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Blessing of the Animals 2022





Story Time Service is back!

By the Rev Dr Hilary Smith, Rector

On October 16, Ellen Hall, Chris Hall, and I led a spirited Story Time service for children, their families, and friends of all ages! This was our first time having the service indoors in person since February 2020. We sang, played instruments, prayed, shared Holy Communion, and heard a story about Jesus teaching his friends to pray. Join us at 4:30pm on November 20th for our next Story Time service. We hold the service on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4:30pm.



HoCo and the Political Process - Voting

By Hilary Smith

We are a voting location, and we are delighted to be part of enabling people to vote. Leaders in the Episcopal Church do not tell us how to vote, but we do say that voting is important, and some would say, our duty as Christians. Jesus cared about the lives of the people, all the people. In his time and place, Jesus sought to point out and change practices that hurt the poor and did not honor God. Many thanks to those who will be in



the church parish house, during the setup, voting, and packing up on Tuesday, November 8. We are required to have someone from our community onsite for the entire day. You can sign up for an hour or more by contacting the parish office at 804-355-3251 or office@hoco.org.

Hoco Birthdays

For the month of November:

- Edna Johnston, 1st; Sam Baggett, 4th;***
- Katherine Raymond, 4th; John Richardson, 4th;***
- Bill Smith, 8th; Robin Kranitzky-Hurdle, 10th;***
- Mary Fender O'Brien, 11th;***
- George Collier, 22nd; Elliot Rathbun-Cook, 22nd;***
- Judy Harris, 23rd; Kim McCarthy, 26th;***
- Siyano Prach, 29th***



A Message from Hilary +

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

Who are we as the people of God? How do we tell our story? How do we tell God's story with humanity? Once again this year for Advent, we will be using worship resources from the wonderful and creative group, Sanctified Art.



Advent begins on Sunday, November 27.

As we start November, we observe All Saints' Day with our service on Sunday, November 6. All Saints' Day is always the first day of November but, as do many churches, we observe the Day on the Sunday

following. As I start to think about Advent, I'm aware that the Advent theme for this year, "Generation to Generation," also connects to our All Saints' celebration, when we remember all of God's saints in heaven and on earth. We recall all the stories that we have learned throughout the generations, and we give thanks for the people who taught us these stories, of life, love, hope, and faith. We celebrate Thanksgiving, often with family and friends, and we enjoy telling our stories with each other as we give thanks to God for all that God has done for us and given to us.

The first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. We will welcome Jim Bennet as our new Director of Music Ministry that day. What a great day to give thanks for our new shared ministry with Jim as we welcome him. The First Sunday of Advent is also the start of a new Church year - a new beginning - a new chance to be for God and each other and those who God has given into our care. What will our story/stories be with Jim? What will our story/stories be in this new Church year?

As we prepare for the Advent season, here is

an introduction to the theme of Generation to Generation, from Sanctified Art.

Theme reflections from the Sanctified Art creative team:

"One of my all-time favorite things is to visit my grandparents and listen to their stories. My grandmother is an avid, amateur genealogist who lights up at the chance to weave together a tapestry of family stories and connections. She brings out old photographs and delicately strings each story together with the care and reverence she feels each person's story deserves.

"I hang out with my grandfather in his workshop, where layers of dust cover many gadgets, odds and ends. He marvels at the craftsmanship of old, worn tools and tells stories of the trades he made to acquire such treasures. He shows me step by step how he recycles old materials into intricately handcrafted knives, jewelry, and reimaged utensils. His life is a wonder, and I feel honored to be invited to hold his stories.

"The theme, From Generation to Generation, as it relates to Advent and Christ's entry into the world, makes me want to visit this familiar narrative



with the passion my grandmother approaches her family's history, and the attentive playfulness with which my grandfather scrolls through memories like snippets of old black and white film. Who are the people who make Jesus who he is? What are the pathways of the stories that lead to the miraculous arrival of God into the world? What stories are neglected and forgotten? What stories have we twisted to suit our own worldview and perspectives? These stories are fragile and sacred. We need to approach them with reverence and care and protect them as we hand them to future generations to hold and pass along." - the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, Director of Branding, Founding Creative Partner

In thanksgiving for you, God, and our shared stories, yours

Hilary+



Jim Bennett new Director of Music Ministry

By the Search Committee for our next HoCo Director of Music Ministry

We are delighted to announce that Jim Bennett has accepted God's call to be our next Director of Music Ministry. Jim is well-known in Richmond as a creative and gifted musician, leader, and partner in ministry and music. During our interview process, those on the Search Committee and in Choir agreed that we would be blessed to have Jim in ministry with us as our Director of Music Ministry.



