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Ellen Johnston Retires from Holy Comforter





Living Generously - a stewardship focus

By From the Diocese of Virginia

Dear beloved of God: We are given a great opportunity to reflect on who we are for God and what we hope to do with what God has given into our care. Over the next weeks, you will hear more about this “stewardship season” as we prepare not only to make our pledges for giving in 2023, but also to grow in our knowledge and love of God, and who we are as God's children.



Hoco Birthdays

For the month of October:

***Peggy Hombs, 2nd; Cheryl Groce-Wright, 3rd;
Phoebe Winter, 10th; Kipley Herr, 13th; Thomas
Munro, 19th; Lit Maxwell, 24th;
Emery Nelson, 30th***

Stewardship poem

Written by: Sarah Are

<http://sanctifiedart.org/>

Release, But First

I want to practice being free.
I want to unstitch my heart
From the edge of my sleeve
So that I can give it a life of its own -
A real chance to love and be known.

I want to practice opening
My mind, my doors, and window panes,
Anything with a hinge, everything with a frame,
Until the breeze carries through -
A new point of reference, truth, and you.

I want to practice a holy escape,
Losing track of my minutes that turn into days
Because the only time that matters now
Is time with you and this golden hour.

I want to practice release,
Removing the stones that weigh down my wings -
Stones of fear, shame, and grief,
Stones that build walls between you and me.

I want to do all of these things -
Be untamed and wild, open and free,
The first to give and the last to hold tight,
Because gratitude and clenched fists never felt right.

And I am just starting to see
That this life is a river, a holy stream.
And if life is a river then God is the sky,
Touching everything at once and inviting us to try
Letting go of the raft, to float on our backs,
So that we and God can be eye to eye -
A lifetime of baptism and nothing but sky.
But first, you have to release.



A Message from Hilary +

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

October is going to be a very fun month at church! More and more, we are getting back into the swing of things that we love to do. Blessing of the Animals is back in church on Sunday, October 2, and we will be having the readings



for St. Francis. Come hear the dogs howl to the music and singing! Story Time is back in person at church on Sunday, October 16, 4:30 pm. This service, for children, their families, and friends of all ages, includes a story from the Bible, great music for all,

and Holy Communion. I can't wait to dance around with you all in person!! Youth Group will meet this same day. Join us for a service for All Hallows Eve on Sunday, October 30 at 10:00 am. Our parish retreat at Shrine Mont is October 21 - 23, with a program that I am offering about Social Justice and the Bible.

Other experiences that we will have in October include a number of meaningful services and events. Our second Spanish-language service will be held on Saturday, October 8 at 11:00 am. On Sunday, October 9, 10:00 am, we will offer prayers for healing and the lay-on-of-hands for healing and anointing. For many years, I have felt called to a ministry of healing, in various ways. One of the ways we can express a desire for healing and experience the energy/Spirit of healing is through prayer. Having a chance to have these prayers in person in our church with our community has been powerful in the past.

As we look ahead to early November, join us for our All Saints' Day service on Sunday, November 6, at 10:00 am. This is a special day to remember our loved ones who died in the last year by reading their names as part of our Roll Call of the Saints. The focus of the day is on the communion of saints in heaven and on earth. Like

Celtic symbols of woven designs and circles, we are forever connected to each other, there is no end to our love or God's love.

Blessings,

Hilary+



Outreach Committee Update ***By Susan Carvell, Vestry member and liaison to Outreach***

The Outreach Committee resumed its regularly monthly meetings on Thursday, Sept. 8. Among the topics on the agenda was the success of the school supplies drive and discussion of expanding collection of items to twice a year. Hilary gave an update on the implementation of Spanish language services (Misa en español), the first of which was held on Saturday, Sept. 10. Holy Comforter parishioner and Episcopal deacon Frank Castellon, a native Spanish speaker, assisted and preached the sermon. Additional services will be held the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. As part of our outreach to the community, HoCo volunteers were present at Pride Fest on Browns Island on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Members also discussed and voted on asking the vestry to consider changing the committee's name to Social Justice and Outreach. This change will further reinforce HoCo's long-standing commitment to reaching out to assist our community as well as clarifying our mission to new and younger members.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. on Zoom. Everyone is invited to attend.





¡Celebremos la fiesta! ¡Aleluya!

By the Rev Dr Hilary Smith, Rector

Our first Spanish-language service, Misa en español, held on Saturday September 10, went better than we had hoped. Twenty-seven attended, the Rev. Frank Castellon gave the sermon, Jim Bennett led the music, Deborah Westin did a reading, our new friend, Claudio Romero, did a reading, I was our presider. As well our wonderful altar guild prepared and reset after the service. Anne Snyder ushered and Angie Palmer was our Crucifer. Thanks to all who are making this service possible. We are also making possible new energy and new relationships. I'm excited to see how this will develop. Join us on Saturday October 8 at 11:00 am for our next service. If you would like to help with these worship and community experiences, please let me know. For those who do not know Spanish or are learning, I will be preparing a handout for you to help guide you and give you the readings in English.

