

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## THE WORD – AUGUST 2025

### A QUICK NOTE FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings all! As we head toward the fall of the year, please take time to read this newsletter VERY carefully as it is JAM PACKED with information. Should you have any questions, concerns, etc. you may contact a vestry member to have your issue addressed. Thank you so very much for all you do!



BLESSINGS!

Annamaria



### LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Many of us have new folks moving in around us. Share the love of Christ. Stop by and welcome people to your neighborhood. Take them a “special” gift...cookies, etc. Tell them about our Christ Church family and invite them to join us for a service. As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News! PEACE!

# BUDGET UPDATE

Just a quick couple of notes on how we are doing so far this year:

As of June 30th, pledges were behind by about \$9,958. For our annual budget, we are running a deficit of approximately \$6,333.

If you are wondering how we are getting things that are not listed in the budget paid for, we have some “special funds” called designated funds that anyone can donate to at any time. These funds are separate from our operating funds. Our two most recent projects completed with these funds include replacement of one air conditioner and replacement of flooring in back hallway and nursery. We have some funds for another HVAC unit that needs to be replaced but we are currently about \$1800 short for the next unit. The flooring for the rest of the downstairs also needs to be replaced. The flooring currently in the parish hall was installed in 1977 when the parish hall was built. Should you feel moved to do so, please consider donations to either of these projects. Just write on your check what it is for and it will be journaled accordingly until enough funds are available to complete the projects. Thank you.



## LUNCH GATHERINGS FOR FELLOWSHIP

Once a month on the second Thursday of the month we have been meeting at the Cockeyed Rooster for lunch and fellowship. Some have suggested that we move closer to lunch time and some have suggested that we move our lunches from place to place. If you currently participate in this program or would like to in the future, please share your input with me so we can make a decision about what to do from here. Do you want to: Change time? Change place monthly? Leave event at its current time ....11AM. Shoot me an email [pencolaa@yahoo.com](mailto:pencolaa@yahoo.com) for your vote. Mark your calendar for the next meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Details will be shared after input is received. Thank you!

# **GEARING UP FOR FALL**

## **CHANGES ARE COMING - PASSING THE TORCH**

An important part of every church community is stewardship. To return, in some manner, what God has provided for us by sharing our time, talent, and treasure is essential in our service to our Lord. As summer quickly begins to fade and we approach the fall season, our church has MANY needs with few people to fulfill them.

Please take some time to look at our current needs in different ministries. If you feel inspired or “called” to share your time and talent to serve in any of these capacities, please contact the people in charge of that ministry and offer to help. Thank you so much.

Altar Guild-The purpose of this group is to properly prepare the altar before service and clean it up and properly store elements, chalice, etc. This would require your time about one weekend per month. Your chairperson for this group is Judy Cutler. Contact:

[cutlerjudy@hotmail.com](mailto:cutlerjudy@hotmail.com) Phone 757-650-8876

Ushers - It is the job of the ushers to hand out bulletins, count weekly attendance, take up the collection and assist with communion. This ministry rotates on a weekly basis. It requires only one Sunday of your time per month. Contact Beth Harris at 757-357-2826 to volunteer for this or you email her at [cecadmin@christchurchsmithfield.org](mailto:cecadmin@christchurchsmithfield.org).



Counters - Don't mind counting money? We have teams of two who count money after each service and record information for the bank deposit. This is a once a month (or less) job that takes about 30 minutes of time after the church service. Contact Beth Harris at 757-357-2826 to volunteer for this or you can e-mail her at [cecadmin@christchurchsmithfield.org](mailto:cecadmin@christchurchsmithfield.org) if you can volunteer for this task.

Acolytes/Crucifers/Torch Bearers - These volunteers serve our church by carrying the cross, torches and assisting our priest with communion. If you can volunteer for this, once again Beth Harris, our parish administrator. Her contact information is above.



Church Events - Once again, the torch is being passed. Mary Cole has done an excellent job for MANY years at taking care of MOST events that take place outside of our church activities (except of JAM'n of course). Events include things like selling ornaments, doing church tours, Christmas in Smithfield and the Spring Arts Festival. Kim Leazar has agreed to help Mary as she "passes her torch" for this LARGE task, but Kim will need help. Please contact Mary Cole if you are able to step up and help.

