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SHRINE MONT - YES!!



*Click
here for
more.*





Shrine Mont 2021 - Parish Retreat & More

By Lisa Lettau, Senior Warden & Member of the Shrine Mont Board of Directors

Our Parish Retreat is scheduled for October 22-24, 2021, and signups have started and are available [here](#). A good number of our 35 slots have already been spoken for, so don't delay if you want to go. It's likely this year will be less of a "retreat" and more of just a weekend away with friends and family. Plans aren't firm yet, but we are leaning towards having less structure to allow folks to just reconnect with each other while enjoying time in the glorious mountain setting of Orkney Springs, Virginia.



Payment of \$185 per person (ages 13 and up) is due in full by October 1, 2021 - ages 12 and under are free. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at lglettau@gmail.com or 703-395-5307.

Shrine Mont is open and welcomes you up to the Mountain. There are numerous opportunities to stay over the summer and into the fall:

Family Weekends are summer camp offerings for the entire family and are a modified version of Family Camp. These include both free time and organized activities for all ages and run through

August 1. There are also packages available with the Shenandoah County Music Festival, or you can go for a Writer's Workshop, Flower Arranging, Golf with Bishop Jones, Yoga, or even PickleBall. Check out the Upcoming Events section at shrinemont.com for information on all these and more.

With online reservation capabilities now, you can book a weekend away whenever it works best for you. There are also packages available with Bryce Resort featuring golf and zip-lining. While Shrine Mont is one of our Diocesan Retreat Centers, it does not receive funding from the Diocesan Budget and relies on both parish retreats and individual bookings for a good portion of its revenue. Through great diligence and planning, Shrine Mont got through COVID-19 and is back at full capacity. If you are unable to visit this year, please consider a tax-deductible donation.





Deacon's Message for August

One of the hallmarks of my Deacon Training, at least my experience of Deacon School, was learning new words. I thought I had a broad vocabulary because of my background. Every year new words join the vernacular; this year Merriam-Webster added Long Hauler, Pod or Bubble, ASMR, and Gig Worker just to name a few.



But there was a whole new world of terms to learn when discussing theology,

ethics, liturgics, and homiletics. Most of the words I learned were specific to their setting, very technical terms that have little use outside of academic papers.

One word that I learned very early was “liminal”. It means having to do with a transitional process or occupying a position on both sides of a boundary. Being a postulant was a liminal state, somewhere between lay and ordained.

Being in a liminal state is not unique to deacon school. We are in a bit of a liminal state now regarding COVID and our liturgical practices. We are close to doing things like we did before March of 2020, but some things are still different. Trying to address the needs of our congregation today and having things in place for the Rev. Hilary’s return is a bit of a liminal state. I pray for God’s Grace and your patience.

It is not our intention to forgo any practice we might have done fifteen months ago.

We are working on getting the lector, usher and Eucharistic visitor rotation re-established as well as rebooting our acolyte program.

Our progress toward “ordinary” is coming as summer is upon us. Summer has usually meant a less rigorous approach to doing church as folks’ schedules are different what with vacations and other travel.

Some aspects of “normal” will not really kick

in until the fall, primarily Sunday School. I want us to be able to offer Sunday School for all ages beginning in September. To do that, we need folks who are willing to commit to participating in the program both as teachers and students. We need people to lead classes, and we need folks in classes to make the effort of teaching worthwhile.

We are in a time of transition, a liminal state, as we move from pandemic mode to, well, at least more ordinary. It can be a time of uncertainty and anxiety about what will happen next. But it is also a time of enormous potential and possibility for growth, rethinking old practices and productive change. I remain excited about what God is doing here and through Holy Comforter and it is a joy to be here.

