

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



THE WORD – FEBRUARY 2024

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Members of Christ Church and Friends,

As your senior warden, I would like to say that I am honored and privileged to serve you, my Christ Church family, again in 2024!

We have overcome many challenges in the last 5 years. **Your** faith, patience, stewardship, and support of Christ Church and its programs has been greatly appreciated. We have “carried on the work which we have been given to do” by being faithful servants of our fellow man with outreach and participation in in our local blood drive, COP, Souper Saturday and Samaritan’s Purse, We have also started a youth program with about 10 participants weekly.

As we look ahead into 2024, we will be focusing on our purpose as a church and getting back to why we existto spread the love of God. We want to GROW the church by continuing to reach our community. The vestry plans to keep all of you well informed and we ask for your input in helping us to continue to grow and move forward while continuing the good work that we are already doing.

Your 2024 Vestry will also be working **collaboratively** on many issues in preparation for a new priest should viable candidate become available. We have already acted on multiple items and have come to a consensus as what is best to help us move forward with our mission in mind. There are always TONS of good ideas here at CEC, many of which have come from many of you, the parishioners.

continued on page 2

Some of our challenges continue to be paying back the 80K left on our loan from the preservation project as well as having available funding for our church operations, priest, music director, and youth coordinator.

I appreciate all that each and every one of you do physically and spiritually and as good stewards to create positive, loving relationships in our church.

I look forward to being “your servant” again in 2024.

In Christ+

Annamaria Pencola

Senior Warden 2024



FROM THE DIOCESE



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry underwent a procedure in Raleigh, North Carolina on January 24, 2024 to address his reoccurring subdural hematomas. This procedure uses a catheter to place a metal coil that prevents blood from pooling in the brain. The procedure was successful, and he is now home from the hospital where he will continue his recovery.

Before his procedure Bishop Curry offered the following words to the church: “I continue to be so thankful for all your prayers, which have been working in tandem with my medical team’s excellent care. I count it a blessing to be in an area with good research hospitals and in a loving church with such faithful, prayerful support.” Please continue to hold Bishop Curry, his family, and medical team in your prayers.

JOIN OUR FAMILY HERE AT CHRIST CHURCH!

If you are Lutheran or Catholic and would like to officially become part of our family, please let Beth Harris know so we can gather a list for the bishop for you to be officially received.

If you wish to transfer your membership from a previous Episcopal church, please let our church administrator Beth Harris know where you were confirmed, OR where your last membership was so she may contact them to request a letter of transfer. Beth's email: cecadmin@christchurchsmithfield.org

Would you like to join our church family, but you are of a different faith? We can help you join our family and reaffirm your faith.

Please contact Annamaria Pencola pencolaa@yahoo.com



SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

AT NOON

THE CLASSICS VALENTINE LUNCH

GATLING POINTE YACHT CLUB

PLEASE REPLY TO JOANNE WILLIS AT

JOWILLIS2020@GMAIL.COM

FIRST WEEK IN LENT

Tuesday February 13th at 5:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! This is the annual event where the women get a break! The men will be in charge of cooking and cleaning up! MEN – if you can help with this, please email John Bates, who is leading this effort. His email is batesjo2@icloud.com.



Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 7:00 pm – the Ash Wednesday Service. For anyone who has not attended this service before, it is a very reverent service. The priest will “draw” ash crosses on each person’s forehead, followed by the Eucharist. This will be a quiet service with no music.



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:

- Feb 1 Book 4/chapters 5, 6
- Feb 8. Book 4 / chapters 7, 8
- Feb 15 Book 4 / chapters 9, 10
- Feb 22. Book 4/ chapter 11

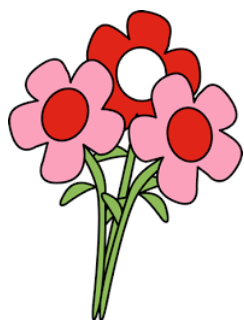
**White
Horse
Fellowship**



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

be inspired
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE, MISSISSIPPI

Next OMN: Friday, February 16, 2023



Deadline for:
March WORD:
Thursday,
February 22, 2024
by 5:00 p.m.

Hospitality



Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who provided Hospitality for January: John & Cecile Petrone, Max & Mary Linder, Betsy & Bill Egan, and Beth Harris and Terry Andrews.

We need volunteers to sign up to provide the goodies, make coffee, do set up and cleanup for Hospitality after the 10:30 a.m. service on February 28, 2024. Please sign up 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 conservation.

In Christ’s Name,
Martha Underwood, Hospitality Chair

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 Coffeehouse, 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

Sundays at Four

Concert March 3, 2024

In memory of Doris Gwaltney



Pianist Joseph Vaz, grandson of Atwill and the late Doris Gwaltney of Smithfield will give a recital in memory of his grandmother, Doris Gwaltney, well known in Hampton Roads as a musician and writer. Doris taught music for some years in Virginia Beach, and turned to writing later in her life, teaching at CNU in the Life Long Learning Center for a number of years prior to COVID.

