



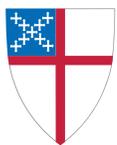
POHICK POST

 Pohick Episcopal Church

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November 2020



From The Rector
The Reverend
Dr. Lynn P. Ronaldi

*Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the **night** praying to God. When **morning** came, he called his disciples to him and chose 12 of them...*

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd was there...who had come to be healed of all their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.” - Luke 6:12-19

Having experienced the flow of God’s love from the **night of prayer** to the morning of **community and ministry**, I have found this passage from Luke’s Gospel to be revelatory. It illustrates how genuine community evolves and thrives.

Jesus spent the night alone on the mountain in intimate prayer with God. In the morning he came down and formed his community. That same day, he and his disciples went out and healed the sick and proclaimed the good news. To a harassed, oppressed and anxious people, Jesus and his disciples brought a message of God’s ongoing presence, love and hope in the future.

I’ve always perceived this movement, this overflowing of God’s love, as “Heart Theology.” In prayer, our hearts are filled with God’s love and healing power. We are filled and refilled anew with the power of the indwelling Holy



Rev. Lynn and Julia and Nick Brown celebrated their wedding on Oct. 10.

Spirit. And God’s love overflows from us, spilling out of us in the form of love, compassion, mercy, and justice.

It’s fascinating to perceive this order. As Henri Nouwen describes it, Jesus models a movement “*from solitude, to community to ministry.*” In other words, we don’t do community well until we have connected to the source of love.

At its heart, a church community is about love and relationship. It is not about four walls. At its root, community has never been about meeting in a sacred building - as beloved as that structure may be. The heart of genuine community is a movement from night to morning, from intimate prayer to familial relationship and loving, selfless service.

Notice what’s happening before our very eyes. As we are well aware, this challenging year of 2020, our world and community have been enduring a dark time. In a sense, through social distancing, we’ve been forced into solitude. Yet, at Pohick, genuine community is flourishing.

*With or without walls,
we are building community and ministry.*

This, then, is the theme of Pohick’s 2020-21 Stewardship.

In the midst of incredible challenge, disappointment, and cultural chaos, Pohick has persevered and thrived, open to the Holy Spirit and learning to be in community in new ways.



Pets and their humans enjoyed the Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 10.

Continued on page 2



From The Rector: continued from page 1



Members of the US Air Force prepare the flag for presentation at the funeral of Major Eric S. Holm.

We are moving from a place of solitude and prayer into community and ministry in new, virtual ways. We are discovering that no matter how much we love our Historic Church, no matter how much we enjoy being together face-to-face, we are growing and thriving in community - in virtual ways!

Like the earliest Christians described in Acts 2:42, a community struggling through very dark times of Roman oppression and religious persecution, we have discovered creative ways to be in community, and build relationship, in the midst of transition and chaos.

Under the grounded, resilient and Spirit-filled leadership of our gifted Vestry, Staff, and Lay Leaders, and with the generous participation of our loving community, we are thriving. Below are a few highlights of our "virtual" community and ministry life. I have highlighted the ministry areas around which that earliest community evolved:

• Worship and Prayer. We have turned on a dime, and offered regular, live-streamed and in-person worship in creative places during this pandemic. We continue to be resilient and creative. Not all churches offer in-person worship outside. Pohick is among the first to be approved for inside-church worship, once health metrics are met. Some churches do not even live-stream services. We have also added a "Zoom" Coffee 'n Complaine service with fellowship.

• Evangelism. We have created an entire new IT system and audio-visual capability, almost literally overnight. We developed a new, user-friendly and agile website with updated news, including this awesome *Pohick Post*. Using an iPhone to record Facebook live-streamed services, we have reached more than 25,000 people who have viewed and participated in them.

Some have connected with Pohick. People surfing the web can see our lively community of faith, our virtual ministries, and all our services and receive the Good News. Going forward, our AV team has planned and purchased a high-tech audio visual system for



Blessings and a drink of water offered at the Blessing of the Animals service!

the church, including outstanding sound, three cameras, and computer-generated production. We have hardwired internet into the church.

• Outreach and Mission. Our outreach team continues to coordinate Virtual Outreach, Drive-through Drives to support those in desperate need. The Community of Hope and others reach out to one another to offer virtual pastoral care. We continue to find creative ways to hold weddings, funerals, and baptisms. We have planned new and very creative All Saints and Christmas outreach programs - a Halloween Ghostly Saints drive-through event, and a Live Drive-Through Nativity, featuring a petting zoo!