Peace,

Rev. Joe+

Hoco Birthdays **For the month of July:**

*Evan Herr, 2nd; Darlene Klenzmann, 2nd;
Mary Davis, 5th; Robert Hanayik, 5th;
Judith O'Brien, 6th; Kathleen Rose, 7th;
Maggie Edwards, 9th; Joani Hayman, 10th;
George Lowry, 10th;
Marie McGranahan-Turner, 13th;
Helena Geipel, 17th; David James, 17th;
Julie Edwards, 18th; Courtenay Schwartz, 18th;
Roberta Cline, 19th; Joan Vaughan, 19th;
Richard Rose, 23rd;
Mrs. Garnett Christoph, 25th;
Henry Dyer, 26th; Dorcas Douthit, 27th;
Joan Prest, 27th; Benjamin Raymond, 27th;
Casey Falterman, 28th; Angela Palmer, 30th;
Jimmy Ogle, 31st*

For the month of August:

*Maria Gullickson, 4th; Cameron Hunt, 6th;
Prudence Milligan, 6th; Anne Snyder, 6th;
Nancy Deane, 8th; Gayle Turner, 11th;
Mary Thorpe, 12th; Anderson Schwartz, 15th;
Robert Evans, 16th;
Bowen Mary Lawrence, 24th; Helen Reese, 26th*



A Beautiful History of a Neighborhood Treasure

By Bonnie Atwood

As you drive or walk by Malvern Avenue and West Grace Street, please say a little prayer for our beautiful and historic Thomas Jefferson High School. Built in 1930, this incredible Art Deco style building is a crown jewel among the glorious architecture that is our privilege to enjoy.

The building represents an important development in the history of Richmond. It was the end of an era for locally prominent architect, Charles M. Robinson. In that year the population was growing and this area needed a “West End School.” The school opened to 900 students that September. Of particular interest to me, is that the



school was proclaimed as the most modern in the city, and included an elevator and a planetarium. The quotations that are etched in the marble front are inspiring, too. As 1930 saw the city mired in The Great Depression, later school building designs became bland by comparison.

Thomas Jefferson High School, a source of pride for our neighborhood, reminds us of the importance of education, and the value of our children and architectural achievements. The building is listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. *(Source: Department of Historic Resources).*



A Service of Lament and Hope

By the Rev Joe Klenzmann, Deacon

A few weeks ago, the Surfside Condo collapsed trapping and killing over 100 people, a tragic loss of life, no doubt. And yet, it did not faze me in the least. I realized I have been carrying so much grief and loss for the last year and a half I had no empathy left.

I could not hold any more loss.

Many of our people especially today in the midst of the pandemic, personal loss, and violence have a deep urgent need.

The need is to lament and grieve the wounds we and others have suffered; lives lost to the pandemic, loved ones lost without our traditional grieving process, and the violence in the world.

The need is for hope of God’s dreams for healing, wholeness, and love.

On August 8 we will have a Eucharist of Lament and Hope, beginning to set the grief and hurt we carry on the altar before God.

We trust that God receives and blesses that which is offered.

During the offertory we can write down whatever is heavy on our hearts. It will be offered, and we will light a candle, say a prayer and publicly grieve and heal together. More details are to follow, please use this time to reflect what burdens you carry.



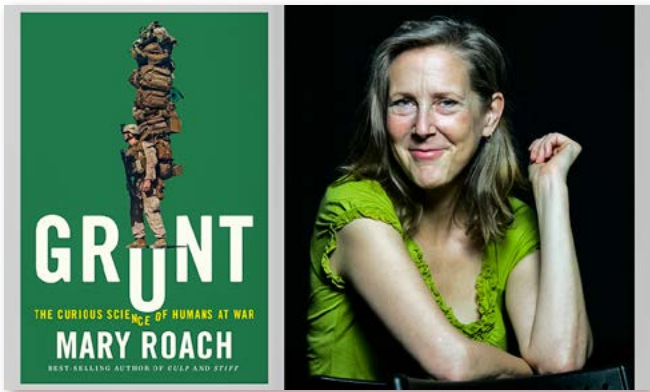


August book club - The Curious Science of Humans at War

By Stephanie Turner

In August the Book Club will be reading *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War* by Mary Roach. Here's a brief description of the book courtesy of Amazon.com. This one sounds like a very interesting read! The meeting date is Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 pm. The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/99461451877>.

“America's funniest science writer” (*Washington Post*) Mary Roach explores the science of keeping human beings intact, awake, sane, uninfected, and uninfested in the bizarre and extreme circumstances of war.



