

**THE PIEDMONT EPISTLE**  
**PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS BY WORD AND DEED**  
**DECEMBER, 2011    BOX 305 MADISON, VIRGINIA, 22727**  
**WEBSITE: WWW.PIEDMONTEPISCOPALCHURCHVA.ORG**

RECTOR'S CORNER

Bishop Shannon Johnston shared enlightening insights on the season of Advent in last month's Virginia Episcopalian worth further reflection. Opening his article, "Liturgical Layers," the season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's Sacred Time. The Christmas and Easter cycles tell how our redemption was accomplished through Jesus Christ."

Bishop Johnston writes that the season of Advent has a *sharp edge to it. And when culture and custom have lights strung everywhere inside and out, Advent's dark liturgical color shows that this Church season accepts and mirrors this time of year when the days are shortest, knowing that its darkness should be embraced and entered rather than contradicted.*

*The four weeks of Advent present themes of future, present and past. (1) the Second Coming of Christ; (2) our own waiting and preparation for Christ in our lives and our acceptance of Him (the second and third Sundays of Advent, when we encounter John the Baptist); and (3) the account of the annunciation of Jesus' birth to Mary and Joseph, on the fourth Sunday. It takes real discipline for us to develop and keep focus on the very different things that the Church is*

*doing at this time of year. That disciplined focus is exactly what the liturgy is intended to help you find through the Scriptures, the words to the hymns, in ritual (such as the Advent wreath) and in a particular inwardness and restraint.*

Many people make the observation that it is difficult for people who have experienced extreme loss to appreciate the "joy and celebration" of Christmas. Advent is a restrained counterbalance in preparation for a joyful Christmastide. Advent makes us aware fulfillment is coming, but is not yet here. Advent reminds us of peoples past and ancient who have searched for and pointed out of darkness to the coming of Christ Jesus. Advent challenges us to see this coming in the humble, common events of life. Advent slows us. Advent encourages us to take time for self and God as one incarnate.

*As your bishop, my prayer is that you will know this wondrous time for everything that it is. You will find that Advent is so much more than "getting ready for Christmas." We are preparing to meet Christ Himself-the-One who will come again in all of His glory, who comes to us daily in our lives of discipleship, and who is the Word made flesh who dwelt among us.*

**Did you know?**

One of the earliest references to Christmas being celebrated on December 25 appeared in Antioch in the middle of the second century. An official determination was made in the fourth century, when the Roman emperor Constantine embraced Christianity, thereby ensuring the legality of Christmas celebrations. The Council of Tours in 567 established the period of Advent as a time of fasting before Christmas. They also proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany a sacred, festive season.

The familiar carol "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" belongs to the Advent season since it celebrates the expectation of Christ's coming rather than His actual birth. Our choir will be singing a musical drama on this popular carol this Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion Rite I
	9:30 a.m.	First Sunday of the Month Brunch
	9:00 a.m.	Journey to Adulthood - Youth Groups
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion/Morning Prayer Rite II
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School/nursery/Nativity Pageant practice
Monday	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hour in the Parish House
	10:00 a.m.	Home Schooled Children – Parish House
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Adult study group at the McDowell’s home
	8:30 a.m.	First Friends Preschool - Church
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer - Church
	8:30 a.m.	First Friends Preschool - Church
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Adult Study: <u>Listening for God</u> – Parish House
	11:15 a.m.	Holy Eucharist – Parish House
	7:00 p.m.	Spiritual Journaling Class – Parish House
	7:00 p.m.	Young Life Campaigners – Parish House lower level
	8:30 a.m.	First Friends Preschool - Church
Friday	9:30 a.m.	First Friends Preschool Chapel - Church
	10:00 a.m.	Home Schooled Children – Parish House
	10:15 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study with Susan Wingate – Parish House
	6:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper (all are welcome) – Parish House
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Fellowship – Parish House
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Piedmont Church Choir practice – Church
	9:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Communion at Autumn Care 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>

