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## *National Night Out 2023*



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for more!*



## *A Message from Hilary +*

Dear Friends and Companions in Ministry,

As we head into the last weeks of summer, I give thanks for all we did and continue to do as summer winds down. We had a wonderful



experience with Kris Rose, our seminarian intern; she was with us for eight weeks. She planned and led our Vacation Bible School. From the photos in this newsletter, you can see how much fun it was, and you can read more about it in what Kris has written. We also wanted to involve children in our Sunday 10:00 am service, which we

did by introducing the “Mystery Bag Challenge,” which was Kris’ idea. Children brought objects in a bag and I and other clergy would have to create a short sermon on the spot based on the object. One Sunday, I connected three things in my reflection. Fun! We also invited the children to gather at the Holy Table for the Great Thanksgiving, when we have the Eucharistic Prayer and consecrate the bread and the wine. My goal and hope for inviting children to be more involved is to help them know they are as valued and integral to our church and ministry as anyone. I hope you know that about yourself - you matter; you make us who we are as a community of faith, hope, and love.

As we anticipate September and the start of our program year, I’m excited for the resumption of our education programs for children and adults, youth group, our lectionary study on Thursdays, and Wednesday worship with Centering Prayer and Holy Eucharist. I’m excited that we will have Children’s Chapel every Sunday, with the 3rd Sunday being like the Story Time service that in the past has been in the afternoon. This change is a result of your requests to have Children’s Chapel every Sunday.

As well, on the 3rd Sunday in September, we will hold our first bilingual service, English and

Spanish, at 10:00 a.m. Our plan is to hold this service on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Frank Castellón and I have invited people to be part of a planning team for our Spanish-language ministry, which is more than worship. If you would like to be part of the team, just let me or Frank know. Please check out the rest of our newsletter for more information about our plans for the Fall.

Where is God in all this? God is right here with us! Through the power of the Spirit, we are inspired and strengthened to be the people and the church that God is calling us to be. I give thanks for you and your desire to serve God through our church’s ministries. Our community of faith is needed more than ever amid the challenges facing us, be they personal or national, or international matters, such as climate change. Hope is a gift of the Spirit; our church is a place where hope can grow in many ways. Hope leads to action that makes a difference. Let us rejoice in all that God makes possible!

Wishing you every blessing,

*Hilary+*



## *Un mensaje de Hilary +*

Queridos amigos(as) y compañeros(as) de ministerio,

A medida que nos acercamos a las últimas semanas del verano, doy gracias por todo lo que hicimos y seguimos haciendo antes que el verano se termine.

Tuvimos una experiencia maravillosa con Kris Rose, nuestra seminarista; ella estuvo con nosotros ocho semanas. Kris planeó y dirigió nuestra Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones. En las fotos de este boletín, pueden ver lo divertido que fue y pueden leer más sobre esto en lo que Kris ha escrito. También queríamos involucrar a los niños en nuestro servicio del domingo a las 10:00 a. m., lo cual hicimos al presentar el "Desafío de la bolsa misteriosa", que fue idea de Kris. Los niños traían objetos en una bolsa y yo y otros clérigos teníamos que crear un breve sermón en el lugar basado en el objeto. Un domingo conecté tres cosas en mi reflejo. ¡Divertido! También invitamos a los niños a reunirse en la Santa



Mesa durante la Gran Acción de Gracias, cuando tenemos la Plegaria Eucarística y consagramos el pan y el vino. Mi objetivo y esperanza de invitar a los niños a participar más es ayudarlos a saber que son tan valiosos e integrales para nuestra iglesia y ministerio como cualquiera. Espero que sepas eso también: tú importas; Tú nos haces quienes somos creando una comunidad de fe, esperanza y amor.

Mientras tanto, anticipamos septiembre y el comienzo de nuestro programa anual, estoy emocionada por la reanudación de nuestros programas de educación para niños y adultos, para el grupo de jóvenes; por nuestro estudio del leccionario los jueves; y el culto de los miércoles que comenzamos con meditación y después participamos en la Sagrada Eucaristía. Estoy emocionada de que tendremos Capilla para los niños todos los domingos, y el tercer domingo será un Tiempo de Cuentos que en el pasado ha sido en la tarde. Este cambio es el resultado de sus solicitudes de tener la Capilla de los Niños todos los domingos.

Además, el tercer domingo de septiembre tendremos nuestro primer servicio bilingüe, inglés y español, a las 10:00 a. m. Nuestro plan es realizar este servicio el tercer domingo de cada mes. Frank Castellon y yo hemos invitado a personas a ser parte de un equipo de planificación para nuestro ministerio en español, que es más que adoración. Si desea ser parte del equipo de planificación, háganoslo saber a mí o a Frank.

Consulte el resto de nuestro boletín para obtener más información sobre nuestros planes para el otoño.