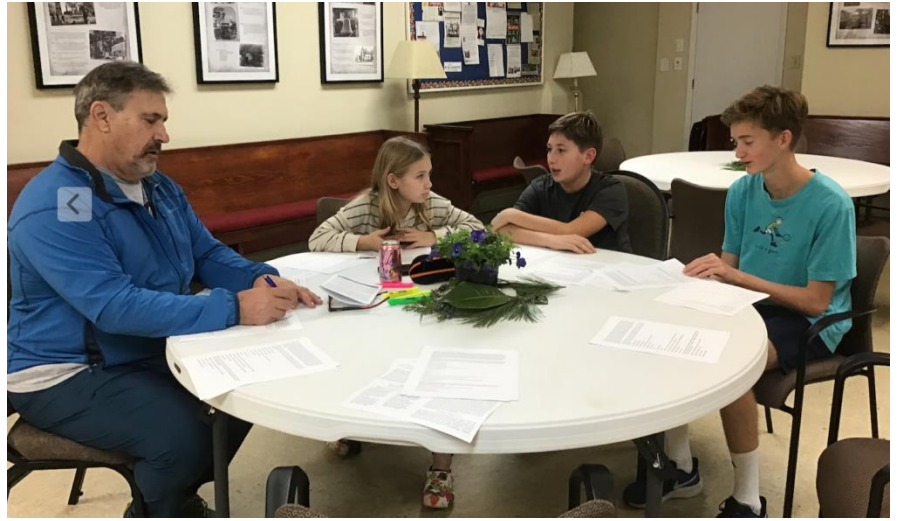
Flower Guild - The purpose of membership in the flower guild is to arrange for flowers to go on our altar weekly. We have been blessed for many years by the leadership of Joanne Willis as flower guild chair. Currently, the flower guild is seeking new leadership to begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The task of the chair is to coordinate with members of the Flower Guild Committee to establish a weekly schedule for guild members to purchase and arrange flowers for the altar. (Guild members are reimbursed for purchases). Church members may request that the flower guild prepare flower arrangements in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for blessings on a particular week. We are holding an informational meeting on Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at noon in the church library. Please come to learn more about this ministry and how you might assist. If you cannot make this meeting, please contact Annamaria Pencola to advise her of your interest.





## What's up with EYC? Our New, Revamped Youth Program

Our youth program continues to evolve. Half of our core EYC has now graduated and moved on. Right now, we still have 5 or 6 regular participants. In order to make accommodations easier for this very busy group, our tentative schedule (starting in September) will be: The second Sunday of each month we will gather for dinner and activities starting at 6PM.



The other weeks we plan to follow a schedule like this:

- 9:40-10:15-lesson of the week
- 10:30-11:45—church volunteers
- 11:45-12:00-snack time
- 12:00-12:30 socialization/fun time

Father Todd will hold confirmation classes at this time for our 4 candidates and our times will be adjusted accordingly.

## Our Nursery

We had the grand reopening of our nursery in 2025. However, it was short-lived as our attendant moved to go to college, one family moved away, and another will be commuting back and forth and attend 2 Sunday's per month. The nursery will be available to all who need it. For now, when we need attendants, volunteers will take the helm until we need another paid attendant. If you can volunteer for this, please let Annamaria know by e-mailing her at [pencolaa@yahoo.com](mailto:pencolaa@yahoo.com).



Hospitality - Once again the torch has been passed! Martha Underwood has handled this for several years, but she needs to do some other things so Kim Leazar will be taking over this position. It will be her task to get people to sign up to bring items for Sunday after church. A new sheet will soon be posted for Sept.-December. Please sign up. You can share this task with others at church. You can do something as simple as a coffee hour and do just coffee and donuts or something a little more elaborate. It is up to you. It is your job that Sunday to set up the plates, food/drinks on the table, put food away and load the dish washer as needed. Some prefer to just wash the dishes in the sink as there are very few. Thanks for your consideration of this ministry.



