

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



THE WORD – NOVEMBER 2025



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025, 5:00PM

**AT MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH,
517 MAIN STREET, SMITHFIELD VA**

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Do you try to live how Jesus taught us to? Jesus said to feed the poor, clothe the needy, welcome the stranger, and love your neighbor as yourself. Who is YOUR neighbor?

I believe, first and foremost, we are called as Christians to do the work Jesus asked us to do. Can you do that without reservation? As we approach our holiday season, I ask that each of you meditate on your own personal answers. It is time to open your hearts and see where you are led. Our community has many needs during this time, and, due conditions beyond our control, our neighbors are facing even more difficult circumstances now than they usually do.

In following the directive to love and care for our neighbor, we will have two ongoing campaigns to help our neighbors. Starting THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 2nd we will be doing a special COP (Christian Outreach Project) for those less fortunate than us. Please bring non-perishable foods to donate for our community WEEKLY to our Christian Outreach Project. You may also write a designated check to Christ Church and note Isle of Wight Christian Outreach and funds will be sent on behalf of our church to COP. This drive will start on Sunday November 2nd and end on Thursday, November 20th.

Our second community outreach project will begin in November also. We are bringing back our "Angel Tree" for those less fortunate. The procedure is to take a name from the Christmas tree, buy a requested gift, and return the gift by the due date. More details will follow soon on this outreach project for our Isle of Wight neighbors.



INGATHERING

Sunday Nov. 2nd is our ingathering. This is when you should turn in your pledge cards stating your 2026 sharing of your time, talent and treasure. We will collect cards during the service in a collection plate and they will be passed directly to our treasurer, Bob Amato. You may fold and tape or staple your cards as you wish for privacy purposes.

HOSPITALITY



The New Hospitality signup sheet is on the kitchen door. It has 5 categories (cheese and crackers, bakery item, fruit, Fruit juice/lemonade/ or iced tea, and surprise us). The idea is that no one person or family will have to provide all the food and drink items each Sunday. This should help by distributing the responsibilities as well as

being friendlier to everyone's budget! If you'd like and are able to participate it would be greatly appreciated. November 9th, 16th, and 23rd are available.



YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM (VESTRY)

Time is coming to a close for our vestry members who “roll off” this year. Please consider who you would like to run the business of our church for the next 3 years. We have 3 seats to fill. Turn your nominations into Father Todd or Annamaria Pencola. Please make sure these people are willing to serve BEFORE you nominate them. Our nominees will be formally elected at our Annual meeting on December 7th. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

On Sunday, December 7th, we will have a “Pot Luck” along with our annual meeting after church. More details will follow soon.

CREATION CARE

As we all reflect on our many blessings this month, I offer this short prayer that you can add to your Thanksgiving.

A Thanksgiving Prayer for Creation

God of all creation, we thank you for the beauty of this world, from the smallest creatures to the vastness of the cosmos. Guide us to be good stewards of our common home, cherishing and protecting all that you have made. Amen".

I am grateful this month for the Episcopal Church's participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belem, Brazil, November 10-21. Our Church has been a positive advocate for global climate justice.

Alison Crocker

CARING FOR OUR RESOURCES

Taking care of our natural resources; High Tides:



Loblolly Pines and other trees:



Just like Blue Birds, other resources must be cared for and newer disease-free varieties developed.

Sundays at Four

Former Terrific Teens: Hamed Barbaraji, trumpet; Sterling Elliott, cello; Andrew Gonzalez, viola, have become well known professional performers. Hamed from Williamsburg, a graduate of VCU is in Chicago playing with the Chicago Civic Orchestra and at special times with the Chicago Symphony. It is believed he has completed his masters in Chicago. Sterling Elliott, a cellist from Newport News, received two degrees from The Juilliard School in NYC. He is now performing all over the world. Recently he was soloist with the BBC in London, and just completed a special concert at Carnegie Hall. Anderew Gonzalez, a violist from Chesapeake, completed two degrees from The Juilliard School and is the violist with the Jasper String Quartet, and is known for his master classes and solo performances. Following these young musicians who have become world famous just like Brendon Elliott whom we had play at CEC in September has been very exciting. All have performed with Sundays at Four as teenagers and we church members would find it a real treat to hear them, with the remembrance that they all performed at Christ Church on Sunday at Fours programs.