**Regular Office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.**



## DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday the 2 <sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.	Choral Society Concert – St. Thomas’ Episcopal, Orange
Saturday the 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.	Susan Hull and David Bagby wedding – Graves’ Chapel
Sunday the 4 <sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.	Choral Society Concert – Mt. Carmel Baptist, Haywood
Tuesday, the 7 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.	Habitat for Humanity Christmas Party – Madison U.M.C.
Friday the 9 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.	Holy Communion - Autumn Care Home
Sat/Sun, 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> at 5 & 7:30 p.m.	“The Singing Christmas Tree” – Orange Baptist Church
Sunday the 11 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.	Brunch at Molly & Steve Sanford’s “Hollerfolk” - Syria
Tuesday the 13 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.	“Messiah” sing-a-long – St. Thomas’ Episcopal, Orange
Wednesday the 14 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.	Madison Ministers’ Christmas “Chili-do” – Hunsicker’s
Sunday the 18 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Nativity Pageant
Sunday the 18 <sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.	Piedmont Church Vestry – Parish House
Tuesday the 20 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.	Region I Clericus – Aquia Episcopal Church
Friday the 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.	Holy Communion - Autumn Care Home
Saturday the 24 <sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist for families with youngsters
Saturday the 24 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist and Choral Cantata
Saturday the 24 <sup>th</sup> at 10:30 p.m.	Midnight Holy Eucharist at Graves’ Chapel, Graves Mill
Sunday the 25 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist – one service today

## PRAYER JOYS & CONCERNS

WE OFFER PRAYERS OF HEALING FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Pat Price, Ruth Henken (Dave's mother), Dot Dalton, Stan & Nan Allison (Dorsey Comer's brother and sister-in-law), Kitty Edwards (Jaynie Jackson's aunt), the Rice family (Charlotte Scott's family), Elizabeth Ferrier (friend of Katherine Parker), the Mawdsley family, Danny Call (friend of the Parkers), Susan Muston, Sue Norris, and Sharon Harris (friends of Dorsey Comer), Lori Weldon (friend of the Landolt's), Chloe Hammer (Jean Kane's sister), Shelley Castell (Katie Puryear's sister) Maria Rosenberg, Ellen Searls, Jenna Angelo (Sue Brown's niece), Michael Foster (friend of the John's), Sue Vaughn (friend of the Jackson's), Reggie Hall (Barbara Straightiff's brother-in-law), Pat Porter (Kathy Henken's sister), Russell Lane (Carolyn Stanley's brother-in-law), Dreama Travis, Nicky Bourgeois (Doris Lackey's friend), Cheryl Tompkins and Janet Chrismore (friends of the Henken's), Miriam Terninko (friend of the Birkhofer's), Heather Comer, Corey Barker, Bernice Egbert (Jacqueline Mow's godmother), Carrie Gillies, Andrew Windland, Karen Vinson (Mike's wife), Alex Yowell, Ann Robinson, Kyler Imel, Donna Nettles, Jacqueline Smith, the Vannetta family, Sara Parmenter, Sara DeLaurentis (Sue Burnett's niece), Marianne Krause, Dorothy Mudd, Robert Ullrich, Jeff Yowell, Mary Haley, Patrick Fohner, Lorraine Sandifer (Vera Griffin's sister), Ruby Minick (grandmother of a friend of Kay John), Nelle Ashby (Ginger Webster's mother), Sue Lam, Joyce Smith (Joe Hilliard's niece), Betty Thomas (friend of Barbara Straightiff), Travis Beckner (friend of Ed Webster), Paul Longerbeam, Ted and Rene Hinds, Elsie Hubbell (Jean Kane's mother), and Sandra Clore (Waltine Robinson's niece).

WE OFFER PRAYERS OF HEALING AND GOD'S LOVING PRESENCE FOR FRIENDS IN NURSING HOME CARE: Jack and Martha Cornwell at the Dogwood Center in Orange, Dorothy Green (Charlotte Scott's sister), George Novak and Bea Douglas at Autumn Care.

We pray peace and the restoration of people's safety and dignity in Japan, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti, Myanmar, and other parts of the globe where there is extreme suffering and injustice.

We pray for our missionaries Sarah & Gary Greenwood in Peru and for Kimberly Johnson and John Hunt as they work in Liberia.

We pray for our service men and women: Kenneth Hahn, Justin Poage, Ashby Lyn Lamb, Brian Yoder, John Keys, Matt Gardner in Afghanistan, Michael Seeberger in Bahrain, Paul Dixon in South Korea,, and Clay Puryear at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

We pray for our presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori; our bishops, Shannon Johnston , David Jones and Ted Gulick, the churches of the Diocese of Virginia, and for our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion's 38 churches.

We pray for the families in Barbara's House; for the work of Madison Emergency Services Association, Habitat for Humanity, Madison Free Clinic, Literacy Council of Madison County, Boy's and Girl's Club of Madison, Senior Nutrition Site, and the Madison County Education Foundation.

