



OLD DONATION
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ministry Fair 2026

26 April after 10:30am worship



BELL RINGER

April & May 2026


Help Feed & Clothe Our Community! 

Support Dos Santos on the Eastern Shore.



Masa and shirts are needed for agricultural workers on the Eastern Shore.



 Scan the QR code to order directly from Amazon

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

Easter Season 2026

From our Rector, the Rev. Nelson Mendoza



In five months, a monarch butterfly travels up to 3,000 miles. A gray whale calf doubles its weight. A new beehive, if things go well, swells from a few thousand workers to over 50,000 buzzing members of a thriving community. And here at Old Donation, something remarkably similar has been happening. Since November 16 and my start as your rector, we have gathered for a new season of ministry together: new relationships formed, new rhythms discovered, new questions asked about who we are and who we are becoming as a congregation. Five months is a short window of time, and yet it turns out to be long enough to learn a tremendous amount about what it means to belong to one another.

Speaking of bees: we recently lost our honeybee colony here on the church grounds, and honestly, it stings! The Old Donation apiary has been a quiet but meaningful part of our life together, a little corner of creation we have been entrusted to tend. Good news is, we are not giving up on those bees. We are actively looking for a head beekeeper, someone with experience managing an apiary, or someone with a genuine passion for learning the craft, who would like to take on the care and revival of our hive. This is not a small ask, but it is a beautiful one. If that sounds like you or someone you know, we want to hear from you. Additional folks interested in beekeeping are welcome too! Email me and I'll connect you to the right person.

And that brings us to something bigger. April is National Volunteer Month, and Old Donation is full of ministries that need the gifts only our community can offer. From the apiary to altar guild, from pastoral care to youth ministry, the work of this church is carried by the hands and hearts of people who show up. We are hosting a Ministry Fair on Sunday, 26 April immediately after the 10:30AM service, and we would love you to come, look around, ask questions, and find the place where your time and talent might take root. A hive does not survive on one bee. Neither does a church. Come see where you bee-long.

Nelson+



KAIROS

Kairos # 55 at VCCW

It's Kairos time again at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland. On 29 April, Frankie Ring and Becky Suchy will join Team #55 to serve 24 residents for a Kairos Weekend of fun, witness, and fellowship. 100+ dozen cookies are being baked by SCOPE folks and by many of you wonderful parishioners, and I say THANK YOU ahead of time.

Prayer links of love and a poster can be signed during our Ministry Fair on Sunday, 26 April, sending visual agape love and encouragement from ODEC to the participating women on the inside. PRAYER is crucial to all that God does, especially through Kairos, so we ask for you to COVER team #55, starting right now, as we prepare and then go out being faithful witnesses to Christ our Lord. Blessings, ~Frankie

Easter Season 2026 WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- ⊕ 8:00AM RITE I CHURCH
- ⊕ 9:30AM CHRISTIAN FORMATION
- ⊕ 10:30AM COMBINED WORSHIP
- ⊕ 5:00PM SUNDAYS@5

WWW.OLDDONATION.ORG

Good Shepherd Sunday Sunday, 26 April

Weather permitting, we will have a lamb on Good Shepherd Sunday! Remember this is Day School Sunday and we welcome our Day School friends. Loose offerings are designated for the Julia Tucker Fund, which provides scholarships for Day School students.



Ushers Unite!

FREE training Sunday, 19 April 11:30am

Be the first smile people see and the reason they feel at home. As an usher, it's not just about bulletins—you set the tone for every service, and help create a warm, welcoming space for all. Step into a role that makes a real difference each week. Join the usher team—you belong here.

Already trained and ready to usher?

Sign up [HERE](#).

Seeking Bass Players for Worship!



Are you a Bass player?
Join the Gathering Band!

Not quite ready to play on Sundays? Attend rehearsals and experience playing with an excellent group of musicians. Other instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome, too!

We rehearse Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm.

Contact **Leslie Fenter**.

if you also love our Sundays@5 worship option, Random Acts could also use another bass player! Opportunities abound at Old Donation! **Email us!**

Day of Pentecost

Sunday, 24 May

On Pentecost we read the Gospel simultaneously in many different languages.

Which foreign language can you read aloud? **Email us** to let us know your preference and we will send you the appropriate translation. This is one of the highlights of our church year - not to be missed!