(left) Hamed Barbaraji



(foreground left) Sterling Elliott



Andrew Gonzalez



Sterling Elliott in concert



2025 *Christmas in Smithfield*

SMITHFIELD, VIRGINIA

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

FEATURING HISTORIC HOMES AND HISTORIC SITES



MANSION ON MAIN



CHAPMAN HOUSE



1750 ISLE OF WIGHT COURTHOUSE



WINDSOR CASTLE MANOR HOUSE



THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM



THE SMITHFIELD ACADEMY



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PLEASE NOTE: SOME TOURS/LOCATIONS ARE NOT HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

DECEMBER 6 & 7

SATURDAY 10AM-5PM & 6-8PM

SUNDAY 11AM-5PM

CHRISTMASINSMITHFIELD.COM



CHRISTMAS IN SMITHFIELD

Christ Episcopal Church will participate on December 6th from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM and December 7th, after church, from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Contact: Kimberly Leazer (757) 810-4100 or see me at church

Tour Training with Mary Cole after church in the Nave on November 9 and November 23

Sign-up as 1) a tour guide, or 2) Ornament Sales. The signup sheet is on the door to the kitchen.

All event activity at CEC will take place inside the 1832 Church.



**Will be sold at
Christ Church
during Christmas
in Smithfield**

SCRIPT FOR TOUR GUIDES TO LEARN

History of Christ Episcopal Church Newport Parish, Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Christ Episcopal Church was established in **1832**. Mallory Moore Todd, a son of Capt. Mallory Todd, the founder in 1779 of the business of curing and shipping hams in Smithfield, willed the property to the congregation who moved from the “Old Brick” or St. Luke’s Episcopal Church located 4 miles south of Smithfield.

The first congregational meeting, **April 1836**. Minutes showed that the Ladies’ Sewing Society aided in providing money for painting the interior and in 1841, the Ladies’ Benevolent Society gave money to stucco the brick exterior.

The original building was made of brick and was merely a basic rectangular sanctuary.

In **1858**, a 12 foot addition at the east end of the building created the chancel with the arched or barrel ceiling. The pews were also configured to create 2 aisles with short pews on the sides and long pews in the middle as reflected in the design of this unusual parquet flooring. Vestry minutes also reflected that the age old problem on all churches continued, the roof still leaked.

At the beginning of the Civil War, in 1861, the Rector, Rev. Roberts left Christ Church to serve as a chaplain in the Confederate Army. Their next rector, Rev. Perkins, also left to serve the Confederacy in **1862**. At that time the vestry voted to donate the church bell to the Confederate authorities for the use of the Ordinance Department.

During Morning Prayer on **January 31, 1864**, the service was abruptly cancelled when Yankee gunboats were sighted in the Pagan River. The next day, a battle took place in the town and by the river which sank the Yankee gunboat “Smith-Briggs”. Seventeen Yankees were killed, one officer and one private were wounded, and one hundred and forty-four (144) prisoners were taken of which one was found by Major James Thomas hiding in Christ Church. The boats name plate is on display in the Isle of Wight Museum today.

Vestry minutes after **1865** recorded much desolation and despair throughout the community during Reconstruction. By **1870**, the same vestry book reported that a brighter future was envisioned with a capital campaign started by the ladies of the church who “had appointed a committee to charter a Steamer and prepare a Festival, to be held on board, for an Excursion towards the Capes of Virginia, touching at Fortress Monroe, going and returning, etc.” Enough money was raised for repairs and improvements such as plastering the ceiling, paint and papering the walls as well as installing a furnace and adding a second story to the Rectory located on Main Street, at the present day Smithfield Inn.

In **1878**, O. J. Thomas was appointed to find a way to prevent rain from flooding the vestry room in the basement. A few years before, the basement was flooded during a Lenten Luncheon held in the basement. A heavy downpour and clogged drain caused water to enter.

Under the enthusiastic direction of the Rev. David Barr, and with the organizational skills of the many prominent families, such as E. M. Morrison, R. S. Thomas, etc., the congregation of Christ Church along with the Isle of Wight community started a campaign in **1885** to save the Old Brick Church from ruin. They considered this part of their responsibility as stewards of the vineyard. They completed the work by **1894** when stained glass windows were installed in the existing openings.

