

# The BellRinger

May  
2023



## 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*



**Sunday, 28 May**

The Coming of the Holy Spirit!  
On this Sunday The Gospel is  
proclaimed in multiple  
languages simultaneously.

**pentecost**

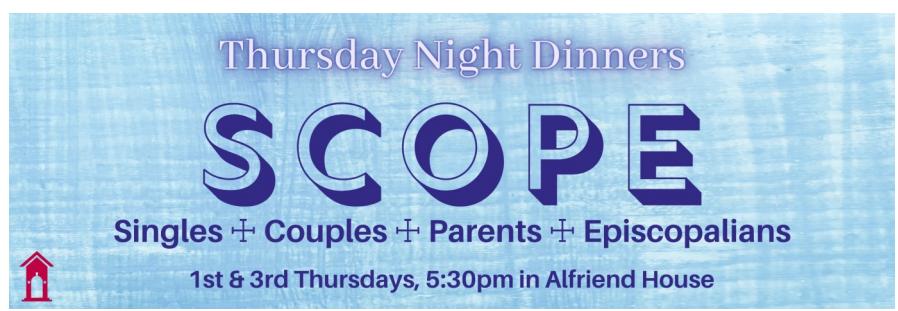
*All of them  
were filled with the  
Holy Spirit and began  
to speak in other  
tongues.*

Acts 2:4

*Page 3 for info...*



*Page 5 for info...*



*Sunday, 4 June † 11:00am*

## From our Rector

*“In (my) our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.”* (Colossians 1:3-5) Paul’s letters (often) say what I want to say to you. The news of this week has been full of bad news for so many of us. On Noon prayers, Gretchen and I have been talking about Paul’s letter to the Colossians and it fits so well. His major theme today was to tell us that in a world of darkness, Christ has transferred us into God’s kingdom of light, reconciling us to God, making peace by the blood of the cross.

Being people of LIGHT even when the world is full of darkness is critical to living a good, healthy life. There will always be things that go wrong. We are not pollyanna who pretends nothing is bad. But we can face into the darkness as people who BRING LIGHT and see something more and can transform darkness by the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. With house fires, unexplained deaths, tornado damage, and the daily roll call of problems in the world and nation, one will get discouraged. But we are people of HOPE. We will overcome by the power of Christ who lives with and in us.

### NEW CREATION – NEW LIFE

If Easter is all about “new creation” and “abundant life” Old Donation seems to have gotten the point. You probably noticed the full houses of worship in the weeks leading up to Easter and following. The joy and energy of a strong healthy community gathered in Jesus Christ’s name is palpable. We have been blessed by good music, a live donkey and sheep, fine preaching, a visit from our old friends, Win and Cathy Lewis, and even a dinner in our new space with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his staff members Canon Stephanie Spellers and Jerusalem Greer. What a month we’ve had in April!

Holy Week felt like “the old days” before COVID with full offering of sacred and solemn gatherings. Our Easter Vigil used the innovations of last year with movement from outdoors into the dark Great Hall, lit only by candlelight; and after readings of Old Testament prophecy and Salvation history, a joyful procession into the bright Church for baptism and Easter Eucharist. Thanks to our Holy Week preachers, Fred Poteet, Kipper DeGavre, and Rick Vinson for engaging, image-rich homilies, and to

our St. Cecilia Choir and Gathering Band for making the week beautiful with holy music. Zach Moats and Leslie Fenter went above and beyond with the planning and execution of our music. My wife, Chris, also deserves recognition for lots of work keeping Random Acts organized and ready for Sundays@5 music.

And nothing stopped after Holy Week. We had planned to be outdoors for the big service Easter morning, but the weather didn’t cooperate. So we filled up the Great Hall with almost 300 people at 10:00am and the Church with 200 at 11:30am. Our 8:00am and 5:00pm services were both stronger than expected. For those of us who worried a few years ago that we were building too much space, the concern now is whether it was big enough! We return to having two separate services at 10:00am so there will be plenty of seats again starting this week, so don’t stop inviting your friends and families.

**Some more THANKS and recognition** is important after such a wild and wonderful time.

Our Altar Guild and Flower Guild were marvelous behind the scenes. With so many different services in different settings, it requires gracious flexibility and attention. Our altar guild group is as good as they get. Our flower guild has been rejuvenated with some new members bringing energy and ideas. The Easter Day florals in the church were breathtaking, so much so that the favorite family photos seemed to move from the flowered cross outside to the flowered altar inside. We had a strikingly beautiful arrangement in the Great Hall as well that matched the contemporary feel of the room.

