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## *Christmas Services 2022 Servicios de Navidad 2022*

*24 December, diciembre*

*4:00 pm Holy Eucharist with pageant*

*6:00 pm Nochebuena Misa en español*

*25 December, diciembre*

*10:00 am Holy Eucharist*





## *A Message from Hilary +*

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

We entered Advent on Sunday, November 27, and will be here until Christmas. There was a time in the Episcopal Church when Advent was considered a penitential season like



Lent, the idea being that we prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of both Easter and Christmas in a focused way. For a long time, spiritual preparation was

dominated by identifying and naming one's sins, and then repenting. Even in Lent we now open ourselves to a number of ways of preparing, not just repentance. Regardless of how one views Lent, these days before Christmas are not a "little Lent." Advent is a distinctive season of



the Church year, and one that I find to be rich in imagery and energy. As baby Jesus grew in Mary before birth, Christ can grow in us and be born anew at Christmas, for us, our families, and our communities.

Our faith can grow being shaped by the traditional Advent themes of watching and waiting, preparing and expecting. We are

expectant as we await Christmas, both our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus and our personal family traditions that go with this season. Maybe we will do something new this year; maybe God will do something new with us. Once again, at our church, we are using resources from Sanctified Art, which include poems, images, artists' descriptions, and words for worship. I hope that you enjoy and find conversation partners in these resources. You will hear and pray some of the words for worship during our services.

The overall theme from Sanctified Art for Advent 2022 is "Generation to Generation," taken from Mary's song, the Magnificat: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. . . ." Many generations later, we carry on the traditions of our faith; from generation to generation, we have remembered Mary, a willing servant of God, who gave the world Jesus. From generation to generation we have celebrated the birth of our Savior and told the stories about that star-lit night when everything changed.

May your Christmas celebration be filled with a sense of God's love for you.

Blessings for Advent and a Merry Christmas,

*Hilary+*

### *Hoco Birthdays* *For the month of December:*

*Samuel Gage II, 3rd; Bruce MacAlister, 5th;  
Barbara Rose, 8th; Ian Sthresley, 9th;  
Leslie Smith, 11th;  
Stephanie Roberts-Turner, 14th;  
Art Raymond, 15th; Barbara Crowder, 16th;  
Jerry Scholder, 17th; Kath Ruggeri, 18th;  
Patty Sheldon, 18th; Arden Griffin, 23rd;  
Lindsey Smith, 25th; Deborah Westin, 27th;  
Brenda Crouch, 29th; Joy Bressler, 30th;  
Terry Long, 30th; Tyler Nichols, 31st*





## *Un mensaje de Hilary +*

Queridos amigos y compañeros de ministerio,

Entramos en Adviento el domingo 27 de noviembre y estaremos aquí hasta Navidad. Hubo un tiempo en la Iglesia Episcopal en que el Adviento se consideraba una temporada



penitencial como la Cuaresma, la idea es que nos preparemos espiritualmente para la celebración tanto de Pascua como de Navidad de manera enfocada.

Durante mucho tiempo, la preparación espiritual estuvo dominada por identificar y nombrar los pecados y

luego arrepentirse. Incluso en Cuaresma ahora nos abrimos a una serie de formas de preparación, no solo al arrepentimiento. Independientemente de cómo se vea la Cuaresma, estos días antes de Navidad no son una “pequeña Cuaresma”. El Adviento es una estación distintiva del año de la Iglesia, y me parece rica en imágenes y energía. Así como el niño Jesús creció en María antes de nacer, Cristo puede crecer en nosotros y nacer de nuevo en Navidad, para nosotros, nuestras familias y nuestras comunidades.

Nuestra fe puede crecer siendo moldeada por los temas tradicionales de Adviento de velar y esperar, prepararse y esperar. Estamos expectantes mientras esperamos la Navidad, tanto nuestra celebración anual del nacimiento de Jesús como nuestras tradiciones personales y familiares que acompañan esta temporada. Tal vez hagamos algo nuevo este año; tal vez Dios haga algo nuevo con nosotros. Una vez más, en nuestra iglesia, estamos utilizando recursos de Arte Santificado, que incluyen poemas, imágenes, descripciones de artistas y palabras para la adoración. Espero que disfrute y encuentre compañeros de conversación en estos recursos. Escuchará y orará algunas de las palabras de adoración durante nuestros servicios.

