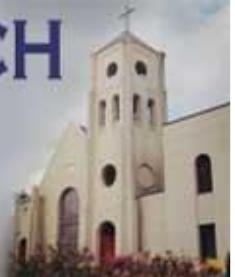


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



THE WORD – JANUARY 2026

A NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION

I just want to thank EVERYONE involved in our service on Christmas Eve. It was beautiful! We had about 100 in attendance which was slightly up from the previous 2 years. I wish all of you a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR! Annamaria



WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CEC?

Many maintenance items and improvements are happening behind the scenes due to our Jr. Warden, Chris Crocker and others that he is able to assemble to get the work completed. Upcoming work includes the replacement of the flooring in 5 rooms on the main floor. All materials were donated by faithful stewards and members of our church. Please let Chris know if you are give a helping hand with this task.

Check our website for readings of the week, schedule, and upcoming calendar events. Vestry minutes are sent through Beth on her weekly notes about a week after a formal meeting. Our next vestry meeting is the 4th Tuesday of January (27th).

Pop-Up Choir: On January 24th at 10 AM we will begin to try to form a once a month pop-up choir. If you like to sing please come and join us. We will rehearse for the service on that is on the 25th.

We Need Your Help: **WE** need acolytes, counters, readers, altar guild, and flower guild volunteers. (We are down to 3 regular acolytes). PLEASE, if you can serve in ANY capacity contact the appropriate chair of that committee. The committee chairs are posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Thank you.



CREATION CARE

As we get ready to start 2026, here are some eco-friendly New Year's Resolutions you can consider following:

1. Start recycling. Local grocery stores take back plastic bags, and the County transfer station takes cardboard, tires, metal, furniture, brush and oil at no cost.
2. Try a reusable water bottle instead of buying water in plastic bottles.
3. Turn off lights and unplug chargers when not in use.
4. Shop locally and upcycle more, to avoid fast fashion.
5. Carpool and/or combine errands to reduce vehicle miles travelled.



Miracles

Why, who makes much of a miracle?
As to me I know of nothing else but miracles,
Whether I walk the streets of Manhattan,
Or dart my sight over the roofs of houses toward the sky,
Or wade with naked feet along the beach just in the edge of the water,
Or stand under trees in the woods,
Or talk by day with any one I love, or sleep in the bed at night with any one I love,
Or sit at table at dinner with the rest,
Or look at strangers opposite me riding in a car,

Or watch honey-bees busy around the hive of a summer forenoon,
Or animals feeding in the fields,
Or birds, or the wonderfulness of insects in the air,
Or the wonderfulness of the sundown, or of stars shining so quiet and bright,
Or the exquisite delicate thin curve of the new moon in spring.

These with the rest, one and all, are to me miracles.
The whole referring, yet each distinct and in its place.
To me every hour of light and dark is a miracle,
Every cubic inch of space is a miracle,
Every square yard of the surface of the earth is spread with the same,
Every foot of the interior swarms with the same.
To me, the sea is a continual miracle,
The fishes that swim - the rocks - the motion of the waves - the ships
with men in them,
What stranger miracles are there?

—Walt Whitman



BE PREPARED

(IT INVOLVES YUMMY Food...!)



Be prepared to mark your calendars! The end of January or the first week of February we will have another potluck. The date will be announced.

How can we do the work that Jesus asks us to do? How do you do what is asked of you as a Christian? What can we do to make sure that people know we are open for all who seek the lord? How can we effectively outreach in our community? These are questions we will ponder as members of Christ church in 2026. There will be a guest speaker from a successful program that we started.....COP. Please plan to attend this event as you ponder your responsibility as a member of a Christian community.

SUNDAYS AT FOUR CONTINUES

THE 2025-2026 SEASON

"Seeds of Knowledge: From Angola to Academia"

A One-Woman Historical Performance with Audience Discussion

February 22, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church

"Seeds of Knowledge" is a 90-minute theatrical journey following four women across three and a half centuries (1619-1968). This performance explores how knowledge, wisdom, and resilience were preserved and transmitted across centuries despite laws and hardships.

The Four Women

- **A woman born in Angola and brought to Jamestown (1619):** Now in her 60s, reflecting on 40+ years since being kidnapped as a child from the joy and love of her family and brought to Virginia. She represents the "planting" - the foundational seeds of African wisdom and strength.
- **18th Century Free Grandmother:** A formerly enslaved woman reflecting on the complex journey of raising children across changing circumstances, teaching them to navigate between different worlds. She represents the "watering" - nurturing seeds through uncertainty and transition.
- **19th Century Teacher (1890s):** Reflecting on 25 years of teaching newly freed children, transforming whispered wisdom into formal education. She represents the early "growth" - knowledge taking root in freedom.
- **20th Century Cleaning Woman (1968):** Witnessing the first three African American women who integrated William & Mary College while she is cleaning their dormitories. She represents the "harvest" - seeds grown into mighty trees.



