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Shrove Tuesday 2024





A Message from Hilary +

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

We continue in the season of Lent for most of March, however, the last week of March is Holy Week and Easter Sunday is on March 31. During Lent, we journey with Jesus, hearing his stories, and meeting his friends as they begin to realize that Jesus will not be a victor over the powers



and principalities by might but through love. Even now, such an idea is difficult for us to understand and to live. Violence seems to be the answer as wars continue around the world, and violence continues in our city and some families. Can the season of Lent be helpful as we seek to act from love?

Traditional activities of Lent include: confession, which opens us to transformation through forgiveness; sacrifice by giving something up, which makes more space for God to be our focus; taking something on, such as an additional prayer time or another spiritual practice, which invites a deeper relationship with God; serving others as Jesus served, such as through our food pantry or other good works, which by doing we walk in this life as Jesus did. Lent is about preparing for Easter - preparing to live the Resurrection! How is God calling you to prepare to welcome joy and new life?

For many years now, while I appreciate our Lenten traditions, I have sought to open up Lent for those who have been turned off or even hurt by the Church, especially by the Church's traditional focus on sin, with little nuance or recognition that most sin comes out of a need for healing. As a sacramental Church, we do offer the sacrament of Confession; in the Book of Common Prayer it is called "The Reconciliation of a Penitent" and begins on page 446. Because I have been a Spiritual Director for over 20 years, and in this

role have worked with seminarians and clergy, I have heard more confessions than most Episcopal priests. If you would like to give this sacrament a try or use it once again, I can hear your confession, give absolution, and remind us both of God's forgiveness, grace, and love for you, me, and everyone. Making a personal confession to a priest can be helpful and a way to move on from something that has you bound.

At the same time, Lent is about more than confession and forgiveness. As Marcus Borg writes: "The Bible has multiple images and metaphors for the human condition, the human predicament, the human problem, from which we need deliverance. Each of these ways of describing the problem points to a certain kind of solution as well. A central image: our problem is that we are in bondage. This is the heart of the Exodus story. It's also the heart of the New Testament perception of our being in bondage to the principalities and powers, that is, structures of evil that rule the world. If our problem is bondage then the solution is not forgiveness, but its liberation." (Marcus J. Borg; Tim Scorer. *Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian: a 5-session Study*, Kindle Locations 237-240, Kindle Edition, 2010.)

Liberation sounds good as do forgiveness and healing. I pray that Lent brings you what God hopes for you as we prepare for Easter Joy, and that you know more and more God's great love for you.

Blessings for Lent,

Hilary+



Un mensaje de Hilary +

Queridos amigos y compañeros en el ministerio,

Continuamos en la temporada de Cuaresma durante la mayor parte de marzo; sin embargo, la última semana de marzo es Semana Santa y el Domingo de Pascua es el 31 de marzo. Durante la Cuaresma, viajamos con Jesús, escuchamos sus historias y nos encontramos con sus amigos cuando comienzan a darse cuenta que Jesús no vencerá a las potestades y principados con el

poder, sino mediante el amor. Incluso ahora, esa idea nos resulta difícil de comprender y vivir. La violencia parece ser la respuesta mientras las guerras continúan en todo el mundo y la violencia continúa en nuestra ciudad y en algunas familias. ¿Puede ser útil el tiempo de Cuaresma mientras buscamos actuar desde el amor?

Las actividades tradicionales de la Cuaresma incluyen: la confesión, que nos abre a la transformación a través del perdón; sacrificio al renunciar a algo, lo que deja más espacio para que Dios sea nuestro enfoque; asumir algo, como un tiempo adicional de oración u otra práctica espiritual, que invite a una relación más profunda con Dios; servir a los demás como sirvió Jesús, como a través de nuestra despensa de alimentos u otras buenas obras, que al hacerlas caminamos en esta vida como lo hizo Jesús. La Cuaresma trata de prepararnos para la Pascua: ¡prepararse para vivir la Resurrección! ¿Cómo te está llamando Dios a prepararte para recibir el gozo y la nueva vida?