El tema general de Arte Santificado para Adviento 2022 es Generación en generación, tomado del canto de María, el Magnificat: “Mi alma proclama la grandeza del Señor, mi espíritu

se regocija en Dios mi Salvador; porque ha mirado con benevolencia a su humilde siervo. Desde este día todas las generaciones me llamarán bienaventurada: el Todopoderoso ha hecho grandes cosas por mí, y santo es su Nombre”... Muchas generaciones después, continuamos con las tradiciones de nuestra fe; de generación en generación, nos hemos acordado de María, sierva voluntaria de Dios, que dio al mundo a Jesús. De generación en generación hemos celebrado el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador y hemos contado las historias de aquella noche estrellada en la que todo cambió.

Que tu celebración de Navidad esté llena de un sentido del amor de Dios por ti.

Bendiciones para el Adviento y una Feliz Navidad,

*Hilary+*





## ***Girl Scout Troop #462 coming to HoCo***

***By Debi Taliaferro, Troop #462 Leader***

We are very thankful to you for welcoming Girl Scout Troop #462 to The Church of the Holy Comforter. We are very excited and can't wait to settle into our new home. We promise to make you proud to sponsor a Girl Scout Troop. We are looking forward to holding our meetings and doing service projects with the church.



Troop #462 is a Multi-Level Troop. We have 17 girls: 5-Daisies (K & 1st grades), 2-Brownies (2nd & 3rd grades), 6-Juniors (4th & 5th grades) and 4-Cadettes (6th, 7th, & 8th grades), and we're expecting more! Our girls attend schools, both public and private, throughout Richmond and Henrico. Although most live in the Northside of Richmond, we have girls who come from as far as Midlothian and North Chesterfield.

We have five Troop Leaders: Mary, who started Girl Scouts as a child, completing each level and continuing nonstop to becoming a leader for a total, so far, of 45 years; Renee, is a newlywed working on her masters in Biology. She's does research on turtles as part of her thesis, the girls love turtle visits; Christy, is an accountant for Dominion Energy; our newest leader, Courtni, is a recent graduate from the University of Richmond's Law School; and myself, retired from the Port Authority of NY & NJ as a Duty Airport Operations Manager. We all bring unique talents, gifts, and experiences to the girls. Two of us have children, but only one has a daughter. We get as much from the girls, as they get from us. They definitely take the pressure off my son for grand babies.

Troop #462 was a defunct troop which originated at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in the Northside of Richmond. A friend and I revitalized it, intending to stay for just one year until a parent could take over. Well, seven years later

I'm still here! The troop has continued to grow. Due to changes in the way St. Philip's is using their parish hall space, our troop is too large for the allotted space for our meetings. With our new Holy Comforter location, we'll have space to serve more girls and hopefully have a more diverse troop.

If you have or know a girl, K-12, who would like to join our troop, or if you're interested in being an Assistant Leader or Leader, please call or text me at 973-392-1373.

We meet on 1st and 3rd Mondays from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

"Girl Scouts ~ building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place!"



## ***Christmas donations go to Health Brigade***

***By Bruce MacAlister, member, Social Justice & Outreach ministry***

Once there was a Fan Free Clinic located in the Fan District on Hanover Avenue near Allen Avenue. It was famous for providing care for those with HIV-AIDS when most medical charities would not. It's now just a few blocks from Holy Comforter and is renamed Health



Brigade. It's free if you need it to be, will use your health insurance if you have it. Uniquely it provides mental health care as well

as physical care. From its website:

"Health Brigade is known as a safe place to seek care for those who need it the most. We are committed to serving the most marginalized populations in the community—not only those with few resources, but also those most oppressed and stigmatized.

"Health Brigade earned a 2022 Gold Rating from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Quality Standards Program."

[www.healthbrigade.org/](http://www.healthbrigade.org/)





## Good Samaritan Sunday is back!

The donations on the first Sunday of the month never left. During the Covid isolation some parishioners dropped food by or sent a check. That is no substitute for bringing bags of food, diapers, and - yes - toilet paper, up to the altar table on the first Sunday. It visually roots our



celebration in the real world of need that Jesus saw so clearly during his ministry.



## Lent Madness - All Brackets Day

By the Rev Tim Schenck & the Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, the Supreme Executive Committee

Following the heady days of Nominationtide, and the submission of hundreds of saintly nominations



from the Lent Madness faithful, the Supreme Executive Committee is pleased to release the highly anticipated 2023 Lent Madness bracket. Following their Spring Retreat, held in a secure,

undisclosed coffee shop, amid the consumption of massive amounts of single origin black coffee, Tim and Scott whittled the field to 32 saints, who will compete for the coveted Golden Halo.