¿Dónde está Dios en todo esto? ¡Dios está aquí con nosotros! A través del poder del Espíritu, somos inspirados y fortalecidos para ser el pueblo y la iglesia que Dios nos llama a ser. Doy gracias por ti y por tu deseo de servir a Dios a través de los ministerios de nuestra iglesia. Nuestra comunidad de fe es más necesaria que nunca en

medio de los desafíos que enfrentamos, ya sean personales, nacionales o internacionales, como el cambio climático. La esperanza es un don del Espíritu; nuestra iglesia es un lugar donde la esperanza puede crecer de muchas maneras. La esperanza nos lleva a tomar acción que marca la diferencia. ¡Regocijémonos en todo lo que Dios hace posible!

Deseándote todas las bendiciones,,

*Hilary+*



## ***Shrine Mont Parish Retreat 2023***

***By the Rev Dr Hilary Smith, Rector***

Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22...Join us for fun and time together on the mountain!

The program this year will focus on **creation!** Jim Bennett and I will be your leaders. Let's learn and talk about Creation Care, Eco-Justice, and Spirituality around our love of our earth and

all its creatures. As well as time together, there will be many chances for personal time. The cost includes all meals and activities, such as hiking, walking the labyrinth, and all that we will do together. Adults, double occupancy, \$172.00 each; Adults single occupancy, \$224.00; Children age 4 -

12, \$110.00; Children and infants to 4 years old, no cost to attend. We do not want the cost to keep anyone away who wants to attend; scholarships are available. Register here to attend. [https://bit.ly/hoco\\_retreat\\_23](https://bit.ly/hoco_retreat_23)

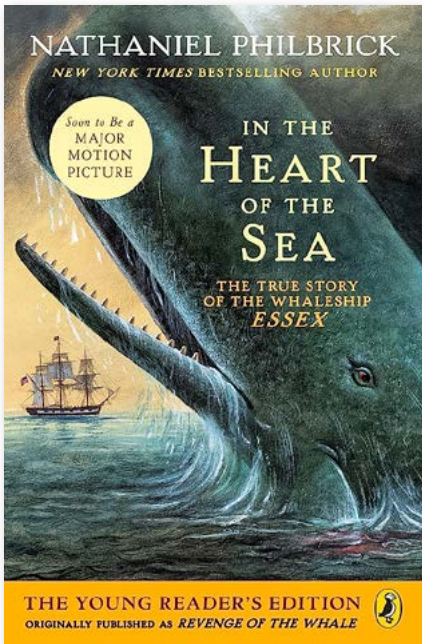




## August & September Book Club

By Stephanie Turner

To round out our summer reading we will be immersed in non-fiction through September. For our **August** meeting (Tuesday, August 15 at 7:00 pm via Zoom) we will be reading *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick, 2000 Winner of the National Book Award for Non-Fiction.



“The ordeal of the whaleship Essex was an event as mythic in the nineteenth century as the sinking of the Titanic was in the twentieth. In 1819, the Essex left Nantucket for the South Pacific with twenty crew members aboard. In the middle of the South Pacific the ship was rammed and sunk

by an angry sperm whale. The crew drifted for more than ninety days in three tiny whaleboats, succumbing to weather, hunger, disease, and ultimately turning to drastic measures in the fight for survival. Nathaniel Philbrick uses



little-known documents – including a long – lost account written by the ship’s cabin boy– and penetrating details about whaling and the Nantucket community to reveal the chilling events surrounding this epic maritime disaster.

An intense and mesmerizing read, *In the Heart of the Sea* is a monumental work of history forever placing the Essex tragedy in the American historical canon,” National Book Foundation

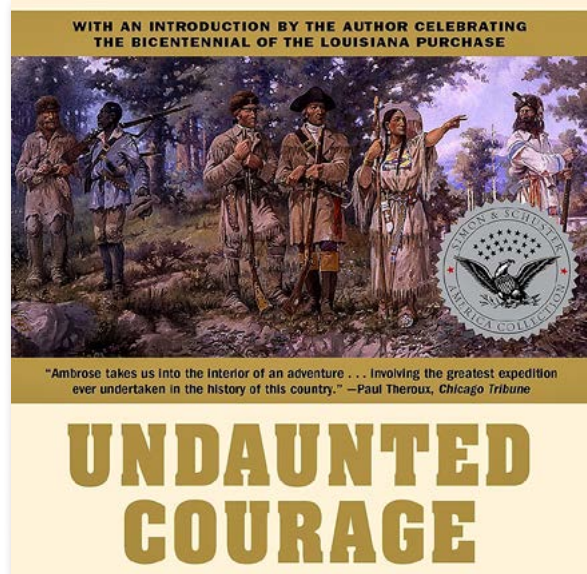
“Philbrick interweaves his account of this extraordinary ordeal of ordinary men with a wealth of whale lore and with a brilliantly detailed portrait of the lost, unique community of Nantucket whalers. Impeccably researched and beautifully told, the book delivers the ultimate portrait of man against nature, drawing on a remarkable range of archival and modern sources, including a long-lost account by the ship’s cabin boy.

“At once a literary companion and a page-turner that speaks to the same issues of class, race, and man’s relationship to nature that permeate the works of Melville, *In the Heart of the Sea* will endure as a vital work of American history,” Goodreads.

In **September** we will be reading *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose.