Doris was the author of both plays and books. Many of her plays were written for a specific event to be given at the 1750 Courthouse. An early book, "A Mirror in Time," was presented in monologues on a Sundays at Four program during its first season of concerts in 2008-2009. Some other books were: *Shakespeare's Sister: A Novel*, *Duncan Browdie, Gent*, and *Homefront* – among others.

Joseph Vaz, musician and mathematician, was a Terrific Teen on the SAF's August program in 2011, and later returned to give a solo recital. Since then, Joseph attended Indiana University as a University Fellow, and graduated with degrees in mathematics and piano performance with a minor in French. He received his Master's in Piano Performance from Cincinnati Conservatory, and is now pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at City University of New York with Julian Martin.

Joseph has performed as a soloist, collaborative artist, and chamber musician in the United States and Europe, in venues from Weill Recital Hall in New York to the Arnold Schönberg Center in Vienna. He is a laureate of national competitions and has appeared in the Aspen Music Festival, the Chautauqua Festival, the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and the International Sommerakademie in Reichenau. He has performed with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, the Seven Hills Sinfonietta, and other orchestral ensembles.

We look forward to having Joseph return to give this special concert.

Mary Cole



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. On the fourth Sunday of each month, our donations are placed on the altar to be blessed by the priest. Our food is then delivered to COP 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.



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

More DECEMBER Memories

Elan Michaeli, aided by Demere Bates lights the Candle for Advent III



Avia Michaeli did the Advent III reading with Annamaria standing by.



Avia & Elan Michaeli before the service during Advent III, December 17, 2023



and

Christmas Eve



Mackenzie Hess lit the Advent IV Candle and did the Christmas Candle reading.



Nate Newman was the youth Lay Reader for Christmas Eve.





Open Mic Nite

Friday, January 19, 2024



Tim Jones welcomed all to Open Mic Nite and then led us in singing "We Gather Together" accompanied by the Saturday morning Jam'N group.



Jam'N opened with "All of Me". Scott Hamilton (middle) sang lead and Jeff Bolt joined in later. Front – Drex Bradshaw; Back – Bill Egan.



Next song up was "Lean on Me" with Tim Jones (far right) singing lead. From left to right: front – Drex Bradshaw, Randall Allred, Richard Rhodes; middle – Scott Hamilton, Jeff Bolt, Stuart Greenhalgh; back – Bill Egan, Mark D'Etechevery; Annamaria Pencola, who sang lead. (2 more photos on next page.



Left to right: front – Drex Bradshaw; middle – Scott Hamilton, Jeff Bolt; back- Bill Egan, Mark D'Etechevery.



Left to right: Jeff Bolt, Mark D'Etechevery, Richard Rhodes, Stuart Greenhalgh, Annamaria Pencola.



Andy Pencola, Vince Falcione, and Annamaria Pencola sang several songs, among them was “Mona Lisa” and “Evil Ways” by Santana.



Annamaria Pencola on drums.



Andy Pencola on piano and Vince Falcione on guitar.



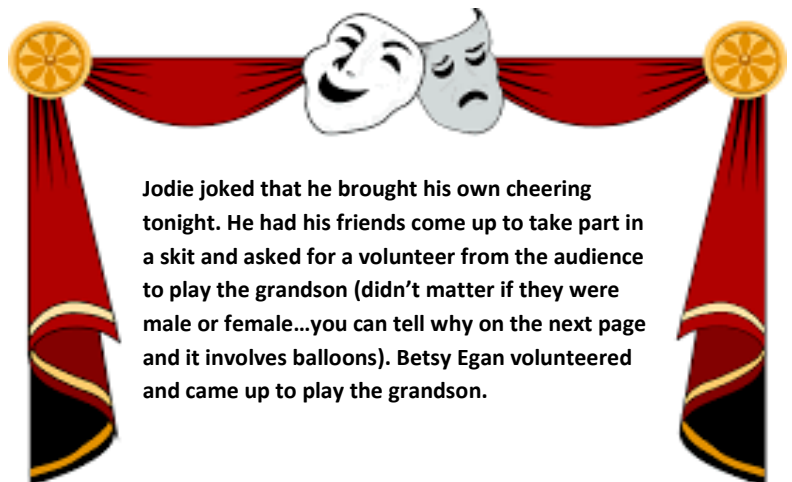
Before doing his set, "Richie Rich" Rhodes joined Andy, Vince & Annamaria on "Evil Ways" playing the bongos.



Before singing "Look at Miss Ohio", Richard Rhodes (aka "Richie Rich") asked the audience what a "rag top" was so we'd know that it was a convertible when we heard it in the song. He sang a fun song next, "876-5309" and many of us joined in. The last song he sang he called a "wonder song" by the title of "Who Can I Turn To?".



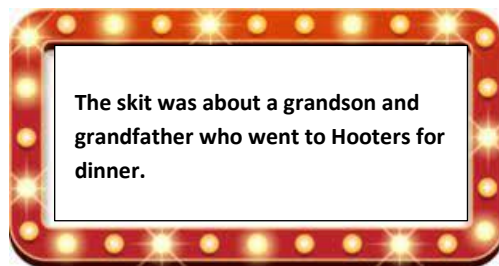
Jodie Cofield talked about a new movie coming out soon and told us some funny Cajun jokes.