“Grunt tackles the science behind some of a soldier's most challenging adversaries - panic, exhaustion, heat, noise - and introduces us to the scientists who seek to conquer them. Mary Roach dodges hostile fire with the U.S. Marine Corps Paintball Team as part of a study on hearing loss and survivability in combat. She visits the fashion design studio of U.S. Army Natick Labs and learns why a zipper is a problem for a sniper. She visits a repurposed movie studio where amputee actors help prepare Marine Corps medics for the shock and gore of combat wounds. At Camp Lemmonier, Djibouti, in east Africa, we learn how diarrhea can be a threat to national security. Roach samples caffeinated meat, sniffs an archival sample of a World War II stink bomb, and stays up all night with the crew tending the missiles on the nuclear submarine USS Tennessee. She answers questions not found in any other book on the military: Why is DARPA interested in ducks?”

How is a wedding gown like a bomb suit? Why are shrimp more dangerous to sailors than sharks? Take a tour of duty with Roach, and you’ll never see our nation’s defenders in the same way again.”



Change coming in giving to the diocese

By Bruce MacAlister, Editor

“As the Diocese prepares for the installation of our future Bishop, it is imperative that we configure a pledging/giving model that provides consistent funds, ensuring the Bishop can lead from a position of solid financial strength.”

The Diocese of Virginia is one of the few in the Episcopal church that leaves it up to individual churches to determine how much they will pledge to the diocese. Some are very generous. Some are pretty stingy. The diocese intends to change that as outlined in “Virginia Plan for Covenantal Giving” sent to churches and church leaders. A task force of diocesan officials and church leaders will meet to discuss the options. The aim is for parishes to at least tithe, to give 10% of the parish income to the diocese. There will be an informational meeting during the fall. Holy Comforter’s delegates, Terry Long for the laity and Hilary Smith for the clergy, will be kept up to date on the workings of the task force. Official action will be taken at the annual convention in November.





HoCo Needs You!

By Lisa Lettau, Senior Warden

Now that we have re-gathered, it's time to start planning for the Fall. Since we follow the school calendar a lot of the time, we would like to hit the ground running after Labor Day. There are many ways in which you can volunteer to help our church family, with varying time commitments. If everyone were to commit to giving one to two hours a month to the church, think of all we can accomplish.

While folks often shy away from volunteering as they don't want it to be their duty indefinitely, the healthiest model for volunteerism is having a set time span with set duties. A lot of things at HoCo get done by the same people year after year, and several of our key positions are now open. Brian Davis is stepping down from a terrific run doing Parish Life, and Angie Palmer has been heading Outreach for some time. With her graduation from Seminary, Angie is exploring various options ahead of her and won't be able to chair Outreach much longer. Both of them are happy to be a resource to the next people in these roles, and we thank them both for everything they've done and their willingness to consult moving forward.

The chair of Parish Life coordinates the folks who head up Connections, Special Receptions and Meals, Lenten Suppers, Funeral Receptions, and the Yard Sale just to name a few. If we don't have volunteers in each of these areas, a lot of the things we all enjoy just won't happen.

Outreach encompasses so much of what we do to assist our community, and Phoebe Winter and her team did an amazing job of keeping the Food Pantry open even during the worst of the pandemic. There is great desire among parishioners to do more social justice work, and it's now time to put talk into action. If this speaks to you, join our Outreach Ministry, share your ideas and help plan for the year ahead.



Property Matters are ongoing. Tim Jackson assembled a terrific team of folks early in the year, and your wardens are doing their best to pick up that baton and keep up with the needs of our aging physical plant. Two property walkabouts were held in late June with a number of parishioners to identify and prioritize needed work. A deep cleaning of the kitchen took place on July 9th, which will allow us to serve breakfast to volunteers on an upcoming work day for our property. We will have specific assignments – trimming shrubs, pulling weeds, disposing of debris, and simple painting are just some of the items on our hit list. Information and signups for this will be coming soon in the eMessenger.

The bulletin board in the Parish House hallway has signup sheets posted where you can write in your name where you want to serve. If you're not sure where to best plug in or there's something you'd like to do that isn't on the board, let's have a conversation. Many hands do make light work, and everyone's participation is needed.