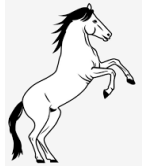
## **SPEAKING OF HOSPITALITY...**

I said good-bye as Chair in the June – July WORD; however I need to say thank you to those who hosted in July: Alison & Chris Crocker, Betsy & Bill Egan, Amanda Worchester (who brought goodies to celebrate Jedidiah's Baptism along with Open Mic Nite leftovers on July 20<sup>th</sup>); and to those who will be hosting Hospitality Hour in August: Kippy Sinclair, Beth Harris, Betsy & Bill Egan, Kim Leazar

I also want to thank Kim Leazar for accepting the torch to be our new Hospitality Chair. I also want to thank her for the time this year she has stepped in to host and help me when I needed it.

In Christ,  
Martha Underwood





## White Horse Fellowship

**All ages are invited  
to join us for  
food, fun & fellowship  
on  
Tuesday, September 11, 2025,  
at  
6:30 p.m. at Tokyo & Thai**



**Please call or text Edith Raby  
(757-605-8020) or Martha Underwood  
(757-377-3147) to let us know you are  
coming or if you need more information  
or have questions.**

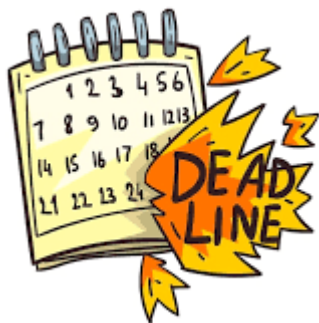


**Open Mic Nite  
Friday 7 PM  
Musicians, Comics,  
Poets, Stories**

**DONATIONS GO TO OUTREACH**

**be inspired**  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WILMINGTON, DE

**Friday, August 15, 2025**



**Deadline for  
September, 2025 WORD  
Monday, August 18, 2025  
by 5:00 p.m.**

# **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

## **MID-YEAR UPDATE**

As most of you know, Chris Crocker is our Junior Warden in 2025. He and his helpers have been quite busy at accomplishing a number of things in the first half of 2025. Some of these items were very long, drawn out projects, but Chris and his team successfully tackled and completed these projects:

- 1. reinforce gate post by trash can**
- 2. install wreath hangers in closet**
- 3. paint nursery**
- 4. nursery repairs- caulk boards and cinder block**
- 5. haul piano and credenza away**
- 6. haul metal chairs upstairs away**
- 7. install flooring in nursery**
- 8. fix light switch upstairs**
- 9. install cove base in nursery**
- 10. haul rocker to VETS**
- 11. dump trips**
- 12. touch up paint on accent wall-nursery**
- 13. finish nursery, secure bookshelf and straighten up**
- 14. install hallway and sacristy flooring**
- 15. install plastic corner by parish hall door**
- 16. install Cove base and thresholds in hallway**
- 17. install lock on parish hall door**
- 18. clean out and organize classroom #3**
- 19. clean out Sacristy**
- 20. sales (Farmer's Market) closet cleaned out**
- 21. Flower Guild room cleaned out**
- 22. Choir Room -stuff removed and hauled away**
- 23. hang picture in choir room**
- 24. hang flag outside**
- 25. clean fence by trash cans**
- 26. rearrange and clean out education cabinet**
- 27. trip to dump and DAV**



- 28. install 4 rods in white closet in hallway**
- 29. vacuum upstairs-3 rooms**
- 30. clean out by AC units, reinsulate, put down rock and replace fence**
- 31. replace fan in the bathroom downstairs**
- 32. rehang sign in parking lot**

**MANY THANKS FOR THE COMPLETION OF ALL OF THESE ITEMS,  
EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED! Special thanks to our EXCELLENT Junior  
Warden, Chris!**

**More work to do.....**

**Several items still need to be completed. Here is the list below. If you can  
help. please contact Chris Crocker and let him know. Thank you. Contact:  
518-703-9918 or [acrocker53@gmail.com](mailto:acrocker53@gmail.com).**

