

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

111 SOUTH CHURCH STREET  
SMITHFIELD, VA 23430  
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## THE WORD - APRIL 2026

**Maundy Thursday - April 2**  
**7:00 p.m.**



**Good Friday - April 3**  
**12:00 p.m.**



*Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>*  
*10:30 a.m.*



# **HEAR YE, HEAR YE, PLEASE READ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS BELOW!**

## **1. RAFFLE**

Keep selling those tickets! We have more to sell. Most anyone will buy a \$1 ticket for a chance at \$100. Please support our fundraising effort. You or one of your friends could be the winner! Also consider selling to members of your service networks. Women's Club, Lion's Club, etc. may be happy to support us through a ticket purchase as well.

## **2. SUGGESTION BOX:**

It's coming! A wooden box will be placed on the table by the kitchen door with paper and pencil for you to make suggestions to the vestry about things you would like to see happen at our church. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share your thoughts.

## **3. CHANGES ARE COMING!**

At the annual Vestry Retreat, your vestry came up with almost 20 items to act on. Various ministries that you, our church family, volunteer for will see these changes:

- a. Counters- you will see a new counter sheet to simplify your job.
- b. Flower Guild Procedures-New guidelines and donation sheets are in the works
- c. Nursery- we would like to be able to offer nursery EVERY SUNDAY. The plan is to have 2 volunteers available weekly. If there are no children, the volunteers may join the church service. We need 4 more people to volunteer for this task.
- d. We will step up our volunteer efforts in our community. You will hear more about this as plans develop.
- e. Ushers- duties have been revised and will be available soon
- f. We will be expanding on and strengthening our relationship between CEC and St. Luke's and COP. St. Luke's is our mother church and COP is our brainchild. We need to volunteer for these organizations when possible. Please visit their websites to volunteer if you are able.



[Welcome to St. Luke's - St. Luke's Historic Church & Museum](#)

Click on the tab called Support and then click on the tab called Volunteer and sign up.



For Christian Outreach visit: [lowcop.net](http://lowcop.net) and click on volunteer at the top of the page.

#### 4. SPRING CLEAN-UP:

Our Spring workday has been scheduled for April 18th. We need painters, cleaners, yard workers, organizers and anyone who can help. A sign-up sheet for what you would like to do will be on the door by the kitchen for signing up. Doughnuts will be provided for a breakfast snack. Time is from 9 to 1. If anyone chooses to stay longer to finish up their particular "job", we will provide pizza as well!

5.

#### **DON'T MISS OUT!**

#### **KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AT CEC!**

#### **HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO KEEP UP TO DATE:**

- a. read our weekly announcements on Thursdays from the parish office (OR)
- b. visit our website at [christchurchsmithfield.org](http://christchurchsmithfield.org)
- c. review vestry minutes each month which are attached to the weekly announcements when published



## **CREATION CARE**



On April 22nd, we celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970, and the theme was “reuse, reduce, recycle,” an effort to raise awareness of our growing waste problem. We have had some successes in these areas, as in many parts of our country, there is a great amount of recycling and reuse. Unfortunately, the use of plastic in its many forms has increased exponentially worldwide. Tiny pieces of plastic can be found in us and in the natural world. Our Church has committed to reduce the use of plastic in our hospitality hour and our potluck suppers. For the month of April, and in honor of Earth Day, I encourage you to be creative and reduce your use of plastic 👍🌍💚!

*Allison Crocker*

# The Franciscan Corner

Beth Harris



We are spiritual beings in a human body, and even though we look, think, and act differently from others, we are all the same in our core being. In that deep, fathomless core of our beings, we have no names, no titles, no labels, no sexual identity, and no distinguishing features. No one is smarter, richer, more talented, or “better” than anyone

else. In that place, we are part of God, part of the Great Mystery, and we are all connected to each other.

If we could look at ourselves, each other, and life in this way, we could live as God intended. The difference in our physical selves could be celebrated instead of being the cause of hate. We could have compassion for others less fortunate instead of derision or disgust. We could include others who are intentionally left out and discover their amazing gifts.

There is diversity in Nature and diversity in all humans. God made everything that way for a reason, and God made everything good. We are all part of a great tapestry, together with each other and with all of Nature. We were never intended to have hateful or violent hearts, and we humans are the ones who have torn great holes in this amazing tapestry. With God’s help, we can make changes before this tapestry is destroyed, but the changes must begin with each of us.

Our daily prayer might be: Lord, make me a force for good!