We pray for Eva Zell as she experiences extreme physical loss and a spiritual awakening to the near presence of our Lord. We pray for Betty Pumphrey her daughter and for her family as they support Eva at this time of preparation for death.

We pray for our youth in college or living away: Peter Thawng Za Uk in Ohio, Haley and Nick Bader, Julia Craig in Greece, Willie Dale, Kim Henken, Claire & Paul Jackson, Sam Landolt, Katherine and Michael Parker, Grace Pastore in Scotland, Isabelle and Tori Puryear, Sui Vang, Gabby Wadel, Nathan Young and Josh Zarambo.

### Prayer Partners

Please pray daily as a household or individual for your prayer partner(s) by name. During the month, please carry your prayer into action by exchanging some token of Christian love. Send them a card with your picture(s), exchange a meal, sit together during church, or visit at the fellowship hour or brunch after church. You will find your name and the name of your prayer partner(s) on an enclosed page of this newsletter.

## VESTRY NOTES

The Piedmont Church vestry met Sunday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Bob Nowak presented a monthly treasurer's report: \$19,000 cash on hand with an additional \$5,000 from the Jones' estate; \$5,000 paid on our Diocesan pledge with vestry approval to pay the remaining \$5,000; Trustee's of the Fund endowment gift of \$335.55 is available for the endowment committee's recommendation.
- Outreach Offerings for December go to the Angel Tree book fund for Head Start Children.
- The vestry's nominating committee was charged with duties for filling an unexpired term of one year plus their replacements. Doug Mow, Kay John and Dink Kreis are the nominating committee and will be going off the vestry after the annual meeting on January 15.
- The next regular vestry meeting will be Sunday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the parish house.

## NEW VESTRY TERM

Bob Nowak, after being on the vestry and now serving as co-treasurer with Norris John, made the observation that our two year vestry term doesn't really allow enough time for vestry members to grow into the church leaders we need and a three year term might be more helpful. Three year terms are the pattern of most Episcopal congregations and allow more time to function at full capacity after learning the job in the first year of service. The terms would be staggered so two of the six vestry members would be elected each year. Since we need to elect four members this year, two of the four would be asked to serve just two years, and two to serve the new three-year terms. Such a proposal should be approved at the January parish meeting.



## SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCH BUNCH

The Sunday Morning Brunch Bunch invites you to dine with them on the first Sunday of each month following the 8:30 a.m. service. You are invited to bring a breakfast dish to share and an offering for the MESA food closet. December 11<sup>th</sup> is our next brunch. It will be hosted by Molly and Steve Sanford at their home "Hollerfolk" in downtown Syria just across from the Syria Mercantile. Details about hosts and location for future brunches are posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

## CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

Mark your calendars for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Concert of the Madison County Choral Society. There are two performances: Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Orange and Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Haywood. This year's concert is a mix of contemporary and traditional choral works by a variety of composers and arrangers. Martha Mikula will share her baton with guest conductors in this anniversary year celebration.

## HULL-BAGBY WEDDING

Susan Hull and David Bagby cordially invite you to their wedding this Saturday, December 3 at 4:00 pm in Graves' Chapel. Susan and David with the musical help of Carolyn Lamb have been leading services at Graves' Chapel for the last two years. Graves' Chapel was Susan's childhood church and has been a wonderful setting for a number of weddings. Our happy thoughts and well wishes go to Susan and David in their life together.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH NATIVITY PAGEANT

"A Matter of Faith" is the title of this year's Piedmont Church Nativity Pageant. Each year we have thoroughly enjoyed an original pageant written and directed by our own Beverly Young. The *word* is that Beverly's pageants are like good sermons. They will make you laugh, they will touch your heart and make you cry, and they will make you feel religious. Whether you need a good laugh or a cry, come to the manger and "see" Sunday, December 18 at 10 a.m. Rehearsals are open to all children and youth on Sunday, December 4 & 11 at 10:00 a.m.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist for younger children

Lizabeth Smith, preacher

Stuart Smith, celebrant

8:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist and Christmas Musical  
Drama by Martha Mikula, organist and  
Piedmont Church Choir.

10:30 p.m.

Midnight Holy Eucharist at Graves'  
Chapel, Graves Mill

## DECEMBER PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray daily as a household or individual for your prayer partner(s) by name. You will find your name and the name of your prayer partner(s) listed below.

