



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

111 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
SMITHFIELD, VA 23430
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THE WORD JUNE 2026

PRIORITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026

At the May Vestry meeting, we identified four priorities for the remainder of 2026. As we consider goals and initiatives that we might like to accomplish, we will examine how they might fit within these priorities. If they don't fit within these priorities, then we may need to set them aside for the future. Our resources – time, talent, and treasure! – are limited (as they are for every church), and thus we need to focus our efforts. We established these priorities to assist the church in doing that. Our priorities for the rest of 2026 are:

- 1. Focus on and continue to strengthen the spiritual health of the congregation.**
- 2. Focus on and continue to improve the financial stability of Christ Church.**
- 3. Focus on and continue to upgrade, optimize, and reinforce the safety and security of our church.**
- 4. Focus on and continue to enhance and increase our engagement with the Smithfield and Isle of Wight community.**

You will notice that each of these priorities contains the word “continue.” There is nothing new here. These are things we have been working on for a long time. The purpose here is to help us to be more focused and thus more efficient with our time, talent, and treasure.

We would earnestly covet your input and suggestions of ways that we as a church might address these priorities. Please either share your insights with Father Todd or a member of the Vestry or put a suggestion in the suggestion box now located on top of the piano in the Parish Hall.



**An amazing opportunity to showcase our church
and engage with our community!!**

As part of the Sail250 Virginia celebration marking our nation's 250th anniversary, Smithfield has been chosen as an official Affiliate Harbor
Sail250 Virginia Host City

The event will take place June 12-14 and will feature historic character vessels, including the skipjack *Sigsbee* and other traditional Chesapeake Bay work boats, shoreside festivities, local arts and crafts, and unique pleasure crafts along the waterfront.

WHERE DO WE COME IN?

Tours of local historic sites will take place on Saturday, June 13. Christ Church is the second stop on the tour! We will also be open throughout the day for people who are exploring the town on their own. We will provide tours, a cooling station, restrooms, and will have cool drinks and cookies for sale.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Further information will be available in the next few days. A bulletin insert next week will have more details, and please watch your email!! In the meantime, sign-up sheets for volunteers will be available on Sunday. Let's pull together to make this an event to remember!

Sail250 Virginia

Concert June 13 – 4:00 PM

Ricky Goodwyn, Jr., Tenor

Chyh Leng Low, Piano



Mallory Todd's Family Church – 111 S. Church Street

Mallory Todd, Smithfield merchant in 1767, developed successful maritime shipping and ham-curing business that delivered hams to the Caribbean & returned with wartime supplies for the Colonies' Revolutionary cause.

Contributions to Performers Appreciated

Checks to: PCCMI for Ricky, P.O. Box 127, Smithfield, VA 23431

CREATION CARE



I have seen many eagles these past few weeks, so this poem seemed appropriate to share .

Eagle Poem

By Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.

Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circled in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.

Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,

Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.

We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.



HELLO ALL,

Your vestry continues to be VERY busy. As you know from an earlier article, during our March retreat we identified over 20 items that we felt that we needed to focus on. Below is an update on our progress.

1. Counting procedures were reviewed and efficiencies identified. These have been integrated and are now being implemented.
2. Flower donation procedures were reviewed and efficiencies identified. A new and more streamlined process will be implemented soon. More to come on this.
3. We held a very successful and well attended workday!
4. A safety inspection was carried out by our local police department. The examiner made several recommendations which we are working to implement.
5. We identified the need for nursery volunteers who can be on “standby” each week. In order to offer the nursery, we must have a team of two un-married adults who are Safe Church trained. We currently need to recruit at least three more people for this ministry.
6. Leigh Abbott was appointed as Outreach Chairperson. More to come on this soon.
7. We examined the possibility of providing online worship opportunities in the event that inclement weather forces us to cancel in-person services. This can be done over Facebook in the same way that our services are streamed each week.
8. At Todd’s request, the members of the vestry shared a list of hymns which we are familiar with which he can provide to our accompanists at his discretion in an effort to encourage more congregational singing.
9. A suggestion box has been placed on top of the piano in the parish hall. PLEASE offer suggestions and comments as your input is very important to us.
10. This became part of #7 and is complete.

11. The members of the vestry completed the Invite, Welcome, Connect survey tool. While there is much, much more that we could do with this tool – and may in the future – for now we are utilizing it as a starting point to help guide our discussion of priorities and goals for the rest of the year.
12. In order to facilitate and encourage in-reach within our parish community, the Care Team and Martha's Table were merged into one.
13. The Ministries Manual was reviewed and is in the process of being updated.
14. The Christ Church Smithfield Parish Guidelines Manual is being reviewed and updated.
15. We continue to seek and implement ways to strengthen our financial integrity. This will continue to be an ongoing effort for the foreseeable future.
16. Todd polled the vestry to see if there was a consensus regarding the possible return of bulletin inserts of weekly lectionary readings. All agreed that we would like to have them back and that we felt that most in the church would feel the same way. Todd agreed, and directed the church office to reorder the inserts. Unfortunately, they will not arrive until around September. Until then Todd agreed that we could put Bibles in each pew for those who might wish to read along.
17. In an effort to further rebuild and strengthen the bond between Christ Church and Historic St. Luke's, the St. Luke's Board of Directors was invited to attend one of our church services and parish pot-luck in April. We continue to seek ways to bolster and invigorate this important and centuries-old relationship.
18. Usher duties were reviewed and efficiencies identified. These have been integrated and are now being implemented.
19. Eric and Leigh have identified ways to improve the sound of our services which are streamed on Facebook. These new methods have been implemented.
20. We are currently exploring the possibility of designing and offering t-shirts for purchase as a way to increase name recognition within the community.
21. Vestry related items that are mostly completed.
22. Vestry related items that are mostly completed.
23. We are exploring the possibility of offering some type of Adult Spiritual Formation beginning in the Fall.