Jim wrote as part of his application:

"I have been making music for most of my life - starting with piano at age 6, singing in the children's choir, studying music in high school and college, playing for musical theater, accompanying classes in modern dance and ballet, singing with the Richmond Symphony Chorus and the James River Singers, as a free-lance solo pianist and recording artist, teaching piano, and in ministry as a church musician. Music is a huge part of who I am; it is my vocation. This is not something I could confidently say earlier in my life, but now I feel sure---I have heard God's call to the ministry of music. I am also a husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, and preacher's kid. I grew up in the United Methodist Church and have served several churches in that denomination. It has been a joy to have served the last several years in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement.

"To be always learning is something I try to live into - whether that be music, faith, relationships, community, or science (I love the intersection of science and religion...) I think that if we stop learning and discovering more about Creation and our role in it, we cut ourselves off from something essential.

"In the future 'The Church' will likely look different than now, just as now looks different than in generations past. I believe there is a need in many churches for leaders to help bridge the divide between the older traditional elements and newer different elements."

Jim's first Sunday with us will be the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022. As we begin the new Church Year, we will begin a new and exciting chapter in our life as a faith community.

- The Search Committee for our next HoCo Director of Music Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith, Chair

Lian-Marie Munro, Vestry Liaison to Worship

Susan Boze, Chris Hall, Jamey Hooks

Cheryl Groce-Wright, Maria Scott

Doug Thorpe



Janet Watts - an interview

By Will Jackson

With Ellen Johnston's recent retirement you may have noticed the organ hasn't been playing itself. Neither has God, though The Spirit has certainly been right there with us. We have been blessed to have our visiting organist and choir director Janet Watts in the interim.

I too was blessed to spend some time talking with Janet getting to know her both as a musician and as a person. Janet's music interest began when her great aunt, Marguerite Miller - who was the organist-choir director at her childhood church - offered her and her brother free piano lessons. Thus Janet took up the piano at age six. Janet was captivated by Marguerite's home Hammond organ and would ask when she could finally play it. She was told she had to have a lot of piano first, so Janet took piano-music lessons from ages six to twelve. Then, she began to learn the organ. Her

great aunt had organ-piano duet books and would let her play the piano part in church as her great



aunt played the organ part. As Janet learned the organ, they would switch and Janet got to play the organ in church. As a teenager she even started to get hired by her aunt as the church substitute organist.

When she graduated high school, she majored in art history for her bachelor's degree at William & Mary where she also took organ and music courses. She got her MS in occupational therapy (OT) and PhD in

health services organization and research. This has been her primary career as both a practicing OT and college professor/educator (she was a VCU professor for twenty-four years).

After W&M she studied organ some more with Caroline Paine (St. Thomas Episcopal) and Michael Simpson (Ginter Park Baptist). Michael Simpson was an especially supportive teacher and mentor.

As a professional musician, Janet has served as a substitute organist at numerous Richmond area churches since 1980. She also teaches piano and is a member of three professional teaching associations. Janet notes that Steve Henley (retired from his well-respected career at Bon Air Presbyterian) has been a friend and supporter. Janet served at BAPC during his sabbatical several years ago and recently as Interim Music Director.

Janet met Ellen during the Advent-Christmas season when she was interim organist at St. John's Episcopal (Church Hill), where she played an old tracker (full on mechanical-action vs electric-action) organ. We can imagine what this was like with our beloved Ellen directing during Christmas as could Janet's wrists when she literally had to get surgery as a result. It was a wonderful experience, though, working with Ellen

and playing the old tracker during Advent and Christmas at such a historic church.

Of critical issue these days is the future of the pipe organ, and Janet had some wonderful thoughts on the issue. Janet said she wishes there were more public spaces. We discussed this in the context of church-like organs and not just a Wurlitzer-type organs in old theaters like our Byrd in Richmond. Janet referenced an open-air organ in Balboa Park, California. With the ever-changing forms of "traditional church worship", Janet pointed out that churches may not be able to realistically maintain pipe organs right now. So we talked a lot about how, although the instruments are big and expensive, there are so many places for them that are not simply churches or old theatres.