Performed by **Valarie Holmes** drawing from scripts she developed and refined over 20 years individual character performances.



of

See next page for the remainder of events for 2026



SUNDAYS AT FOUR

March – August 2026 Schedule

March 15

The Tidewater Cello Ensemble

April 12

Soundscapes' Performance

May 4

United States Air Force Wind Quintet

June TBD

Solo Youth Recital, Lydia Li, Piano

August 2

Terrific Teen Talent Recital





White Horse Fellowship

All are invited to join us

for White Horse Fellowship at Tokyo Thai
on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Kitchen Door;
please sign up to let us know you are coming
or you can email Martha Underwood

(katmom1951@gmail.com)
or text her (757-377-3147),



At our dinner we will discuss the following:

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

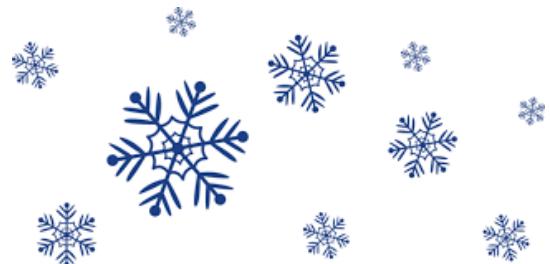
**Musicians, Comics,
Poets, Stories**



DONATIONS GO TO OUTREACH



Friday, January 15, 2026



Deadline for

February 2026 WORD

Friday, January 23, 2025

by 5:00 p.m.

PRESERVATION: There is a LOT going on at CEC Behind the Pecan Tree. Speaking of Preservation, did anyone Preserve the Gold Coins found in our Lockbox around 2008?





Memories

OPEN MIC NITE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025



Andy Pencola on piano, 1_____ on guitar; Annamaria Pencola on drums, Walt Trimble on guitar, far right.



Left to right: (on floor) Tony Sullo, Andy Pencola, 1_____ (on stage), Walt Trimble, Annamaria Pencola



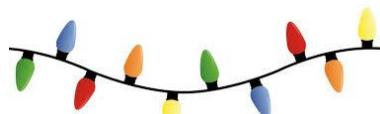
2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



Left to right – on floor: Larry Pike, Fred Andy, Alex Fenton – on stage: Walt Trimble, David McLellan.

OPEN MIC NITE AUDIENCE





We enjoyed having Todd's children with us for Christmas. Isabella is on the left & Jacob on the right.



EYC CHRISTMAS PARTY



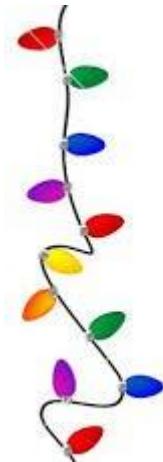
Enjoying fondue!

(Editor's note: Reminds me of the 60's)

Left side of counter: Annamarie Pencola in back; Avia Michaeli and Mckenzie Hess;
right side of counter: Elan Michaeli and Finn Hess. (Pretlow Pacheco is taking the
photos)



Left side of counter: Annamaria Pencola in back; Avia Michaeli and Mckenzie Hess; right side of counter: Elan Michaeli and Finn Hess.



Annamaria, Avia on left side and Elan and Finn on right.



(left to right) foreground: Elan and Finn; other side of counter: Avia, Annamaria, Mckenzie; Background: Elan and Avia's mom, Jenny Michaeli.



After Dinner Conversation

(left to right) Avia, Annamaria, Elan, dog 1 _____, McKenzie with dog 2
_____ on floor.

HELP FILL THE COP FOOD PANTRY SHELVES

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.



Christ Church participates in collecting non-perishable food items on Sundays for the Food pantry at COP (Christian Outreach 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



2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
4 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	5	6	7	8	9	10 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
11 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	12	16 6:30 p.m. White Horse Fellowship	14	15	16 7pm Open Mic Nite	17 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
18 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	19	20	21	22	23	24 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
25 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	26	27 6pm Vestry	28	29	30	31 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	2	3	4	5	6	7 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
8 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	9	10 6:30 p.m. White Horse Fellowship	11	12	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 14 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
15 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	16	17	18	19	20 7pm Open Mic Nite	21 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM
22 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	23	24 6pm Vestry	25	26	27	28 7:30-10:30am Saturday JAM



FEBRUARY



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

- 1 Anita Wyrick
- 7 Chris Crocker
- 24 Will Leaman