“From the New York Times bestselling author of *Band of Brothers* and *D-Day*, the definitive book on Lewis and Clark’s exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, the most momentous expedition in American history and one of the great adventure stories of all time,” Simon and Schuster

“In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead a voyage up the Missouri River to the





Rockies, over the mountains, down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean, and back. Lewis and his partner, Captain William Clark, made the first map of the trans-Mississippi West, provided invaluable scientific data on the flora and fauna of the Louisiana Purchase territory, and established the American claim to Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.



“Ambrose has pieced together previously unknown information about weather, terrain, and medical knowledge at the time to provide a vivid backdrop for the expedition. Lewis is supported by a rich variety of colorful characters, first of all Jefferson himself, whose interest in exploring and acquiring the American

West went back thirty years. Next comes Clark, a rugged frontiersman whose love for Lewis matched Jefferson’s. There are numerous Indian chiefs, and Sacagawea, the Indian girl who accompanied the expedition, along with the French-Indian hunter Drouillard, the great naturalists of Philadelphia, the French and Spanish fur traders of St. Louis, John Quincy Adams, and many more leading political, scientific, and military figures of the turn of the century.

“High adventure, high politics, suspense, drama, and diplomacy combine with high romance and personal tragedy to make this outstanding work of scholarship as readable as a novel,” Amazon

Our September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM. This meeting will also be via Zoom. Our Zoom link for both meetings continues to be <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99461451877>

## *Hoco Birthdays*

### *For the month of July:*

*Evan Herr, 2nd; Darlene Klenzmann, 2nd; Allen Hurdle, 4th; Mary Davis, 5th; Rob Hanayik, 5th; Judith O'Brien, 6th; Kathleen Rose, 7th; Joani Hayman, 10th; Marie McGranahan-Turner, 13th; Julie Edwards, 18th; Roberta Cline, 19th; Joan Vaughan, 19th; Richard Rose, 23rd; Garnett Christoph, 25th; Henry Dyer, 26th; Dorcas Douthitt, 27th; Joan Prest, 27th; Benjamin Raymond, 27th; Casey Falterman, 28th; Angie Palmer, 30th; Jimmy Ogle, Jr., 31st*

### *For the month of August:*

*Cameron Hunt, 6th; Anne Snyder, 6th; Nancy Deane, 8th; Charles Wolfe, 9th; Gayle Turner, 11th; Kyan Doran, 12th; Mary Thorpe, 12th; Jamey Hooks, 24th; Briana Vineyard, 25th; Wesley Nichols, 26th; Helen Reese, 26th*

### *For the month of September:*

*Gary Steffey, 2nd; Sara Shelton, 5th; John Woodward, 6th; Jennifer Woodward, 7th; Brian Davis, 9th; Lou Oatts, 9th; Christa Marshall, 10th; Sheila Wilson, 10th; Charlotte Nelson, 13th; Ellen Hall, 14th; Emily Herr, 15th; Sharon Brownlee, 17th; Lisa Sanderson, 18th; Amy Sthreshley, 21st; Susan Carvell, 23rd; Liz Scholder, 23rd; Steve Keller, 24th; Liam Davis-Vojta, 25th; Lian-Marie Holmes Munro, 26th; Christine Garcia, 28th*



## ***Even adults go back to school! Part 1***

***By Peggy Hombs***

The Sunday Morning Adult Class will resume on Sunday, September 10 th from 8:45-9:45 a.m. in the Parlor. Again this year, over the summer, participants were asked to consider a number of curriculum options and identify their top choices. The votes have been compiled, re-counted, and certified; there were no unregistered voters; the results have been not been contested or denied!

The new curriculum will be *The History of Christianity II: From the Reformation to the Modern Megachurch*. The presenter is Dr. Molly Worthen, associate professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a freelance journalist. The primary focus of this 36-lecture DVD-based course is to place Christianity in its historical context as it transforms from a relatively homogeneous entity at the end of the Middle Ages into the diverse global religion of today. Presentations will explore the basic ideas (and paradoxes) of Christian theology; see how these ideas are embedded in real life; introduce some of history’s most fascinating characters; and see how secular modernity and globalization have transformed Christianity.



The lecturer, Molly Worthen, earned a B.A. and Ph.D. in American religious history from Yale University. She is a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times. Her research focuses on North American religious and intellectual history Her most recent book, *Apostles of Reason*, examines the history of American evangelicalism since 1945, especially the internal conflicts among

different evangelical subcultures.. She is currently writing a book about the history of political and religious charisma in America. Dr. Worthen is a recent convert to Christianity.

Class participants receive a weekly email with optional read-ahead material; on Sunday the class views a 30-minute video, followed by wide-ranging discussion.

All are welcome: join us anytime to ‘taste and see’!!