Ministry Fair!

Sunday, 26 April, following 10:30am worship

“The Gifts from God Used by the People of God. Is That You?”

I am by no means any kind of Stewardship guru, in fact up until around 21 January, when I took on the Stewardship Liaison “gig,” I was always puzzled (but never enough to do anything about my ignorance) why a ministry that basically required an act of pledging money was called “Stewardship.” Well, thanks to some on the job training from some of our experts I now have a much better, although still rudimentary, understanding of the true meaning of stewardship and, like any convert (and full disclosure the Stewardship Vestry Liaison) now I want to spread the word.

In contrast to recent years, the Stewardship Campaign 2027 will begin Sunday, 19 April with the intention that this, unseasonably, early start will generate space to consider Stewardship in all of its glory. Stewardship is not just about the act of pledging money, albeit an important part of the ministry this act is not, and never was, the “be all and end all” of the matter.



Stewardship, perhaps better thought of as discipleship*, is about recognizing everything we have is a gift from God, be that love, family, wealth, health, talent, etc. If we recognize this, then we most certainly must be grateful for our gifts, and so it follows that we should use our gifts as God intended. With this in mind, the theme for the Stewardship Commission in 2026 is:

“The Gifts from God Used by the People of God. Is That You?”

So why do I highlight Sunday, 19 April as the start date for Stewardship 2026? Well, to set the tone, I can think of no better primer than listening to the thoughts of Rick Vinson on Stewardship in a talk he calls “So You Hate Stewardship, Too!” Join the Stewardship Commission in Tucker Hall at 9:30am on Sunday, 19 April. Dilly-dally for 30 minutes after 8:00am worship or arrive 60 minutes early for 10:30am worship, but either way come and listen to what promises to be a refreshingly unconventional look at the subject. And there’s more! On the following Sunday, 26 April, ODEC will be holding its spring “Ministry Fair” in the Narthex beginning at 11:30am and in parallel with the normal coffee hour. Roll-up and hear what ODEC’s commissions and ministries are doing, dwell a pause to consider where there’s an opportunity for you to use your gifts from God, and answer the question – “is that you?” ~David Beach

**the intentional, relational process of following Jesus Christ, learning his teachings, and becoming more like him in character and action.*

FORMATION



EYC - Episcopal Youth Community

3 May: In-house EYC event, 6:00pm

17 May: In-house EYC kids event, 6:00pm

24 May: End of the year BBQ and movie! 6:00pm

Hello my dear friends,

We have entered into another season of change. The world continues to turn, and yet some things make us feel like everything is standing still. I looked out my kitchen window the other day, and I noticed our beautiful dogwood tree was in bloom. A mix of buds, flowers, and some that are right in between. What a beautiful way to look at the changes in our lives. There will always be a continuum of bloom cycles as we go through life. Right now, you may be fully embracing bold flowers with a sweet smell of joy, or you may be experiencing the tiniest buds of hope. No matter where you are in this walk, you never need to walk alone. The same God who made the flowers, made you; and you are fully loved and held by his grace and promise. Something that I have had to remind myself over and over again during the last few months. God's got me and God's got you!

Love always, Bethanny

Vacation Bible School

13-17 July 2026

9:00am - Noon

Scan to Register!



OLD DONATION
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Wake up those neurons, get your synapses flowing, and jump on the wavelength of God's love! This is #KidsConnect, an interactive VBS where children use their brain power as they connect with Jesus, family, and friends of all ages! As children learn and create together, they will find a place of belonging, relate to trusted adults, make new friends, and follow Jesus' example of making room for all and loving one another. Are you interested in leading a small group, station, help with snacks, and more?

Sign up here to volunteer for this year's vacation bible school! Watch the website and Facebook for updates or **email** us.

#KidsConnect


VBS Co-Directors needed!

If you are interested in leading a group of volunteers and kids through this year's VBS, please **email Bethanny** for more information!

Call for Leaders!

It has been shown that meaningful adult-youth relationships can lead to a more resilient faith and lifelong church involvement for our disciples in training. If you have ever thought about working with youth within the church, teaching formation lessons, or being a mentor to our youth, we are here to invite you to be a formation leader! We are currently seeking leaders for our formation classes for the 2026-2027 Formation year. Lessons are premade and prepared weekly. If you are interested or would like more information, please email **Bethanny!**


OUTREACH

Help Feed & Clothe Our Community! 
Support Dos Santos on the Eastern Shore.