Acolytes, ushers, lectors, chalice bearers, and home Eucharistic ministers were all serving double-time. Our “Stream Team” was truly behind the scene but so critical to extending our worship to the world. We now have hundreds of views in addition to those who are in-person most every week. I hear all the time from members who cannot get here but keep worshiping with us thanks to our online presence. And many of our guests who visit, joined us first online to check us out. (All this reinforces the need: we can use more Home Eucharistic Ministers, ushers and stream team folks!)

For the Diocesan Revival, we offered our Great Hall for the Bishop Curry dinner and discussion. It came about when the Diocesan planning team couldn’t find a parish with sufficient space. Gretchen Hood and Matt Improta from our staff were critical help making it all happen. Others helped in various ways, including Jason Hancock

who helped us squeeze 35 tables into the room! The evening turned out to be a tremendous blessing as 240 people dined and were inspired by the bishop, including about 40 of us.

Thanks also to Neeve Whelan and her cousin, Grace, who brought their lamb, Delilah, to ODEC this past Sunday. Good Shepherd Sunday is a major celebration here and having a live lamb is a major element.

#### **NEW: Additions of beauty for worship**

Our NEW organ for the Church arrived at the beginning of LENT and was quickly put to use. You might remember our 20 year old organ died in an electrical storm about a year ago. This new instrument is a terrific improvement in capability and sound. Thanks to the Chuck and Starr Plimpton Foundation, which funded the purchase. The other unexpected blessing in this was when we received the new organ, we negotiated with our supplier to buy for an attractive price the small loaner organ we had used since August. That smaller organ is now on a moveable platform in the Great Hall, giving us true "church organ sound" in the Great Hall. This was enormously beneficial for Easter Day and subsequent times when we have wanted a traditional sound in that new room.

You also might remember that the Chuck and Starr Plimpton Foundation also gave us a large gift over a year ago that we dedicated to the new worship space liturgical furnishings and adornment. We contracted with Juliet Hemingray, one of the leading producers of church frontals, banners, and clergy stoles and chasubles. She is in England where she has supplied archbishops of Canterbury, and most of the great churches there. She designed (with Mother Lissie and Gretchen's input) two altar frontals and a series of eight banners. The frontals can be used in BOTH the Great Hall and the Church since both altars are identically sized. We have received most of the order and will have it all within a month. Take a look in the Great Hall if you've not seen them yet.

#### **What do French Theatre, German Chorale, and the Pinewood Derby have to do with each other?**

All these are like the NATO Spouse Country line dancing group...they all use space at Old Donation. Both our local Cub Scout pack and then the regional championship Pinewood Derby were held in our Great Hall this Spring. In May, our French friends are presenting a comedy all in the French language in Tucker Hall. And every week you can hear German language vocals coming from the dozen or more in the Chorale.

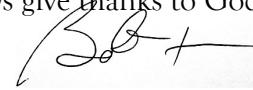
#### **Baptisms**

Pentecost Sunday is 28 May and 4 June is Trinity Sunday. These are some of the best days for baptisms in the Church year. We will have baptisms on both Sundays and if you are interested, [send me a note](#) and we can talk about what it means and involves.

#### **Prayers and Needs**

The ODEC prayer list has been busy this year. Here are a couple others and updates you might not know about: Julie and Carl Sterzing's house burned last week. They and daughter Isabel will be looking for a house to rent for the next year or so. Vicki Dorsett fell and broke her second hip (after a year ago breaking her first). Now with two new hips, she's recovering at home. Mother Lissie and Chris survived their first month of parenting! Baby Julian is healthy and gaining weight and strength.

With Mothers' Day, Pentecost, and the Parish Picnic all in the next 30 days, I'm sure we will see lots of each other. I will continue to always give thanks to God for this faithful family.



#### **Call for volunteers!**

Become a "repairer of the breach, a restorer of streets to live in." (Isaiah 58:12) The Urban Renewal Center's Impact Arts Program serves kids in 4<sup>th</sup>

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade with professional training in dance and theatre for under-served children from Norfolk and VB. Consider volunteering: to be a bus driver or co-driver to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Norfolk Tuesday evenings, or a shepherd at Williams Farm Recreation Center Thursday evenings beginning the week of 9 May.

- Tuesday evenings from 5:00pm to 8:30pm drivers/co-drivers to transport kids from Young Terrace to Trinity Presbyterian Church in Norfolk in the ODEC bus.
- Thursday evenings 5:30pm to 8:00pm adult and HS shepherds are needed to distribute food, water and encouragement during the dance and theatre classes at Williams Farm Recreation Center.