## ***Even adults go back to school! Part 2***

***By Peggy Hombs***

The Monday Evening Adult Class will resume on Monday, September 11th , from 7:00-8:00 pm. via Zoom. (The Zoom link is found on the Holy Comforter website homepage.) Again

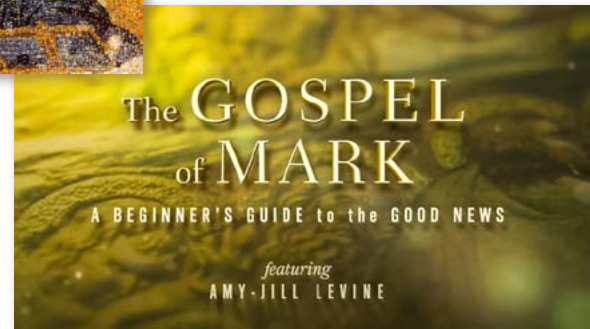
this year, over the summer, participants considered a number of curriculum options and listed their top choices. The votes have been compiled, re-counted, and certified; there were no unregistered voters; the results have not been



contested or denied!

The class will begin this fall with a

brand-new curriculum *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner’s Guide to the Good News* from an old favorite, Dr. Amy-Jill (“AJ”) Levine. In this 6-part DVD-based course, “AJ” focuses on the earliest Gospel, examining John the Baptizer, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus’ stories and parables (The Cursing of the Fig Tree, The Wicked Tenants).





The lecturer, Amy-Jill Levine, is the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace and University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies Emerita, Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies Emerita and Professor of New Testament Studies Emerita at Vanderbilt University. She is co-editor of the Jewish Annotated New Testament. She is the first Jew to teach New Testament at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute. She describes herself as an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist.

Class participants receive a weekly email with optional read-ahead material; on Monday the class views a 30-minute video, followed by a wide-ranging discussion.

**Note:** Because this course is only six sessions long, at its conclusion, the class will then begin a second curriculum *The Fall of the Pagans and the Origins of Medieval Christianity*. The lecturer for this 24-session course is Professor Kenneth W. Harl of Tulane University. More information on this course will be provided at a later date.

All are welcome: join us anytime to 'taste and see'!!



## ***New Refrigerator for Food Pantry***

***By Brian Davis***

On a recent Saturday morning in July, the over 30 visitors to our food pantry were the first to experience the newest addition to operations in the form of a glass-doored refrigerator unit. Yet again, our most extensive and continuously-running outreach effort has expanded to meet the growing needs of our guests. With this unit, we can now provide items like milk,



cheese and eggs. This is in addition to the meat, fresh vegetables or fruit, Panera bread, traditional canned and boxed items and assorted toiletries and household items that are donated by members and friends or acquired through Feedmore. From its early days as a literal closet under the stairs of the Parish Hall where visitors were handed pre-packed bags of nonperishable items with barely entering the building to the extensive operation we know today where guests are welcomed in and provided the dignity to select items just as we do in a grocery store, the food pantry is a full manifestation of how Holy Comforter lives into its mission.



## ***Registration for the 229th Annual Convention***

***From E-Communiqué, Diocese of Virginia***

The 229th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia will be held November 2-4 at the Fredericksburg Convention Center. All clergy and lay delegates must register online by October 20. Delegates should regularly check the Convention



page on the diocesan website for the latest updates, including information on hotels, agenda, nominations, resolutions, and all key deadlines.

Ministry Fair and Exhibitors Hall: Good news! There will be a Ministry Fair at this

year's Convention. The Diocese is pleased to offer for the first time free exhibitor tables for all Diocesan Related Organizations, Committees, Commissions and Task Forces. To reserve a table, please complete this form. Questions? Contact Courtenay Altaffer.

**Child Care Not Provided:** The Diocesan office was exploring the possibility of offering child care at Convention. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough interest to reach the minimum number required by the sitter service.



## ***Creation Care and the HoCo-Eco Ministry***

***By Laura Hunt***

The original HoCo Eco committee was founded in 2012 by a dedicated number of Holy Comforter parishioners (particularly Craig Anderson, Martha Jones Burford, Kipley Herr, David Lehman, and Mary Davis) to focus on what we as Christians could do to respond to God’s call that we care for his creation; and to examine through prayer, faith, education, and action how we could live responsibly with the resources given us.

The committee’s official title - HOCO ECO Stewards at Jordan’s Branch - incorporated the name of a stream that runs down the middle of Willow Lawn Drive. It is our watershed address, i.e., the stream that collects the rainwater falling on our church and carries it eventually to the Chickahominy and the Chesapeake Bay.

The committee grew out of the overwhelmingly positive congregational response to a series of events scheduled for the HoCo community during the 2012-2013 church year, in which the primary focus was the stewardship of creation:

1. A Lenten program in 2012 entitled, “And it was good - Responding to God’s Gift of Creation.” Discussions were led by congregants - including Maria Scott and Cameron Hunt - and comprised topics such as “Our Place in the Created Order” and “Jesus: The Centre & Heart of All Creation.”
2. Several Adult Forums presentations, including one by a representative from Virginia Interfaith Power and Light on how to organize ourselves for action, and another on stormwater management.
3. A Book Study of *Holy Ground – A*



*From Richmond-Times Dispatch - [https://richmond.com/news/article\\_4f157ef6-95aa-5eda-bb9f-74d58d129b82.html](https://richmond.com/news/article_4f157ef6-95aa-5eda-bb9f-74d58d129b82.html)*

*Gathering of Voices on Caring for Creation.* Published by Sierra Club Books, this collection of essays involves leaders from the world’s faith traditions sharing their personal stories of coming to understand humanity’s responsibility for creation care. Our congregation engaged in small group discussions using a study guide prepared by David Lehman.