So Christ Church was supporting renovations of 2 churches at the same time. Christ Church was vigorously working toward renovations of the existing building on Church Street as well. In **1892**, under the direction of the Rev. F. G. Scott, plans were made to change the façade by adding 2 vestibule towers and stained glass windows replacing the old shuttered, small paned window openings.

Christ Church used Smithfield Baptist Church facilities for church services during repairs and renovation project. The work was completed between **1896 and 1900**.

From a survey completed in **1975** and a newspaper article from **2001** describing the styles of stained glass, we have information concerning the age and artistry of each window.

In **1959**, the Moody House on Main Street was left to Christ Church and was used as a parish house and Sunday School. The property east of Christ Church was purchased in **1963** and 2 properties across Church Street. In **1977**, the present parish hall was completed.

The most recent renovations in the sanctuary were completed in **1999**. At that time, the circular window opening was discovered in the upper east end of the original building built in 1832. The circular stained glass was installed in 1999.

Other renovations of offices in the basement or undercroft were completed in 2009 and the roof repair, to halt more leaks, was finished this fall 2011.

Christ Church Stained Glass Windows

1 – Located over the altar: “Behold, I Stand at the Door and Knock”, circa 1909, by J. & R. Lamb Studios of New York.

2 – Behind the choir: “Suffer the Little Children to Come unto Me.”, Circa 1950, Franz Mayer of Munich style by J. Wippell & Co. IN MEMORY Maria Bergen Barrow by Florence Bergen Moody

3 – On the left side of the sanctuary: “Healing Jarius’ Daughter – Damsel, I say unto they arise”, Circa 1905, Franz Mayer of Munich style.

IN MEMORY Richard Sidney Thomas, Eliza Shelton Thomas, Elizabeth Shelton Thomas

4 –Second window on the left side of the sanctuary: “Calling of the Disciples – Follow Me”, Circa 1905 – Franz Mayer of Munich style.

IN MEMORY Josiah James Wilson and John Adams Wilson

5 – Located to the right as you face the altar: “Baptism of Christ – Behold, the Lamb of God”, circa 1900, Tiffany Studios.

IN MEMORY Minnie Pegram Boykin

6 – Behind the organ: “Angel at the Empty tomb – He is not here, He is risen”, circa 1900, Tiffany Studios. (This window was moved from the center of the south wall when the parish hall was built around 1977).

IN MEMORY James Thomas Chapman and Lillian Hilliker Chapman

7 – Located on the Church Street side of the sanctuary: “The Life of Christ”, 3-lancet Roman arch, circa 1900, possibly Tiffany.

From left to right, bottom:

Annunciation of Mary; Nativity Scene; Flight into Egypt

From left to right, center:

Young Christ in the Temple; Christ healing the sick; Christ talking with Mary (Martha in rear).

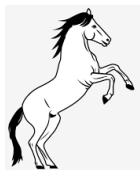
From left to right, top:

Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane; Crucifixion Scene; Christ in front of tomb.

IN MEMORY Martha Pegram Wilson and Richard Elliot Boykin; John Wilson and Eliza Wilson; Archibald Lawrence Bergen and Catherine Cole Hill Bergen; James D. Andrews, Emily Virginia Day, and Nanie Jordan Thomas.

NOTE: IN CASE ANYONE ASKS: The Greek letters Chi Rho, (the x with the p) are the first 2 letters of "Christ". Also the inscription IHC or IHS represents the first 3 letters for the name "Jesus" in Greek.





White Horse Fellowship

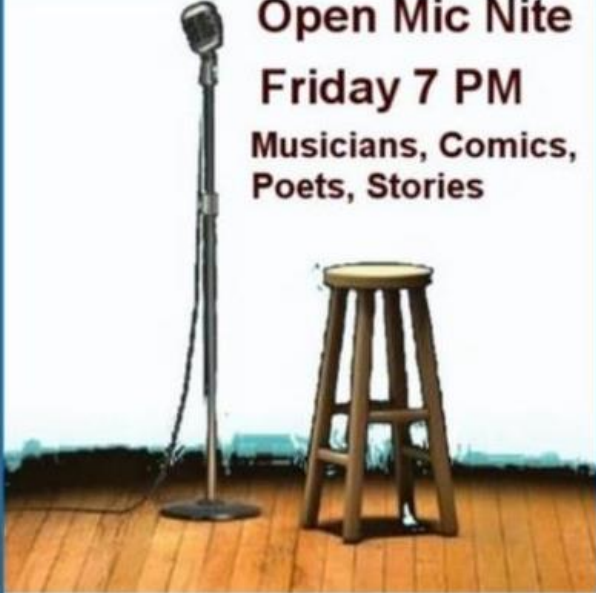
Attendance has been spotty the past year and with Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays coming up we have decided to suspend White Horse until January 2026.