Desde hace muchos años, si bien aprecio nuestras tradiciones de Cuaresma, he tratado de abrir la Cuaresma a aquellos que han sido desanimados o incluso heridos por la Iglesia, especialmente por el enfoque tradicional de la Iglesia en el pecado, con poco reconocimiento que la mayoría de los pecados surgen de una necesidad de curación. Como Iglesia sacramental, ofrecemos el sacramento de la Confesión, en el Libro de oración común se llama "Reconciliación de un penitente" y comienza en la página 369. Como he sido Director Espiritual durante más de 20 años y en esta función he trabajado con seminaristas y clérigos, he escuchado más confesiones que la mayoría de los sacerdotes episcopales. Si desea probar este sacramento o usarlo una vez más, puedo escuchar su confesión, darle la absolución y recordarnos a ambos el perdón, la gracia y el amor de Dios por usted, por mí y por todos. Hacer una confesión personal a un sacerdote puede ser útil y una forma de superar algo que te tiene atado.

Al mismo tiempo, la Cuaresma es más que confesión y perdón. Como escribe Marcus Borg: "La Biblia tiene múltiples imágenes y metáforas de la condición humana, la situación humana,

el problema humano, del cual necesitamos liberación. Cada una de estas formas de describir el problema apunta también a un cierto tipo de solución. Una imagen central: nuestro problema es que estamos en esclavitud. Este es el corazón de la historia del Éxodo. También es el corazón de la percepción del Nuevo Testamento de que somos esclavos de los principados y potestades, es decir, estructuras del mal que gobiernan el mundo. Si nuestro problema es la esclavitud entonces la solución no es el perdón, sino su liberación". *Marco J. Borg; Tim goleador. Abrazar una fe adulta: Marcus Borg sobre lo que significa ser cristiano: un estudio de cinco sesiones*, Ubicaciones de Kindle 237-240, edición Kindle, 2010.

La liberación suena bien, al igual que el perdón y la curación. Oro para que la Cuaresma les traiga lo que Dios espera para ustedes mientras nos preparamos para la Alegría Pascual, y que conozcan cada vez más el gran amor de Dios por ustedes.

Bendiciones para la Cuaresma,

Hilary+

Holy Week 2024, March 24 - 31

Monday in Holy Week -
prayers on our Facebook page

Tuesday in Holy Week -
prayers on our Facebook page

Wednesday in Holy Week -
*11:45 am Centering Prayer,
12:15 pm The Holy Eucharist*

Maundy Thursday -
7:00 pm Liturgy for the Day

Good Friday -
*12:15 pm Liturgy for the Day,
7:00 pm Women of Passion service*

Holy Saturday -
*11:00 am Liturgy for the Day,
8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, with baptism*

Easter Sunday -
10:00 am Festival Holy Eucharist



Stephanie Roberts-Turner has passed away

***Collected from her friends and edited
by Bruce MacAlister***

Lots of people of a certain age talk about the Woodstock rock festival. Stephanie actually went to Woodstock. She is the only person most of us know who was actually there.

My fondest memory of Stephanie is the time when I was struggling with my role as Sunday School teacher. I felt like I didn't know enough to be a credible teacher, and she related the story of a time when she was teaching the children, and was telling them about the passage where Jesus goes to sit at the right hand of God. One of the kids asked "Who sat at the left hand of God?" and she was flustered, because she didn't know the answer. She told the kids that was a fascinating question, and invited them to research it with her, and then they would all know.

I thought that was brilliant, and it went a long way towards making me more comfortable in my new role. Stephanie was great at that -- she never expected more from you than you had to give, but she often expected enough from you that you discovered that you had more to give than you thought you did.

