

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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SMITHFIELD, VA 23430
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THE WORD – JANUARY 2024

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Released from Hospital

(from the Episcopal News Service)

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has been released from the hospital following surgery January 6 for a reoccurrence of a subdural hematoma. He will continue his recovery at home under the supervision of his doctors. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

Please continue to hold Bishop Curry, his family, and medical team in your prayers.

For all updates on Bishop Curry's health go to: <https://mailchi.mp/diosova/health-update-on-presiding-bishop-michael-curry?e=575aebbe1b>.



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ's Church,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and calls during my recuperation from knee replacement surgery in September. Then a few weeks later when I started Physical Therapy, meals were brought to us twice a week. I so enjoyed the variety of foods.

Each Sunday Andy played for service was such a high, the highest point in my week! Last Sunday was such a sweet send off! The cake was so lifelike and the framed picture is such a meaningful gift.

May the peace of the Lord be always with the whole state of Christ Episcopal Church.



Your sister in Christ,
Bel

Hospitality



Thank you to those who provided Hospitality for December:
Demere & John Bates and Betsy & Bill Egan.

We need volunteers to sign up to provide the goodies, do set up and cleanup for Hospitality after 10:30 a.m. Please sign up for a Sunday on the Winter schedule on the kitchen door at the church.

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 conversation.

In Christ's Name,
Martha Underwood, Hospitality Chair



Tuesday, February 13

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by the men of the church

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Service

Times to be Announced.

CEC BOOK STUDY GROUP

Please join us on Thursday evenings at 6pm for the study of the classic Christian book, **Mere Christianity** by CS Lewis. Open to all adults 18 and older.

Schedule of Chapters to Discuss:

Jan 4 Book 3/ chapters 9,10

Feb 1 Book 4/chapters 5, 6

Jan 11 Book 3 / chapter 11, 12

Feb 8. Book 4 / chapters 7, 8

Jan 18 Book 4/chapters 1, 2

Feb 15 Book 4 / chapters 9, 10

Jan 25 Book 4/chapters 3, 4

Feb 22. Book 4/ chapter 11



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



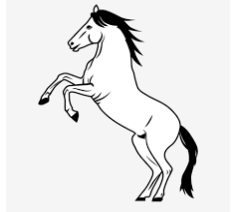
Martin Luther King Jr. Day fell on – Monday, Jan. 15 — and this year, the federal holiday falls on the actual birthday of the celebrated civil rights leader who was assassinated more than a half a century ago.

(from www.npr.org/2024/01/11/1223867834/mlk-day-history-federal-holiday)

In the mid-1950s, King led the movement to end segregation and counter prejudice in the United States through the means of peaceful protest. His speeches—some of the most iconic of the 20th century—had a profound effect on the national consciousness. Through his leadership, the civil rights movement opened doors to education and employment that had long been closed to Black America.

(from www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/martin-luther-king-jr)

White Horse Fellowship



Our next dinner
will be held

at



Tokyo Thai
on



Tuesday, February 27, 2024

*Changed to 4th Tuesday due to
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on 2nd Tuesday*



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
CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM



Next OMN: Friday, January 19, 2023

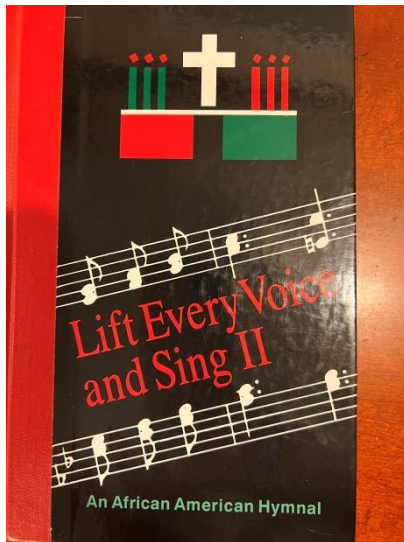


Deadline for:
February WORD:
Wednesday, January 24
by 5:00 p.m.



