAnn MacDougall |
| 2 Melissa Moore | James Keller |
| Sera Kate Alpigini | Jerry Grubb |
| 3 Sonni Matthews | Helen Heselius |
| 4 Anne Scharenberg | Matthew Bulleit |
| Deniece Cheri | 11 Sandra Wills |
| Charlie Patton | Diane Bolin |
| Chris Wheaton | 12 Gail Varmecy |
| 5 Betsy VanderWilt | Justin Erbe |
| Hayden Bowles | Madeline Schulz |
| Corrine Gregerson | 13 Bonney Ball |
| 6 Michele Suttle | Lucas Gabriellini |
| Trey Dudley | 15 Kevin O'Flaherty |
| 7 Gisella Battersby | Renée Johnson |
| Theda Blackwelder | 16 Lauren Swartz |
| Phil Luebbert | 17 Michelle Stephenson-White |
| 8 Robert Burns | 18 Murrey Loflin |
| Tricia Colby | Allison Myers |
| Sam Oswald | 19 Drew Luebbert |
| Becky Hailey | 20 Page Cranford |
| 9 George Butler | 21 Jill Ghormley |
| Mark Sinclair | Abigail Erbe |
| Harry Lustig | Evelyn Erbe |
| Tim Kuehn | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 22 Sherrie Coyle | 2 Catherine & Kevin Rubel |
| Kirsten Holt | Heather & Brian Hunt |
| Edna Esser | Cassie & Landon Wellford |
| Kathryn Ferrandino | 3 Sharon & Tim Oswald |
| Lauren Moore | 6 Arun & Laura Iyer |
| 23 Michael Fitch | 7 Jacquelyn & Truman Baxter |
| Joanne Kilgore | Boo & Greg Burroughs |
| 24 JoAnne Newhall | 10 Beth & George Weeks |
| Beth Holland | 13 Valerie & Mike Casey |
| Liudmila Malone | 14 Liane & Kevin Long |
| Drew Stephenson | Melissa & Bill Waide |
| 25 Judy Lee | 17 Rita & Harry Lustig |
| Casey Gregerson | 21 Nancy & Tom Cantrell |
| Jon Johnson | Ginny & Page Cranford |
| 26 Katie Fite | Cynthia & Paul Wise |
| 27 J. D. Ball | 22 Gloria & John Brown |
| Bill McAree | 23 Mike & Amber Lovejoy |
| 28 Charlie Swift | |
| 29 Chuck Applebach | |
| Matt Jackson | |
| 30 Elizabeth Simpson | |
| Brennon Pope | |
| Corey Schweiger | |
| 4 Gwynneth Anderson | |