

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

111 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
SMITHFIELD, VA 23430
OFFICE: 757-357-2826 OR 357-2810
FAX: 757-357-2810



THE WORD – DECEMBER 2023



CEC BOOK STUDY GROUP

Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

The group will meet weekly on Thursday evenings at 6:00 at CEC beginning Oct 12th.

***There will be a few dates during the selected time frame that we will not meet due to holidays.*

The study will cover the classic Mere Christianity by CS Lewis and will be held over 13 weekly sessions. No registration needed. Open to all adults 18 and older.

The book itself is divided into 4 separate sections:

- **Book 1- Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe**
- **Book 2- What Christians Believe**
- **Book 3-Christian Behavior**
- **Book 4- Beyond Personality: Or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity**

Below are the suggested dates/ sessions for discussion:

		2024	
Dec 7	Book 3/ chapters 7, 8		
Dec 14	Book 3/ chapters 9,10,11,12	Jan 4	Book 4/chapters 1, 2, 3
Dec 21	No meeting/holidays **	Jan 11	Book 4/chapters 4, 5, 6
Dec 28	No meeting /holidays **	Jan 18	Book 4/chapters 7, 8, 9
		Jan 25	Book 4/chapters 10/11



Hospitality

Thank
You

Thank you to those who provided Hospitality for November: Beth Harris, Freddie Chapman and Betsy & Bill Egan. I am so grateful for the help I have gotten on Sundays when I do Hospitality. I meant to written down the names of my helpers, so that I can say thank you her in my article; however, I have not gotten “around ‘tuit’ so I will trust my very poor memory.

If I leave any of my helpers off, please email me so that I can name you in my helpers’ list in January. Here goes: Thank you to those who helped me when I hosted: Bill & Betsy Egan, Demere Bates, Mary Cole, Freddie Chapman, April Jones, and Pretlow Pacheco.

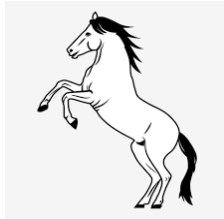
We need volunteers to sign up to provide the goodies, do set up and cleanup for Hospitality after 10:30 a.m. Small groups or ministries of Christ Church as well as individuals are invited to sign up. Please “stake your claim to host Sunday Hospitality”. You can do this by signing up on the Winter schedule on the kitchen door at the church. I will be putting the Winter Sign-up sheet up around the middle of December. 10

If you have that “itch” to bake all our part of the goodies you bring; you are most welcome to do so. However, store bought ones are perfectly fine. What is most important is that we have time for fellowship and conservation.

In Christ’s Name,
Martha Underwood, Hospitality Chair



**White
Horse
Fellowship**



We will not meet
in December.
Will resume at Tokyo Thai
Tuesday, January 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.



Call or email
Edith Raby:
757-605-8020;
egrhosanah@aol.com
for more information
or if you have
questions.

Open Mic Nite
Friday 7 PM
Musicians, Comics,
Poets, Stories



DONATIONS GO TO
OUTREACH



Next OMN: Friday, December 15, 2023



Deadline for:
January, 2023 WORD:
Wednesday,
December 18, 2023
by 5:00 p.m.

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY (EYC)

As some of you know, we restarted EYC in September of 2022. Pretlow Pacheco and Annamaria Pencola have been co-sponsoring the group.

What has our youth been doing?



Our group of 10 has stayed quite busy. Every Sunday night we have snack time, fellowship time, and discussion time. So far, we have had an ice-cream social at the ice cream shop in town as well as a nature walk to follow the creation theme. WE discussed Ruth and Naomi, Jonah and the Whale, and then shifted to the New Testament. We began the Parables last year and continued with them this year. We expanded on them by having the youth break into groups where they presented what they believed the parable meant. One

group did Jesus and the Dead Man (Lazarus), a second group did the Thief in the Night and the final group did The Good Samaritan. Some participated in "Operation Christmas Child" as well. Youth is doing a service project of collecting food for COP an outreach project. Each Sunday during Advent the youth will hang the appropriate Advent banner and light the Advent candles. Then, they read what each candle is a symbol of and lead the congregation in an Advent prayer. While participating in Advent activities, we also be preparing for Christmas Eve.