Meanwhile, please email or text Martha Underwood (757-377-3147), about what you think about the following ideas:

1. Shall we continue going to Tokyo and Thai every month or rotate among other restaurants?
2. Do we continue on the 2nd Tuesday or move to another (except 4th Tuesday when Vestry meets)?
3. Shall we change the time from 6:30pm to another time?

Thank you for your help.



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

DONATIONS GO TO OUTREACH

be inspired
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Friday, November 21, 2025



Deadline for
December, 2025 WORD
Friday, November 21, 2025
by 5:00 p.m.



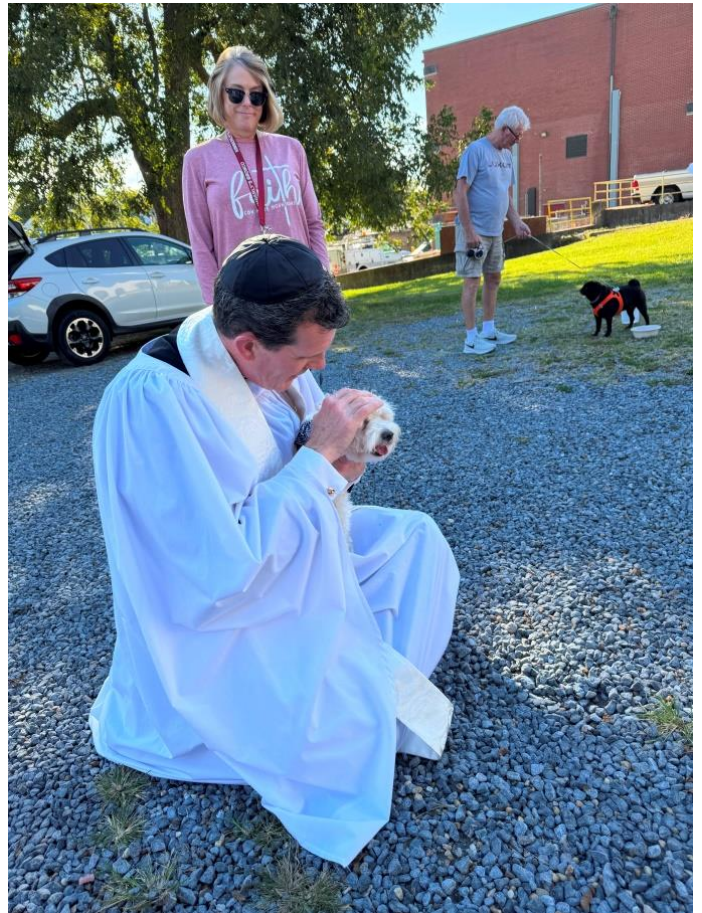
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 5, 4:00 p.m.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Chris and Alison Crocker brought their pug Jonah to be blessed.



Todd blessing Kimberly Leazer's dog, Leo.

Todd blessing the Leaman's dogs; Archer is with Leigh on the left and Eric with Bella on the right.





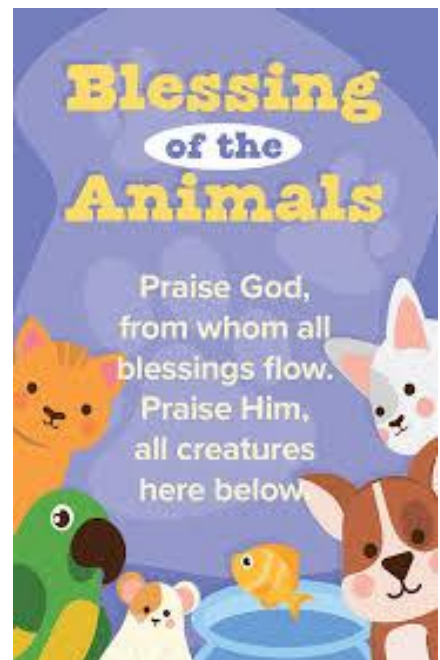
Todd blessing Beth Harris's cat, Precious using her photo.