Another thing that was powerful for this introverted, low-self-esteem-having guy: she was always happy to see me. It feels good to be genuinely liked, and Stephanie had no pretense. She was exactly who she professed to be.

I will miss her.

I loved her sense of humor, self deprecating as it sometimes was. She was a very thoughtful person in the sense of thinking deeply about many

things. I admired that in her, particularly as she was willing to follow wherever her conclusions led her. Our main interaction was in the book group and I will miss her there.

She heard about the four-year theology extension education from theology school at Swanee (now called Education for Ministry). She insisted we offer it at Holy Comforter. We did and she dove in with gusto. The first year and a half was reading most of the bible. We got to the passover story and she asked why we don't have a Passover dinner. We did. We got into the early church and their Agape love feast celebration (the origin of the Eucharist) and said we should have one. We did and for the eight years I was part of the program we ended every year with an Agape meal.



The first time I spoke with Stephanie she was at Shrine Mont, suffering with awful food poisoning. After some recovery she (and I) had to act out the story of the prodigal son, with her in the role of the fatted calf, which only involved saying "baa" a lot while crawling on the floor. She killed it!

Another incident involve a pot plant she wanted me to care for. Not just any pot plant, a real POT plant that she grew from a seed! Alas, I was a poor plant-sitter. I returned her baby to her in not-great condition. We remained good friends anyway.

She was a vivacious, involved, sometimes demanding, active, and caring person and a potent force at Holy Comforter.

Steph was up for anything in outreach and social justice. I have memories of making food to take to Beaumont for incarcerated kids, waving signs on the corner for social justice, hauling clothes and supplies for refugee resettlement, and

welcoming strangers. I have a great mental image of making food for so many different occasions in the HoCo kitchen and her being in potato salad up to her arms mixing it as a petite person. I'm thankful for her leadership with the book club. She introduced me to so many amazing books that made a huge impact. Personally, she was the best traveling companion ever. Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Turkey were even more special traveling with her and her camera.



A Wake for Stephanie

By Sue Taylor

There will be a celebration of the life and ministry of Stephanie on Saturday, March 9 between 2 and 6 pm. In her words, "I want a wake, not a funeral!" It will be held at 9400 Creek's Crossing Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23235 in the clubhouse. If you are interested in remembering Stephanie with a memorial gift her wishes were for either the Holy Comforter food pantry or ONE in support of eradicating global poverty (<http://www.ONE.org/>). Her daughter Prudence Milligan's address is 9469 Creek Summit Circle, Richmond 23235 if you would like to contact her.



HoCo landscape restoration project

By Susan Boze

This begins a four page paper by Arnaldo D. Cardona, ASLA. You can read the entire article by clicking the QR code or <https://thefield.asla.org/2024/02/13/community-groups-going-green-in-response-to-climate-change/>. You can also talk to me about what we are doing.



"To promote community awareness of our profession, I have been assisting a church in Richmond, Virginia, in a landscape restoration project. Susan Boze, a church member, invited me to a committee meeting where, to my surprise, I heard terms like landscape

restoration, use of native plants, invasive plant control, and climate change. I was excited to

hear non-landscape architects talking about these topics with such passion and interest. The group was right on point on these environmental issues, and I shared how all the issues being discussed were closely related to the landscape architecture profession. I suggested they share their activities with the local [ASLA Virginia Chapter](#) and as a member, I would support this group's goal of educating the community by sharing the initiatives that ASLA is diligently promoting."



Thank you writers & reporters

By Bruce MacAlister, editor

The monthly Messenger, the weekly eMessenger, the Sunday Bulletin announcements, and some of the www.hoco.org are bright and interesting because it is written by the varied voices and ideas of all the writers and reporters who write for them. In 2023, these are the parishioners and friends who did the writing:

Vera Limn, Terry Long, Steven Van Voorhees, Stephanie Roberts-Turner, Peggy Hombs, Patty Galdun, Nan Ottenritter, Maria Scott, Lian-Marie Munro, Laura Hunt, Kipley Herr, Kathleen Rose, Julie Edwards, Joella Rhoades, Joe Klenzmann, Jim Bennett, Hilary Smith, Ellen Hall, Elizabeth Scholder, Debi Taliaferro, David Lehman, Carol Gibbs, Bruce MacAlister, Brian Davis, and Anne Snyder.