We will be starting our New Year (2024) on January 7th. We will begin a study of "making an impact" and then talk about Jesus as a child. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please make them aware of our group and invite them to join us. Sundays at 6PM. The second Sunday Night in January will be "Bring a Friend Night".

As a final note, we appreciate all the support our parents have given us. We will continue to focus on "Living and Loving Like Christ" and how to apply this concept to our daily lives. +



Martin's Corner

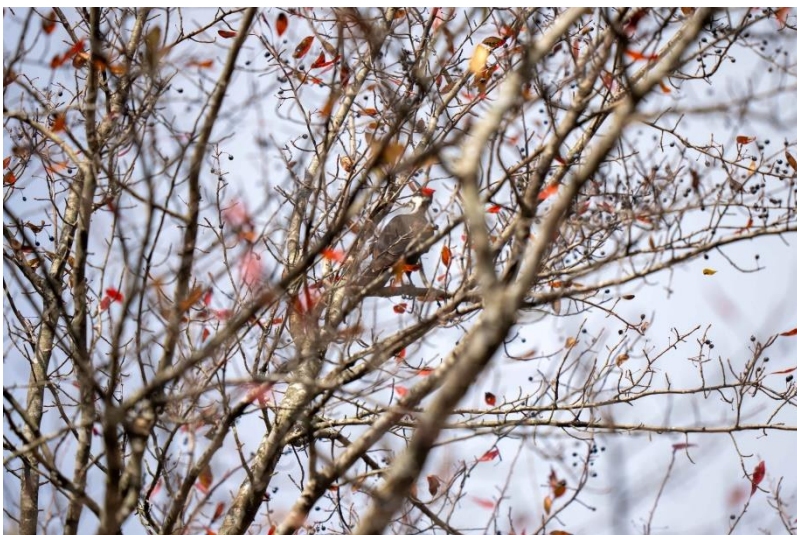
Part 1

On the morning of November 18, my black lab Zoe and I were all snuggled in an easy chair by the fireplace when there arose such a clatter, I sprang up to see what was the matter. Being the ultimate curmudgeon, I grouchyly made it to the back door to see what was so important to get me away from the cozy fireplace. Lo and behold, it was Lady J rudely and repeatedly knocking on the back window and loudly proclaiming that I should get up and come see what was in the backyard. Lady J excitedly announced that she heard a different bird in our back forest and had identified it with the Cornell Merlin app on her I-phone as being the highly sought after pileated woodpecker.

All the sudden my brain switched gears and I became lively and quick. Away from the door I flew from the sash, as I knew that I must quickly retrieve my camera and flash. More rapid than eagles I made it to my camera in the truck and hoped that the bird would still be there with some luck. My eyes how they twinkled when I saw the pileated remain, I hoped upon hope it would not rain.

For over 20 years we have had pileated woodpeckers visit our backyard around the winter holidays. We have never understood why they suddenly appear and just as suddenly were gone. So, I set about as quickly as possible digitally recording this momentous occasion, hoping some clues would result as to why they were here.

The first image to obtain was hopefully a full body clear shot of the bird from among the

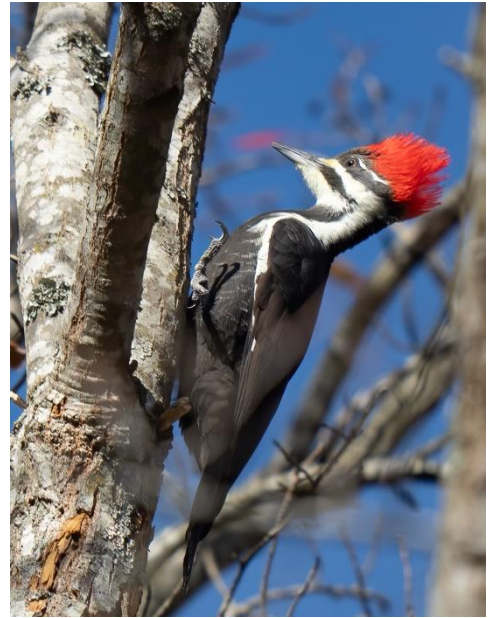


cluster of surrounding branches. However, as can be seen by the first image, the pileated was happily nested in many small branches dining on the few remaining blue berries and was quite difficult to photograph. For a brief moment, it flew to the trunk of the tree as shown in the second image on the next page, where I was able to record a single