4. The parish Shrine Mont retreat on creation care, led by the Rev. Jim Papiel, Rector at St. Anne’s, Reston (now retired).

Once formed, the HoCo Eco committee initiated an energy audit of the church property conducted by the Sustainable Technology

Institute. Steve Van Voorhees and Peggy Hombs provided a gift to cover the cost. (A copy of this audit is available from David Lehman or Laura Hunt.)

The committee reviewed the report and formulated a plan to follow its recommendations.

On Gifts-of-Service Saturdays, volunteers, including Kipley Herr, Ron Cox and Angie Palmer, sealed the

casement windows on both floors of the Parish Hall and the duct work in the basement. One window (or pair of windows) in each room was left unsealed, for natural ventilation when the weather is right.

In November of 2013, Craig Anderson, Martha Burford, and Jim Bennett partnered with colleagues from the Chesapeake Bay Association to present “Living Waters: An Interfaith Conference.”

Our biggest project - in tandem with the Vestry - was the installation of a new, highly efficient HVAC system in the church sanctuary during the fall of 2014.

The Committee also purchased a “Blue Marble” earth banner for the sanctuary and held



a showing of the movie the *Overview Effect*. In addition, enhanced recycling measures were initiated, and Green cleaning products were introduced.

Another big project was the installation of a Rain Garden in the spring of 2015. A year and a half in the planning, the idea began with a Rainwater Assessment done by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The HoCo Eco committee, with the leadership of Richard Rose and Martha Burford, and numerous volunteers, then created a 250-sq.-ft. rain garden and two bay-scapes, both filled with native plants. Rainwater is treated by filtration, passing through layers of growth medium, sand, and gravel and then into the subsoil. The Rev. Hilary Smith blessed and dedicated the site in front of the gathered congregation.

A decade ago, we sought to raise our collective awareness of the importance of Creation Care. Now, new energy is building on the efforts of the past. A new Creation Care committee, led by Jerry and Liz Scholder and Susan Boze, has been formed. Rector Hilary and Jim Bennett are planning a program for the HoCo fall retreat around the theme of Creation Care. Everyone is invited to bring their ideas and expertise to this HoCo-Eco revival. Our earth has never needed it more.



### ***Kitchen Policies***

***By Bruce MacAlister, kitchen user***

We are fortunate to have a commercial-grade kitchen at Holy Comforter. As a result we can legally prepare meals for outsiders, whether visitors in our building or food we prepare for our feeding programs.

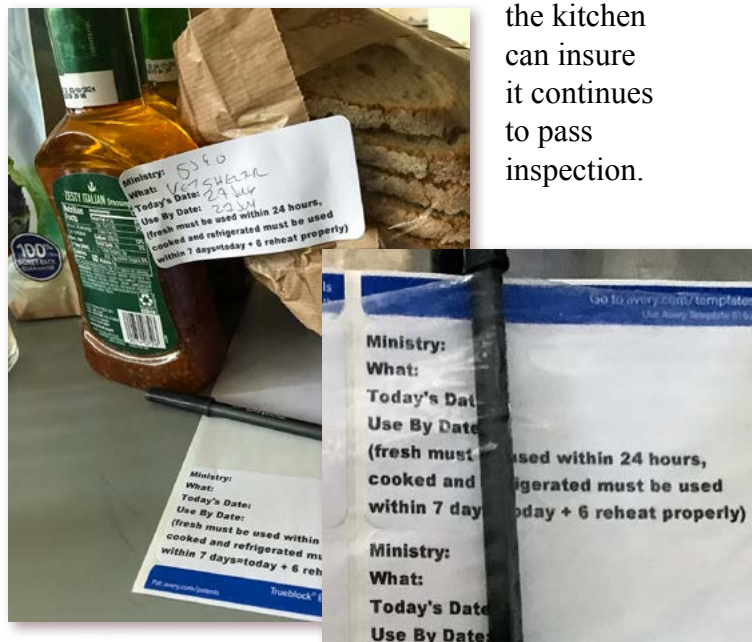
There's a catch to this; we are inspected by a government health inspector just like a commercial restaurant. Besides cleanliness, it requires us to label any food stored in the kitchen even if it's to be used only by our parishioners.

Attached to refrigerator door is a set of peel-off stickers to put on any food you bring in. On the stickers you put the purpose, the date you brought it, and the date of use. You fill it out and stick them on your food. Weekly the contents of the

refrigerator and cabinets and any out-of-date and unlabeled food is thrown out.

A lot of parishioners worked and contributed funds over many years to make sure we had a commercial-grade kitchen. Our proper use of

the kitchen can insure it continues to pass inspection.