Certainly Janet and I are like minded in our enthusiasm for bringing the organ out in the open and to the people, but this was such a cool conversation about the nuances of our "in public". I was struck by her answer to a more fun question of her favorite hymn-type of music. She said she simply doesn't have favorites because she is there to support, and plays what each church prefers. While this is indeed her role as a musician, I will add that she just is that humble type of person as well. As my own M O is a behind the scenes type of person who loves to lift up people's lives and our world while concealed in the shadows, I was so moved by this answer. Quite frankly I was moved by this conversation as a whole. Janet pointed out that the pipe organ is built upon the concept of the "Pipes of Pan" and I was just so in awe, happy, and warmed to hear this wordage.

When I first met her, Janet commented about how lovely our instrument is. I can assure you, having spent this time I can confidently reiterate how lovely our talented interim organist and choir director, Janet Watts is. I want to thank for her time and for all that she gives to us at HoCo and our ministry in glorifying God.





November Book Club - Beautiful Country

By Stephanie Turner

Our November Book Club will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 15 via Zoom. You will find the link for our meeting on Holy Comforter's home page. Click on the turquoise word "bulletin" and scroll down until you see our meeting.



Our selection for November is *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang. Here is a selection of publications that included *Beautiful Country* in their Best Books of the year lists as well as a *New York Times* Notable Book • one of the best books of the year, NPR, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Guardian*, *Good Housekeeping*, *She Reads*, and more • One of President Obama's "Favorite Books of the Year" Courtesy - Amazon.com

I hope you will join us in reading what sounds like a terrific and moving memoir. It should generate a lively discussion at our meeting!

“In Chinese, the word for America, Mei Guo, translates directly to ‘beautiful country.’ Yet when seven-year-old Qian arrives in New York City in 1994 full of curiosity, she is overwhelmed by crushing fear and scarcity. In China, Qian’s parents were professors; in America, her family is ‘illegal’ and it will require all the determination and small joys they can muster to survive.

“In Chinatown, Qian’s parents labor in sweatshops. Instead of laughing at her jokes, they fight constantly, taking out the stress of their new life on one another. Shunned by her classmates and teachers for her limited English,

Qian takes refuge in the library and masters the language through books, coming to think of The Berenstain Bears as her first American friends. And where there is delight to be found, Qian relishes it: her first bite of gloriously greasy pizza, weekly ‘shopping days,’ when Qian finds small treasures in the trash lining Brooklyn’s streets, and a magical Christmas visit to Rockefeller Center - confirmation that the New York City she saw in movies does exist after all.

“But then Qian’s headstrong Ma Ma collapses, revealing an illness that she



has kept secret for months for fear of the cost and scrutiny of a doctor’s visit. As Ba Ba retreats further inward, Qian has little to hold onto beyond his constant refrain: Whatever happens, say that you were born here, that you’ve always lived here.

“Inhabiting her childhood perspective with exquisite lyric clarity and unforgettable charm and strength, Qian Julie Wang has penned an essential American story about a family fracturing under the weight of invisibility, and a girl coming of age in the shadows, who never stops seeking the light.” - *Courtesy Amazon.com*



Our Shrine Mont Parish Retreat 2022

By Hilary Smith, Rector

Nineteen of us, including three children, made our way to the Shenandoah Valley for a wonderful weekend connecting with each other and God's creation. I led a program on Social Justice and the Bible, designed to get us talking to each other, not lecturing on my part. Many of us hiked, some



fished, some walked the Labyrinth, and others rested. We all had time to rest. These parish retreats can be whatever you need. Everything is optional and designed to be supportive. Consider coming to Shrine Mont with us next year. Our weekend is

usually the 3rd weekend in October. Financial assistance is available; I want everyone to know that you can afford to come. Thanks to Lisa Lettau for being our main organizer this year and in previous years. Would you like to help organize our retreat for next year? Please let me know.



Randome Ringers Workshop ***By Melisse Menchel***

The Randome Ringers attended a handbell workshop on September 24, hosted by the James River Ringers. With a focus on technique, we enjoyed a fun morning making



music and honing our skills. Lunch at HobNob was a pleasant way to end a very productive morning. We may not be the most fancy

bell choir, but we are dedicated and play with our hearts. It is truly a ministry of love that brings us together to contribute to the musical community of Holy Comforter!