Thank you.

Hoco Birthdays

For the month of March:

***Lori Anderson, 3rd; Craig Hamblin, 4th;
Claire Kunz, 7th; Mary Falterman, 9th;
Caroline Smith, 11th; Donald Craghead, 14th;
Mary Maxwell, 16th; Patsy Jones-Hubert, 18th;
Joella Rhoades, 18th; Donnie Gallegos, 21st;
August Herr, 22nd; Diane Gilkenson, 26th;
Drew Munro, 26th***



At St. Paul's the Lenten Soufflé Goes On

By Anne Snyder

One of the symbols of Lent in many parts of the country is the colorful string of beads given out and worn at Mardis Gras. To many in the Richmond area, it is cheese soufflé.

For many of the one hundred and four years St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA has served that delicacy at their Lenten Lunch program, prepared in the St. Paul's parish house and served, until the pandemic, by over two hundred volunteers from seventy churches.

The program nourishes the body and the mind, providing lectures by well known theologians from all faiths. In fact, the original Lenten program was without lunch.

In 1905, The Brotherhood of St. Andrews, a Christian organization dedicated to prayer, study, and outreach began a series of lectures during Lent at St. Paul's. The series was available, but attendance by women was discouraged. This focus continued through the early 1900s, documented by an article in the Richmond Times Dispatch in 1915, stating "Men Especially Invited."

In 1916, there was an article indicating that this misogynistic stance was changing since another Richmond Times Dispatch article stated that the services attracted crowds of busy men and women. And in 1920, St. Paul's added the lunches, which rapidly became a symbol of Lent in Richmond and the surrounding area.

By 1935, not only were women of Richmond's Society attending the series, but the women of St. Paul's had also taken over the planning, preparation, and serving of both sit down and take away meals served before and after the lecture series, which featured local and nationally known theologians. At its zenith, between 6,000 and 8,000 lunches were served in the church parish hall. Then came the pandemic.

The people of St. Paul's were undeterred. No longer able to provide sit down lunches, they refused to break tradition and began to offer a takeaway meal once a week on Wednesdays. It was not even a question that one of the two main

courses they would prepare was – of course – the cheese soufflé, the traditional Wednesday offering.

Starting February 21st, ending March 20th, Lenten Lunches will fulfill their ministry for the 104th year. The lecture series this year, featuring many well known theologians in the Richmond area, is "Pastors, Priests, Problem Solvers and Prophets: Everyday Leadership in Extraordinary Times."

Lunches must be ordered online one week in advance. Speaker schedules, menus, and a link to order are on the St. Paul's website 2024 www.stpaulsrva.org/lenten-lunch-2024/.



Adult Formation Updates

By Peggy Hombs

The Sunday Morning Class

continues its current curriculum *The History of Christianity II: From the Reformation to the Modern Megachurch*. The presenter is Dr. Molly Worthen, associate professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a freelance journalist. The primary focus of this 36-lecture DVD-based course is to place Christianity in its historical context as it transforms from a relatively homogeneous entity at the end of the Middle Ages into the diverse global religion of today. Presentations explore the basic ideas

(and paradoxes) of Christian theology; see how these ideas are embedded in real life; introduce some of history's most fascinating characters; and see how secular modernity and globalization have

transformed Christianity. We will conclude this curriculum on Sunday, June 23rd.