Tom Goeller and Barb Lynn shared their musical talents during the Blessing of the Animals service.

• Education and Formation. Our children's, youth, and adult Christian Education programs continue to offer classes - via Zoom. We now have a seminarian, Adam Lees, who is learning and growing.

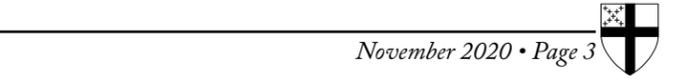
• Fellowship and Administration. The EYC led by Rusty Booth, and Young Adult Ministries led by Rev. Alex, Jen Crump-Strawderman, and Pierce Prior, have created tail-gating events that gather socially distanced.

• Living History. We continue to care for and update our beautiful campus, including our Historic Church. We are in the approval process with Fairfax County for creating a beautiful Disability Access Ramp on the south side of the church. We are also planning live-streamed historic tours of our church.

Your Stewardship Team, led by Fuzzy Thurston and Don Cooke, are helping me share this vision. Soon you will hear testimonials from new and current Pohickians about our ongoing Stewardship of Virtual Community, and our transition to community in person in 2021. Pohickians have been incredibly faithful and generous in offering treasure this year! Please prayerfully commit to doing so in 2021.

I couldn't be more grateful for your response to this current crisis. Not only are we using our solitude for prayer, we are coming down from the mountain to create community in creative, virtual ways. Our community continues to offer its time, talent, and treasure in new ways. We are living into our belief that the heart of community is relationship rooted in God's love.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Lynn+



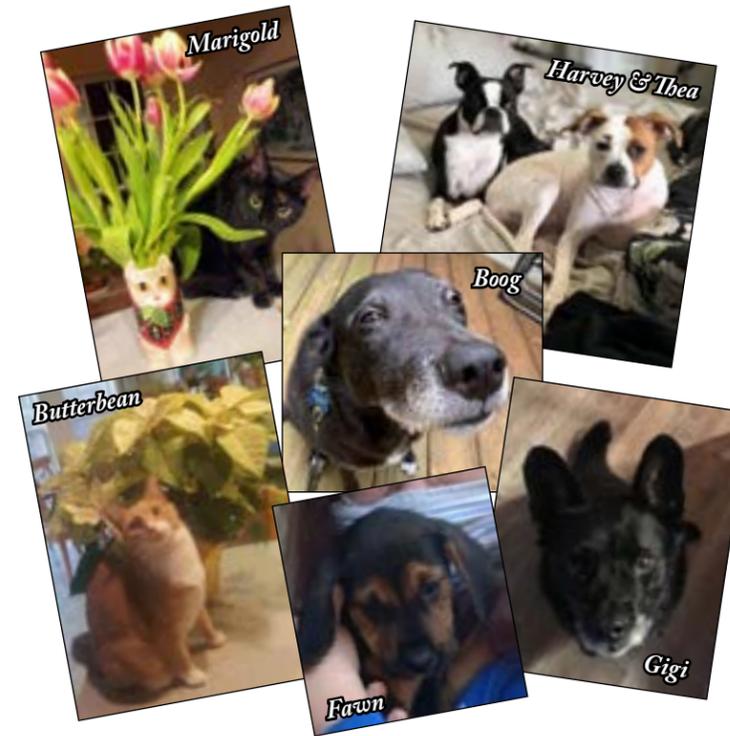
SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT
Stew Remaly, Senior Warden

Peace and Blessings to all. Hard to believe that we are heading into November. The past few months seemed to move a little more quickly as we began to get back to some normalcy by worshiping together in the courtyard and continuing to spread the "Good Word" through virtual forums. It is amazing how our parish family continues to remain active and connected. Over the past month you helped support: a successful Virtual Activities Fair; continued Young Adult Ministries; supported the Food, Candy, and Operation Support the Troops drive-through; supported Fall Work Day; coordinated the first ever Saints of Pohick All Hallows Eve drive-through; attended Sunday services to include the Eucharist; brought pets to Blessing of the Animals; attended virtual Coffee 'n Complaine, Christian Education, and even Bell Choir practice. I am not sure we can say thank you enough for all the volunteers and to those who lead and serve our parish every day.