Men at the Movies - The Red Violin

By Steve Van Voorhees

Change of date: Wednesday, November 9th

Even if you never heard of Elizabeth Pitcairn or Joshua Bell, I'll bet you have heard about Stradivarius violins. Back in the 16th century, the violin was essentially developed and ever since then all violins are copies or reproductions. While there were other centers of violin making, Cremona, Italy, was one of the most productive and the Stradivarius family produced and sold over 1200 instruments. Guarneri del Gesu also made many, but there are fewer of them existent today. Many of both of these violins are still around and are played in some cases every day. The Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius is a real violin that our movie for November is about. It is owned by Elizabeth Pitcairn, a concert violinist.



Real-life Strads (their short-hand name) have always been famous and always in demand by people who could afford them. Six hundred fifty are still in use today, many worth multiples of a million dollars. They sound beautiful with a pristine 'singing' sound. Explanations for this include the fact that, to preserve the woods used in making the instruments, medicinal chemicals were included to protect them from wood-boring insects. Those recipes were secret, while the varnishes were commonly known by all luthiers (violin-makers).

The Red Violin movie is fictional and was inspired by the real Red Violin's mysterious history. The historic Red Violin disappeared after Joseph Joachim acquired it and was lost to history from 1720 to 1928, when it appeared in a photograph in Vienna. It was acquired by the family of Felix Mendelssohn in the 1930's and appeared in 1990 at a Christie's auction after the owners sold it. It was purchased anonymously by an American industrialist. Over two hundred years of mystery are portrayed in the movie. To this day,

no one knows where the real Red Violin was or who owned it for over two centuries.

The fictional movie history is intriguing and relates a "biography" of an extremely beautiful character with many friends and lovers that it attracts. The story begins in Cremona with Bussotti, the luthier, who finishes making the Red Violin at the moment his wife and son die in childbirth. His love for all three is immortalized when he is varnishing the new violin (his first and last instrument), using his wife's blood. The next hands to touch this beautiful creature



are a group of monks. A hundred years later, a young prodigy, Kaspar,



who with the Red Violin, makes pure angelic music, is adopted by an older couple. The Red Violin then drifts into the hands of Romany (insensitively called 'gypsies') people. It is played by many people and finds its way to England from Poland. A rich virtuoso incorporates the Red Violin into his concerts and lovemaking with his mistress, who, in a fit of jealousy, shoots the Red Violin by mistake. Next, we find the Red Violin in a pawn shop in Shanghai at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in China (which was just ended by Xi Jinping last week) and is saved by another lover. Eventually, the Red Violin is sent to a Montreal auction house, where the current story picks up. As the movie ends, we witness another lover of the Red Violin commit a crime in order to possess this beauty.

The exquisite Red Violin produces music so beautiful you want to cry. It passes from rich to poor to rich to poor; from Italy to Poland to England to China to Canada. It is shot, buried, almost burned, and stolen more than once.

The Red Violin movie received mixed reviews, mainly caused by its structure and subject matter. It did win an Academy Award for the best original score. The music was composed by John Corigliano and is part of violin and orchestra programs offered around the world today. It is haunting and moving and provides a complete range of emotions and responses by listeners. The violin in the movie is played by Joshua Bell. The movie also won awards at other film festivals.

While we experience this story, consider this idea—what does it feel like when you create or participate in something so perfectly beautiful and transforming, and you are moved so deeply that you feel unable to describe it in words. At that moment, you have a hint of ecstasy and eternity as one simple, yet indescribable, whole.

We will gather to share this film and this experience on Wednesday, November 9th, in the Parlor at 6:00pm and ‘roll the film’ at 6:30pm. See you at the movies!



My Experience with Men at the Movies

By David Lehman

I have enjoyed every time I’ve gone to Men at the Movies and I miss the times I’m unable to go. Men at the Movies started a number of years ago when Steve Van Voorhees took the creative step to start this experience at HoCo. With this, Steve helped to provide a way to bring men together once a month to enjoy each other’s company while taking in the enjoyment of a movie. The time together begins with popcorn, supper (for those who bring their own), and general conversation that connects us. Then we transition to the movie of the night with Steve giving a background and overview of



the movie, which always helps to set the stage for what we are about to see. (His movie overview is also printed in the Messenger prior to the movie night.) The start of the movie always reminds me of boyhood experiences at the movie theater: the excitement and anticipation that is stirred the moment the lights are turned off, the sound begins to play, and the movie begins.

I have enjoyed seeing movies again that I had seen years ago, including *Nebraska*, *Shawshank Redemption*, *The Blues Brothers*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Seeing a movie a second time can provide a chance to see something new in the movie that was not previously noticed, or to have an initial experience be reaffirmed, or to hear a new idea about the movie from someone else in attendance. Some of the new movies for me were: *Bend it Like Beckham*, *The Good Thief*, *Vincent* and *Theo*.