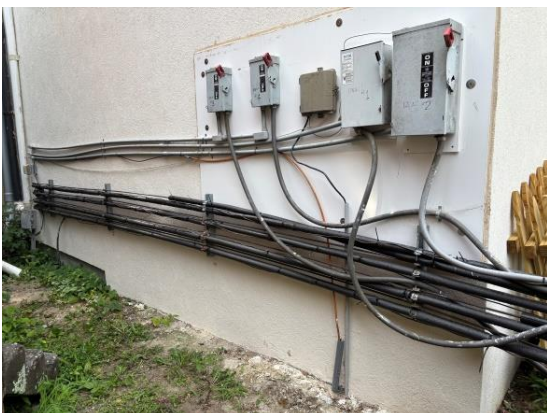
- 1. change or convert lights in upstairs hallway, Classroom 3, and closets**
- 2. patch and paint section in parish hall ceiling**
- 3. move and rearrange pictures on wall (parish hall)**
- 4. repair exterior door lights**
- 5. lights on window at night-don't work -timer?**
- 6. lights at front of church are out and need changing**
- 7. fix light in narthex -replace timer ?**
- 8. paint Todd's office**
- 9. door caulk, touch up (blue/white)**
- 10. parish hall door weather strip- (re- attach)**
- 11. clean Kitchen area**
- 12. straighten up tablecloths in storage area**
- 13. general weeding, trimming, mulching outside-in progress**

**Thank you to whoever provided weeding and mulch recently! We  
need someone to take over exterior ground maintenance Chair(s).  
John and Demere Bates have done this for a VERY long time and need  
to pass the torch. Thanks to John and Dem for their dedication to this  
ministry!**

# OUR JR. WARDEN, CHRIS CROCKER AT WORK



**A big thanks** to Chris Crocker for refurbishing the HVAC utility area. The project includes replacing the screening fence, installing insulation on the freon piping, installing support clamps on the utility piping and conduit and installing ground cloth and mulch around the HVAC units. We also thank Chris for fixing the fan in the second restroom.





# WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

*Jedidiah Worcester* was baptized on July 20<sup>th</sup> during our regular service. Here are some highlights from his big day. Welcome to the fold, Jedidiah!



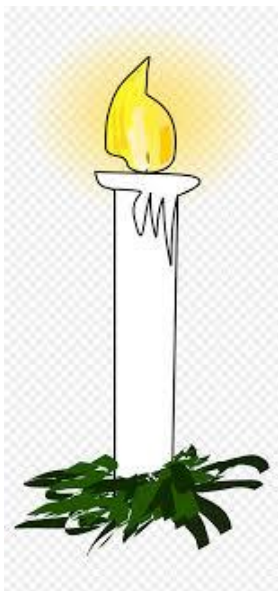








Baptized  
with  
the  
Holy  
Spirit



Presentation of the  
Baptismal Candle  
To the Family





It has been over 40 years in the making, but the Diocese of Southern Virginia will hold Cursillo #175 later this year. Exact dates are from 7:00pm Thursday October 2nd. to Sunday October 5th 6:00pm. Location is Chanco on the James. Open to all over 18 years and is for both individuals and couples.

No urgency to register yet, but if you have any interest at all, I recommend you put these dates on your calendar. I made Cursillo # 69 in October 1993 and will be serving on the lay team. If you remember Rev. Todd was one of the Spiritual Directors on the last weekend

We probably have at least 15 current Cursillistas at Christ Church and maybe close to 100 in total since Cursillo #1, which was the one made by Ricks Wilson. Marion Wilson made #2. Cursillo is a lay directed program, fully endorsed by our current bishop and at least her five predecessors.

I would welcome anybody who has an interest in knowing more to get in touch with me, or another CEC Cursillista.

Peter Lowry

(757)-630-8719; [plowry819@gmail.com](mailto:plowry819@gmail.com)



# THE ST. LUKE'S / CHRIST CHURCH CONNECTION



Many of our current church members are new to the area and have asked “Why do we move our service and worship at St. Luke’s church every now and then?”

Your answer is: IT IS OUR MOTHER CHURCH!

Yes, our congregation started as the congregation of St. Luke’s Church. Local legend dates St. Luke’s back to 1632 and that date was believed to be correct until the deed was researched and a date was discovered in the top beam over the door frame. Historians now believe that St. Luke’s was built between 1685 and 1687. Colonel Joseph Bridger commissioned the building of the church. Now, historians are comfortable with the claim at St. Luke’s remains Virginia’s oldest surviving church building.