The Monday Evening Class began its annual Lenten break to encourage participation in the Wednesday Lenten Program. The class will resume via Zoom on Monday, April 8th with its current curriculum *The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity* with Dr. Kenneth



W. Harl, Professor of Classical and Byzantine History at Tulane University. The course scope: "The conversion of the classical world to Christianity is one of the fundamental changes in Western civilization that has been matched only by the discovery of the New World and the industrial revolution... This course will explain the



reasons for the clash between the pagans ('worshippers of the ancestral gods') and the early Christians that ended in the Christianizing of the Roman world between the 4th and 6th centuries A. D." We will conclude

this 24-part series on Monday June 10th.



Lenten Program continues
By the Rev Dr Hilary Borbón Smith,
Rector

March 6, 13, 20

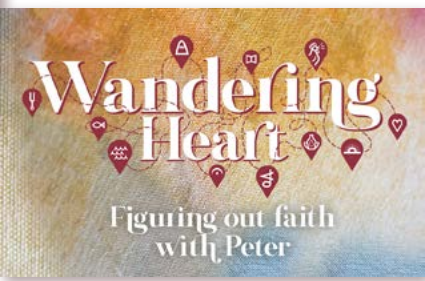
6:00 pm Soup and Bread meal

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm *Wandering Heart* program

Our seminarian Lucius and I are leading our program, and church members are providing our meals and childcare. Thanks to all who are helping with the meals, set up and clean up, and childcare. Even if you have not attended the Lenten program, you are welcome to come to all of our remaining meetings or one or whatever works for you. We are doing *visio divina*, which is a practice of "reading" the art, that we have from

Sanctified Art, and then sharing what catches our attention, or where we see ourselves in the image. We also have a chance to do some art as we hear a Gospel story being read, as well as

read a poem that is provided to go with the theme of the week from Sanctified Art. When Lucius is leading us, every other week or so, we are acting out the Gospel Story.



There is a way to let us know you are attending, which helps plan the meal, by going to our website hoco.org, and clicking on the link to sign up. Thank you for doing that; it helps us greatly. You can also sign up to bring soup or bread or help with set up or clean up.

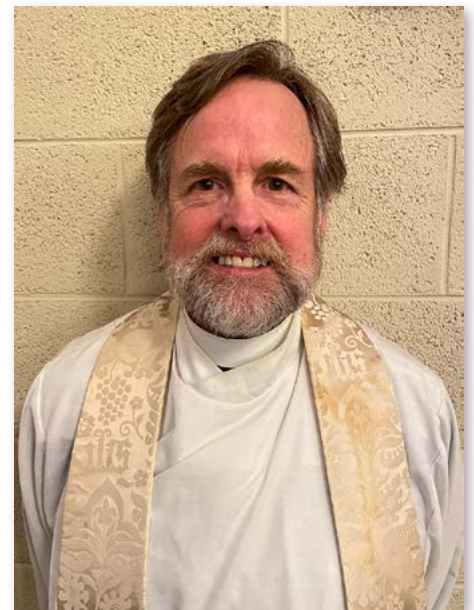


Introducing Bradley Peyton
By the Rev Bradley Peyton

Moving back to Richmond after thirty years, I sought licensure in the Diocese of Virginia (where I was ordained Deacon by Bishop Peter Lee in 1984), to preach and preside at the Eucharist. I also visited churches in search of a spiritual home, which has become Holy Comforter. Hilary, as Rector, has so graciously welcomed me to share meaningfully as an ordained Priest (June 11, 1985).

Raised at Christ Church, Charlottesville VA, I felt a call to attend Virginia Theological Seminary, followed by thirty+years in parish ministry and five+years in chaplaincy. Retirement drew me back to Virginia to be closer to two of my three adult children.

What I loved most in my parish clergy years was worship on Sunday (preaching and the Sacraments) and pastoral ministry (sharing in the stories and lives of God's people). I look forward to coming to know more of you over the coming months as we share together in Christ's loving ministry, both at HoCo and beyond, including serving as supply clergy in the Diocese.