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING II (LEVAS), NOW FOUND IN THE PEWS

(Behind our music scenes at CEC for Sunday morning support)



COVID has become a measurement for so many things. The “LEVAS” Hymnal, now in the pews, has not been used since our shutdown. After COVID, when services began again, the Pencolas had returned to CEC, and Andy and Annamaria agreed to help with the music by using *JourneySongs*, used at the Catholic Church when they were in charge of music there. This book of music contains a number of familiar pieces our congregation is familiar with, and it prevents the massive amount of copying that was done several years earlier because these pieces are not a part of the 1982 Hymnal.

Additionally, Annamaria pointed out that the *JourneySongs* book was already approved for streaming and would not cause copyright issues. Andy, Annamaria, Lee, and Bill introduced *JourneySongs* to support music at two, or more, of our services each month, until Andy recently went on leave taking with him his accompaniments to *JourneySongs* in his head. We have no piano accompaniment book - just a guitar melody with chords, which Andy had used for years adding his own accompaniments to the tunes.

With five musicians helping with CEC music in the absence of Heidi Bloch, who was our music director for nineteen years until COVID, Annamaria and I decided it would be too complicated to try to continue with the same music for service support twice a month as Andy had done. While the Pencolas had been selecting music for services for Andy’s playing, I was locating organists, reading the scriptures, and deciding on music from the 1982 Hymnal, which would support the scriptures for the other Sundays not supported by Andy. Fortunately, both Elsa and Heidi Bloch can prepare their Sundays with little more than awareness on my part. And for all of us, we must give all music complete with bulletin expectations to Beth in writing by Monday night, or very early Tuesday morning prior to the Sunday’s bulletin.

I appreciate all musicians I have been working with - Aaron Gregory, Elsa Bakkum, Heidi Bloch, Heidi Souza, and Jean Marshall, and once with Joe Graif. I have been kept busy reading scriptures and selecting music with the aid of the Lectionary, and I have learned a lot.

Elsa, Heidi Bloch, and Heidi Souza are familiar with the *LEVAS* book of early American songs (accepted later as *An African American Hymnal for the Episcopal Church*). In fact, two Norfolk musicians, Dr. Carl Haywood, and Dr. Adolphus Hailstork were actively involved in compiling the music for this book. Elsa and I decided we would use this book often and put aside the first Sunday in January and the first in February to try to use it for most of the service. I hope you who were at this past Sunday's service, or viewed the streaming, enjoyed this change of pace that both Carleton and Elsa provided. It is wonderful to be an observer when Elsa selects music, and she and Carleton or in sync with the service plan. I just sit back and enjoy.



WHAT IS *Sundays at Four?*

As much as we announce, advertise, place ads, put up posters, send post cards, and write articles, people still ask what is *Sundays at Four*. Or, like a member of the audience at Sunday's 4:00 pm *Tidewater Piano Trio* concert said, "Why have I not heard of *Sundays at Four*? This concert is wonderful - so impressive, outstanding. It is hard to believe *Sundays at Four* has existed for 15 years, and I have never heard of it."

In 2007, I was in Smithfield's 100-year-old Simpson's Drug Store waiting for a prescription to be filled, when I overheard the church on the corner being mentioned. It seemed a long-time-resident of Smithfield did not know that Christ Episcopal Church was still a church, but rather thought it to be a part of the Isle of Wight Museum. Why did she think this? Because, it was across the street from the museum, and the doors seemed to stay shut. It was this that encouraged me to find a way to open the doors more often at CEC, even though we were right on the edge of the street. I had only been at CEC a year. With the assistance of several church members we initiated a ministry to open the doors to the community much more. This ministry was approved by the Vestry and was called *Sundays at Four* because of another story, which I will tell another time, told by the late Marion Wilson.

We decided *Sundays at Four* would be a concert series offered by Christ Episcopal Church to the community, and it would also offer developmental opportunities for young musicians. We hoped this would open the doors wide for others to see an active, and caring historic church, with a wonderful chamber for performing music. Additionally, we hoped some of our visitors would come back to church here. For the past 15 years, we have offered 3-4 professional concerts a season (September through August), and 3 special offerings not usually found anywhere in Hampton Roads for young musicians. We have offered 6 students in Hampton Roads, through electronic audition selection, a place in a recital the first weekend in August. Out of our young August participants we would offer one an opportunity to give a full recital (doubting at the time, anyone that young could do this, but they have). And, we have offered master classes at CEC, or in the schools. Many of these students are now professional musicians. Some have performed as soloist throughout the world. Some have returned to give additional recitals. Though SAF is now a program of the Isle of Wight Arts League, most of our board members are members of CEC. We operate as one. What is good for SAF should be good for CEC, and the other way around. We believe we are in this together. Come use SAF concerts to meet and greet.