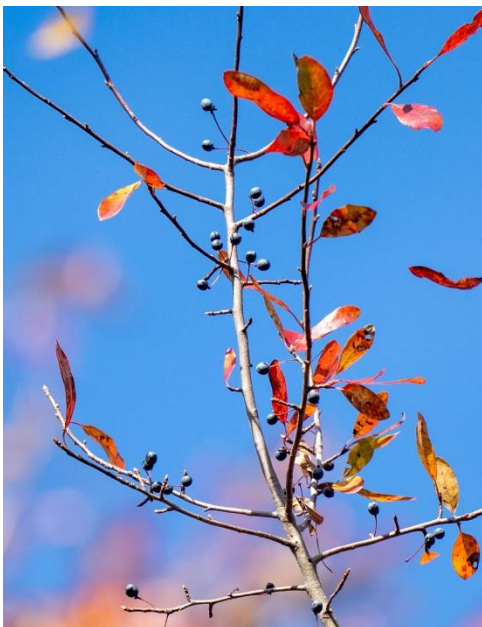
decent image. It only stayed there for a few seconds and immediately flew away. To better appreciate the unique beauty of the pileated woodpecker, an expanded version is shown in the third image.



2 Pileated woodpecker in the tree



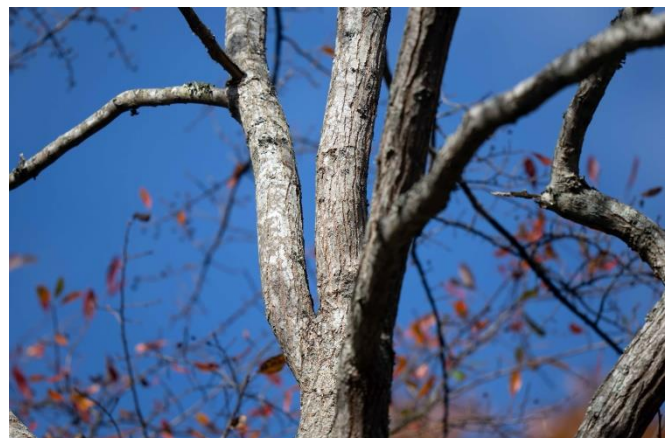
3 Close-up photo of our feathered friend



4 Berries of a blue color the pileated was after.

After looking at the images recorded, it was observed that the tree was loaded with some type of blue berry that the pileated was after, thus solving the mystery. A branch of the tree with a few berries and leaves is shown in the fourth image and a close-up of the trunk is shown in the fifth image. We were wondering if this could be a choke berry or service berry bush. However, this is a tree that is over 40 feet tall. If there are any foresters out there that

recognize this tree, please let us know.



5 Mystery Tree



6 Two pileated woodpeckers engaged in a possible ceremonial mating ritual

Twenty-one years ago, in our backyard, I took a photo with a film camera of two pileated woodpeckers doing what appeared to be a ceremonial mating ritual dancing around a holly tree as shown in the last image. This event lasted for over 30 minutes. So, the pileated woodpeckers have been visiting us for quite a while and now we think we know why. However, we would

still like to know the tree variety.

Happy Holidays
Lady J, Martin, and Zoe

Part 2



Thanks to all for suggestions as to the identity of the mystery tree upon which the pileated woodpecker was found. After chasing down all the suggestions, I believe the tree is a black gum. This suggestion was sent by my grandson, Martin Milton Mikulas IV. Although he is an entomologist by profession, his hobby is botany. In fact, a black gum is one of his favorite trees and he has one planted in his backyard. I have attached a file image of a black gum tree in the first image. It looks just like the one in our backyard. The tree was covered with blue berries instead of gumballs and the birds love them.



As a second note, I did not like the background branches cluttering up the pileated woodpecker image so I eliminated them as shown in the second image. This photo editing process was accomplished with the use of the recent Artificial Intelligence update of Photoshop. AI reduces the editing time of a typical photo from an hour or more to a few minutes.

Martin



Part 3

Brenda Bergevin that lives near our yacht club, alerted Lady J that a strange looking bird was frequenting the pier. Being quite curious, we decided to check it out. Indeed, the strange bird was a Roseate Spoonbill that is not commonly seen in this area. The spoonbill was perched atop a piling at the end of the Gatling Pointe yacht club pier as shown in the attached photo. The spoonbill is a native of the southern states around Florida and seemed content to rest on the piling before continuing its journey home.