Kevin Davis, Musician

By Jim Bennett, Director of Music Ministry

The Holy Comforter community is blessed by the presence of Kevin Davis, the masterful and soulful musician who has enlivened and uplifted many of our worship services over the past year. Kevin Davis was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1953. While growing up he was inspired by his exposure to the significant number of immigrants from “The Islands” who played music in the outdoor parks of New York City. Kevin was steeped in music from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad. He learned to play steel pan in an ensemble at a local community center and participated in Drum Corp International (known as the Major Leagues of marching music) while in high school. When he was 18, through a study abroad program of Staten Island Community College, he traveled to Jamaica, The Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico to learn about the music of these cultures. But Kevin is adamant that his real education in the rhythms and styles of these cultures was in the parks and neighborhoods of New York City, where he learned by observing and playing with musicians who grew up soaked in this music.

Kevin moved to Virginia in the late 1970s and studied music at Virginia State, settling in Richmond in 1978. He started his Latin jazz band Ban Caribe in 1984. Kevin leads the band—singing and playing many instruments including bongo, conga, timbale, steel pan, and drum kit. Through music connections, Kevin met Shakila Dotson and they married in 1994. Shakila became an integral part of the band, singing and playing hand percussion. Ban Caribe have played countless Richmond venues and festivals, and performed in Colombia, Lebanon, New York, Washington D.C., and many Virginia localities and neighboring states. For 20 years Kevin and fellow master percussionist Robert Jospe presented lecture/demonstrations for elementary schools all over Virginia through the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Here’s some interesting information (with thanks to Wikipedia) about one of the instruments

Kevin has brought to Holy Comforter. Steelpans are the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago and developed in the early to mid 1900s, but with roots going back much earlier, including the talking drums of West African cultures. Drum refers to the steel drum containers from which the pans are made; the steel drum is more correctly called a steel pan or pan as it falls into the idiophone family of instruments, and so is technically not a drum (which is a membranophone.) Some steelpans, including the

type Kevin plays, are made to play in intervals of fourths and fifths rather than scale-wise as a xylophone or piano. Steelpan players are known as “pannists.”

I’ve known Kevin for many years



and one of my favorite experiences with him and his many musical gifts was when he was leading a drum line of middle schoolers. The program was



an outreach ministry of Asbury United Methodist Church. I was working at another UMC church and asked the drum line to participate in our Palm Sunday processional (into the church!) as well as other parts of our worship service. It was so much fun! I led music for the 2011 and 2012 Virginia UMC’s annual conference and invited Kevin to bring the drum line to the Roanoke Civic Center to play for the conference. They were a huge hit.



Children's Chapel

By Ellen Hall

Welcome to Children's Chapel! The most fun place to be on Sunday Morning! Lately, during announcements, we've been asking folks to volunteer to teach, but what exactly does that mean? Well, here's the basic breakdown from my perspective. I usually show up 1/2 hour early to set pillows on the floor of the chapel room, check snacks and water, and make sure I know what I'm doing (debatable). Then we gather at the front of the church right after the opening hymn for a prayer and run out enthusiastically! Everyone, including me, wants to be the first to hit the big blue button that makes the magic doors open. Once in the chapel we have snack and start



talking about our week, good things/bad things that happened and anything else they want to share. As prepared as I am, they always throw a curve ball and we find something to talk about. We have a great curriculum by the Spark Bible people that makes the lesson planning so much easier (sparkbible.com), but we're also known to grab from the lessons that Sunday or even the season we're in or approaching. There's no wrong way to do it. Once we've had our lesson there's a game or experiment. Last week we talked about God's promise to Noah sending a rainbow, so we wet some Skittles (warm water) on a plate and actually made a rainbow. Try it at home. It was awesome! Then we often end with a craft. There are weeks when the kids just want to go to the nursery and play with August. That's cool. There are weeks when we just want to talk about our pets. That's cool too. They're all part of God's creation. The beautiful piece is I always learn something from them and come away feeling inspired and loved.