All these movies are stories that show the span of the human experience that can include darkness and grace, foolishness and wisdom, tears and laughter. There is always thinking that is generated by each movie, and it is always interesting to hear of the thoughts that have been stirred in others.

Men at the Movies experienced the impact of Covid, much like all of HoCo, when in-person activities came to a screeching halt in March of 2020. The movies started up again a number of months ago and have been going since. Given how Covid impacted our church community life by blocking our ability to meet in-person, Men at the Movies has provided a way to help us reconnect with each other.

As I think about my experience with Men at the Movies I am reminded of a life goal given by author Joan Chittister, “... to furnish the soul with poetry and beauty, with friendships and adventure...”. This goal easily relates to Men at the Movies. Movies, as stories, are within the realm of poetry, beauty and adventure. Watching movies with others provides a way for friendships. This is all to say, the experience of Men at the Movies provides sustenance for the soul. Consider trying a night with Men at the Movies.



Behind the Scenes at the Food Pantry

By Phoebe Winter, Food Pantry leader

How do you fit 650 pounds of frozen food into 300 pounds of storage space? That was the challenge facing pantry volunteers when Feed More gave us double the food we thought we had ordered. We started calling volunteers and local churches. The

people we called were amazing, offering space in their home freezers and offering to call friends in the food industry. After wandering the streets of Richmond in a pickup truck, looking for a place to stay, some of the food found a temporary home at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and some at St. James's Episcopal Church.





***St. Mary's hospital gives
1,800 cans of food to the
Holy Comforter Food
Pantry.***

by Bruce MacAlister

HoCo parishioners went to the St Mary's chapel on Wednesday October 26th for a blessing of the gift and a presentation of the food. "We are so thankful to St. Mary's hospital for giving us the food that they received from their food drive."





New Nave Speakers

By Mary Fender O'Brien

The sound system in the Nave and Sanctuary at HoCo has been undergoing many changes, and all for the better.

The focus on sound started as many things in the past few years - worship in the times of COVID. As we went from Zoom services to streaming to in person worship, deficits in our sound and the need to improve the listener experience came to the forefront.

Garrett Milich of GEM Media has been our sound designer since 2021.



Due to supply issues, the speakers took longer than we would have liked to arrive but... the new

speakers finally got here, and are now installed! We now have an appropriate sound system for our worship space. Listener feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we are so thankful to be able to hear well throughout the Nave.

Some highlights of the new speakers and system updates:

- 2 Main speakers on the first column wall
- 2 Delay speakers on the third column
- 1 monitor speaker behind the proscenium
- New power amp added to the rack
- New wiring and switches

On a related note, our streaming camera has been permanently mounted to the second column and the cabling has been routed off the floor removing any tripping hazard.

We would like to thank everyone for their support and patience as we anticipated this change to the sound at HoCo.

Safe and Sound!



His work began with replacing the wireless microphones. These were changed out in the summer of 2021 with an expandable receiver and wireless microphones that utilize rechargeable batteries. During this time an analysis of the PA system took place, and it was discovered that the main (and only) listener-facing speaker was overpowered and blown, and while producing sound, this sound was unintelligible and placed too high to interact with the listeners' ear. Another problem with the old speaker was the mounting hardware. Its age and reliability is questionable, and for safety's sake, it is recommended to remove the speaker.



Living Generously - a Stewardship Update

By Steven Van Voorhees

Holy Comforter’s Annual Stewardship Campaign is underway. The 2023 Pledge Cards will be sent out the first week of November. We ask you to consider what the weekly eMessenger stewardship “blurbs” have been saying to you through October and November. Please give the pledge card letter your attention and prayerful response, and return your pledge card by November 27th or shortly thereafter. (Of course, we will continue to collect pledges after that date!)

While you contemplate your annual gift, remember that giving to Holy Comforter is giving to God. The Church is God’s mission here on Planet Earth. One stewardship trinity is: Time, Talent, and Treasure. We’re asking you to think of another trinity: Love, Friendship, and Concern. We express our solidarity with others through our Love lived out as Friendship with people we know and Concern for those we don’t yet know. Our Generosity is Love in Action expressed through our Giving each year to Holy Comforter.

Thank you for all that you do to further the Jesus Movement.