This year's bracket is broken up into four themed quadrants: Ancient & Apostolic, Mostly Monastics, Royals Roundup, and Modern Mayhem. As always, the bracket contains well known saints along with some obscure ones. But they all inspire us by following Jesus in their own times and in their own ways. - [www.lentmadness.org/category/lent-madness-2023/](http://www.lentmadness.org/category/lent-madness-2023/)



## Two Concerts at HoCo in December

By Ron Cox

Outside groups love to perform at Holy Comforter because of the wonderful acoustics of our church. Two groups will perform in December.

On Friday, December 9th at 7:30pm the James River Singers will present "The Glory of the Season", a choral concert featuring music by Hans Leo Hassler, Henrich Schutz, Felix Mendelssohn, Moses Hogan and others. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for



Seniors (55+), and \$5 for Students.

On Monday, December 19th at 7:00pm the Chamber Music Society of Central Virginia will present "An Evening at Versailles", a performance of French Baroque music written by the men and women who were musicians at the French Court at Versailles. The concert features the spectacular music of Francois Couperin, Elisabeth Claude Jacquet de la Guerre, Marin Marais and Michel Pignolet de Monteclair. Tickets for students are \$5. Discounted tickets for HoCo parishioners are \$10 - just let the folks at the door know you're a parishioner.



## The 228th Annual Convention adopted six resolutions

By Communications, the Diocese of Virginia

The final versions of each resolution will be posted to [www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net).



E. Goff in the succession of diocesan Episcopal leadership between Bishop Shannon S. Johnston and Bishop-Elect E. Mark Stevenson.

R-5a Promotion of Civil Discourse - The resolution calls on elected officials, candidates for all offices, and Episcopalians, in particular, to publicly repudiate hate speech and to engage in civil discourse. It also encourages Episcopalians and parishes to make use of the Civil Discourse Curriculum developed by The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations.

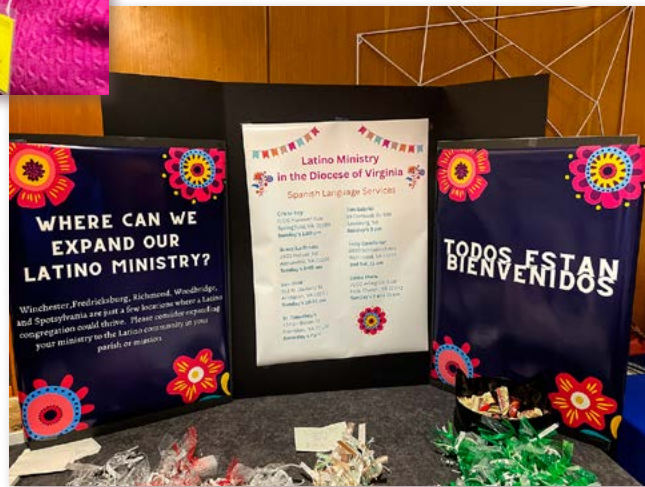
R-6 The Creation of Assistant Bishop Positions to support our new Bishop. In anticipation of the retirement of Bishop Susan Goff, December 31, 2022, and

R-1a Achieving Net Carbon Neutrality by 2030 - The resolution commits our Diocesan offices and operations to reach this goal by 2030 and urges congregations, our church schools, and retirement homes to also commit to reaching Net Zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2030.

R2a Uniform Family Leave - This resolution calls on the federal government and the Commonwealth of Virginia to institute mechanisms to fund and administer a uniform paid family leave policy to care for newborns, to promote bonding between newborns and parents or adoptees and parents, and to allow for the care of immediate family members during illness.

R-3s Promotes Solidarity with Global Efforts to Expand COVID Vaccines and Treatment particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

R4 History of Episcopal Succession - This resolution provides that all histories produced by our Diocese recognize and include Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority Susan



with the recent departure of Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, the resolution authorizes the appointment of up to two Assistant Bishops by Bishop-Elect E. Mark Stevenson following his consecration.

### Budget

The Convention passed a budget balanced at \$5,661,700. Featured in the 2023 budget are increased parish pledges of approximately \$240,000 reflecting support of the 2021 R1a Covenantal Giving Plan. Also resulting from that resolution are the cost of waiving program fees for Annual Convention and Clergy Conferences.