## **The transformation begins.....**

Our congregation continued to worship at St. Luke’s until the 1830’s when some land in the town of Smithfield (incorporated in 1752) was donated to build a new church that would be a more convenient location for worship for the townspeople. In 1832, Christ Episcopal Church was established and the Old Brick Church, now known as St. Luke’s, was abandoned.

What happened next?

Learn more in the September issue of THE WORD.

# Sundays at Four



**August 3 at 4:00 pm**, SAF will present its 17<sup>th</sup> year of **Terrific Teen Talent** Recitals. Three of the performers and their instruments are: Bradley Song, performing on a Chinese Erhu (to the left); Lydia Li, pianist (below on left); and flutist, Elizabeth Writtenberry, who is shown taking a lesson from Kathleen Winters in the Flute Master Class (below on right). This recital is free, as was the June 1 recital.





# CREATION CARE

I have asked gardeners about the striped caterpillars eating my dill plants. All are familiar with these common swallowtail caterpillars, and I am told that they also eat parsley and fennel. They turn into beautiful butterflies and important pollinators, so I let them have all my dill!

Heads up to anyone interested in adding solar panels to your roof to offset energy costs and generate clean energy - the 30% tax credit is ending December 31, 2025 instead of being phased out through 2034. Chris and I hope to have solar panels installed and battery storage in our home in the next 60 days!

The Diocese of Southern Virginia has an active Creation Care ministry, offering many educational programs by Zoom. You can find out more at [diosova.org](https://diosova.org)

Stay cool!

Alison



## HOLD THE DATE:

*September 21st for Potluck Luncheon and  
Everything You Want to Know about Bluebirds Presentation!*



As part of our Creation Care Ministry, we have invited **Linda Langdon, Master Naturalist and Bluebird Coordinator** for Isle of Wight for the Bluebird Society of Virginia, to make a presentation about bluebird nesting box monitoring efforts in our community. Beth Harris and Alison Crocker, who recently completed training as Master Naturalists, have been working with Linda all summer, checking bluebird boxes and counting eggs and chicks. Linda is very knowledgeable of bluebird habits, so bring your list of questions for her!

Hope to see you on SEPTEMBER 21st, after the 10:30 am Service

Alison



*Memories*

# OPEN MIC NITE

## FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025



Jam'N were the first to perform. They sang: "Too Many Places" by The Brothers Comatose; "Love You Madly" by the Doors; and "Bell Bottom Blues" by Derek and the Dominoes.

(Left to right) on floor: Randall Allred, Alex Fenton; first row, stage: Scott Hamilton, Jeff Bold, Jim Abicht; back row, stage: Bill Egan, John Petrone, Mark D'Etechevery.



(Left to right) on floor: Stuart Greenhalgh, Randall Allred, Alex Fenton; first row, stage: Scott Hamilton, Jeff Bold, Jim Abicht; back row, stage: Bill Egan, John Petrone, Mark D'Etechevery.





Daryl Yandle sang "Celtic Love Song", "Jokers the King" and "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor.

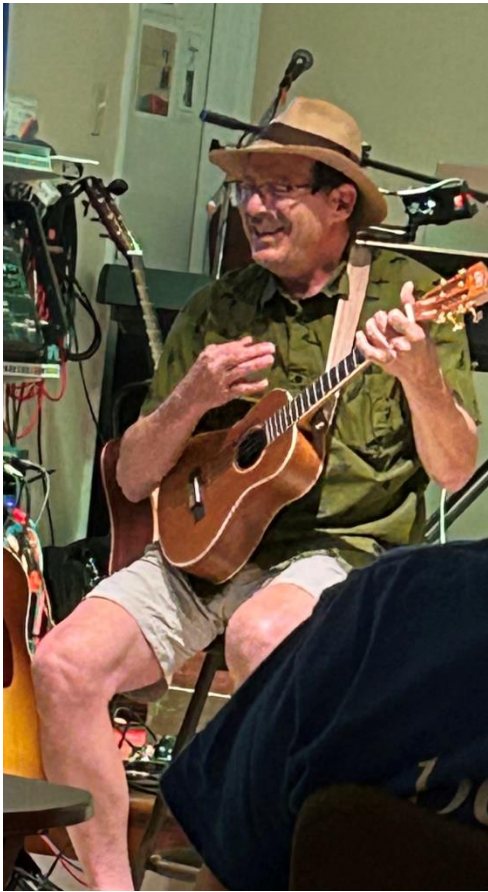


Caros Speed entertained us with "Long Winding Road" by the Beatles; "Somebody" by Depeche Mode; and "Watching You Watching Him" by Eric Hutchinson.