As we head into November and December, I just want to touch on three things: Stewardship, Stewardship and Stewardship. Yep, it is that time of the year when we will start our annual Stewardship Campaign, led by Reverend Lynn, Don Cooke, and Fuzzy Thurston. Over the next month you will hear testimony from several new members to the church and some seasoned veterans. I know that all will give a great testimonial on their journey and the importance of being part of a strong Christian community. We are truly becoming a church that reaches out past the building. That outreach and evangelism takes time, talent, and treasure in order to meet the needs of those we serve and to make sure we keep our parish active and together in Christ. During these challenging times, all we can ask is that everyone please prayerfully consider what you can give to help keep us moving forward.

For those thinking about running for Vestry, please let me or the Vestry know of your interest. We would like to have at least six to eight nominees for the four open positions and at least one youth nominee. Contact a Vestry member for more information. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let the Vestry know in person or drop us a VestryGram.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving, Stew



Pohick pets that couldn't make it to the Blessing of the Animals emailed their photos to Rev. Lynn so they could receive a virtual blessing!



Another successful day for Outreach at Pohick on Oct. 12! Food for LCAC, candy for the Halloween event, and stocking stuffers for deployed troops were dropped off to support our community.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Frances Sessums, *Director of Christian Education*

Live Nativity Program

Instead of the traditional Christmas Pageant this year, there will be a Live Nativity Program. The program will feature Reverend Lynn reading The Story of Jesus' Birth, music, and a live nativity including animals where the children with their parents can feed and pet them. The program will be appropriate for people of all ages.

The program will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm in the lower parking lot at Pohick Church. Families will remain in their cars socially distanced until they are guided to visit with the animals, and then return to their cars. There will be three programs during the two hour time period. The Lewises, newcomers to Pohick, will portray Mary and Joseph. Their new baby Calvin will be the infant Jesus!



Sign-up for the event will be available soon on the Pohick Church website, pohick.org. Because there is a 50 person limit for each program, reservations must be made. Watch for more information regarding this event later in the month on our website. Special thanks to Rusty Booth for assisting in the planning of this exciting event! Mark the calendar, and be sure to attend this wonderful afternoon program! All questions can be directed to Frances Sessums at 703-472-5180 or email francesessums1@gmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox - Parish Service Project!

Pick Up A Shoebox November 8!

Join in making a difference to children around the world this Christmas by participating in Operation Christmas Child. Please pick up a shoebox in the parking lot on the west side of the Parish House on Sunday, November 8, from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon.

Filled shoeboxes may be dropped off during the week at the church or in the parking lot on the west side of the Parish House on Sunday, November 15, from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Packing instructions are included inside the shoebox along with a list of suggested and prohibited items.

Please contact Rusty Booth, rusty@pohick.org, with any questions or need to have a shoebox delivered or picked up.



Martha Guild

The Martha Guild will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom on Monday, November 2 beginning at 7:30 pm. Join us in planning for the upcoming bake sale and holiday greenery sale!

The link to the meeting will be posted on the Pohick website, pohick.org. All Women of Pohick are cordially invited to attend. Questions? Contact Connie Myers at 703-201-2204 or email jetskiing@hotmail.com.

A Thank You Message from Bill Bland

Fellow Pohick Parishioners,

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all the expressions of condolences I have received by text, email, telephone call, or sympathy card.

I wish I had time to reply to these wonderful acts of kindness from Nancy's and my Pohick friends, but I simply do not have the time to do so.

I am helping Nancy's first cousin, Ann Ross, clean Nancy's house and go through estate paperwork.

My brick business at L.C. Smith, Inc. has been as good as pre-2008/2009 recession, but allows me little free time to offer expressions of gratitude to the many of you who have reached out. My daughter and son-in-law, Kristy and Chris Girten, who were an integral part of Nancy's life, live with me. They also appreciate your many kind expressions of sympathy. I am fortunate to have Kristy at home to open the cards we have received, which means all I have to do is enjoy reading them.

We will have a private in-church funeral on November 7 with only 10 family and friends allowed in the church. A Memorial Service will be held for Nancy in 2021 as soon as the Diocese of Virginia and Pohick Church open back up for such services.

Thanks and God Bless,
Bill Bland
Nancy White's Best Friend and Caregiver



Rooted and Grounded in Love | A Spiritual Reflection

The Reverend Dr. Lynn P. Ronaldi

This fall, external forces like a divided nation and contentious election daily test our faith, hope and love. Perhaps more than ever, we are acutely aware of dreams and hopes, as well as discouragements and fears. We know we need to reconnect to an inner force of love, hope and peace. But there are times we feel unmoored, flailing about in that storm of external forces. We seek an internal anchor. A grounding. A rootedness.

The Lord gives us a straightforward and simple two-step, inner and outer path to peace and hope: Love.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself."