Program highlights are a 25% increase in funding of prison ministry through GraceInside, consulting and other resources for congregations in transition and congregational development, and the full funding of campus ministries. Staffing measures fund three full-time bishops, a Canon for Christian Formation, and a Director of Shrine Mont Camps.

Holy Comforter’s delegate, Terry Long, commented, “... it was the most peaceful convention I have attended in the 12 or 13 years I have been an alternate or lay delegate. Now, it's on to the consecration on December 3rd.”



***Sunday and Monday Adult Classes During the Holidays***

*By Peggy Hombs, Adult Formation*

**Sunday Morning Class** at 8:45-9:45am in the Parlor continues the DVD-based course “Jesus and His Jewish Influences” with presenter Dr.



Jodi Magness on December 8, 11, and 18 and then goes on Christmas and New Year Break, resuming on Sunday, January 8th.



**Monday Evening Class** at 7:00-8:00pm via Zoom continues the DVD-based course “The World of Biblical Israel” with presenter Dr. Cynthia R. Chapman on December 5, 12, and 19 and then goes on Christmas and New Year Break, resuming on

Monday, January 9th. (Note: As Monday, January 2nd is a federal holiday, we will not resume class until the following Monday, January 9th.)



***The Christmas Pageant Returns***

*The Children's Chapel Team*

After a long covid hiatus, the kids at HoCo will finally get to put on another Christmas Pageant!!! We're busily working on the script right now and it should be a great year! It's never too late for your child to be involved. If you haven't signed up yet, just let the church know you're interested and there will be a part. The pageant will be during the 4:00 Christmas Eve service. It's one of the best parts of Christmas. See you there!





## ***Men at the Movies - Nobody's Fool***

***By Steve Van Voorhees***

Remember The Main Ingredient's song:

***"Everybody plays the fool, sometime  
There's no exception to the rule  
Listen baby, it may be factual, may be cruel  
I want to tell ya that  
Everybody plays the fool - "***

Have you ever played a fool for a cause, a friend, a love, a child, or because of Jesus Christ? It seems that most of the time, we do not want to be anybody's fool and yet we have been

somebody's fool often. This is either because we fall into it or because we deliberately get into it, usually for love of someone or something.



In this month's movie, *Nobody's Fool*, Donald "Sully" Sullivan has several problems - his estranged and unemployed son shows up with his son, his flirtatious married girlfriend is becoming serious about him, he is still feuding with her husband Carl with no good results, he is nearly bankrupt, and has diminishing prospects for more business or better days.

But he does have friends: Toby, his sort of girlfriend; his landlady Beryl; "Rub" Squeers, his best friend; "Wirf" Wizfly, his one-legged lawyer; Jocko at the bar; and Ollie, the town's Police Chief. North Bath, New York, Sully's hometown, is a place I know well. It's a small town like hundreds of others I've been in, growing up in New York State. In fact, it closely resembles Watertown, where my Grandmother was born. Nothing much happens there, never did, never will.

All of this seems pretty much not interesting or remarkable. North Bath is a fictional stand-in for all of the small towns in North America that

have no compelling narrative about them, but are where 61% of the population lives (in cities with fewer than 50,000 residents). This is like the town I was brought home to as a newborn. Had I stayed there my whole life, I would be like one of Sully's friends or like Sully. I certainly identify with him. Richard Russo, who wrote the book this movie is based on, captivated me in several books he authored. And he certainly did it in his story of Sully and his friends in North Bath. I recommend reading his books.

And Sully, a Checkov character in a Checkovian story, hasn't achieved much so far and probably won't. So why is he, North Bath or his story interesting enough for us? Well, it's actually funny, fascinating and fulfilling to see this aging yet immature person grow in wisdom and finally realize himself into a contented, grown-up with the blended family of his new dog, son and grandson, and lifelong friends, who love him just as he is with all of his flaws.



This may be one of Paul Newman's signature roles. Some critics and commentators think he is at his best as Sully. They use adjectives like: charming, authentic, graceful, poetic, spirited, and dramatic. The drama is what we come for, and we get it in this story of a man who finally, in the last third of his life, grows up and becomes the beautiful, loving person that God meant him to be. The audiences and critics loved this movie.