Dr. Antipas Harris described this important program in his sermon Sunday, 12 February at Old Donation. His goal is to bring black and white kids together to establish relationships and friendships that will set these children of God on the path of becoming a beloved community. If you can help contact [Dan Ries](#) at 757-277-1907.

## Sunday Morning Adult Forum

**The Day the Revolution Began: Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus' Crucifixion** by N.T. Wright will be our guide for Sundays and Wednesdays in May for Adult Formation. Bob Randall+ will lead us as we study the central event of our faith using work by Biblical Scholar and Anglican, Tom Wright. We will talk about crucifixion as a revolutionary rescue and importantly as an establishment of a new way of living TODAY. Wright's thesis is that the New Testament argues not for a better life "up in the sky, bye and bye" but for a life of new freedom in God's Kingdom to start today for eternity. Examining the Bible texts, Jesus' culture, Church history, and implications for our own living, this study will engage a different perspective for the meaning of the Cross and our life.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Every Thursday at 11:00am in Salisbury Room we have a small group Bible Study. We begin with the New Testament letter, **First Peter** on May 4. Led by Bob Randall, join us for one hour of teaching and discussion.

## CONFIRMATION!

We are making plans for a Bishop visit sometime this summer. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received (or don't know what we are talking about but want to see), [send us a note](#) so we don't miss you.



## Pilgrimage

For those of you unfamiliar with our high school pilgrimages, here are some basic facts:

- This will be our 8th journey. The first was in 2005. We went every two years until COVID interrupted.
- We have gone to Ireland, England, Scotland, Belgium and France.
- We are gone for 10 days with at least three mentors.
- This pilgrimage is the first time we are joined by youth from other parishes. Eastern Shore Chapel and All Saints are partners.
- We will have 22 youth & 6 mentors, for our largest group ever. 14 youth & 3 mentors are from our parish.
- We visit traditional holy sites, places of saints and legends, and studies of contemporary Anglican churches.
- We spend time learning spiritual practices, reflecting on our lives and futures, and what it means to live a faithful life.
- This trip will include time at Croagh Patrick, Westport, The Ulster-American Folk Park, Derry, Giant's Causeway, Corrymeela, Dublin, Glendalough, and the Gobbins Cliff Walk.

**The 14 student pilgrims from Old Donation:** Brenna Pope, Kell Perry, Regan Teeling, Jack Alpigini, Naomi James, Charlotte Johnson, Areece Piluden, Mirabella Caro, Ethan Merry, Gio Mayorga, Gabe Mayorga, Abbie Myers, Davis Pelton, Taylor Adams

**Our three mentors:** Tony Putzig, Janet Neuman, and Fr. Bob Randall.

**Stockholder Sale!** On Sundays you may purchase "stock" in our pilgrims and all proceeds go to our pilgrimage. In the Fall, we will hold a Stockholders Banquet, which the pilgrims prepare. During the meal, all the pilgrims will offer a brief reflection on what they experienced and learned. Donate [HERE](#) online!



## New Acolytes!

One of the joys of this Easter season has been the incorporation of new young acolytes. We have been training boys and girls as young as 6-½ years old, to do the entry level tasks such as processing with dove, Gospel Book, and other elements of our worship. It is a great way to have your young people be involved on Sundays. They can still participate in Children's Chapel. Email [Megan Wilson](#), [Bob+](#), or [Bryan Parks](#) and we will schedule them for some orientation and training.



# youth@odec

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Middle School SK8

Sunday, 28 May after worship and J2A.

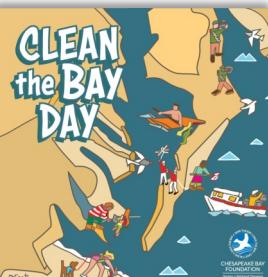
Roll out of spring and look towards summer with an afternoon of Roller Skating at SK8 House! We will have lunch at ODEC after J2A, then load up the Bus! Cost is \$10. Bring extra cash for arcade if desired. [RSVP HERE](#).



### Club 35: 3rd - 5th Graders

Fun at First Landing State Park!

Set aside the afternoon of Sunday, 11 June for a picnic, beach time, and games at First Landing Park! We will load up on the OLDDO bus following the 10:00am services and return to ODEC at 2:30pm. Bring your beach gear, and a picnic lunch, snack, and beverage to fuel your afternoon. This event is free - be sure to invite your friends to church and the outing! [RSVP](#).



### Youth and Families! Saturday, 3 June from 9:00am - 12:00pm

ODEC will join forces on for a service project on the Chesapeake Bay!