"In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence."

— Robert Lynd



FLOWER GUILD NEEDS YOU!

Help! The Flower Guild has only four members now! None of us are professional, but we enjoy our ministry of placing fresh flowers on our altar every Sunday that we have a service there. (We do not use flowers at St. Luke's.) If you would like to participate and help, please let me know. AND we use to have two gentlemen in our group!

Joanne Willis
757-651-2692

2023 SUPPLY PRIESTS AND MUSCIANS IN DECEMBER				
Dates		Priest	Music	Time
Dec. 3		Carleton Bakkum	Andy & Bill	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 10		Carleton Bakkum	Elsa Bakkum	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 17		David Lassalle	Aaron Gregory	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Carleton Bakkum	Elsa Bakkum	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 31	St. Luke's	Carleton Bakkum	Elsa Bakkum	10:30 a.m.

ONLY ONE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM

This program was born here in CEC and started by Gene Lowery and Fred Glanville. We deliver food to the Isle of Wight County facility on an on-going basis. Our food is currently being delivered by Wayne Willis after donations are given by our congregation at Christ Church. Christian Outreach ALWAYS needs volunteers (2-4 hours per month) to help distribute and take in food, diapers, etc. If you can volunteer to work for the COP please call for details of hours of operation or check out their website at: <https://iowcop.net>. Thank you.



HELP FILL THE COP FOOD PANTRY SHELVES



Christ Church participates in collecting non-perishable food items on Sundays for the Food pantry at COP (Christian Outreach Program). This is an important ministry to those who are hungry. Anything you can drop off at church in the “outreach” basket will be greatly appreciated. The basket is located under the mailboxes. Thank you KINDLY and GOD BLESS!.

COP Shopping List

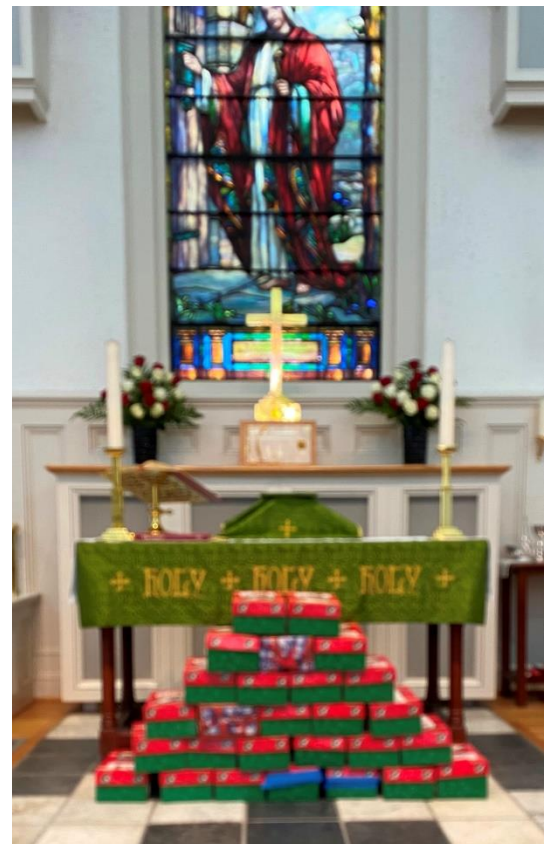
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soups
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Baby Food
- Granola Bars
- Diapers – sizer 5 or 6