Pastoral Care

By Joella Rhoades, Vestry Member

As our faith community begins to regather and we all become more active, it's a good time to remember each other in caring and pastoral ways. Our deacon, Joe Klennemann, our vestry, and I are readily available to help or listen.

Please feel free to contact any of us at any time for help, assistance, or just to listen. We are dependent on you to let us know of your own personal needs as well as your concern for others. Confidentiality is respected.

“ We are all just walking each other home.”



Dear Hoco Family:

If Hoco is your home church, did you know that you are also a member of Monumental-Wythe Neighborhood Watch? Speaking as a long-time neighbor, I want you to know that you are a valued member of our Neighborhood Watch. We have been formally recognized for over a decade, and have achieved a number of accomplishments, including over 10 years of participation in “National Night Out Against Crime.” You are probably familiar with this event which we have held successfully every year except “the year we all got cancer.” Happy to say that all the organizers have recovered, but last summer we had to skip because of the dreaded virus.

*That brings us to this year! Night Out will be held the evening of **Tuesday, Aug. 3**. I would like to hear from YOU. (bonatwood@verizon.net). What do we need? (1) “buy-in,” and (2) helping hands. Night Out is the golden opportunity to meet and greet your neighbors. We’ve always gone big: food, drinks, music, door prizes, and special guests. Don’t tell the kids yet, but EVERY child receives a toy. I’m not sure how many of us realize how fortunate we have been to hear brief speeches from local V.I.P.’s and candidates. In these troubled times, I think that is more important than ever.*

Here is a brief breakdown of what is needed:

- 1. Door prizes (gift cards, etc.): These are donated by local merchants. It’s easy to approach the managers where you shop, and give them our official letter requesting a prize. Many appreciate the good publicity.*
- 2. Distribution of invitations: If you go on a morning or evening walk, why not drop off invitations as you go? Our boundaries are Monumental Street to Chantilly, and Wythe Ave. from Chantilly to Willow Lawn Drive. We’ll make the flyers, so you can just slip them under doormats. This task is easy to divide up block by block.*
- 3. Calling dignitaries: This is my favorite thing. I am willing to do it again this year, and I’ll make a new promise: I will make sure the speeches are kept SHORT. This is a major mission of the night.*
- 4. Food: The Church has been very generous to help with food each year. Would someone like to be in charge of that? Dogs and burgers? Pot luck? Vegan dishes? Paper plates? Lots of water! (no alcohol) Food trucks?*
- 5. Music: We have a D.J. who has been our sound system for several years free of charge. Normally the cost would be \$500 per night. If he agrees to help again, I think a special thank-you is in order.*
- 6. Setting up: We need people with MUSCLES. My health will not allow me to carry or set up tables any more. We need volunteers who will come EARLY for set up and tear down at dark.*
- 7. Does somebody need a ride or a walk home? We can make those connections. This is a great way to serve and to get everybody home safely.*

Please pray for guidance on these tasks. Should we give it another go? Can you help out in some way? Should we let this go? I’m not putting this all on church members. I am asking the neighbors these questions, too. Please give me an email or a call and share your thoughts.

Thank you very much,

Bonnie



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

Coming Events at the Church of the Holy Comforter
See the [Hoco web site calendar page](#) for detailed calendar and rota

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

- **Sundays**, 8:45am, Adult Formation, resumes September 12th
- **Sundays**, 10am, Eucharist, no masks for the vaccinated, nursery available

Weekday services; check hoco.org as this continues to evolve post pandemic

Food Pantry Hours:

- First and third Saturdays, 11:00am to noon
- First and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm

Veterans' Shelter Dinner

- Prep between 5 and 6pm - 4th Thursdays
- Drop off at shelter between 6 and 7pm

*Editing of the Messenger is done by Bruce MacAlister, the layout by George Collier.
The September Messenger will be available Sunday, August 29th, 2021. The deadline for that edition is
Friday, August 20th, (but earlier submission is encouraged).
If you feel that you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Bruce MacAlister at
editor@hoco.org*