Masa and shirts are needed for agricultural workers on the Eastern Shore.



 Scan the QR code to order directly from Amazon



A HUGE THANK YOU to our generous ODEC members for the incredible support of our Outreach programs in 2025, especially during the holidays. We have many working behind the scenes monthly to help those in need: Beach Bags provides weekend food for students at Pembroke Meadows Elementary School; many meals for people at JCOC and Feed My Sheep. Lunches were served to college kids at the Episcopal Campus Ministry at ODU Canterbury House. We organized a collection of coats and gently used clothing for kids at PMES.

We sent an outreach member loaded with hundreds of dozens of homemade cookies into a local women's prison to support Kairos Prison Ministry and prayed for everyone inside. Many un-housed people in VB were served dinner hosted by Old Donation members at Bayside Presbyterian Church as a part of the city's NEST program. Two cars filled with coats, hats, gloves, socks, and blankets were delivered in December to the Feed My Sheep program in downtown Norfolk. Bags of rice, beans and masa were collected for those with food insecurity on the Eastern Shore at Dos Santos.

Over 120 Christmas toys, blankets, bikes, scooters, helmets, puzzles and more were delivered to children experiencing homelessness or in transition through our Angel Tree partnership with ForKids, Inc - one of the largest year-round providers of homeless services for families in Virginia. Thirty-six children from Mission of the Holy Spirit were given Walmart gift cards to shop for gifts as part of the E.L.F. program. All of this was made possible by donations of time, talent, and treasure from generous, caring Old Donation parishioners living the Word of Christ to care for those in need.

In 2026, we have had our very first, very successful Bunny Trail, which provided pantry staples to families connected with ForKids, Inc. We continue our other feeding/housing program support for various other ministries that we provide hands-on or financial support. We said thank you to Bill Waide for his past dedication as Outreach Co-Chair and Vestry Liaison and welcomed Jenn Oakley as our new Co-Chair and Leslie Brunick as our new Vestry Liaison.

We have established a relationship with The Pantry at Eastern Shore Episcopal Church and welcome anyone who would like to volunteer in this exciting ministry. Be on the lookout for a revised outreach page on the ODEC website later this year that gives more info about the ministries we support and how you can become involved. **Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, 6 May at 6:30pm with a presentation by ForKids, Inc.**

Parish Life

ART @ ODEC

Creatives Group

Meet on Tuesdays at 2pm in the Alfriend House. All are welcome. We'll discuss ideas about activities as we creatively spread God's love through art.

ODEC Art Gallery

The Art Gallery in the hallway in front of the library will now be a collective show. Each artist will be assigned one or more spindles to display their work. It is also an opportunity to sell your work.

Painting Class

Wednesday 15 April 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Led by Martha Wilson and open to all. We will paint a butterfly on 9x12 canvas with acrylic paints. Cost is \$25 per person with 10% benefiting our youth. Dress in painting clothes or bring a cover to wear. Feel free to bring a snack to share and your own beverage.

Want more info? Contact Martha Wilson at 310-430-2306



SCOPE

Singles + Couples + Parents + Episcopalians

We invite any age to attend our twice monthly meetings! We are excited to continue with discussions and group events. Please see the calendar below for upcoming dates and activities. Questions? Email Bethanny!

- **Thursday, 16 April** - 5:30pm, AFH Baking Cookies!
- **Thursdays, 7 & 21 May**

Looking Ahead

June is a long ways off but will be here in no time!
Here are dates to put in your calendar that you shouldn't miss.

- **June 14 Parish Picnic & Graduate Recognitions** (send names and [info to us](#) anytime!)
- **June 21** Join us at 5:00pm for the I. Sherman Green Chorale in the Great Hall.

A poster for a Mental Health First Aid Class. The title "MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the date "May 16, 2026" and time "9am-4pm" are listed. The location is "Old Donation Episcopal Church - Canterbury Room" and the RSVP deadline is "by May 1, 2026". A note says "We only have 30 spots so sign up fast!". The text describes the course: "From this course you will learn how to assist people in your community with a variety of mental health issues until they can get to an appropriate professional." Contact information for Fr. Nelson is provided: "Email Fr. Nelson at nelson@olddonation.org for sign up information." and "Lunch will be provided." A list of topics to be covered is shown: 1. Depression and mood disorders, 2. Anxiety disorders, 3. Trauma, 4. Psychosis, 5. Substance Use disorders. At the bottom, it says "This class is presented by Sentara Behavioral Health".