This weekend's concert was an example of how SAF again has initiated something that did not exist. Just like this church's creation of "Souper Saturday," which also encouraged COP. Or the "Pennywise Shop," which pointed to the need for thrift stores in Smithfield. "Open Mic" didn't exist until Lee and Bill started it. This has been a way to invite people in and to have the opportunity to greet and meet them and to show them our safe, and

enjoyable place could interest them. The Youth Program Annamaria and Pretlow started keep our doors open wide to youth in the community to come in and join the group. At the urging of SAF, three professional musicians formed the "Tidewater Piano Trio," which provided an outstanding performance (violin, cello, and piano), and another concert that opened the doors of Christ Church to the community. And, it is expected to provide Norfolk with a resident piano trio. See how far our arms can extend? The CEC members at the concert could meet and greet. Some CEC members brought guests. About 50% of the audience was from out of town.



What other door openers can we think of? Who is ready to be a new tour guide? We need some now, before February 4th. Sunday services are a real positive for us, I think. We have no full time, or half time Rector, but we have a "top of the line" service. In variety is strength. In quality is strength. We need to be available in our seats to show how important our services are. We need to invite others and share with

them such meaningful services. We don't need to go to a big city to find outstanding priests. We have them right here at CEC. Remember the partnership formed by CEC and SAF to get a young man off the street. He is now a second year graduate student. We are doing great things together. We can do more.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the volunteers that perform so many duties to keep our church a safe, and meaningful place to be. We appreciate your financial support, and your help with the physical upkeep the church making it a place of beauty inside and out. Thanks to those on the Flower Guild who provide beautiful flowers for the altar and to the Altar Guild for setting up the altar each week. Thank you for support of music for the services and for the community, open classes, religious exchanges and studies, hospitality, youth gatherings, tours, events, community service, etc.

More volunteers are needed. We have on going needs for coverage in many areas such as Flower Guild, Altar Guild, and Hospitality, sharing with others our services, special offerings, activities and events.

Tour Guides for February 4th: We are **immediately** in need of new and additional **Tour Guides** for the Town of Smithfield's observance of the Battle of Smithfield. Christ Church will be open to the public to come and enjoy our church and learn about our stained glass windows. For this to be successful we need **you!** To volunteer, call or talk to Tim Jones, who is in charge that day. There will be a **training session** for tour guides following the 10:30am service on Sunday, January 28, 2024

Battle of Smithfield: 160th Commemoration

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, February 4, 2024



Join us on Main Street for the 160th anniversary of “the Town of Smithfield’s most dramatic event.” This engagement between Union and Confederate troops saw artillery and musket fire reverberating up and down Main Street eventually resulting in the destruction of the U.S. Army Gunboat *Smith Briggs*.

The day will feature living historians and scheduled events at these locations:

- **Ivy Hill Cemetery.** 66 Civil War veterans are buried here. 451 North Church Street.
- **Isle of Wight County Museum.** Living historians, Civil War history and exhibits. Purchase a *Battle of Smithfield* book here. 103 Main Street.
- **Christ Episcopal Church.** On Sunday, Jan. 31, 1864, services were interrupted at Christ Episcopal Church when the janitor rushed in with cries of, “Yankee gunboats are in the creek! The congregation dismissed, and all hurried home.” Today the

church's bell will ring throughout the day, and the regular church service will be followed by guided tours. 111 South Church Street.

- **1750 Courthouse.** Meet a living historian portraying Randall Booth, the enslaved man who saved Isle of Wight County's court records in 1862. 130 Main Street.

At the end of the 1864 engagement, the locals were said to have enjoyed coffee in Smithfield for the first time in a long while. Visitors can do the same throughout the day. Make plans to caffeinate and spend the day in downtown Smithfield.