The first step takes us inward into prayer and relationship with God: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."*

The question is how to commit or re-commit to that inner journey. The answer is with intentionality and purpose. We are all beginners, again and again.

This weekend on All Saints Day, we remember those who have tread the path before us. Saints who make God's love visible to us in a variety of special ways. Most followed a *Rule of Life* that supported them. The word rule comes from the Latin *regula*, meaning a gentle pattern – not a rigid law.

The concept is ancient, rooted in Christian monastic origins. In the 6th century St. Benedict developed a *Rule of Life* for his community, which he lovingly described as *"a school for beginners."* The basis of that rule was a balance between prayer and action – between inward and outward commitment.

Below are some steps to creating your own Rule of Life:

1) Identify your core values and life principles – perhaps looking at Saints, dead and living, whom you've admired or emulated.

2) Consider how you might live into Benedicts' vows of obedience (listening), silence (using words sparingly, carefully and lovingly), and humility (real and honest self-awareness in relation to God and others). Apply the values and principles you chose to write your own vows in the context of your life.

3) Commit to developing some habits of body, mind, spirit, relationships, sharing resources, community, and recreation. *-From "Love is the Way."*

4) Make a regular schedule for silence, stillness and prayer. Be rooted and grounded in regular practices of meditation, breath prayer, reading and reflecting on Scripture, and resting in God's love.

In Ephesians Chapter 3, St. Paul passionately reminds us that we can, and must, *"be rooted and grounded in love."* He also insists that we can *"be filled"* again and again.

We simply need to integrate what is real and lasting into our lives. We are called to live into the great yet simple secret that the psalmist hears God saying:

"Be Still and Know that I am God."

You can create your own Rule of Life. There is no right or wrong way. You can:

First, be *realistic*. This isn't about achieving someone else's ideal. Be true to yourself and real.

Second, be *humble*. Real humility does not mean being hard on yourself with regrets or self-blame. Begin with a gentle acceptance of yourself, both strengths and weaknesses. Allow God to transform you from there.

Third, *do it now!* Don't put it off. Your Rule of Life will ebb and flow, changing with you over time. Allow yourself to sense God's tug on your heart, now.

The first step is inward. The second step moves us outward: *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Again, on All Saints we remember those who have tread the path before us. Saints who actively make God's love visible to us in a variety of special ways: in the service of God and the Church; in the speaking or writing of words that continue to nurture us; in living heroically in difficult situations; in quietly visiting the sick, friendless and imprisoned; in being a courageous and prophetic voice for justice.

Today, we are affected by many external forces and sources of division, the latest of which is the presidential election. *Forward Movement* and the Episcopal Church of the USA are leading a Novena of prayer for our nation. If you are drawn to participate, just click on the following link:

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/15381/Season-of-Prayer.aspx>

Finally, I share with you my prayer for this election season:

O Lord our God, the fountain of all love, wisdom and peace, lead your people to your will for our nation during these troubled times. Guide us to discern and elect a president and other leaders who will listen to Your Spirit of Love, protect our God-given freedoms, and lead us into justice and truth, for the sake of all your beloved children. Where there is division or discord, unite us in love and grace. Lord, protect our hearts, for they are the wellspring of life. Enable our nation to fulfill your purposes, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving Outreach to St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church is a diverse congregation that is primarily Hispanic. Many members are struggling financially during these challenging times. Working through Marleen McCabe, Pohick Outreach is donating \$3,500 and the Rector's Discretionary Fund is contributing another \$1,500 for food and rent assistance.

If you would like to contribute an additional amount, please send a check written and mailed to Pohick Church with *St. Gabriel's Thanksgiving Outreach* in the memo. We are working on developing a Christmas Outreach for that congregation as well.

**MUSIC NOTES**Linda Wilberger Egan, *Minister of Music***All My Hope on God Is Founded**

The circumstances surrounding the writing of hymn texts and tunes vary widely. Some are written out of the need of a single heart to express praise or joy or nearness to God, or to give thanks for God's presence and help in difficulty. Some are written out of the need of a particular parish for particular kinds of thought or worship. Some are commissioned around certain subjects or for certain celebrations.

My own favorite hymn is "All my hope on God is founded," hymn #665. The story of its composition can inform our singing of the hymn at Pohick.

In the late 19th century, Robert Bridges, physician and later poet laureate of England, was the choir master of St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Yattendon, a Berkshire village in the UK, the home of his new wife.