November

Memories



**Ingathering of Gift Boxes for
Operation Christmas Child
Sunday, November 12, 2023**



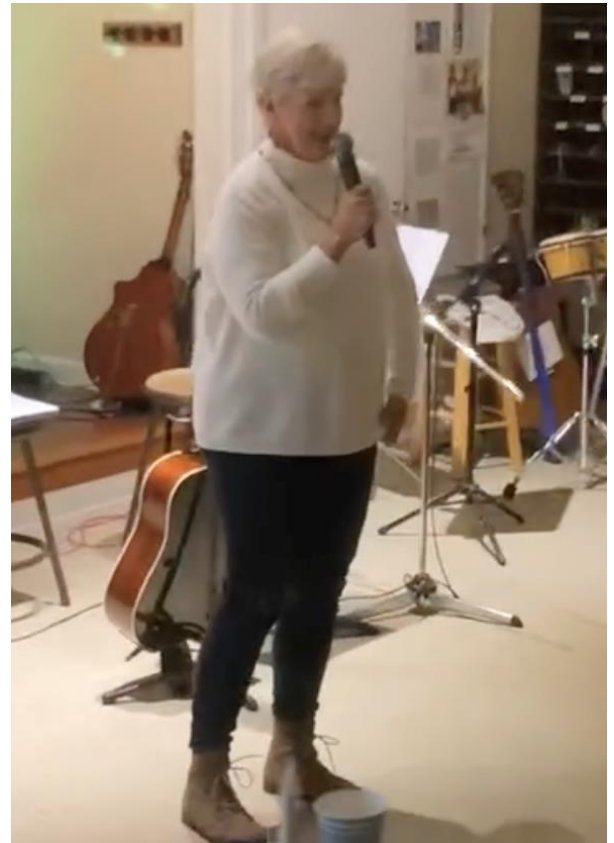
OPEN MIC

NITE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023



Vince Falcione singing & playing a few of everyone's favorite songs.



Nancy Burke sparked laughter as she provided us some comic relief.



Mark D'Etcheverry takes a break from playing the bass with the JamN group to share other gifts with us.



Jim Abicht delights us with his singing and playing while weaving his special humor into his music.



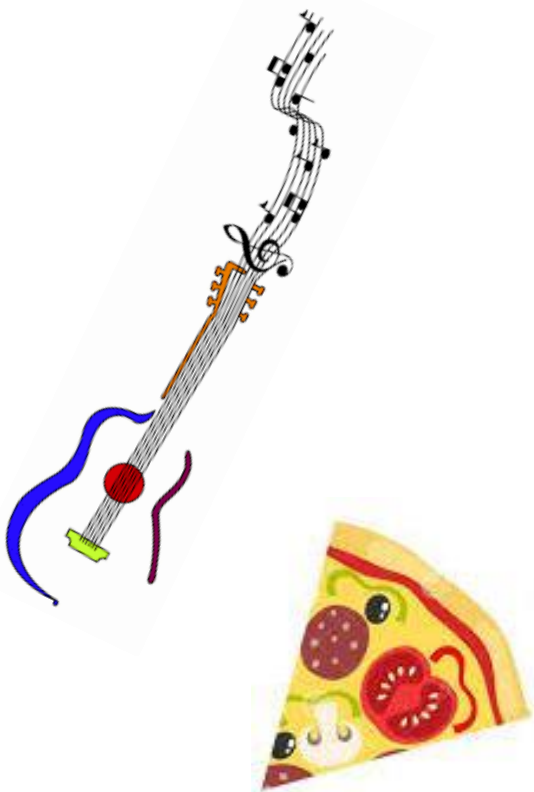
Christina shared a number of her family stories.



Shah Arnold - Shares his music creations which always bring out new flavors of music to OMN.



The JamN Group - Scott Hamilton, Bill Egan, Mark D'Etcheverry, Drex Bradshaw, Jeff Bolt, Annamarie Pencola, Richard Rhodes




Jessica & Scott Hamilton keep the pizza and music flowing.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
1st Sunday of Advent 3 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	4	5	6	7	8	9
2nd Sunday of Advent 10 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	11	12 White Horse will continue in January 2024	13	14	15 7pm Open Mic Nite	16
3rd Sunday of Advent 17 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	18	19 Vestry Meeting	20	21	22	23
4th Sunday of Advent 24 & <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:30pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist, Rite II	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30am Rite II at Christ Church (not St. Luke's)						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 
7 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30 EYC	8	9 6:30pm White Horse Fellowship at Tokyo Thai	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30 EYC	15	16 Vestry Meeting	17	18	19 7pm Open Mic Nite	20
21 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30 EYC	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30 EYC	29	30	31			



- 1 Ed Mortimer
- 2 Eric Leaman
- 3 Deborah Webb
- 4 Beth Harris
- 6 Annamaria Pencola

- 14 Maryann Amato
- 18 Bel Pencola
- 24 Mary Lindner
- 30 Walter Odipo

- 3 Edith Raby
- 13 Letty Gambacorta
- 15 Julian Leaman
- 17 Joan Lee Mikulas
- 22 Terry Andrews
- 30 Michael Dubinsky