The event is free. For more information, contact the Isle of Wight County Museum at (757) 356-1223 or visit www.historicisleofwight.com.

Schedule of Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 9:30 a.m. | Ivy Hill Cemetery Walking Tour |
| 9:30 a.m. | Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing |
| 10:30 a.m. | Christ Episcopal Church Service (All are welcome.) |
| Noon | Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing |
| Noon-3 p.m. | Tours of Christ Episcopal Church |
| Noon-4 p.m. | Isle of Wight County Museum exhibits, living historians and Civil War history |
| 1-3 p.m. | Meet Randall Booth at the 1750 Courthouse |
| 3 p.m. | Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing |
| 3 p.m. | Walking Tour down Wharf Hill begins at the Isle of Wight County Museum |
| 3:30-5 p.m. | Informal Civil War discussion at Wharf Hill Brewing |

Battle of Smithfield

Dramatic events unfolded during the Battle of Smithfield on January 31 and February 1, 1864, when minie balls and artillery rounds flew down Main Street in both directions and when the explosion of the U.S. Army gunboat *Smith Briggs* could be heard for miles around.

In 1863 and early 1864, Confederate units harassed Union gunboats on the James and Nansemond Rivers. Union Navy and Army commanders decided to cooperate in a joint

operation and sent landing parties into Chuckatuck and Smithfield to converge and trap the Confederate units.

The plan went awry when Union troops marching south from Smithfield encountered Confederate troops southwest of the town. Both sides disengaged and pulled back. The next morning, cannon fire was exchanged along Main Street. The *Smith Briggs* was sent to rescue the detachment but was destroyed in a fiery explosion. Nearly the entire landing force was captured and sent to prison.

The Coffee Connection

Equipped with goods and considerable supplies of coffee and tea, the *Smith Briggs* was unloaded by local citizens before she was destroyed by Confederate soldiers. Local resident Mollie Cowper recalled that she enjoyed coffee for her supper that night. It was the first she had in many months as the Union had blockaded southern ports and cut off the South's access to coffee.

Where to Find Coffee and Coffee Substitutes

- Cure Coffeeshouse, 113 N Church Street. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., you can purchase a cup of **Cannon Fire**.
- Wharf Hill Brewing, 25 Main Street. Purchase a pint of **Espresso Stout** to enjoy during a casual discussion of Civil War history.
- Isle of Wight County Museum, 103 Main Street: Enjoy a sample of **Peanut Coffee** while learning more about coffee substitutes during the Civil War.
- 1750 Courthouse, 130 Main Street: Get your sample of **Blockade Coffee** here. Sweet potatoes play a starring role.
- Christ Episcopal Church, 111 S Church Street: Acorns, beets and chicory root were often added to coffee to stretch supplies. Sample **Chicory Coffee** here. It's caffeine-free.

J.L. England

Director, Isle of Wight County Museum

Historic Resources Manager, Isle of Wight County

103 Main Street

Smithfield, VA 23430

jengland@smithfieldva.gov

(757) 357-0115

(757) 613-0442 cell

www.historicisleofwight.com

Facebook: @IOWMuseum

Facebook: @worldsoldestham

Twitter: @worldsoldestham

Instagram: @isleofwightcountymuseum

BATTLE OF SMITHFIELD

160TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT



SUNDAY
FEB. 4,
2024



Join us on Main Street for the 160th anniversary of *the Town of Smithfield's most dramatic event.*

9:30 AM

Ivy Hill Cemetery Walking Tour

9:30 AM

Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing

10:30 AM

Christ Episcopal Church Service (All are welcome!)

NOON

Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing

NOON - 3 PM

Tours of Christ Episcopal Church

NOON - 4 PM

Isle of Wight County Museum exhibits, living historians and Civil War history

1 PM - 3 PM

Meet Randall Booth at the 1750 Courthouse

3 PM

Christ Episcopal Church Bell Ringing

3 PM

Walking Tour down Wharf Hill begins at the Isle of Wight County Museum

3:30 PM - 5 PM

Informal Civil War discussion at Wharf Hill Brewing

For more information, please use the QR code, or contact the Isle of Wight County Museum.

