

Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month

"Every day (is) a day of thanksgiving to the Wampanoag. ... (We) give thanks to the dawn of the new day, at the end of the day, to the sun, to the moon, for rain for helping crops grow. ... There (is) always something to be thankful for. ... Giving thanks comes naturally for the Wampanoag. With Native Americans you do not separate the spiritual from the rest of your life. You're very involved with who you are, where you came from, and where you are going. We have special holidays or festivals, but every day is a day of thanksgiving." Wampanoagtribal elder Gladys Widdiss ¹

In two weeks, we will gather with family and friends for our annual Thanksgiving dinner and celebration. We will take time to express our thanks for the many blessings we have received from God and the relationships in our lives that bring joy and meaning. Our understanding of Thanksgiving traditions has evolved as we have come to understand and appreciate our many brothers and sisters, who belong to Indigenous communities across America. When I was in seminary two of my classmates were Native American: a Cherokee man and Lakota woman. Today we are blessed to have many Episcopal clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons), who are Indigenous persons.



On August 3, 1990, President George Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. It is now commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month. The Office of Indigenous Ministries has had a longstanding presence with Native Americans throughout the history of The Episcopal Church from its earliest days in the New World. Indigenous Episcopalians have a deep spirituality grounded in respect for and care of creation and others. We are enriched by their wisdom and resilience.

The Episcopal Church is committed to guarantee that Indigenous people are fully recognized and welcomed into congregational life through education, advocacy, and leadership development. We are also committed to create influential leadership roles in the church for Indigenous people and to develop a national support system for continued remembrance, recognition, and reconciliation of all Indigenous people within the church and world.

The Episcopal Church had also recognized and repented of its harmful treatment of Native Americans. In 1997, the church signed a new covenant of faith and reconciliation almost 400 years after Jamestown colonization, apologizing for its past actions and launching a decade of "remembrance,

¹ <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto/every-day-is-a-day-of-thanksgiving/>

recognition and reconciliation.”² In 2009, the church’s General Convention passed a resolution repudiating the 15th century-based Doctrine of Discovery, which “held that Christian sovereigns and their representative explorers could assert dominion and title over non-Christian lands with the full blessing and sanction of the Church.”³ You can learn more about the Episcopal Church Indigenous Ministries at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/indigenous-ministries/>.

We cannot undo the injustice and harm that was committed in the past. In honoring our baptismal vows to respect the dignity of every human being and to work for justice and peace, we can move forward committed to working with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to create a beloved community in which everyone is remembered, included, and honored. We can listen to one another’s stories, learn from one another, break bread together, and move closer to realizing God’s kingdom on earth. **Mother Carol+**

Intergenerational Advent Craft Activity

On the first Sunday of Advent on **November 28**, after our church service everyone is invited to come to the Parish Mission House where we will make Advent wreaths for your home and we can also deliver to our homebound church members. We will provide supplies to make the Advent wreaths. You can bring live greenery (e.g., holly or pine branches). Everyone of every age is invited for this fun intergenerational craft activity. **A Heartfelt Thank You!**



Heartfelt Thanks

I wanted to share the following email that was sent to the Baptist Health Foundation Board. The gift to the Employee Emergency Fund from Our Saviour was much appreciated!

Laura Melius, Vice-Chair, Baptist Health Richmond Foundation Board

Dear Foundation Board,

We have talked at length about the power of the Emergency Assistance Fund. As such, I wanted to share with you an example of the impact it can have. Monday morning, we were able to gift a cup of Purdy’s coffee and one of their (apparently famous) cinnamon rolls to each team member as they arrived to work at 6 am. Greg, Mendy (CNO), Dr. Gregonis (CMO) and Pat Olds (VP of Operations) were all present at this early hour to serve and encourage the team. What a blessing it was to all!



This was made possible through the generosity of the Richmond Ministerial Association and their gift to the Emergency Assistance Fund. My sincere thanks to Mitch for helping facilitate this gift and to the Ministerial Association for helping encourage our team during what continues to be a particularly challenging time. It’s worth pointing out that his efforts and this gift also inspired another generous gift to the fund from the Episcopal Church of our Saviour. For this, we are grateful!



² https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wpcontent/uploads/sites/2/2021/10/NAM_Convenant_of_Faith.pdf

³ https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution.pl?resolution=2009-D035

It's Our First Undie Sunday

Mark it on your calendar! **November 21** has been designated Undie Sunday at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour. Last Sunday those who stayed after church to hear **Janie Jordan's** latest report on local ministries agreed that we could help out by donating packages of underwear. Clean, new underwear is a perennial need for homeless and indigent adults, especially as cold weather arrives. Thermal underwear is especially appreciated. We can give tangible thanks for our blessings by bringing packages of underwear for both men and women to the morning service on the last Sunday before Thanksgiving. Mother Carol will bless a basketful of undies before they are taken to distribute to homeless persons in our community. Our more creative spirits may have a little fun with the whole idea! Cartoons, anyone? **Grace Sears**

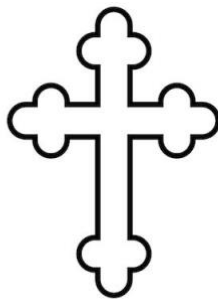


Learning from Christian History

Christian History Institute is a non-profit organization that provides Christian history resources and self-study material at low or no cost. Our church member, **The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Woodruff Tait**, has been editor of this magazine since 2012. This quarterly publication provides careful research, thought-provoking editorial, and engaging images to Christian history enthusiasts around the world. Each issue features accessible history that focuses on one general topic, written by hand-picked, trustworthy historians. Pick up a free sample in the narthex!

Jennifer invites ECOS friends to subscribe to the magazine. This can be done at <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/> or by calling (800) 468-0458. Donations to Christian History Institute are gratefully accepted, but are not required to subscribe.

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Christian History Institute:
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Christian History Institute (CHI) provides church history resources and self-study material and publishes the quarterly Christian History Magazine. Our aim is to make Christian history enjoyable and applicable to the widest possible audience.
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A Time to Celebrate

We joyfully celebrate the birth on October 15 of **Arlo Christopher Cook**, the first baby for our church members **Rachel and Brad Cook**. Baby and both parents are doing well. Congratulations, Brad and Rachel!

Baby Arlo will be baptized once plans can be made for a safe gathering of everyone for the baptism. To protect the safety of baby Arlo, we will not be able to host a baby shower. Instead, we will collect any gifts parishioners bring to church on Sunday. At the end of November, the gifts will be delivered to the Cook family at their home in Berea.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Donald Short	11/9
Catherine Woodruff-Tait	11/11
Dottye Burton	11/23
Shirley Bennett	11/30

If you would like to announce a special occasion, please contact **Linda Myers** so all may share in your joy!



Parish Calendar

November 21: "Undie Sunday"

November 28: First Sunday in Advent and Intergenerational Advent Craft Activity

December 24: Christmas Eve service, 7 P.M.

December 25: Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Ancient Joke of the Week

*"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." **GENESIS 1:27***

The story of Adam and Eve was carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw a picture illustrating the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with 3 people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"