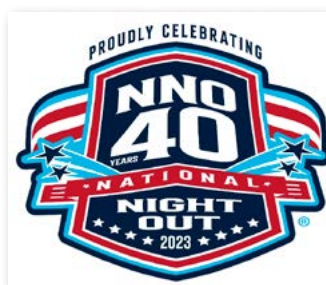


### ***Neighborhood Night Out***

***By Hilary Smith, Rector***

We had a wonderful time on Tuesday, August 1, which was National Night Out across the country. In our HoCo neighborhood, we celebrated with neighbors and friends. The children loved the fire truck! We met people who

recently moved into the neighborhood and people who have been here for some time.





## *Sixty years of marriage*

*By the Rev Dr Hilary Smith, Rector*

One day this summer, I had the fun of interviewing parishioners Bruce and Kathy MacAlister about their 60th wedding anniversary that they celebrated on June 8th.

We laughed a lot during our time together.

Hilary: Congratulations on your 60th anniversary. Knowing that we would be talking today, did anything come to mind that you particularly would like to share about your life together?

Bruce: When people say to Kathy, “How have you been married that long,” her answer is, “Neither of us owned a gun.”

Kathy: And no imagination.

Hilary: How did you two meet?

Bruce: We had a Homecoming Game coming up (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), and I had met Kathy through her friend with whom I had just broken up; Kathy seemed nice so I asked her if she wanted to go and she said yes.

Hilary: So you both were at the same school.

Bruce: Yes, I came about a year after Kathy when I got out of the Navy;

Kathy: I started college in 1959, it would have been 1961 [when we started dating].

Bruce: We started hanging out together.

Hilary: What did you like about each other?

Bruce: We both like humor; we like to laugh. We worked on shows, plays, together, rigging the lights and working with the sound. We would go up into the sound-lighting booth and neck.

Kathy: We would lock the door.

Kathy: And we took some classes together. Bruce was always setting the curve.

Hilary: Kathy, what drew you two together from your perspective?

Kathy: He was cute and kissed good. No, but we would go study together, it was just compatibility, friendship more than lust.

Bruce: But it became more lustfully.

Kathy: Yes.

Hilary: At what point did you think, she is the one for me or he is the one for me? When did you ask Kathy to marry you or Kathy did you ask him?

Bruce: We just kind of realized that we didn’t what to leave each other. We just wanted to hang together, for the foreseeable future. We kind of agreed we would get married.

Kathy: We agreed. And then my Dad came to school. I told him Bruce and I want to get married. He flipped. I was his favorite kid. Dad said, “He is too old for you.”

Hilary: You were the same age, right?

Bruce: I was two years older.

Kathy: Then Dad said, “He was in the Navy.” “He is like a dog sniffing around.” I told him I would be 21 when we wanted to get married, and we could do what we want. To that Dad said, “OK, I still don’t like him.”

Bruce: He didn’t accept me until we had a child; and then it was like, “You’re ok.” We got married in 1963 and Heather came in 1969.

Hilary: You got married. You loved each other.

Kathy: Yes, most of the time.

Bruce: Yes, we loved each other, but you know... Our daughter made us wine glasses that say on one side, “60 years of marriage” and on the other, “54 of the best years of our life.” That is a realistic look at a long-term relationship.

Hilary: Do people ever ask you what the secret





is to being married for so long?

Bruce: Well, every ten years or so we'd get really stuck in a bad place. We'd have to go hire a professional – a marriage counselor, a shrink, somebody – to get us unstuck.

Hilary: Is it just luck? You found each other or is it more work or a combination?

Bruce: There is perseverance in it; you have to decide; you have to understand that there are going to be tough times; there may be times when you're going to be in love but not in like. Life has lots of tough times in it; you can't just give up every time something happens.

Kathy: Hey we made it to 60. Let's try for 70.



## ***Starting in September...***

### **Lectionary Study returns**

Join us on Zoom, at 4 pm, Thursdays. The Zoom link is found on our website, [www.hoco.org](http://www.hoco.org). We consider the biblical readings for the coming Sunday. Our rector, Hilary, leads this time of reflection and discussion. This is a great way to prepare for Sunday! We have fun and wide-ranging discussions of how the readings speak to us in the context of our lives, politics, social issues, and more. Background information is also provided so that we understand the context of the readings - what they meant long ago to people whose circumstances were so different from ours. We come back from our break in August on Thursday, September 7. We are using Track 1. <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#september>

### **Rector's Read**

During June and July, we met on Tuesdays at 11:00 am to discuss *The Nones* by Ryan Burge.



Our group numbered around 10. We have decided to keep meeting and will begin again on Tuesday, September 19, 11:00 am to discuss, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community*, by Stephanie Spellers. You do not need to attend every week to participate. Join us in the parlor when it works for you.

### **Wednesday Worship returns**

Wednesday worship at church: Centering Prayer, 11:30 am, for 20 minutes, and then a service of the Holy Eucharist at Noon. We often observe the feast day of a saint of the Church. We return from our August break on Wednesday, September 6, when we will be observing the Saint's Day of St. Aidan.



## ***Rowan Academy Tour***

The Rowan Academy - that occupies the second floor of the parish house - invites the congregation to tour the refurbished facilities and meet the faculty and staff.

Open house is Sunday August 20th right after church services.