757-356-1223 Historicisleofwight.com 103 Main Street, Smithfield, Va. 23430

IN MEMORIAM



The Rev. David Lassalle who had been a Supply Priest for us several times, passed away last weekend. I met David when I was the Secretary/Director of Christian Education at Church of the Ascension in Norfolk. At that time he was the Chaplain at Canterbury Center at Old Dominion University. I will always remember him fondly. He was a warm and caring person and was loved by the students to whom he ministered as Chaplain. I was so glad that he was our supply priest recently and got to talk to him one more time.

Along with David Lassalle, Christ Church has been blest by the presence of the supply priests who have come to help us. We give thanks for the services provided by our supply priests and have enjoyed the variety and the messages of each.

Martha Underwood



MARTHA'S MUSINGS

By Martha Underwood

I have been thinking about doing a column like this for a while. After my experience at our Christmas Eve service, I decided that this is the time to start.

On the way to the service I was talking to Edith about how much I missed Midnight Mass. I knew that having it earlier was necessary at this time, so I expected to feel God's presence at the service, however, I still was missing the awe I felt at Midnight Mass.

God had big plans for me on Christmas Eve. From the first hymn I felt something stirring inside of me. Being back in the choir loft with Elsa leading us was wonderful. It was so great to be singing in a choir again. As usual Carleton sermon moved me. Then we sang "Silent Night". When Carleton knelt in front of the altar, I lost it. As we sang the hymn I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit welling up within me and I felt so blessed. The Holy Spirit had been there the whole service but I felt her the most during "Silent Night". Looking back on my other encounters with the Holy Spirit, it is through music that I feel her the most.

This experience showed me that the time of the service doesn't matter. Whenever we are gathered together, no matter where, no matter what time, God in three persons, is there.

SUNDAYS AT FOUR RECEIVES GRANT

Mary Cole wrote a grant for SAF to Smithfield Events. It was announced at the Bob Fest Saturday that Sundays at Four has been awarded a \$5000 grant for a special concert that will feature the late Ed Bland's Classical Jazz compositions and other Jazz to be featured on the 2024-2025 Season. (see photo below) Ed was a Chicago raised artist playing clarinet with many well-known Jazz artists. He then turned to composition and was married to a Smithfield native, Mary Batten Bland. They had two sons, Edward and Robert and a daughter, Stefanie Batten Bland who is a well-known dancer in NYC and Paris.



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 – size 5 or 6



from



On December 3rd we gave thanks for the ministry of *Andy Pencola*, and for his uplifting musical style.

A reception followed to celebrate his ministry.

Andy was joined by guitarists Bill Egan and Lee Harper to play for our Contemporary Service.



Christmas in Smithfield

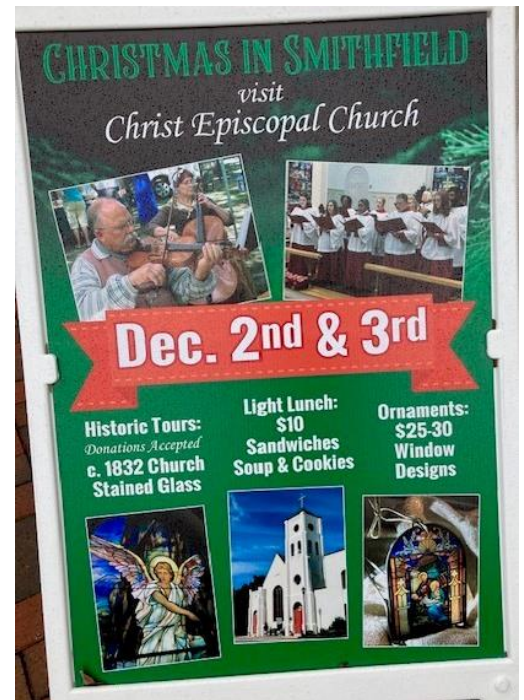
Saturday, December 4, 2023



CEC brought together carolers to sing up and down Main Street, and this year at Windsor Castle Manor House. Here they are gathering for the event outside our Parish Hall.



Anita Wyrick came from Williamsburg to be a Tour Guide. It was so good to have her with us.