Todd blessing Azna, Betty Dubinsky's husky. Chuck Rose (back left) and Donna Rose are waiting to get their dog blessed in the photo below.



Todd blessing Chuck & Donna Rose's golden doodle, Gracie.



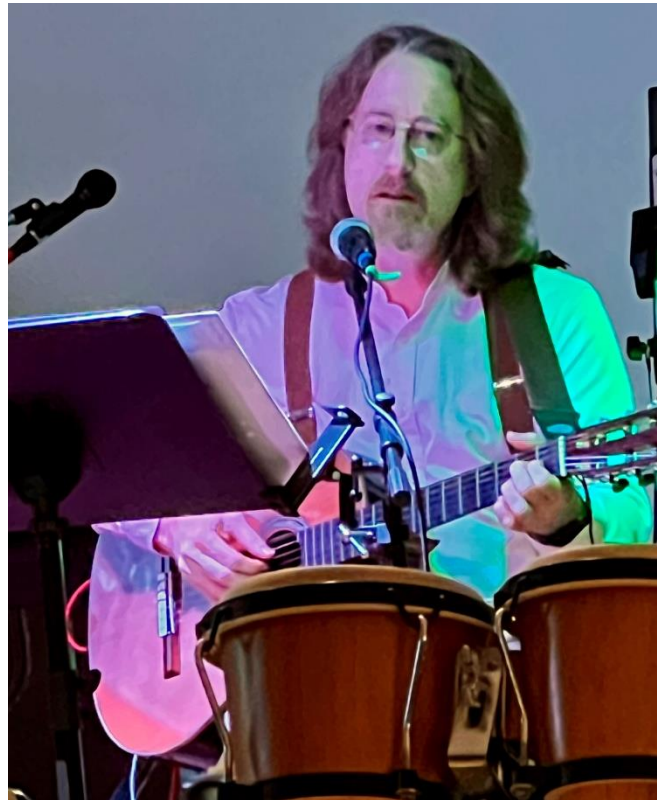


OPEN MIC NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025



Tony Sullo



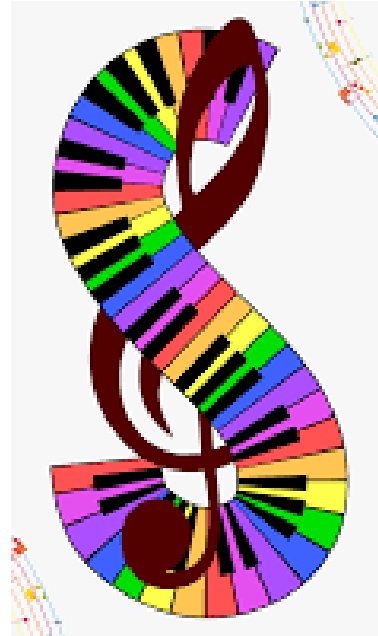
Caros Speed



(left to right) on floor: Andy Pencola, Larry Pike, Tony Sullo, Vince Falcione, Walt Trimble; on stage: Annamaria Pencola



Andy Pencola



(left to right) on floor: Larry Pike, Stuart Greenhalgh, Walt Trimble; on stage: Scott Hamilton, Bill Egan, and Jim Abicht.



Scott Hamilton



A view of the audience



(left to right) Vince Falcione and Capt. Laura

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



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						 1 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
2 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	3	4	5	6	7	8 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
9 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, "with baptism"	10	11	12	13	14	15 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
16 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 4pm Sundays at Four Concert	17	18	19	20	21 7pm Open Mic Nite 	22 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
23 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	24	25	26	 27	28	29 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
30 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II at Christ Church						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	8	9	10	11	12	13 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
14 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	15	16	17	18	19 7pm Open Mic Nite 	20 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 6:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist	 25	26	27 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
28 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	29	30	31			



4 John Petrone
 8 Mandy Dubinsky
 Kim Newman
 23 Beau Newman
 Susan Krzywicki
 27 Pricilla McGreevy

2 Eric Leaman
 3 Deborah Webb
 4 Beth Harris
 6 Annamaria Pencola
 Logan Krzywicki
 7 Lillian Worchester

11 Brogden Worcester
 13 Elan Michaeli
 14 Maryann Amato
 Cecile Petrone
 18 Bel Pencola
 23 Meg Williams