Jack & Heidi Adams	Hardie Newton
Emily Amos	Kim Pumphrey
Brian & Rebecca Bader	Beau Puryear
Robert and Dorothy Bair	Colt & Katie Puryear
Eve Bargmann & Joe Polin	Kaaren Ray
Jeanne Bender	Jim & Pat Roberts
Jim Bernat & Debbie Ball	Carol Robertson
Bill & George Ann Birkhofer	Chris & Jennie Robertson
Neil & Barbara Breeding	Mike & Helen Robertson
Sue Brown	Waltine Robinson
Beth Burnam	Adele Baker & Bill
Sue Burnett	Briarley Rogers
Chris & Jessica Burnside	Beth Roireau
Susan Cable	Maria Rosenberg
Clay Campbell	Doreen Russell
Mariorie Cave	Steve & Molly Sanford
Dorsey Comer	Roger & Jill Schreiner
Jack & Martha Cornwell	Charlotte Scott
Arthur & Bethany Craig	Ellen Searls
Martin Croes	Ann Skidmore
David Cronk	Stuart & Elizabeth Smith
Reggie & Helle Dale	Anthony Soucek
Spencer & Mary Chilton	Nick & Sherry Spencer
Denise Detchon	Barbara Straightiff
Angela Dodson	Carolyn Stanley
Celia Dollarhide	Carl & Serena Tenziegloski
Jenny Edwards	Mary O. Thompson
Joan Edwards	Allison Vidal
Steve & Shelby Gohn	Jim & Mary Walker
Sam & Susan Good	Lisa Warren
Griff & Vera Griffin	Ed & Ginger Webster
Kim Griffith	Kavanaugh & Bepvy White
Mark & Diane Haddon	Beverly Young
Erin Haggerty	Sharon Zarambo
Brad & Lydia Hansen	Dee Dee Lyon
Dave & Kathy Henken	Ed & Teresa Matricardi
Joe Hilliard	Rich & Linda Maurer
Dona Hutchinson	Skip McDanolds
John Hurt & Kimmy Johnson	Nick & Cindy McDowell
Frank & Susan Hyland	Brian and Margeaux McLain
Brad & Jaynie Jackson	Margy McLain
Betty James	Marty & Martha Mikula
Rose Jenkins	Dick & Mary Moore
Norris & Kay John	Cecil Morgan
Marcela Johnson	Kathryn & Tony Morris
Jean Kane	LTC Doug & Jacqueline Mow
Kathe Kendall	Paul Munson
Larry & Susan Kennedy	Hardie Newton
Jim & Alma Koontz	George & Margaret Novak
Dink Kreis	Bob & Carol Nowak
Doris Lackey	Bettie Parker
Nelson & Carolyn Lamb	Joe & Vickie Parker
Jim & Bess Landolt	Dotty Posey
Keith & Blair Lonergan	Betty Pumphrey

# DECK THE HALLS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to participate. Please bring conditioned greenery and clippers if you have them. Donations are being accepted for poinsettias. Checks may be written to Piedmont Episcopal Church, with “**Poinsettias**” written in the memo section and placed in the collection plate.

## PIEDMONT HELPER LIST December 2011

	4 <sup>th</sup> – Advent 2	11 <sup>th</sup> – Advent 3	18 <sup>th</sup> – Advent 4	24 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve	25 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day
	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jim Landolt	Isabella Hansen	Connor Puryear	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
<b>Crucifer</b>	Jim Walker	Josh Good	Sebastian Stevens	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
<b>Altar Care</b>				Altar Guild	
<b>Chalice</b>	Norris John	Skip McDanolds	Bob Nowak	4:00 Lizabeth Smith 8:00 Skip McDanolds	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
<b>Lector/ Intercessor</b> 8:30 10:00	Beppy White  Dave & Kathy Henken Form VI	Dink Kreis  Doug & Jacqueline Mow Form I	Griff Griffin  Beverly Young & Beth Roireau Form II	4:00 <i>Lector Needed</i> Beth Roireau (I)  8:00 Doug & Jacqueline Mow Form III	No 8:30 Service  Reggie Dale (L) <i>Intercessor Needed</i> Form IV
<b>Refreshments</b>	Katie Puryear	James & Dorsey Comer	Vickie Parker		Coffee Only
<b>Usher</b>	Kay John	Bob Nowak	Carol Nowak	<i>4:00 Volunteer Needed</i> <i>8:00 Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
<b>Vestry Person</b>	Joe Parker	Kay John	Dink Kreis	Jean Kane	Jean Kane
<b>Nursery/ Sunday School</b>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	Children's Pageant		