Our church is offering Mental Health First Aid training on Saturday, May 16 from 9am to 4pm in partnership with Sentara Behavioral Health. The training will be held at the church in the Canterbury Room and will equip parishioners to respond faithfully and compassionately to those experiencing mental health challenges, with a certificate awarded upon completion. This is sacred work that strengthens our ability to be present to one another in times of need, and while registration has already been paid, space is limited to 30 participants so please RSVP by May 1 and sign up soon.

[Click to Register](#)

Happenings!



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Are things tough emotionally or spiritually?
Simply feeling down?

Allow a trained Stephen Minister to listen,
support, and walk with you through these
difficult times.

Visit us at the Ministry Fair or talk with Father
Nelson or a Stephen Leader.

Would you like to learn to care for someone
who needs emotional or spiritual support?
Visit us at the Ministry Fair to learn about our
next training class.
or call Barbette (571-212-3144) or Carol (757-
646-3227.

The Virginia Beach Chorale presents
Americana - Songs of America
Celebrating 250 years of the country we all love
Saturday, May 16th, 2026
7:00 PM
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
201 Market St. Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 385-2787

Our own Janet and Jane Castro are in the Chorale!
Purchase tickets from Janet and skip the box
office/online fees!



Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Things are 'Bunny Hopping' over at the Day School as we transition into Spring. Students had a fun winter season learning about the colors black, white, blue, pink, and purple. We welcomed the Virginia Beach Fire Department and learned all about community helpers. As our school year starts to wind down, we will be learning about the weather, the colors green and yellow, and celebrating friendships.

We will host our annual Julia Tucker Scholarship Fundraiser on Friday, 1 May in Tucker Hall. This evening will be a Parents' Night Out with wine, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$20 each and ticket flyers will be available in the Narthex. Please put check or cash in an envelope and place in the Day School mailbox located next to tickets!

Additionally, the Day School is offering Kids' Day Out June 1-4 and June 8-11 from 9:30 to 1:00. This year's theme is *Once Upon a Time*. Each week is \$150. Children must be potty trained and 3 years old to attend. Please email [Sarah Wilson](mailto:Sarah.Wilson@ODEDS.org) for more information and to sign up!

~Sarah Wilson & Jody Baker, Day School Directors

The Giving Gala 2026

Old Donation Episcopal Day School
Annual Silent Art Auction

Volunteer

bit.ly/ODEDSAuction2026



Join us for an elegant night of
community, raffles, silent art auction,
live music & wine.



Supporting Student Scholarships
in partnership with
The Julia Tucker Scholarship Fund

FRIDAY MAY 1ST 6-8PM

Old Donation Episcopal Church
-Tucker Hall-
4449 N. Witchduck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455



Donate



ODEDS.square.site



Buy Tickets
21+ event

INFORMATION

The Gifts of God,
Used by the People of God.



Year to Date March 2026:

Pledge and Plate: \$214,356

Pledge and Plate Budget: \$163,489

Budget Received Difference: \$50,867

Number of Pledges to General Fund 2026: 135

Building Fund: \$4,465

Clergy Discretionary Fund: \$2,604

Worship: \$2,119

Outreach: \$1,406

Youth Mission/Pilgrimage: \$1,043

Old Donation Episcopal Church

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes, Bishop

The Rev. Nelson Mendoza, Rector

Gretchen Hood, Director of Administration

Bethanny Sammons - Youth & Family Minister

Sarah Wilson & Jody Baker, Day School Directors

Mailing Address:

4449 N Witchduck Rd Virginia Beach, VA 23455

odec@olddonation.org | olddonation.org

Our 2026 Vestry



Bill Waide
Senior Warden



Chris Chandler
People's Warden, Parish Life



Dan Ries
Christian Formation



Charlotte Zito
Welcoming & Belonging



Mike Ginder
Day School



Tony Richardson
Becoming Beloved Community



Eric Spence
Historic Traditions



Beth Steinbruck-Phillips
Congregational Care



David Beach
Stewardship



Leslie Brunick
Outreach



Tom DeMayo
Buildings & Grounds



Frankie Ring
Welcoming & Belonging



Noah Larsen
Youth Representative

April & May Celebrations

April Birthdays

- 1 Mel Phillips
- 2 Glenn Godoy
Kaiya Kreassig
Anna Balsly
- 5 Sten Hessmer
- 6 Diane Miller
Melissa Miller
- 7 Bill Dawson
Jenna Barrio
Libby Martin
- 8 Sean Garvin
Meredith Miller
- 10 Holly Swanson
Sharon Silverberg
- 11 Scott Somers
Kate Weintraub
- 13 Dan Bowen
- 14 David Waltrip
Brian Larsen
- 15 Jean Hudson
Angela Lindsey
- 16 Paul Castellano
Leslie Gallop
- 18 Laura Alt
Nathaniel Hunt
Kristl Tomlin
- 21 Marianne Caro
Kiley McKinnis
- 23 Matthew Improta
- 24 Leslie Brunick
- 26 Steve Mitchell
Tracy Trickett
Olivia Hanawalt
- 27 Lisa Reidy
- 28 Denise Wilkinson
- 29 Hardy Jones
Amanda Huntley
- 30 Carol Anthony
Trevor Jaworski

May Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Long
- 2 Paul Wise
Eric Spence
Orlen Holewinski
- 3 Sydney James
Tony Richardson
- 4 Sydney Drews
- 5 Janet Blohm
Madison Crocker
- 6 Tristan Ash
Nicole Mueller
- 8 April Improta
Ryan Horvath
- 9 Braden Ginder
- 10 Beth Weeks
- 11 Brian Miller
Trent Dudley
- 13 Dylan Ash
- 14 Dare Reidy
Tricia Sare
- 16 Daniel Caro
- 19 Rachel Ash
Jess Godoy
- 20 Tom DeMayo
Domonique Bennett
- 22 Darlene Castellano
John Michael Payne
Noah Larsen
Connor Gilmore
- 23 Steve Brown
- 25 Carol Schumann
- 26 Larry Brittain
Greg Rennekamp
- 27 Nina Rodriguez
- 28 Harry Jeroy
- 29 Judy Kuhns
Bek Saunders
- 30 Scott MacDonald
Rylee Hall
- 31 Judy Sheldon
DiAnn Friedrichsen
Izaak Mitchell
Calen Walter
Ria Tomlin

April Anniversaries

- 1 Pam & Joe Tucker
- 7 Summer Johnson & Sonny Back
Susan & Hardy Jones
- 9 Kathy & Sten Hessmer
- 10 Margaret & Mike Gilchrest
- 11 Andrea & Ryan Balsly
- 18 Bethanny & Dillon Sammons
- 21 Cara & Ron Hall
- 22 Cathie & Rob Brown
- 27 Karen & Hampton Miller
- 30 Ken & Jane Kiefer
Martha Wilson & Bruce Woodhouse

May Anniversaries

- 1 Richard & Linda Kuhr
- 3 Sara & Luke Farrell
- 5 George & Ann Butler
Abby & Matt Nelson
- 7 Mitch & Shelly Bean
Pam & Stan Walchock
- 9 Tracy & Tom Darr
- 17 Nina Rodriguez & Erol Aydar
Mary & Chris Martin
Katie Prescott & Nick Wieting
- 18 David & Robyn Waltrip
- 19 Don & Sue Wilson
- 21 Dave & Kristen Carter
Christina & Daniel Caro
- 22 Mike & Linda McGraw
Christine & Ryan Metz
- 25 Davilyn & Ned Piluden
Christene & Steve Mitchell
- 26 Michael & April Improta
Matthew & Katrina Mellinger
- 27 Betsy & John Morris
Rebecca & Ronny Barrio
- 28 Alex & Drew Stephenson
Ann Perry & Jim Larkin
- 29 Annamarie & Mike Ginder

Newly Baptized

Mia Kuhr
Claire Kuhr
Michelle Bardeen

Welcome New Members

Kristl, Hayden, Ria & Noa Tomlin
Nick Wieting, Katie Prescott, Ginny &
Libby Wieting
Joyce & Thomas Delaney
Will & Sydney Drews

Rise in Glory
Charmaine Rosenfield
Patsy House