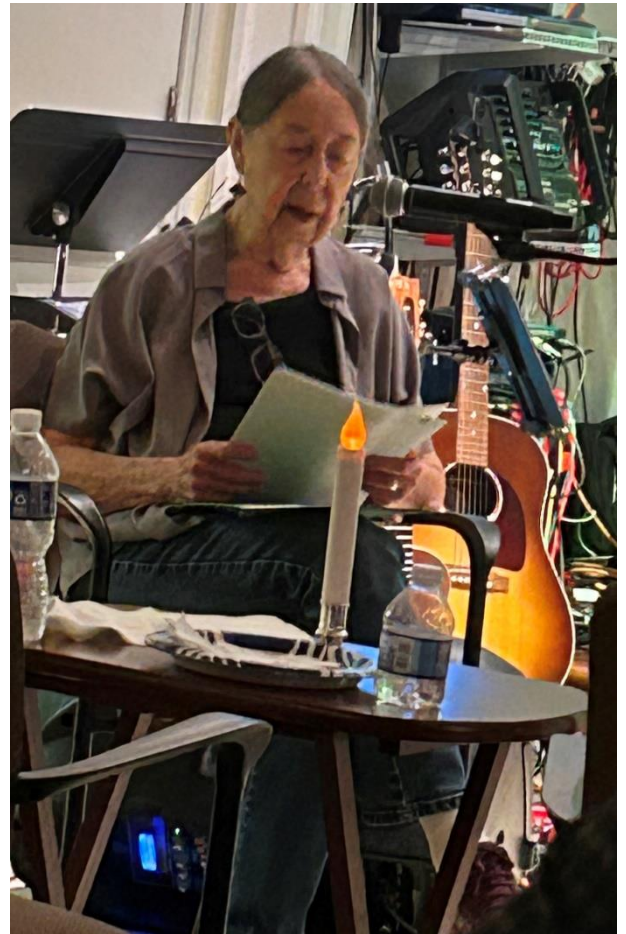


Joint Effort performed "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago; "Spooky" by Classics IV; and "Moondance" by Van Morrison. (left to right) Andy Pencola, Vince Falcione, Tony Sullo, Larry Pike; in back - Annamaria Pencola performed "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago; "Spooky" by Classics IV; and "Moondance" by Van Morrison.





**Vince Falcione**



**Mary Batten read one of her essays she had written.**



**Mark D'Etechevery sang, "Down Around My Place", "Early in the Morning" and "Sounds of Silence". Stuart Greenhalgh (left) accompanied Mark D'Etechevery (right) on his last song.**



# CHRISTIAN OUTREACH PROGRAM

This program was born here at CEC and was 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 at 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.



## 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 4pm Sundays at Four – Terrific Teen Talent Recital	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11	12	13	14 Between 10:45 & 11 am Lunch Gathering at Cockeyed Rooster	13 7pm Open Mic Nite	16
17 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	25	26 6pm Vestry Meeting	27	28	29	30
31 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II at St. Luke's						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	8	9	10	11 Between 10:45 & 11 am Lunch Gathering at Cockeyed Rooster	12	13
14 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	15	16	17	18	19 7pm Open Mic Nite	20
21 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II After Eucharist: Potluck Luncheon and Everything You Want to Know about Bluebirds Presentation!	22	23 6pm Vestry Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	29	30				



- 1 Mary Cole
- 5 Joanne Willis
- 14 Noelle Goodwyn
- 25 Demere Bates  
Alison Crocker
- 27 Jenny Michaeli

- 12 Donna Stanton  
Rosemarie White
- 26 Bobbie Blesse