St. Peter and St. Paul Church

He was disappointed with the hymns available for his village choir to sing, and assembled a collection of ancient texts and tunes for them. Called *The Yattendon Hymnal* (1899), it took seriously the way that words and music are combined for liturgical use, and was a later inspiration to the editors of *The English Hymnal*, Percy Dearmer and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Bridges freely translated texts from other languages for the hymnal, including "All my hope on God is founded." Joachim Neander had written the text in



Robert Bridges

German as well as the tune, and the hymn was originally printed in 1679, where it was designated for "Grace after Meals." Bridges printed his translation with Neander's tune.

Then, in 1930, the composer Herbert Howells received a request for a new tune for Bridges' text in his morning mail, which he was opening as he ate

breakfast. The hymn would be used at the Charterhouse School; his friend was the director of music there. Howells had an immediate idea for the tune and composed it while he was still at the breakfast table. When the hymn was later included in the publication of *The Clarendon Hymnal* in 1936, Howells named the tune MICHAEL to honor his son, who died suddenly in 1935 of childhood polio.



Herbert Howells

According to the editors of *The Hymnal 1982*, our current hymnal, this hymn was often requested for inclusion. "Through the matching of MICHAEL with the Bridges text, a work of singular beauty and strength, the worshiper is enabled to articulate faith in a very compelling way," they said.

It is the beauty and strength of both the text and the tune that I love.

Through the text we learn how God is always present and always calling us to renew our trust and to be God's own. On earth we trust in "sword and crown" but our trust is betrayed;

we build "tower and temple," but they fall to dust. It is God's power that becomes our stronghold.

God's goodness and wisdom create "newborn worlds" which "rise and adore." God gives us gifts daily; God's love brings us joy. And so, we bring our "sacrifice of praise" for God and for Christ, and hear Christ's call to everyone.

And look at the tune! Though its range is only that of a ninth (an octave plus one note), which nearly anyone can manage (keep in mind the range of "Silent Night" is an eleventh), its sense of hope in God is conveyed from the first note, which is one of the highest notes in the hymn: "All my hope on God is founded."

You can hear the tune here: [All my hope on God is founded - organ](#)

Here is a wondrous arrangement from the choir of King's College Cambridge for brass, choir and congregation: [All My Hope on God Is Founded-King's](#)

What an amazing gift to the church as the body of Christ; what an amazing gift to us, whose lives are informed and enriched by it, and whose faith is strengthened by it.

**A Stewardship Perspective for Changing Times: Pledging Your Treasure**

"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"

"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you? Or would you know... the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself?"

(from Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*)

But the man was saddened by these words and went away in sorrow, because he had great wealth. (Mark 10:22)

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the story of a man who is forging a chain in life and girded it of his own free will. As is the case with Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley, that chain binds the man to the earth. And like Ebenezer Scrooge, the man is shown a path to redemption. In Luke's version, Jesus tells the rich young man "You still lack one thing: Sell everything you own and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." When the young man heard this, he became very sad, because he was extremely wealthy. Seeing the man's sorrow, Jesus said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

To say that stewardship is nothing more than the raising of funds to run the church, is to miss a key point. The invitation to stewardship is a part of Jesus' invitation to thrive within the eternal life of God's kingdom. Stewardship, then, is about the spiritual welfare of every adult member of the congregation. Giving back isn't about earthly recognition. It is about furthering God's work on earth and about "gaining what you cannot lose." God loves you and wants you to thrive spiritually within His kingdom. We love you and want to help guide your steps to achieve that goal.

We have made the point earlier that stewardship consists of three parts: time, talent, and treasure. Today and for the next few weeks we're going to focus on treasure - or to put it bluntly, money. Even in Jesus' time, money was required to conduct the missions of the church. Acts comes right out and says it: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need." Now we're not going to ask you to sell your possessions, but we do ask that you share with God a portion of the bounty He has given you.

So how much should I give? That's really between you and God. The practice of tithing (essentially giving 10 percent of your income) was commonplace in Old Testament times, and not just among the Jews. Most often, tithes were royal taxes to support leaders and their courts. Among the Jews, tithing supported the Levites, the temple, and other earthly requirements but in the Old Testament, tithing was not necessarily seen as sacrificial. The

young man in Mark 10, for instance, undoubtedly tithed but because of his great wealth tithing was not financially uncomfortable/sacrificial. In the New Testament - Matthew 23:23 - Jesus criticizes those who give only to fulfill the law saying: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." Jesus sees two sides of giving. In one part, giving (time, talent and treasure) is necessary to the mission of the church. In the other, giving helps turn our focus away from earthly things ("Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt..."). In Mark 10:21 above, He tells the rich young man; "There is one thing you lack: Go and sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." The point Jesus is making is that for the rich young man, his wealth has become more important than his duty to God. While he is keeping the letter of Jewish law, he is violating the first commandment - *you shall have no other gods before me.* Fast forward to today, and giving is both a part of how we support God's mission in the world, and a statement that we value Him above the dollars in our portfolio.