Rotten Tomatoes said it was 91% fresh; IMDb gave it a 7.3/10 score and said it was a delightful experience to be in the town of North Bath and meet all of these very real characters. It was nominated for 10 awards and won 5, three of them for Paul Newman as Best Actor in a Leading Role. Bruce Willis signed on for minimum actor's scale in order to be in this movie.



Don "Sully" Sullivan has avoided any serious duties that life requires of us. He lives according to the "Nobody's Fool" Doctrine that states that one is not to be too close or too committed or too responsible to be taken in by anyone. Singularly detached and yet blind to the opportunity of plunging into a relationship with some person and even foolishly surrendering to loving, Sully is, at the end, awake, aware and awash in a soul-satisfying way. Couldn't ask for more!

So let's go visit North Bath for an evening! We will gather in the Parlor at 6:00pm for fellowship on Tuesday, December 13th; the film will begin to roll at 6:30pm, discussion to follow. It is a great way to move toward the Christmas season and end the year! Join us! Contact me with any questions.



## ***Advent Calendars 2022 - a craft opportunity***

***By Chris Hall***

This year's Advent Calendar Craft was kicked off following the Story Time service on November 20th. There will be a second session after church on December 4th. Parents, please bring your children, and build a calendar for the Advent

season! We will meet in the Children's Chapel.

For this year's craft, we connected two empty egg cartons with ribbon, to make 24 spaces.

Then we decorated the cartons and the eggs with stickers and markers, filled 23 white eggs and a



special Golden Egg, and placed them in the cartons. Each day in Advent, the child will open an egg, read the bible verse and/or good deed challenge, and enjoy a candy treat! It's a fun way to

count down to Christmas Day, when they will open the last (Golden) egg, which their parents can fill with whatever they like.



There will be adults to help organize and help with cutting and sticking and what-not. We hope to see you there.

**Happy Advent!!**





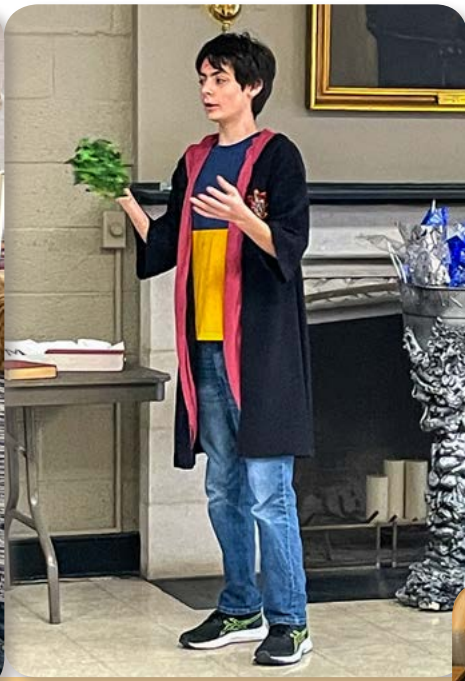
## ***Bobblehead Jesus***

*By Will Jackson*

I would like to call your attention to the great diapason organ pipes where Bobblehead Jesus has been watching over us since July. We've seen him make appearances from various spots in the chancel, most recently on the table behind Hilary's chair. He was then moved back to the choir room (where he's been for decades) and was then locked in the sacristy cabinet. A select few were made aware that he has moved to the pipe chamber (in particular the altar guild), but it is now officially being acknowledged! As Shawn Sthreshley frequently posted on Facebook during the pandemic and when he was in the chancel there was Bobblehead Jesus, "Jesus is still with us."







## Vacation Bible School 2022

*Our Harry Potter, Tri-wizard's tournament, October Halloween VBS was a great success. Join us summer 2023 when we will hold this fun event again. Yes, we tell some Bible stories as part of the experience as well as play quidditch and find your way through our maze!*





## 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](http://www.hoco.org); e-mail - [office@hoco.org](mailto: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
    - ◇ 8:45am Sunday Morning, Choir practice in the choir room (not on Thursdays at the moment).
    - ◇ 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
    - ◇ 4:30pm Story Time, in person on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 4:30pm
  - **Mondays:**
    - ◇ 7:00pm Adult Class via Zoom
  - **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
  - **Saturdays:**
    - ◇ 11:00am Misa en español, segundo sábado de cada mes
- 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 January 2023 Messenger will be available Sunday January 8th. The deadline for that edition is  
Friday December 30th.*

*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](mailto:editor@hoco.org)*