*"Each year, on the first Saturday of June, thousands of Virginians simultaneously descend on the rivers, streams, and beaches of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to remove harmful litter and debris. Clean the Bay Day has been a staple for Virginia's Chesapeake Bay community since its inception more than three decades ago. A true Virginian tradition, it is an annual opportunity for individuals, families, military installations, businesses, clubs, civic and church groups to give back to their local waterways."*

Our OLD DO bus will provide transportation from ODEC at 8:15am and return at 1:00pm. Contact our Youth Minister, [Bryan Parks](#) 603-677-2610 with questions.



### Vacation Bible School

Register the children in your life now!

17-21 July 9am-12pm. Children can make a difference in the world - learning from Change-makers Lab. Click [HERE](#)! Spread the word - VBS is open to everyone! AND...it's time to get ready! Click [HERE](#) to volunteer to help. We have plenty of positions to fill, both interacting with the kids or doing behind the scenes work before or during VBS.

### Needed!

Certified Lifeguards are needed in order to plan summer youth and family events. Please contact our Youth Minister, [Bryan Parks](#) if you are, or know of, a certified lifeguard here in our ODEC family.



# Outreach

## Outreach Opportunities

Are you interested putting your feet to faith in hands-on ministry for OUTREACH? Volunteers needed for home repairs, food bank programs, and tutoring/mentoring kids in group homes. Contact [Melissa Waide](#) at 718-8599



A 57 year old disabled, unemployed and income challenged woman needs assistance to restore her living room.

Old Donation will partner with Faith

Works Coalition to paint her living room and install vinyl plank flooring. Adult and Middle/High School students are encouraged join our team to help our sister in need. We will paint on Saturday, 20 May, and install the flooring one day the week of 10 July (exact date TBD). Please join our team, remembering that "If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, ...open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be." (Deuteronomy 15:7-8). Ready to join the team? Contact [Dan Ries](#) at 757-277-1907

## Knit Wits & Stephen Ministers: Together!

Under the leadership of Judy Lee and Leslie Miller, the Knit Wits knitted beautiful, colorful prayer shawls for some of our parishioners who are on the prayer list. The Stephen Ministers visited these people and gave them a prayer and the prayer shawl, a wonderful example of ODEC groups working together to do God's work!

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship

ODEC men invite you for an hour of fellowship and coffee each Wednesday at 8:00am in Canterbury Room. Bring your own breakfast, we provide coffee. We have conversation, prayer, and open our thoughts in ways not always doable in larger groups. Working men, you too! We dismiss at 9:00 - you can even leave earlier if needed. Each week is a rotating schedule of programs; some biblical, some secular. Recently, the programs included the Vietnam Wall; Native Americans tribes at the time of the Jamestown Settlement; the new technology of artificial intelligence, and the historical Jesus.

## Cursillo

ODEC is hosting the Tidewater Ultreya!

Saturday, 20 May 6:00pm at ODEC!

Beginning with a pot luck supper in Tucker Hall.

Our witness speaker will be Dan Ries.

All Cursillistas, and those interested in learning more about Cursillo are invited.

Questions? Contact [Ann Butler](#) - 757-618-5755



## News from the Day School

Our chick eggs are in the incubator and due to hatch the first week of May. We will have the chicks for a few weeks to watch them grow. Then they will go off the farm.

Our 2's - kindergarten will honor their mothers by making them some special cards and gifts this year and we will have a special Mother's Day Tea. The children will sing songs filled with love and admiration!

This school year is winding down but enrollment for next year continues! We have openings for 2-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, and Kindergarten. Please spread the news to friends and family about our school. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) to learn about the wonderful experiences taking place at the Day School.

~ Amy Borden and Jody Baker, Day School Directors

The Day School Vestry Commission seeks 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. Please contact [Katie Alpagini](#) with any questions.

## Canning?

May brings the first local berries! If you make your own jams and jellies, consider setting aside a jar or two (or a small batch) of your favorite to donate later in the year for our Oyster Roast in November. If you have any questions contact [Shelby Longmire](#) 757-284-4610.

**Historic Traditions Commission** (HTC) is planning trips this year to a number of locations which are shown in the March Narthex Display Case. If you are interested in joining one of these visits, let Jackie Murray or Bob Perrine know so we can include you. You are welcome to suggest other locations you would be interested in visiting along with the HTC.