Getting back to our opening quote from Dickens, giving, when it is sacrificial, frees us from the heavy chain (think Jacob Marley here) forged by what Cecil Alexander calls "the vain world's golden store." To your stewardship chair, Jesus is also suggesting that from the standpoint of sacrificial giving, ten percent (the traditional tithe percentage) is just a number. That's not necessarily good news. Many are giving sacrificially well below ten percent, but for some, like the rich young man, that number will exceed ten percent. Sacrificial giving is about listening to that small, still voice of conscience. If that voice is making you uncomfortable, the number is probably about right.

Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for November 15. For those new to Pohick, this is the day we ask you to commit a portion of your bounty to God's work. Pledge cards will go out in the mail around the first of November. Between now and then, please give your pledge some prayerful thought.



THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE

Thanksgiving will be here soon, so let the Martha Guild help with preparations by offering some delicious homemade desserts to complete the menu. A variety of breads, cakes, pies, English toffee, sugared pecans, and even cheese crisps and cheese wafers for an appetizer are being offered!

Breads, \$12 each, 9"x5" loaf, 4 options:

Banana • Zucchini
Pumpkin-Cinnamon Swirl • Cranberry-Orange

Cakes, \$22 each, 3 options:

Apple • Kahlua • Rum

Pies, \$22 each, 2 options:

Pecan • Apple

English Toffee, \$10 per ½ lb

Sugared Pecans, \$12 per pint jar

Cheese Straws, \$14 per 8 oz (32 -33 pieces)

Cheese Wafers, \$12 per 8 oz (18 – 19 pieces)

An online order form can be found on the Pohick website or in an email that will be sent out to the congregation. **All orders must be received by Sunday, November 15.** Quantities are limited, so first come, first served!

There will be a drive-through pick-up for orders on Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in the parking lot area beside the Parish House and Cemetery. If other arrangements are necessary for pickup, contact Connie Myers. Checks should be made out to the "Martha Guild" or please have exact change if paying by cash.

Thanks for the support! The proceeds will allow the Martha Guild to continue their mission "Helping Others In Need." Questions? Contact Connie Myers, 703-201-2204 or jetskiing@hotmail.com.

Golden Dove

Once it's reopened, please stop by the Golden Dove gift shop! There are unique Pohick items, lovely olive wood items from the Holy Land, children's books, and seasonal items - great gifts for loved ones!

Please consider volunteering to help out in the shop - if only for a couple hours a quarter. Contact Donna Crawford to learn more about opportunities at "the Dove." Join the team once the Golden Dove safely reopens.



Holiday Greenery Sale

The Martha Guild will be offering Holiday Greenery to help with decorating for the Christmas holidays!

The following beautiful handmade items will be offered:

Centerpieces - \$35 each

Table Trees - \$40 each

Wreaths - \$45 each

An email will be sent in early November with sample pictures of each of the items along with an online order form. Pictures and the order form will also be available soon on the Pohick website, pohick.org.

Quantities will be limited, so order as soon as possible. **Orders must be received by November 23.** A drive-through pickup will take place on Saturday, December 5, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm in the parking lot between the Parish House and the Cemetery.

Make checks payable to the "Martha Guild" or have exact amount if paying in cash.

Questions? Contact Connie Myers, 703-201-2204 or email jetskiing@hotmail.com

Thanks for the continued support! The proceeds will allow the Martha Guild to continue the mission "Helping Others In Need."



UPDATE ON ISSUES IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Don Brownlee, *Member of Policy and Planning Commission*

Every spring parishes across The Episcopal Church must complete a statistical report called the "Parochial Report" and send it to the national church office. These are compiled into a picture of our Church's finances, membership and attendance trends. It is the oldest continuous gathering of data by The Episcopal Church.

The 2019 Parochial Report has been released. The results show a continuing slow, steady decline in the number of active members and average Sunday attendance, but a slight increase in total Plate and Pledge income over 2018.

- The number of baptized members nationwide stood at just short of 1.8 million. That was 2.1% less than in 2018, and 17.4% less than in 2009.