Vestry takes office

By Bruce MacAlister, editor

Once elected the Vestry has to agree to the requirements in person in front of the parish. They did it at the February 4th worship service. That includes signing the agreement. This being Holy Comforter it was done electronically on a tablet! You see the picture of the newly elected and the continuing members.





March Men at the Movies - Living Out Loud

By Steven Van Voorhees

March's film, *Living Out Loud*, was on both the Norris/Higgins blog and the list of Siskel & Ebert's "Buried Treasures." From both a Christian spiritual point of view and those aficionados' well considered two thumbs up stance, we have March's movie. Once again, like *Ship of Fools*, *The Opposite of Sex*, and *Deep Cover*, we have one of the lead characters talking to themselves and us.

Judith Moore, a 40-something, professional nurse, finds that her husband of 15 years has fallen in love with and wants to marry a younger woman. What's more infuriating is that her M.D. husband, who never wanted to have children with her, is to be a willing father to his paramour's child. There Judith is, sitting depressed in an Eastside NYC apartment, wondering who she really is anymore. Because her "world" is gone, she notices people that she wouldn't have in her previous existence. One is Pat Francato, her building's elevator operator, and another is her new friend Liz Bailey, who is a

await her. Liz is the catalyst for Judith's brand new sense of self and leads Judith into a more real life than her sometimes bitter fantasies. Also Liz's own self-possession attracts us too. We want to be in her world at least when we need both the healing and seeing things more clearly. As Judith continues her movement toward her new life, she lives more in the present reality and fantasizes less and less.

No "Hollywood" ending but a deep look at what grown-ups have to deal with. Queen Latifah steals every scene she is in; Danny DeVito shows us a real schlimazel, an unlucky person, who finds a way to begin a new chapter for himself. Holly Hunter is a delight to watch as she wakes



up to a more interesting and liberated life. And we get to see that face and those eyes show us what's

happening to her. We get to spend some time with all three of these very interesting people. I wonder what we will think and say about them?

singer in a chic lesbian nightclub. Both Pat and Liz are helping Judith through the many layered transition to the life she had not prepared for in any way. What we get to see is how that plays out. Judith and Pat are united by need and divided by their dreams and fantasies. They change each other's lives but they are not fated to live happily ever after together. Liz Bailey is also instrumental for waking Judith to all the possibilities that now

This is one of those movies where more is going on that we can actually see. The raters were mixed in their scores, but this film keeps getting more and more positive critiques. Rotten Tomatoes had a score of 59%, Metacritic 64% and described it as "generally favorable." Cinema Score gave the film a B- on an A to F scale. Roger Ebert gave it a 3 1/2 Thumbs Up; Siskel & Ebert called it a "Buried Treasure." A number of

people remarked that this movie used Chekhov's two short stories "The Kiss" and "Misery" to build the film. Like any short story, compared to a novel, there is little background and little future in short stories. We can simply enjoy an interlude with Judith, Pat and Liz living through Chekhov's situations. This is one of those times when it will be easy to put ourselves in the story as Ignatius asks us to do. If you are one of Judith's companions, what would you say or do?

As usual, we will gather in the Parlor on Tuesday, March 12th at 6pm for fellowship, the film will roll at 6:30pm with discussion. Bring a friend, bring food and drink! See you at the movies!



Men at the Movies - Name your favorite film

By Steven Van Voorhees

For those of you who are regular participants and those who are occasional attendees, I invite you to both of the following:

- Attending the regular March 12th showing of *Living Out Loud*
- Sending me the name of one of your favorite films - one that wowed or influenced you in an important way.

My own approach is to re-introduce a classic or show an underground or cult favorite. One of mine is *Casablanca*. I try to watch it once year on the anniversary of its release in November 1942, a bad year for the Allies in WWII.