Update on Parish Hall HVAC Upgrade

By Ron Cox, Senior Warden

The contractor has been working on the second floor of the Parish Hall. Piping and wiring have been installed, the wall units hung, and the outdoor unit put in place on the roof of the Cary Montague Room. Work on the second floor should be completed shortly. The contractor will then begin work on the first floor rooms that are to be serviced. See me with any questions.





Holiday Grief

By Julie Edwards

HoCo Holiday Grief Workshop, Sunday, December 4th, immediately following Holy Eucharist, around 11:30-1:00. Snacks will be provided. Please register with Julie Edwards: j.s.edwards508@outlook.com.

Holidays present interesting challenges for those of us who have lost loved ones. Celebrations and traditions that seemed normal one year become anything *but* normal. Sometimes friends and family don't understand a change in mood, quietness, withdrawing from normal holiday activities. Each of us has our unique response to loss, often misunderstood by others.

Here are examples I've heard over the years as a Hospice and Palliative social worker:

- We always went to the same place for 26 years to get our tree. I can't go back.
- He had his favorite Christmas song he played every Christmas morning. Now when I hear that song, I break down in tears.
- She made the same breakfast every Christmas: eggs, cubed steak, and hash browns. Now I cry when I think of it.
- He hated to stay up so late for the Christmas Eve services, but did it anyway because I wanted to go. Now, I miss our annual spats.
- She loved to make chocolate cake for the holidays, so that when I saw a chocolate cake at the store, I had a sudden grief attack, couldn't stop crying, and had to leave the store.

Becoming aware of the link between certain traditions and our sadness is key to finding a way to live with grief. Alan Wolfelt, a prominent writer and teacher about grief establishes the difference between grief and mourning. **Grief** is the internal feeling after a loss. **Mourning** is the outward expression of that grief. We grieve because we loved. Because relationships can be complicated, some people grieve what they did not have in a relationship.

Grief, itself, is not an illness that can be treated with medicine for cure, or that will just go away. When ignored and grief is not expressed outwardly, it builds inside the body, seeking release. When not mourned intentionally, ignored grief may make a person moody, anxious, depressed. When grief is suppressed, the body suffers, such as through illness, arthritic pain, ulcers, anxiety. A *healthy* goal is finding *healthy forms of mourning* in order to learn to live with your grief.

The goal for this brief workshop is to provide a safe space to share about your loved one, to learn from each other, and find healing in community.

From A.A. Milne: "You may be gone from my sight, but you are never gone from my heart."





Thanksgiving Food Drive

By Phoebe Winter

Angie Palmer will be coordinating a Thanksgiving food drive for our pantry guests. We will put together “baskets” that contain non-perishable goods and a Kroger gift card to buy the main course or fresh produce. Frank Castellon will provide a description of American Thanksgiving in Spanish for our Spanish-speaking guests who are new arrivals into the country.

We will be collecting food and gift cards through Sunday, November 13. If you can donate food, please put the food in the marked container in the Narthex or the marked container in the Parish Hall. Please put Kroger gift cards in denominations between \$5 and \$20 in the food pantry mailbox in the office.

Any non-perishable Thanksgiving food is welcome. Some examples:

- Stuffing mix
- Mashed potato mix
- Canned vegetables
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned pie filling
- Shelf-stable pie crust (e.g., graham cracker)
- Desserts/cake mixes with few extra ingredients needed



228th Annual Convention

By Bruce MacAlister, Editor

The convention is November 17-19 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington.

Here the clergy (all ordained and licensed in this diocese) and delegates (elected by their vestries) legislate the rules, the initiatives, and the budget of the entire diocese.

For Holy Comforter, the qualified clergy are rector Hilary Smith, deacon Joe Klennsman, clergy-in-residence Heather Baggett, Briggett Keith, and Andy Kunz. The delegate is Terry Long. (We are a small congregation so we get only one delegate.)



In addition to the usual hearings and voting sessions, those present will celebrate Bishop Susan Goff’s long ministry in our Diocese as she retires. They will officially welcome to the diocese Bishop-elect Mark Stevenson.

One More Thing:



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 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
- ◇ Noon Holy Communion, in person in the church
- **Thursdays:**
 - ◇ 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
 - ◇ 11am Misa en español, second Saturday of each month

Food Pantry Hours:

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

*Editing of the Messenger is done by Bruce MacAlister, the layout by George Collier.
The December Messenger will be available Sunday December 4th. The deadline for that edition is
Friday November 25th. That being the day after Thanksgiving, you might want to move it up to
November 18 to make Thanksgiving week free.*

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

editor@hoco.org