¡Celebremos la fiesta! ¡Aleluya!

Let us keep the feast! Alleluia!



Parish Hall HVAC Upgrade **By Ron Cox, Senior Warden**

We have been through a process to examine our options with the HVAC (Heating-Ventilation-Air-Conditioning) system in the Parish Hall, driven by the need to do something about the failing boiler. The boiler is close to 50 years old and is on its last legs. It worked only intermittently last winter. Replacement parts are hard or impossible to find. In addition, the air conditioner which cools the Cary Montague

Room is more than 40 years old, and although still working, is of an age that is beyond the normal life span for such a system. It was decided not to replace the boiler, since it is not environmentally friendly (fossil fuel burning) and is inefficient (heats the entire building while our utilization of the space is more limited). Instead, we wanted to look at a system that would let us retire the boiler, provide a solution for the aging air conditioner of the Cary Montague Room thus allowing it to be retired as well, and give us flexibility in heating and cooling other rooms in the building.

We looked at the options available to us and decided to continue down the path we've already been following - using heat pumps to heat and cool the building. Heat pumps currently provide heating and cooling for the parlor, the food pantry area, and the hallway. We determined that installing more heat pumps to heat and cool the Cary Montague Room and additional rooms in the building would be best. We developed a Request for Proposal and solicited bids from vendors. We requested bids from 6 vendors, received 3 replies and evaluated those 3 responses. The best proposal we received was also the least expensive. It was a proposal from James River Air Conditioning Company for \$155,175.

The Vestry voted to accept the proposal from James River Air

Conditioning Company and also voted to make a request of the Foundation for assistance with funding. The Foundation agreed to fund the entire expense of the project. The project is now in progress and is to be completed by the end of October, contingent upon receipt of all of the equipment that has been ordered. Contact me with any questions.





Cross Over Ministry gets All Saints Donation

By Bruce MacAlister, member, Social Justice and Outreach Ministry

Holy Comforter supports about 9 agencies with funding through the Social Justice and Outreach budget. Those funds come from endowments left as bequests by HoCo members. Four agencies get their HoCo funding by direct contributions from you and me at four special services, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints, and Christmas. Any cash, undesignated offerings, or checks to Cross Over at the service or online at <https://hocorva.churchcenter.com/giving> go to that agency.



Cross Over Ministry has two clinics, near the old Regency shopping center in Henrico and on Cowardin Ave just south of the James River. They are both on the bus route. They take medical insurance if the patient has it and cover any costs that insurance does not. That's where the contributions from HoCo make the difference. You can volunteer to work there. You can learn much more at www.crossoverministry.org. See city locations [here](#).

PrideFest 2022





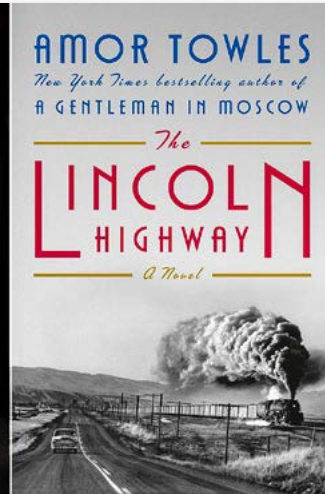
October Book Club - The Lincoln Highway

By Stephanie Turner

On October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM the Book Club will meet to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.

About the book:

“[A] mischievous, wise and wildly entertaining novel . . . Towles has snipped off a minuscule strand of existence - 10 wayward days - and when we look through his lens we see that this brief



and head west where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden’s car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for

Emmett’s future.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles’s third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while



interstice teems with stories, grand as legends.” - *New York Times Book Review*

“Hitch onto this delightful tour de force and you’ll be pulled straight through to the end, helpless against the inventive exuberance of Towles’ storytelling . . .” - NPR

“Gorgeously crafted . . . The novel embraces the contradictions of our character with a skillful hand, guiding the reader forward with ‘a sensation of floating – like one who’s being carried down a wide river on a warm summer day.’” - *Washington Post* *

First published in 2021, “The bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *Rules of Civility* and master of absorbing, sophisticated fiction returns with a stylish and propulsive novel set in 1950s America.

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett



providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.”
Courtesy Goodreads.com

* *Reviews courtesy AmorTowles.com*



Men at the Movies - Bull Durham

By Steve Van Voorhees

Reel News about Men at the Movies

Real Life and Real Baseball

On Tuesday, October 11th, in sync with the Major League championship games, Men at the Movies will feature a great baseball movie, *Bull Durham*.