Last time at our Men at the Movies gathering, we talked about foreign flicks. I brought up one that I loved from the fifties, *Rififi*, a crime caper; the guys said to show it and we'll tell you what we think. In my research on this idea of foreign-made movies, I found another one of my favorites; it is also a crime story and comes from 1982. It involves a French postal courier, who is chased by two bands of criminals - one group wants a bootleg recording of a reclusive opera singer, the other is trying to recover a cassette recording of a prostitute's account that incriminates a dirty cop who is the boss of a drug trafficking and prostitution racket. I'd rather show that one and

hold *Rififi* for another time.

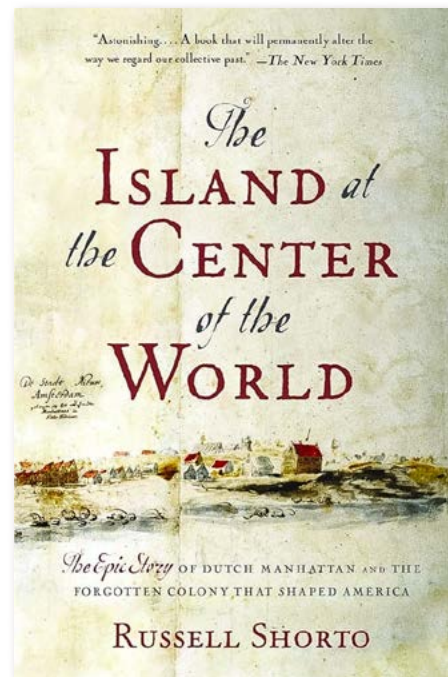
So, send me an email with your nominees for Men at the Movies. I'll try to include one soon.



March Book Club - The Island in the Center of the World

By Peggy Hombs

Our selected read for February, *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America* by Russell Shorto, is a tome. We were scheduled to meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 20th at 7PM, to discuss this book. But to respect and honor our recently deceased friend, voracious reader, Book Group convenor, and discussion leader, Stephanie Roberts-Turner, we canceled our February meeting and will discuss this book at our next regularly scheduled Zoom meeting on March 19th. I have assumed the role of Book Group convenor.



Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond

a parish in the Diocese of Virginia under the Episcopal Church in the USA

which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion

Monument Avenue at Staples Mill Road

web - www.hoco.org; e-mail - office@hoco.org;

phone 804-355-3251; fax 804-355-0049

[Hoco web site calendar page](#)

Schedule of church events following the Covid-19 period (still evolving)

- **Sundays:**

- ◇ 9:00am Sunday Morning, Choir practice in the choir room

- ◇ 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II, in person with nursery available; the service is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and posted following the service

- **Mondays:**

- ◇ 7:00pm Adult class, Zoom, except during Lent

- **Wednesdays:**

- ◇ 11:45am Centering Prayer, in person in the church

- ◇ 12:15pm Holy Communion, in person in the church

- ◇ 6pm Lenten Program starting Feb 21

- **Thursdays:**

- ◇ 4:00pm Lectionary Study, Zoom

- ◇ 7:00-8:15pm Weekly choir rehearsal

Food Pantry Hours:

- ◇ First and third Saturdays, 11:00am to noon

- ◇ First and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm

Veterans Shelter:

- ◇ Fourth Thursdays, prep in HoCo kitchen, 5:00pm, delivery to the shelter, 5:45pm

Side by Side Dinner:

- ◇ Fourth Thursdays, prep in HoCo kitchen, 4:00pm, deliver to Side by Side, 5:15pm

Community Meals:

- ◇ First Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm

Editing of the Messenger is done by Bruce MacAlister, the layout by George Collier.

The April Messenger will be available Easter Sunday, March 31st.

The deadline for that edition is Friday March 22nd.

Earlier submission would really help the volunteers who put it together.

If you feel that you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Bruce MacAlister at editor@hoco.org