## ***Seminarian's Message***

***By Kris Rose, Seminarian***

I am so grateful for my time at HoCo, and you will always have a special place in my heart. I knew I would be here for two months



when I entered the internship, but I never imagined it would fly by so quickly. Thank you for welcoming me into your family.

When I started my internship, one of my goals was to

improve my preaching. I am grateful for Hilary's mentorship, tips, and ideas for strengthening my sermon. My mentoring committee also provided valuable feedback during this time. I was able to preach with a prepared sermon and without a prepared sermon during Wednesdays' Eucharists. While disappointed that I could not be with you on my last Sunday because of Covid, I was happy I could remain connected online. It was an interesting and valuable experience to hear parts of the sermon I had written preached by someone else. I may incorporate this in my practice of preparation. I also enjoyed my time with the lectionary group on Zoom, listening to the different voices as the scripture spoke to them and listening to where the spirit was leading me in crafting the sermon I was preparing.

On Sundays, another joy was serving at the altar and serving you the consecrated wine/ blood of Christ. The connection to you through looking into your eyes brought many untold stories to the altar, and I experienced the connection across time and space. The touch of a hand as communion was served often felt like the hand of God and

when too short to reach the tallest of our family it felt like God reminding me, I will hold this for you. The reminders struck each week of the connectedness, the stories told and untold, the need to let go and the need to hold on and how we are all on this wonderful journey together to tune out the voices of the world and to grow into the unique creation God created to love and to serve in the world. It was also a joy to be present with the children at the altar and to see their curiosity, wonder and exploration of a new space for them.

While many of you may have only seen me on Sundays, the rest of my week was busy. There were so many ways of communicating that happened texts, emails, phone calls, visits, and meetings. So much behind the scenes work goes on each week to keep the church running but it not only involves clergy, but so many of you are present at meetings, preparing for services, tending to the the church grounds, repairing the buildings, working with the preschool to foster community, serving those whose needs come from the unjust practices in our society resulting in food insecurity, feeling unseen and unloved, and being the voice in the world that says "You matter, You are not a mistake, but perfectly made and loved by God." We see you and love you too. I also witnessed communications of disagreements, but in these communications, I saw a need to understand where the conflict was coming from and to do what was best for the church not what was best for the self or ego. Thank you for modeling that conflict is not always bad but can have positive results.

I was also blessed to work behind the scenes to help prepare for Hilary's decade of shared ministry celebration and the "Waves of Gratitude" Vacation Bible School. Yet, neither of these events could have happened without help from you. I am grateful for the partnerships that formed in these events. You provided pictures, told me stories, and sent notes for Hilary. Vacation Bible School brought out cooks, graphic design help, banner-creating advice, and banner hanging help, tossing around ideas to provide activities fitting to the theme each evening, music leadership, and beautiful artwork from children of God across



generations. One of the joys during VBS was seeing the adults and children playing together, singing together, creating together, and, let's not forget, sharing meals together. Another great joy and reminder came as one of our youth led the family compline service on the last night. While young, I often find that our youth can be gateways to God. Because of their age, they can often be dismissed, and I enjoyed listening to their voices and wondering alongside them. Thanks to everyone who supported and attended the VBS program this year; with your help and attendance, the program was a success.

Another thing that was meaningful to me was pastoral care. Having served last summer as a chaplain in a hospital, I am grateful for all the skills I learned. I am thankful to those who allowed me to walk beside you in your journey and to let me into the tender and vulnerable places to be present with you, not only to respond pastorally but to learn from you. Thank you for the gift of walking beside you.

As I wrap up my experiences here at HoCo, I give thanks for the witness of the people in this church. You are working together to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world



## ***Pastoral Care at HoCo Update***

***By Julie Edwards, Vestry Pastoral Care Liaison***

This is a general update for our Pastoral Care at HoCo. We have monthly meetings on zoom, usually the 2nd Wednesday 4:30-5:30. If you are interested in our Pastoral ministries, let me know at [j.s.edwards508@outlook.com](mailto:j.s.edwards508@outlook.com). I'll send you a Zoom invite.

### **Ministry areas**

1. Healing Team - Diane Gilkinson
2. Meals Ministry - need coordinator - please let me know if you're interested!
3. Prayer Shawl Ministry - on hold for now. If you are interested, speak with Nancy Deane
4. Email Prayer Chain - Hilary Smith
5. Card Ministry - Judy Dyer Harris. Judy reports that 5-25 birthday cards are sent every

month; Cards are sent to people on the prayer list as well as to shut-ins. (FYI: stamps are provided.)

6. Transportation Ministry - need coordinator, please let me know if you're interested!
7. Visitation Ministry - typical visitors are our clergy and committee members
8. Eucharistic Ministry - currently being handled by clergy and will open up to lay-people soon
9. Curbside Prayer Ministry - Joe Klenzmann
10. Holiday Grief Workshop (Thanksgiving/Christmas-time) - Julie Edwards

For more details of each ministry, you can find them on the HoCo website under Ministries. The URL is [https://hoco.org/ministries\\_pastoral\\_care.htm](https://hoco.org/ministries_pastoral_care.htm).