In starting this little piece on a classic movie, a cult movie, a celebrated movie, I was thinking

about, excluding ‘my’ teams, how much I dislike Professional Sports as an industry. It is OK for the players who are paid handsomely to play the game they love to adulthood and even middle age. It is unbelievably grand for owners of pro teams, who are already wealthy beyond imagination. It is a delightful distraction for national TV audiences to see the games played towards perfection with absolutely glorious moments of physical and mental excellence. But, I remind myself, it is essentially unreal to my own experience as a player and a coach, and a distortion of real life for literally everyone - players, owners, broadcasters, fans. And, it is artificial in so many ways thanks to huge gobs of money, performance-enhancing drugs and an increasing number of specialists who can actually control or influence performance that we delude ourselves into thinking is natural. Pro Sports is an essentially unnatural world.

Still, I am a fan of baseball after just playing the “sandlot” version, mostly as a pitcher or catcher. Fortunately, we have Ron Shelton, writer and director of *Bull Durham*, #1 on the Rotten Tomatoes list of 53 best-reviewed sports movies. Shelton actually played Minor League baseball and the years he put in taught him a lot. One area he recalled was how most sports movies fail the reality test: the hero has super-natural talent; the game is won in the last minute or the last inning; the winners are the “good guys”; it is the “Big Game” (there are always more big games); it is an heroic play or action that caps the story. Contrarily, Minor League baseball is played in small parks in small towns close to real people who mostly know or love the game and watch it at the field not on TV. The Richmond Flying Squirrels, an AA team, are like the Durham Bulls in our October movie. I have season tickets and go to those real games. As Shelton says, it is really



about watching all the moves, pitches, shifts, catches, and the Defining Moment, win or lose, in which the human essentials are revealed for all to see. Baseball is a game in which the play parallels the details of a life lived.

We see that in Crash Davis, the protagonist of this story, and Annie Savoy, the fan who tells the story, and the kid with “the million dollar arm and five cent head,” Ebby Calvin Laloosh. And here baseball is played as life is lived. Annie

says, "I believe in the Church of Baseball!" Later, she adds, "I know things. For instance, there are 108 beads in a rosary and 108 stitches in a baseball.

When I learned that, I gave Jesus a chance. But it just didn't work out between us. The Lord laid too much guilt on me." (Note: ‘my’ Chicago Cubs had to wait 108 years to win another World Series in 2016.)

So, join me in watching this story that ‘gets’ real baseball and real life. You will then know why it is so celebrated by critics and viewers. You will feel the gritty authenticity of day-to-day life in the minors, while enjoying the down-to-earth human drama.

By the way, there was a real Crash Davis, who lived in Durham, played Minor League and Major League baseball, served in World War II, went to Duke, and lived a very successful life. He showed up unannounced on the first day of shooting the movie. He introduced himself to Ron Shelton and asked if his character “got the girl” in the movie. When told “yes,” he gave approval to use his name and even went on a speaking tour with the title, “I’m the Real Crash Davis.”

We will gather on Tuesday, October 11th, in the Parlor at 6:00pm and roll the reel at 6:30pm. No masks needed. Bring a friend. See you at the movies

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
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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 Sunday Morning Adult Class, in person in the Parlor - Choir practice in the choir room (not on Thursdays at the moment).
 - ◇ 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II, in person with nursery available; the sermon can be found on Facebook and YouTube
 - ◇ 4:30pm Story Time, a service for children, their families, and friends of all ages on Facebook
 - **Mondays:**
 - ◇ 7:00pm Adult Class via Zoom
 - ◇ 8:00pm Compline from the BCP or the New Zealand BCP or from the Northumbria Community, Facebook
 - **Tuesdays:**
 - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
 - **Wednesdays:**
 - ◇ 11:30am Centering Prayer, in person in the in the church
 - **Thursdays:**
 - ◇ Noon Holy Communion, in person in the church
 - ◇ 7:30am Morning Prayer, Facebook
 - ◇ 4:00pm Lectionary Study, Zoom
 - **Fridays:**
 - ◇ 8:00pm Compline for the BCP or the New Zealand BCP or from the Northumbria Community, Facebook
 - **Saturdays:**
 - ◇ 7:00am Morning Prayer, Facebook
 - ◇ 8:00pm Prayers and a Reflection that previews readings and themes for Sunday, Facebook
- Food Pantry Hours:**
- First and third Saturdays, 11:00am to noon
 - First and third Tuesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm
- Veterans' Shelter Dinner**
- Fourth Thursdays, prep 5pm
 - Take to the shelter at 6pm and have dinner

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

The November Messenger will be available Sunday November 6th.

The deadline for that edition is Friday October 28th, but earlier is always encouraged.

If you feel that you have something you'd like to contribute, please contact Bruce MacAlister at

editor@hoco.org