## May Birthdays

- 1 Kyle Long
- 2 Cleve Liverman
- 2 Paul Wise
- 3 Anne Rio
- 3 Sharon Payne
- 4 Sydney James
- 4 Tommy Culpepper
- 5 Sheila Coleman
- 6 Janet Blohm
- 6 Tristan Ash
- 8 April Improta
- 9 Ryan Horvath
- 10 Beth Weeks
- 11 Brian Miller
- 12 Trent Dudley
- 12 Marisa Walpert
- 13 Seth Pickett
- 13 Dylan Ash
- 14 Tricia Sare
- 14 Jeannie DeDominick
- 15 Abbygaille Balling
- 16 Daniel Caro
- 17 Jim Need
- 17 Donna Duncan
- 18 Taylor Ball
- 19 Laura Taylor

Landon Wellford

Rachel Ash

20 Tom DeMayo

Joe Putzic

22 Darlene Castellano

John Michael Payne

23 Steve Brown

Carolyn Weems

Demi Davenport

Peter Oscar Huntley

26 Larry Brittain

Greg Rennekamp

27 Julia Brown

Nina Rodriguez

Kipper deGavre

Tony Putzic

28 Harry Jeroy

29 Judy Kuhns

Bek Saunders

30 Scott May

Scott MacDonald

Sandy Patton

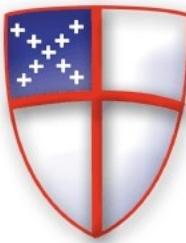
Rylee Hall

31 Judy Sheldon

DiAnn Friedrichsen

Izaak Mitchell

Calen Walter



## May Anniversaries

- 1 Richard & Linda Kuhr
- 5 George & Ann Butler
- 6 Dick & Judy Lee
- 7 Mitch & Shelly Bean
- 9 Pam & Stan Walchock
- 9 Tracy & Tom Darr
- 11 Joy & Chris Chater
- 12 Scott & Leticia May
- 18 David & Robyn Waltrip
- Ivy & Jim Kilby
- 19 Don & Sue Wilson
- 21 Matt & Tracy Jackson
- Dave & Kristen Carter
- Christina & Daniel Caro
- 22 Mike & Linda McGraw
- Brittany Bailey & Tonya Koenig
- Christine & Ryan Metz
- 24 Brian & Sherrie Coyle
- 25 Davilyn & Ned Piluden
- Christene & Steve Mitchell
- 26 Michael & April Improta
- Lindsey & Robert McCarty
- 27 Betsy & John Morris
- 28 Alex & Drew Stephenson
- 29 Annamarie & Mike Ginder
- 31 Bill & Gail Varmecky

## Valuing our Blessings

Total Pledge and Plate Received	\$213,018
Total Pledge and Plate Budget	\$189,000
Budget/Received Difference	\$ 24,018
Number of Pledging Units To General Fund	190
Building Fund	\$ 18,850
Outreach	\$ 4,634
Clergy Discretionary Fund	\$ 3,208
Worship	\$ 1,337

## Give to ODEC online

Fast & convenient. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring donation. No need to worry if you go on vacation, or miss a Sunday!

Online  
Giving

## 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



**It's Graduation Time!** Are you, or someone in your household graduating this year? Let us know!  
Please email the [Parish Office](#) with the name and school.

## Welcome to Our Newly Baptized

Calen Rhodes Walter



## Rise in Glory

Bing Bassett  
Al Torres  
Ben Gregg  
Vaughn Wilson  
Rob DeDominick

## Welcome to Our Newest Members

Taylor Sr, Phoenix, Taylor Jr, Kensi,  
Hudson & Carys Adams

## 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

### Weekdays, Mon, Wed, Fri

- 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](mailto:odec@olddonation.org) | [www.olddonation.org](http://www.olddonation.org)

## Old Donation Episcopal Day School

Amy Bordon & Jody Baker, *Day School Directors*

757-499-2283 | [odeds@olddonation.org](mailto:odeds@olddonation.org)

Ages 2, 3, 4 and Kindergarten



## Thanks Be to God

for my team of drivers from ODEC (Janet Amiott, Betts Werbiskis, Pam Walchock, Barbette Timperlake, Jo Bach, Carol Ormond, & Nancy Ries) who graciously and faithfully took me to my daily radiation treatments in February, March, and April. I am so grateful and blessed for their kindness and will miss seeing them every week. ~ Jan Packard

## Eagle Scout Project in the Works

I am Zachary Reyes, a Life Scout from BSA Troop 471. I've been discussing with Father Bob an Eagle Scout Project: rebuilding the dangerously rotted deck behind Alfriend House (28'x19'). A new deck will permit outdoor fellowship and safe activities. An ambitious project, it has a significant material cost. To remove, replace and construct a new, safe deck, I estimate we will need a total of \$5500 worth of lumber and supplies. I am requesting donations to help fund this project. Any donation amount will be extremely beneficial. To donate, contact my advisor, Mr. Larry Brittain 757.323.6816 call/text.