### **New ministry ideas**

11. Caregiver support - provide respite care, giving the caregiver a break to run errands or do something for themselves; Send supportive greeting cards.
12. Team approach to provide support for our at-home members as well as for those coming out of the hospital
13. Support for new parents - supportive notecards, start a sharing library of helpful parenting books

If you know of a HoCo person in need of one of these ministries, please make us aware. If you have ideas and/or would like to be involved in existing ministries, your presence is more than welcome!





## ***Men at the movies are coming!***

***By Steve Van Voorhees***

After a brief summer vacation, Men at the Movies returns on Tuesday, September 11th! The feature film, *The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!*, was the final class paper in a university English class in Novosibirsk, Siberia, some 50 years after it was released. The American teacher, Sarah Lindemann-Komarova, shared this part of one of her student's papers on the movie.

"The film is an excellent example of a comedy that plays on the fears and prejudices of "Cold War" panic, stereotypes about Russians and how policy can make essentially good people enemies. A pleasant surprise is that in the movie there are no drunken Russian men, caviar or bears, the classic Western attributes of Russian identity. Soviet soldiers are portrayed as a bit cartoonish, speaking with strong accents, but they are not enemies. They are shown to be nice, positive people trapped in a difficult situation.

"Even though it is dealing with serious problems, the film is uplifting and you can't help smiling when you watch it. It turns little melodramatic towards the end and leaves you in the mood to think. The central idea of the film is expressed in the words of a sailor, Alexei Kolchin, when he says to a local girl, "I do not want to hate." It is interesting that the film was released at the height of the Cold War and that despite hostility between the countries, the Russians were portrayed in a positive light."

Mrs. Komarova's students were born around 1995 and had not lived in the CCCP, so this was

a history project for them. Mrs. Komarova also noted that the students remarked that small towns in Russia and the US were very similar and the people's behaviors are no different. They also laughed more because the producer/director Norman Jewison had required that the actors portraying Russians actually speak Russian. Mrs. Komarova thought it a little sad that a movie



made at the beginning of the Vietnam War was still relevant as a story today. Her Russian students 'got' the meaning of the movie and the humor.

Norman Jewison, the producer/director, also made several other Oscar-winning movies, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *Moonstruck*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, and *Agnes of God*. Many people think he is Jewish because of his surname, but he is a Canadian Protestant of English descent, born in

Toronto, and he served in the Royal Canadian Navy.

What happens if a Russian submarine runs aground while playing tourist at a Massachusetts island? The movie answers that question as it unravels a madcap story with young lovers,



curious Russian Navy men, one calm American (the town's police chief Link Mattocks), the summer resident Walt Whittaker, and the sub's 'political officer' Yuri Rozanov trying to figure



out how to resolve the frenzied situation. At the end, after everything is settled peacefully, the town drunk rides his horse over the entire island, Paul Revere style, shouting “The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming!” after the Russians have left.



This movie wowed both Russian and American audiences; Rotten Tomatoes gives it 86%, IMDb a 7/10, 70% of Google users liked it. Robert Alden, New York Times, called it “a rousingly funny-and perceptive-motion picture about a desperately unfunny world situation.” Richard Coe in the Washington Post, said it’s a “refreshingly witty topical comedy.” The film was actually well received in the Soviet Union and got positive comments from Russians. It was screened in the Kremlin and it was reported that Sergei Bondarchuk, head of the Soviet Writers Union, was moved to tears. Some sources said the Russians were a little disappointed they hadn’t thought of the story first. It was nominated for 4 Oscars and won a Golden Globe award for Best Picture and Best Actor, Alan Arkin in his movie debut.

If you were the captain of a Russian submarine and hadn’t ever visited coastal New England, wouldn’t you want to check it out? He maneuvers the Octopus (Cnpyt-Russian, pronounced “Sprout”) into a cove, runs aground at low tide and from

that simple mistake launches a really hilarious story of people caught in a practical and natural dilemma that requires them to reach out in basic humanity across a historical and cultural divide to solve real problems that they share together. The international background hasn’t changed much in terms of East-West tensions since 1966. WE are now challenged to think about world peace, sustainability and harmony, while all that is threatened by autocrats in Russia, Iran and China and by ‘wanna-be saviors’ in our own country,

Come cruise with us in the Octopus at Men at the Movies on Tuesday night, September 11th, in the Parlor. All men at invited! We will gather around 6:00pm for fellowship, the movie rolls around 6:30pm with discussion. Bring your own food and drink; bring a friend.

*Director of Music Jim Bennett, harmonium in one hand and the piano in the other with Art Raymond on guitar.*



## 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

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

[Hoco web site calendar page](#)

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

• **Sundays:**

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

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

• **Wednesdays:**

◇ 11:30am Centering Prayer, in person in the in the church

◇ Noon Holy Communion, in person in the church

• **Thursdays:**

◇ 4:00pm Lectionary Study, Zoom

◇ 7:00-8:15pm Weekly choir rehearsal

**Food Pantry Hours:**

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

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

**Veterans Shelter Dinner:**

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

**Side by Side Dinner:**

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

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

*The October Messenger will be available Sunday October 1st. The deadline for that edition is Friday September 22nd. We really like to have your articles before the deadline!*

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

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