So far 11 items are complete and the other 13 are in process and should be completed soon.



THE FRANCISCAN CORNER

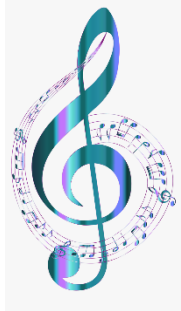
By Beth Harris

May 2026

Gratitude



Thank you, Lord, for this beautiful, cool morning.
Thank you for the brilliant green-ness of the trees and shrubs,
whose branches are dancing in the breeze.
Thank you for the colors the flowers are displaying;
the bright yellow, burgundy, peach, red, and orange, and for the
pollinators who are happily burying their heads in the blooms.
Thank you for the bird choir in the background – true music!
Most of all, thank you for this moment in time, carved out
for appreciation and enjoyment of Nature – your gift to us.



Sundays at Four

Remaining Performances

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**



Sundays at Four

presents the

Pianist, Lydia Li

Sunday, June 7 - 4:00 PM



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



THANK YOU FROM
SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
PACKER BATTALION

May 19, 2026

Dear CEC Parrish,

On behalf of the Smithfield High School Packer Battalion, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous monetary donation. Your support plays a vital role in helping us continue to develop strong leadership, discipline, and teamwork among our cadets.

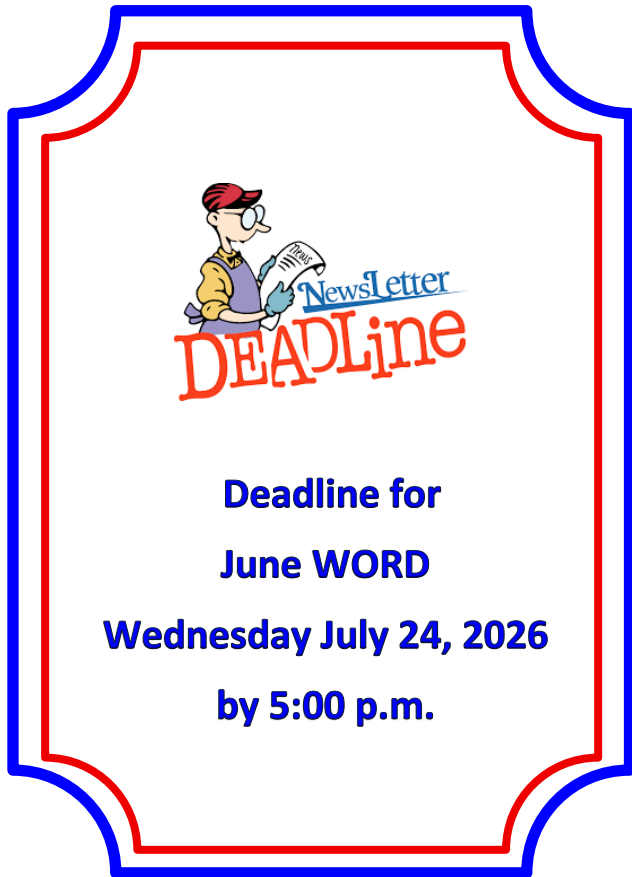
Because of contributions like yours, we are able to provide meaningful opportunities and resources that directly enhance the cadet experience. Your donation helps ensure that events such as our annual Cadet Ball remain affordable for all participants, while also supporting essential needs such as PT warmups, T-shirts, and sweat suits.


Additionally, your generosity enables us to cover travel and food expenses for battalion field trips and competitive team events, fund entry fees for Rifle, Drill, and Raider competitions, and purchase equipment not fully covered by Army funding. It also allows us to recognize cadet achievements through medals, medallions, trophies, and plaques, while investing in updated physical training equipment.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission and your belief in the potential of our cadets. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Betsy and Bill Egan and the Open Mic Night Community for their continued support and generosity toward our program. Thank you for making a meaningful difference in the lives of our cadets and in our community.

With sincere appreciation,

Cadet Reina A. McLellan
Smithfield High School Packer Battalion



 Newsletter
DEADLINE

**Deadline for
June WORD
Wednesday July 24, 2026
by 5:00 p.m.**



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



DONATIONS GO TO OUTREACH



Friday, June 19, 2026



**Sunday,
June 21,
2026**



MEMORIES

OPEN MIC



**FRIDAY,
MAY 15,
2026**



Fred Andy & David McLellan performed "Stand By Me", "I Can See Clearly Now", & "Don't Tell Me I Have Nothing to Do"



Nancy Burton made us laugh with her jokes. Later in the evening she sang "Amazing Grace".



Taikelia Bathe sang "Never Too Much" as well as telling jokes.



Jennifer Mercer sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", and "I Could Have Danced All Night".



Marie Kessee regaled us with a story.





(left to right) Taraleigh Casteen sang “Amazing Grace” and “She’s Got You” accompanied by Alex Fenten on keyboard.



(left to right) Fred Andy, David McLellan and Alex Fenten performed “Desperado”, “Rocket Man”, “Runaway”, and “Sandman”.

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	3	4	5	6
7 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 4pm Sundays at Four: Solo Youth Recital – Lydia Li, Piano	8	9	10	11	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 church – Vestry meeting	22	23	24	23	26	27
28 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	29	30				



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	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	31	



- 1 Betsy Egan
- 6 Todd DeLaney
- 11 Barbara Stafford
- 19 Carson Worcester
- 29 Curtiss Peterson
- 30 Romeo Worcester

- 7 Alexs Greenhalgh
Leigh Leaman
- 15 Alex Fenton
- 23 Charlie Worcester
- 24 Fred Chapman
Mason Krzywicky