- The Diocese of Virginia counted 67,042 members, 2.7% fewer than the previous year, and a loss of 16% over the decade.

- Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) nationwide was 547,107, a decline of 2.5% from 2018. The year-over-year rate of decline was slightly less than from 2017 to 2018, but overall attendance is almost 25% below levels ten years ago.

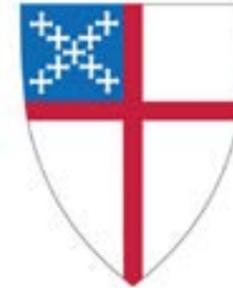
- In the Diocese of Virginia it was 20,750, a decline of 1.6% from 2018, and 16.2% from 2009

- Only a very few dioceses reported increases in either membership or ASA.

- The picture was brighter on the income side. Plate and pledge income nationwide was up 1.7% over the previous year, and 3.5% over the last five years. The average pledge likewise was up 15% over five years ago; for our Diocese, the average was 14%.

The Episcopal News Service story on these numbers did not try to gloss over their implications.

"The overall picture is dire – not one of decline as much as demise within the next generation unless trends change significantly," said the Rev. Dwight Zscheile, an expert in denominational decline and renewal. An Episcopal priest, Zscheile is vice president of innovation and associate professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



"This most recent report shows a slight moderation of the trend of decline in the past year, but overall the trajectory is clear," he told ENS. "The Episcopal Church has lost a quarter of its worship attendees over the past decade."

"At this rate, there will be no one in worship by around 2050 in the entire denomination."

Digging a little deeper into the numbers, while most dioceses reported slight declines or flat ASA overall, almost a third of the individual parishes reported an increase in attendance. But almost half reported a decline in ASA.

The Rev. Tom Ferguson, who has written extensively on the issue, told ENS "It would be my hunch that the healthier churches are getting healthier and the unhealthy churches are getting healthier."

Due to the pandemic, the Parochial Report for 2020 will only track ASA from January to March. New narrative sections will be added to let parishes describe the ways they're serving their communities that can't be measured by dollars alone. We at Pohick have long faced a challenge tracking and describing the many outreach and service efforts whose dollar value can only be estimated, if counted at all.

About the time the Parochial Report was released, our Church's Executive Council was meeting to set next year's budget. Meeting online, it approved a budget estimating \$47.1 million in expenses and \$45.9 million in income, but not until after serious debate on whether to give pay raises to staff and provide financial relief to dioceses. Church finances were reported to be generally stable; the Church's corporate operating entity received a \$3 million loan from the federal Paycheck Protection Program, and a number of its departments cut expenses.

Update on Issues in the Anglican Communion,
continued from page 9

The Executive Council set aside almost \$4 million that might be spent on the General Convention; as has been reported previously, the General Convention is scheduled to be held in Baltimore next summer, but all signs point to postponing that for a year due to the pandemic. The Rev. Michael Barlow, secretary of the General Convention, said he expected a decision to be made in November.

The Executive Council consists of 40 voting members, bishops, priests and lay people. Half are elected by the General Convention and half elected by the church's nine Provinces. It serves as the Church's governing body between General Conventions.



Our Diocesan Convention will likewise be meeting online in mid-November. The session will last for one day instead of the usual two. As of this writing no Resolutions have been proposed for consideration, and one amendment to our Constitution. It essentially affirms that we have dropped the word "Protestant" from our name and are now "the Diocese of Virginia."

We will adopt a budget for the upcoming year, and presumably learn more about Bp. Susan's plans to search for, elect and consecrate a new diocesan bishop over the next several years.

A long-awaited independent inquiry has found that the Church of England "failed to protect some

children and young people from sexual predators within their midst...Safeguarding personnel were at times ignored and their advice overlooked, in favour of protecting the reputation of clergy and the Church." The report noted that in the last several years, "much has improved, in terms of governance, training, audit, personnel, policies and procedures. However, there is still more to be done. Senior leaders have demonstrated a determination to make necessary changes to keep children safe but, to be effective, this determination needs to be translated into action throughout the Church of England."



It recommended that bishops be stripped of their powers to investigate and punish priests accused of abusing children or adults, and that a church-wide system of Diocesan Safety Officers be set up and given authority to investigate allegations of abuse.

In a "personal statement," Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said "To fail on safeguarding casts a profound stain across every good thing we do. I have said this before and I continue to stand by it. But I am acutely aware as we come towards the end of this year that while there is a genuine commitment for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to be the highest priority of all parts of the Church, it is evident we still have not got it right.

