

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Newsletter Vol. 11, Issue 4

The First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021

The Collect for Thanksgiving Day

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving Day 2021

11/25/2021

WHEREAS, on Thanksgiving Day, Americans give thanks for the availability of food and the many blessings and opportunities we receive; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 1619, settlers led by Captain John Woodlief arrived at Berkeley Hundred and opened instructions from the Virginia Company's investors that commanded the day of their arrival to be "*yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God;*" and

WHEREAS, while reflecting on this event and the hardships the colonists endured, it is of the utmost importance to recognize and honor the indigenous people who inhabited this land for thousands of years prior the settlers' arrival and who provided essential aid to the colonists in order for them to survive the harsh early days; and

WHEREAS, the Native American community's long and deeply-rooted legacy in both the United States and Virginia reminds us of proud and painful chapters of our history, and it is essential for residents to acknowledge *all* of Virginia's history; and

WHEREAS, during this holiday, we are also reminded of our responsibility to make sure that all Virginia families and individuals have adequate and equitable access to nutritional food and proper healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is committed to combatting intolerance and expanding opportunities to ensure that Virginia is welcoming for all Virginians, no matter who they are or where they live; and

WHEREAS, on Thanksgiving Day, the Commonwealth of Virginia acknowledges more than four centuries of sacrifice, perseverance, and fortitude by all Virginians and Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize November 25, 2021, as **THANKSGIVING DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

COVID Update from the Diocese

Our Health Advisory Panel met last week with Bishop Susan and noted that after a brief decline in COVID-19 cases over the past month or so, some areas of the Commonwealth are again beginning to see a slight surge. **Health professionals anticipate that the coming colder weather, combined with holiday gatherings, will present an environment in which we can expect COVID-19 infections to increase.** To that end, when we gather for worship, formation, and fellowship, we should continue to exercise precautionary practices.

We are pleased to note that throughout the time of COVID-19, no churches have reported widespread COVID-19 outbreaks connected with any worship events. Each church has enacted its own COVID-19 protocols and parishioners have followed them faithfully. In the event that there have been any positive cases, churches have responded appropriately and kept parishioners safe. We are deeply grateful for your care and your faithfulness.

As we enter the winter months and celebrate our Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we should continue to follow the protocols we have each put in place.

The Advent Book Group

St. Augustine's will be joining St. George's on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. starting December 1st for our Advent Book Group. We will be reading "*God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Book takes the form of a daily devotional with Devotion for each day of the week during Advent and the Christmas Season. We will be looking at reflections for the whole week. This will be a wonderful addition to your Advent spiritual disciplines. A few copies are available to purchase at the church. The cost of the book is \$12. You may also purchase a copy using the link below. Zoom link to be emailed.

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0664234291/ref=ox_sc_act_title_1?smid=A TVPDKIKX0DER&psc=1

Mark Your Calendars

DATE	What's Happening?
Thanksgiving Day	Joint Zoom Service with St. George's at 10:00 a.m.
November 28	Guest Celebrant: Rev. Marc Vance
December 5	Pledge cards blessed; Q & A Session on Ministry Partnership
December 12	Guest Celebrant: Rev. Morgan Gardner
December 19	Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday Sweaters, Tees, hoodies, socks, etc.
Christmas Eve	Joint Zoom Service with St. George's at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	In person worship at St. Andrew's
December 26	Worship at St. George's 10:00 a.m., Lay-led Readings and Carols

Lay Reader Assignments for November/December

November 28 - R. Parker

December 5 - G. Whitted

December 12 - R. Watson

December 19 - R. Ashby

December 26 - M. Black and S. Black-Moore; Worship to take place at St. George's. This will be a lay-led service of carols and readings.

Acolytes: Coordinated by Shawn Black-Moore

Remember Our Sick and Shut In

If you know someone who is unable to get to church, for any reason, please let us know. We'd love to be able to visit with them and take them communion. If you know of someone who is sick, please do not assume we know. A quick phone call or email to the church secretary would be greatly appreciated. Judith Neal:
judywneal71@gmail.com

Currently on our **Sick and Shut In** list are, Linwood Collins, DeVera Cooke (NN Nursing and Rehab. Ctr.), Harold Dabney, Marjorie Emerson-Lawrence, Carolyn Hobson (The Devonshire Senior Living), Sandra Johnson (sister of Joan Moore), Icilma Lorde, William Miller (home), Mia Monroe, Russell Swann, Jackie Sydnor, Beverly Pryor-Dunomes, Hope Walton, Doris Watson and David Whitley (home).



A Birthday Prayer

God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the gift of life. Hear the prayers for your servants, who rejoice in your gifts of life and love, family and friends. Bless them with your presence and surround them with your love, that they may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to you. We ask these blessings through Christ our savior. Amen.

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Candace Hundley-Kamate | 16 - Richard Alexander |
| Icilma Lorde | 18 – Valeria Hundley |
| 2 – Robair Maldonado | David Morgan, Jr. |
| 3 – Christian Haines | 19 – Jannea Dixon |
| 4 – Wendy Morgan | 25 – Gloria Lee Martin |
| 7 – Kristen B. Ashby | 27 – Joan Moore |
| 8 – Shelly Hayes | 29 – Norma S. Whitted |
| Angel Parker | 30 – William Miller III |
| 9 – Rose B. Parker | |
| 12 – Kurtis A. Ottey | Nov. Wedding Anniversaries: |
| 13 – Phyllis S. Mather | 11 – Calvin and Carolyn Hobson |
| 14 – Robert Ransom III | 19 – Howard and Wanda Childress |
| Elconde S. Tucker | |
| 15 – Forrest C.R. Moore | |

Heads of Parish Organizations

Altar Guild – Valeria Hundley

Daughters of the King – Marcia Black

ECW – Rose Parker

Men's Club – George Whitted

Outreach – Pam Hall

Senior Choir – Joyce Ponton

Samaritans – Roscoe Redcross

Vestry terms end in January of the year listed by each name.

Senior Warden: Rose Parker
Clerk: Annette Monroe-Martin

Junior Warden: Sam Barnes
Treasurer: Roscoe Redcross

Ronald Ashby – '23

Sam Barnes – '22

Glenda Geer – '23

Pat Jackson – '23

Shawn Moore – '22

David Morgan Sr. – '22

Rose Parker – '22

Thaddeus Savage – '23

Ricky Watson – '23

George Whitted – '24

The Vestry

Requirements for vestry membership are spelled out in the Church bylaws. Judith Neal will provide you with a hard copy upon request.

The Vestry of St. Augustine's consists of nine church members elected by the congregation to serve in a leadership capacity in conjunction with the Rector. Each year, two to three members are elected for 3-year terms so that the Vestry has a factor of continuity. The group meets monthly, typically on the second Sunday of each month, to conduct the business of the church.

The Vestry has a Secretary/Register who is elected by the Vestry. This officer takes and publishes the minutes and fulfills other roles as needed. The Vestry also has a Treasurer who is elected by the Vestry. This officer is responsible for oversight of all financial matters of the parish and is supported by a Finance Committee.

News and Events in the Diocese of Southern Virginia

*Receive ***Parish News and Events*** from the Diocese of Southern Virginia by visiting www.diosova.org

*Check us out on **FaceBook**. Look for our website profile picture as there is another St. Augustine's with a Face Book presence.

Lay Readers

Lay readers are invited to consult www.netministries.org/Bbasics
for correct biblical pronunciations.

St. Augustine's Web Site

<http://www.staugustinesnn.org/>

Newsletter contact: Rose Parker at rozebud48@gmail.com



Bible School Quilt Summer of 2018