Fred Chapman leading one of the tours and talking about our beautiful stained glass windows.



**CHRIST CHURCH PROVIDED
A DELICIOUS LUNCH FOR \$10**



WE ALSO SOLD OUR STAINED GLASS CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS AT THE EVENT. EDITH RABY TOOK A TURN AT SELLING THEM. PRISCILLA MCGREEVY IS TAKING A LOOK AT THE ORNAMENTS.

OPEN MIC NITE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023



JAM'N (PAGE 16 & TOP OF 17)



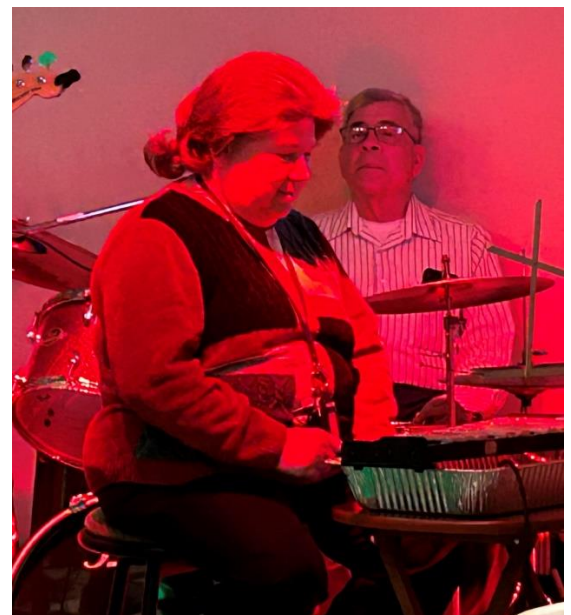
Left to Right: front - Richard Rhodes and Drex Bradshaw; back – Bill Egan, Jeff Bolt, and Mark D'Etechevery.



Left to Right: front – Tim Jones; back – Jeff, Mark and Randall Allred



Left to Right: front – Drex Bradshaw; back – Bill Egan, Jeff, Mark (behind Jeff), Randall Allred, and John Patrone.



Annamaria Pencola and John Patrone



Left to Right: front – Stuart Greenhalgh; Richard Rhodes, Drex Bradshaw, Tim Jones; middle –Jeff Bolt, Randall Allred; back – John Patrone and Annamaria Pencola.



Group Photo of Jam'n



Mark D'Etechevery went solo singing several songs.



“Dusty” Rhodes (aka Richard) entertained us in story & song. What a great hat!



Andy Pencola (drums), Vince Falcione (guitar) and Annamaria Pencola (drums) regaled us with several tunes.



Rick Alley sang and played guitar.



Justin Griffin shared his experience with a Healing Ministry he is part of.



Vince Falcione going solo.



Fred Andy performed several songs and asked Annamaria Pencola to sing with him.



Betsy Egan signs in our talent at OMN.



Jessica Hamilton is our pizza person.

Our wonderful support "staff"

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 24, 2023

5:30 p.m.



Choir Rehearsal before the Service

Choir: left to right: (front) Susan Cooper, Allison Tredeau, Annamaria Pencola; Martha Underwood; (middle) Tim Jones, Mary Cole; and our soloist, Bradley Fielding, who sang so beautifully.

Organist & Choir Director: Elsa Bakkum, who is a phenomenal musician.



**It was so wonderful to have a full church for Christmas Eve.
The service was a very special one.**



**Singing "Silent Night"
We all had individual candles and the lights were dimmed.**



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Happy Valentines' Day – February 14th				1 6pm Mere Christianity	2  Groundhog Day	3
4 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	5	6	7	8 6pm Mere Christianity	9	10
11 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	12	13 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> pancake supper Time to be announced	14  Service Time to be announced	15 6pm Mere Christianity	16 7pm Open Mic Nite	17
18 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	19	20 7pm Vestry Meeting	21	22 6pm Mere Christianity	23	24
25 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC	26	27 6:30pm White Horse Fellowship at Tokyo Thai	28	29		
31 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC						



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

- 1 Anita Wyrick
- 2 Sue Plummer
- 3 Brooke Warf
- 7 Brandon Warf
- 21 JoAnn Kirk
- 24 Will Leaman