# *Sundays at Four*

presents the

## *Soundscapes Performance Ensemble*

Alyssa Estrella, clarinet soloist

**April 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM**



**Christ Episcopal Church  
111 S. Church St., Smithfield, VA  
Free-Will Contribution Appreciated**

# Sundays at Four

## Soundscapes' Presents Their Musical Ambassadors



Another Sundays at Four program follows soon on the heels of an inspiring performance last month by the *Tidewater Cello Ensemble*, a group of teens who are performing in Barcelona this week.

On Sunday afternoon, April 12, the *Soundscapes Performance Ensemble*.... seven advanced student musicians drawn from the Peninsula Youth Orchestra will draw us into a varied program of music arranged for this year's ensemble of seven teen musicians. And they will be joined by Virginia Symphony Fellow, clarinetist, Alyssa Estrella, who will perform the first movement of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in a premiere special arrangement. Alyssa is a full-time member of the VA Symphony as a VA Symphony Fellow. Her educational background, with degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Rice University, her considerable performing experience, and Sphinx award are remarkable. As a Fellow, she plays many concerts with the VA Symphony, mentors young musicians through educational outreach, and performs chamber music throughout Hampton Roads.

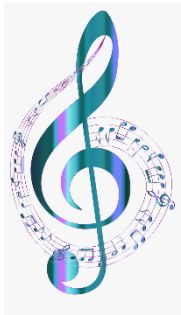
The Soundscapes organization includes several local performing entities. This ensemble of seven ambassadors represents the highest level of performance training within Soundscapes. Each musician has already proven his/her dedication and musical abilities. Group members audition annually and perform at civic, nonprofit, corporate, and private events for which they are compensated. Their purpose and guiding principle:

Music empowers individuals and connects our community. That's why Soundscapes provides music education and performance opportunities to students on the Virginia

Peninsula from 2nd grade through age 25 through free after-school music programs, summer programs, and community ensembles, including Peninsula Youth Orchestra and Peninsula Youth Jazz Band.

The Soundscapes ambassador ensemble of seven teen musicians have received pre-professional training as these young players learn what it means to be a working musician. This Sunday's at Four performance will be directly following a residency in Warm Springs, VA where they will have worked with the renowned Garth Newell Piano Quartet.

Because some members of the ensemble graduate each year, new musicians are chosen and new arrangements are made to accommodate each year's instrumentation. The students, mostly juniors and seniors, with one seventh-grade tuba player, all credit Soundscapes with helping them focus on schoolwork and time-management skills. All have college aspirations...many headed for careers in the sciences.



## **SAF Remaining Performances**

**April 12, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.**

**2025-2026 Soundscapes Performance Ensemble**  
**Seven students from the Peninsula Youth Orchestra**  
**serve as artistic ambassadors for Soundscapes**

**Monday, May 4, 2026 -7:00 p.m.**

**US Air Force Langley Winds**

**June 7, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Solo Youth Recital – Lydia Li, Piano**

**August 2, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Terrific Teen Talent Recital**

**Six Hampton Roads Teens selected by audition to present**  
**individual mini recitals on this Teen Concert**

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**111 S. Church Street, Smithfield VA**



# ***MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR ON WHARF HILL!***

*Christ Episcopal Church became the church of the Todd family who owned the land the church sits upon, and the building that became the church we have today.*

*SAIL250: June 19 – 23, 2026 Celebration in Smithfield*

*Plan to become a Tour Guide for a day and share the stories and history of our church and its connection to the Mallory Todd Family!*

**TODD FAMILY OF  
SMITHFIELD, VIRGINIA**



Portrait of Mrs. Mallory Todd  
Isn't she lovely?



Captain Mallory Todd was a wandering seaman who settled in Smithfield in 1767 and opened a ham curing and shipping business by early 1779. Todd sided with colonists during

the Revolutionary War and used his sailing vessels to bring arms and supplies to the colonies, according to: "Smithfield, A Pictorial History," by Segar Cofer Dashiell.

Mallory Todd's son, John R. Todd, later took over the ham business. He owned the area now known as Battery Park, including the Gatling Pointe land. In a deed dated Dec. 13, 1851, he and his wife, Eliza Todd, deeded the Gatling Pointe land to Robinson A. Todd. The deed doesn't state how Robinson A. Todd was related to the couple but it does state that the land was changing hands, "in consideration of natural love and affection" - and because Robinson A. Todd paid \$1 for it. Abstracted from: DailyPress.com Extra Hampton Roads Edition. Article by Laurie Koch Thrower.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY 1608 - 1907, by Col. E. M. Morrison. A Brief History of Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Compiled for Distribution at the Jamestown Tercentenary Exposition:

"Before the building of railroads and the advent of steamboats, Smithfield, being the principal port of this county, had a large export and coastwise trade, as has already been recited, principally with the English colonies in the West Indies, the principal articles of export being staves, peas, hoop poles and bacon. The trade in bacon early gave rise to much attention in the feeding, slaughtering and curing of the bacon in this county, and especially as to the ham. One of the packing houses in Smithfield, being the oldest of the kind in this country, the house of E. M. Todd & Co., has been in the business for a period of at least one hundred and twenty seven years as shown by an old invoice dated April 30th, 1779, for hams furnished Ellerston and John Perrot in the Island of St. Eustatius, West Indies, by Mallory Todd, Smithfield, Virginia. [p39] among other articles taken in exchange for hams, is one two-pound cannon, £13 6s and one hat £0 5s 4d. The trading vessel was named Parnelia, Francis Herbert, captain. The invoice is now in the possession of Mr. E. M. Todd, grandson of Mallory Todd, and the proprietor of the present establishment. The shipment of cured hams, annually, from Smithfield, is about forty thousand. The supply of hogs furnishing these hams is limited, or else the shipments would be much heavier. It is a fact that the ham curers have their full supply of hams sold, as a rule as early as the first of March of every year."



Do you see the 1832 church? Take off the towers and remove the Parish Hall/Education area. What is left is the old church without its bell on top and original door and windows. The big white house in the background is the Todd house.

**Deadline for  
May 2026 WORD  
Wednesday April 22, 2026  
by 5:00 p.m.**

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

**DONATIONS GO TO OUTREACH**

**Friday, April 17, 2026**

# Martin's Corner

## by Martin Mikulas

**"In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence."**

— Robert Lynd

Although our local bluebirds stay around all year, they start teaming up and become quite active beginning in late February. Some years we are lucky and they will choose our bird house for mating, and other years they tease us and just steal all the meal worms we put out. This year Lady J convinced me to put up a new bird house, and our neighbor Jane gave me a hanging wire container packed full of alpaca nesting wool to further entice them. The first attached image shows a bluebird couple checking out the new house and the second image shows the alpaca wool.



Photo 1 – The new bird house



Photo 2 – Wire container full of alpaca nesting wool.

The bluebird couple work as a team while scouting for a nest but divide chores as they prepare for their offspring to arrive. The male's main priority is to keep away all competing tenants of which there are many while the female begins gathering nesting material. Several different bird species will challenge the bluebirds for occupancy so the male stays busy. The third image shows the male landing while the last two images show the male maintaining a vigilant posture (see photos on next page). We enjoy watching the proceedings while keeping our fingers crossed.

Martin and Lady J



Photo 3 - Male landing on bird house.



Photo 4 & 5: Male maintaining a vigilant posture





**OPEN MIC  
NITE**



**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 20,  
2026**



Jam'N sang: "You Ain't Goin Nowhere" and "Wagon Wheel".



Tim Jones read two poems: "The Flowers on the Altar" and "You Can Tell a Welshman, But Not Much."



Jim Abicht sang: "I Like Trains" by the Eagles; "I am a Child" by Neal Young; and Sam Baker's "Waves".



James Eanes and Bob Strozak performed original music written by Bob.



Nancy Burton performed a comedy routine.



Walt Trimble and Fred Andy sang Peaceful Easy Feeling & Rocket Man as Fred played his 12 string Cigar Box guitar that his brother makes.



Vince & Laura performed the following songs: "Walking Down the Line"; "Happy Ever After You"; "I Like to be with me When I'm with You".



March 29, 2026



The Rev. Todd DeLaney (left) reading the "Liturgy of the Palms" and Betty Dubinsky (right), Crucifer.

**Our Palm Sunday  
Holy Eucharist  
began outdoors with  
The Liturgy  
of the Palms read by  
our priest, Todd.**

**At the conclusion, the  
congregation processed into  
the church singing  
"All Glory Laud and Honor"**





# 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 – size 5 or 6



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7pm Holy Eucharist, Rite I	3 12 noon Good Friday Service	4 7pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II		7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 4pm SAF 2025-2026 Soundscapes Performance Ensemble	13	14	15	16	17 7pm Open Mic Nite 	18
19 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II After church – Vestry meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	27	28	29	30		



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	4 7pm SAF - US Air Force Langley Winds	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11	12	13	14	15 7pm Open Mic Nite 	16
17 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II After church – Vestry meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II at St. Luke's						



- 4 Bob Amato
- 4 Diane Greenhalgh
- 6 Jedidiah Worcester
- 14 John Bates
- 26 Jennifer Worcester
- 28 Anna Goodwyn
- 29 April Jones

- 4 Ani Crocker
- 9 Nate Newman
- 12 Ray Payne
- 19 Wayne Willis
- 21 Len Krzywicki
- 22 Michael Worcester