"The report published today is a stark and shocking reminder of how so many times we have failed – and continue to fail - survivors. Apologies are vital, but they are not enough. We have to listen. We have to learn. And we have to act.

"(The independent investigation) has shone a light on the past and present to help us better inform our future safeguarding work. They are owed our thanks which we give wholeheartedly. I pray this report and its recommendations will result in the changes needed to make our Church a safer place for all now and for future generations."

Continued on page 11

Update on Issues in the Anglican Communion,
continued from page 10

A disciplinary panel has unanimously found that bishop of Albany, William Love, violated his ordination vows to "conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church," and violated canon law, when he refused to allow any priest in his diocese to conduct same-sex marriages.



In 2018, the General Convention adopted a resolution that said bishops who did not support same-sex marriage on theological grounds must allow clergy to perform them nonetheless, and name another bishop to provide episcopal oversight. The ultimate decision as to whether to solemnize any marriage remained with each individual priest. All other bishops in our church who share Bp. Love's views have allowed same-sex marriages to proceed as outlined by the General Convention. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry had temporarily restricted Bp. Love's ministry in this area while the disciplinary action proceeded.

The disciplinary panel stressed that "What is not before the Hearing Panel is the discretion of any clergy to refuse to perform any rites of marriage as requested by any couple seeking such a rite. That right remains resolute. Nor does this seek to limit a bishop's jurisdiction over the use of liturgies as outlined in the canons." But it rejected all of Bp. Love's arguments about the case based on canon law, and said The Episcopal Church had met all its burdens to prove its case.

The panel will hold another hearing for both Bp. Love and the national church to offer proposals as to the consequences he should face, and then issue an order saying what they will be. The panel could potentially suspend him or remove him from his position entirely.

Bp. Love wrote his diocese, "While I am very disappointed and strongly disagree with the decision of the hearing panel ... they have issued their

judgement."
"Whatever the final outcome, it will severely impact not only me and the ministry entrusted to me as bishop of Albany, but it will also seriously impact the life and ministry of the diocese. I continue to pray that somehow God will use all of this for his purposes."

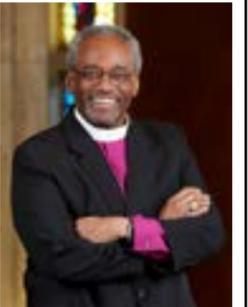
Bp. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson of the Diocese of Virginia was one of those on the disciplinary board.

It is important to remember that despite all these difficulties, and despite the enormous disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Church - globally, nationally, and locally - goes on. Like others, we are learning new ways to be a faith community. Like others, we are continuing to support LCAC and others in need with food drive.

The pandemic will force us to rethink some of our traditional ways of reaching out over the holidays. But we and Christians everywhere continue to live and act in response to Christ's admonition, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:40)

**Sunday, November 1
11:15 am**

After Pohick's Eucharists and Baptisms on All Saints' Sunday, you can access Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's sermon at the National Cathedral at 11:15 am, via the Cathedral's web page, <https://cathedral.org/event/online-holy-eucharist-2020-09-06-2020-11-01/>



Thanks to all who shared their time and talent at Fall Cleanup on October 24!

You could see the smiles in everyone's eyes as they worked on cleaning, repairing, raking, cutting, painting, pressure washing, polishing, and picking up trash. It was a perfect day for being outside in our masks and socially distanced. *A special thanks to John Sessums, Tony Harriman and Clint Herbert for setting up and organizing the work force.* If anyone has pictures, please send to Carmel Hodge at carmel.hodge@pohick.org for posting on the website. Blessings and Peace to All!

Stew Remaly, Senior Warden

Pohick Church

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VESTRY GRAM

Date: _____ Subject: _____

To: The Vestry

From: _____

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Rector: The Reverend Dr. Lynn P. Ronaldi
Assistant Rector: The Reverend Alex Allain
Seminarian: Adam Lees
Minister of Music: Linda Egan
Director of Christian Ed: Frances Sessums
Youth Minister: Rusiy Booth
Finance Admin: Mike Morgan
Sexton: John Sessums
Administrative Assistant: Carnel Hodge

Pohick Church Vestry

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Jr. Warden: Clint Herbert
Treasurer: John Pasour
Registrar: Dru Hodges
Members: Micheryl Bartholomew, Dave Billingsley, Andrew Choi, Don Cooke, Jen Crump-Strawderman, Courtney Greathouse, Tony Harriman, Patty Mitchell, Edwardene Pitcock

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