Jodie joked that he brought his own cheering tonight. He had his friends come up to take part in a skit and asked for a volunteer from the audience to play the grandson (didn't matter if they were male or female...you can tell why on the next page and it involves balloons). Betsy Egan volunteered and came up to play the grandson.



Hooter Girls: Gabe and his dad Matthew. Grandson: Betsy. Grandfather: Robin



The skit was about a grandson and grandfather who went to Hooters for dinner.



Scott Hamilton played guitar and sang "Hey You" by Pink Floyd and "Into the Great Wide Open" by





Jam'N came up again and sang "Doctor, My Eyes" by Jackson Brown and "C'est La Vie" written by Chuck Berry and recorded with Emmy Lou Harris singing. From left to right: front – Drex Bradshaw, Randall Allred (on mandolin) and Richard Rhodes; middle – Scott Hamilton, Jeff Bolt, Stuart Greenhagh; back – Bill Egan, Mark D'Etechevery, John Petrone.



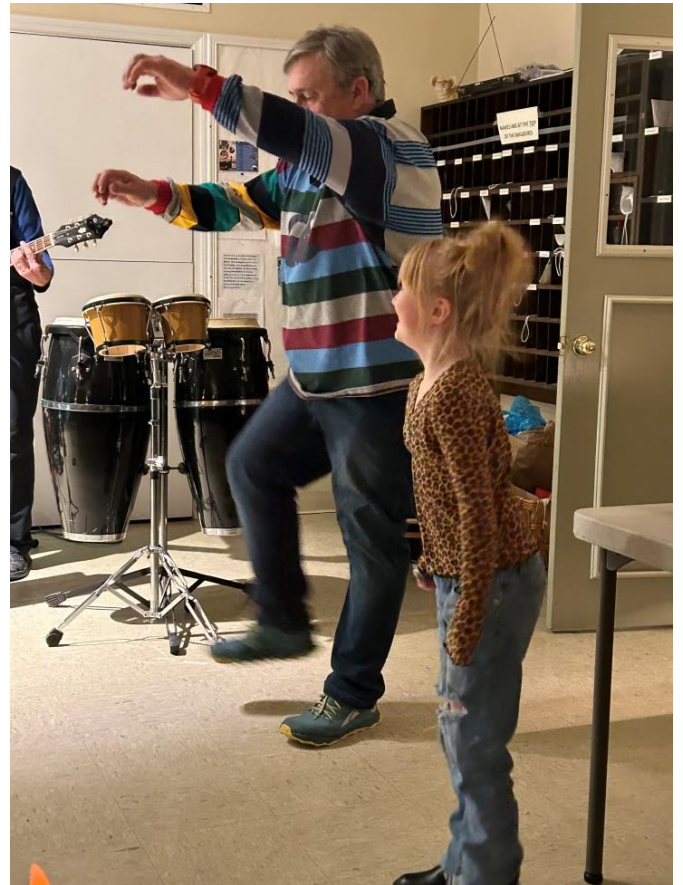
Scott Hamilton in front and Bill Egan and Mark D'Etechevery in the back.



Jeff Bolt on guitar, Randall Allred on mandolin, John Petrone on drums.



Stuart Greenhlagh and Richard Rhodes.



On "C'est La Vie" Tim Jones and Jeff & Paula Bolt's granddaughter Claire Mroz got up and danced. The audience enjoyed their performance.



Claire Mroz





Tony Sullo performed at OMN for the first time. He often plays in a trio with Andy & Annamaria. He played "This Guy's in Love with You", the theme from the Godfather, and "Wine Light" written by Grover Washington Jr. on a digital instrument, Yamaha d1500. What a treat.



Rick Alley recited a poem called "Exemplary Life Above Ground" and sang, "Comes a Time" by Neil Young.



Jam'N returns and sings "Mississippi You're on My Mind" by Jesse Winchester with Tim Jones singing lead.



Next they sang "Fire Lake" by Bob Segar and the Silver Bullet Band".



Vince Falcione returned and sang “All of You” by Sister Hazel and “Melissa” by The Altman Brothers Band. He closed the evening out with “Go in Peace”.



Pretlow Pacheco was our “Pizza Person” for the night. They were delicious.





2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Mere Christianity	Groundhog Day 2 	3
4 9:30am Adult Class 10:30am Rite II 6:30pm EYC 9:30am-5pm Battle of Smithfield Community Event	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	14 	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						



2024

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



15 Brian Litterer
22 Pretlow Pacheco



I apologized for missing your birthdays in the January WORD. Since I was using an old Birthday List, I wanted to send best wishes this month. Martha

1 Helen Dorrance
Anita Wyrick
2 Sue Plummer
3 Madalyn Litterer
Brooke Warf
7 Brandon Warf
21 JoAnn Kirk
24 Will Leaman

9 Bill Wyrick
12 Fred Stanton
20 Cory Webb
22 Simna John-Litterer
Tim Jones
Martha Underwood
24 Judy Cutler
Betty Dubinsky
Bob McGreevy
26 Martin Mikulas
30 Max Linder

23

