

### *From your Rector*

Joshua was the successor to Moses. He brought the people into the Promised Land. In end of Joshua's life, he gathered the Israelites together, and gave them one final pep talk. As we know, the Israelites often had trouble deciding which god to follow. They tended to waffle back and forth. In his final speech, Joshua said, "Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve .... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." You probably recognize that final line. It's catchy. There are a lot of little plaques/signs with those words. But it's more than just a slogan. It's about loyalty and identity.



For a long time, I identified as Roman Catholic. It was important to me. It was such a core part of my identity, that even when it no longer described my beliefs, I had a really hard time letting go of it. Intellectually, I know it didn't really matter what denomination I was. What mattered was that I was Christian. Around that same time I was struggling with those questions, I remember hearing a sermon where the minister said that it didn't matter who I was, it only mattered "whose" I was. Who did I belong to? I belong to God. As long as I could hold on to that, I would be ok. It would take five more years after hearing that to let go of my Roman Catholic identity.

One of my favorite parts of our baptismal liturgy is the very end. After the priest baptizes the individual, the priest anoints the new Christian with oil and says, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever." You are Christ's own. In the end (and by the end, I really mean the end), that is all that matters. All that matters is that you will be able to say that you are Christ's own. It won't matter what country you are from. It won't matter what college you graduated from. It won't matter what your last name is. It won't matter what language you speak. It won't matter what denomination you are part of or what church you belonged to. What will matter is that you will be able to say that you served the Lord and that you were one of Christ's own.

The election is around the corner. In the ads, people are being appealed to on the basis of their identity. It's our political party. Our gender. Our religion. How American/patriotic we are. I am not saying that does not matter. Of course it matters. But what really matters is who we belong to and who we serve. What matters most in our life? Is it that we are Christ's own (Christian) or is it something else? God is compassionate and loving. God also demands our loyalty. I know nobody like to think of our God as demanding, but according to the Bible, he is. I could provide dozens of passages where God demands to be worshipped. Thankfully, it goes both ways. God demands our loyalty because God will always be loyal to us. God will never give up on humanity. During this time when our loyalty is being questioned by politicians and our peers, imagine that instead, God is asking the question. How will you answer? It might be the most important question you ever answer.

*Faithfully,*

*Samantha*

# From the Diocese



Come help keep Chanco beautiful! Winterize and reconnect with old friends at our fall work day! Breakfast is at 8am on Saturday with work around camp to start at 9am. Lunch provided! Accommodations will be available for those that wish to stay the night either Friday, November 30th or Saturday, December 1st. Feel free to hang out after the work stops at 4pm on Saturday and join us for a cookout/alumni social! Projects will range from detailed carpentry to basic camp cleanup. All ages and skill levels welcome.

## BISHOPS SEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

The nominating committee for the next Bishop of Southern VA is asking for your input as they begin to develop the profile for our Diocese. This profile is the vehicle that will launch the search for the 11th Bishop of Southern Virginia. They have developed a questionnaire with open ended questions. You can also access the survey on the Diocesan website [www.diosova.org](http://www.diosova.org) under Bishop Search. The initial section of the questionnaire collects demographic information and is required so that we can see if all segments of our Diocese are represented in the responses. The remaining questions are optional, but we hope that you will answer as many of them as are pertinent to you. The questionnaire will be open until Friday November 2nd, at midnight. The results will be shared through a series of listening meetings that will be held in November. The date will be announced in the Diocesan Newsletter and the bulletin.

### The Questionnaire

## BUILDING ON FAITH CEREMONY



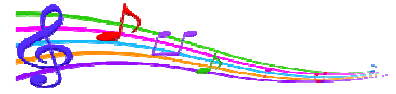
Please join us on Saturday, November 3rd at 10:30am as the ribbon is cut for the Habitat for Humanity BUILDING ON FAITH home for the Lane Family located at 213 Union Street in Hampton, only 2 blocks from St. John's! Samantha is a featured speaker, and this exciting ceremony will last only 30 minutes. It will be held rain or shine, with street parking available. Please come celebrate this awesome milestone.



More pictures on page 3



# Musical Notes



Join us for a Choral Evensong for All Saints Sunday on November 4th at 4pm. Our musical offering will be: Requiem by Gabriel Faure with choir, soloists, organ, and chamber orchestra. A reception will follow.



Mark your calendars for the next Taize Service on November 18th at 4pm.

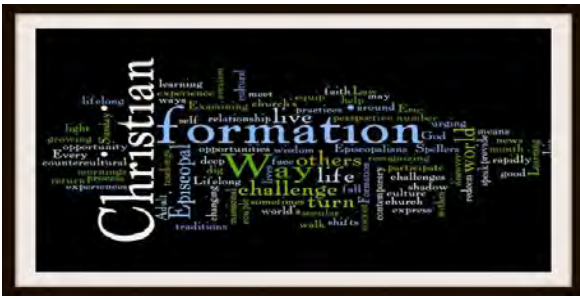


## ACADEMY OF MUSIC SIGN UPS

Our Academy of Music offers private and group music lessons in the white house beside the church – the Hoffman House. If you have an interest in learning to play string instruments, guitar, piano, voice coaching, flute or oboe, we have a faculty of professional musicians ready to teach you! To explore this music offering go to our website [stjohnshampton.org](http://stjohnshampton.org) and look under Music to find the link to

sign up on the Academy interest form. This will go to the register at the Academy of Music and a teacher will contact you about your lessons. This might just be the something you are looking for to enhance your fall. Sign up now!





# Christian Formation News

On October 14th, Christian formation hosted a multigenerational class. We continued the theme of Paul and the Underground Church.

A Roman Marketplace was set up in the parish hall with a Bakery and Metalworking Shop. The shoppers were disrupted by Roman Soldiers when a homeless man stole a bag of bread from Claudia, the baker. And, again when the soldiers Closed Junia's Metalworking shop because she was a Christian.

A huge **Thank You** to Betsy Clark for writing the skits, and to Scott Curtis, Linda Curtis, Will Klotz, Darius Rowe, Sandy Smith, and John Olson for participating in the skits. Claudia the baker had donut holes and a donut cake from Glazed that was shared by all!

This fall Paul and Brutus taught the youth and Young Disciples that::

- God's Love is a Gift.
- God's Love Changes Us.
- God's Love is always with Us.
- God's Love is Worth Sharing.

Remember, you can always read Paul's words in the Bible!

Going forward, Youth and young Disciples Classes will meet upstairs in the Sunday School wing as normal at 9:15am. Save the date for November 18th at 12pm, when we will have a special Outreach program and lunch for the children and youth. More information to follow in the upcoming weeks bulletins.



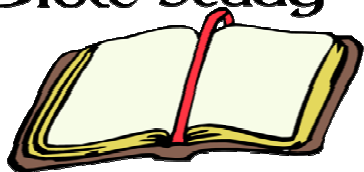
From left to right: John Olson, Darius Rowe, Sandy Smith



From left to right: John Olson, Shannon Olson, Sandy Smith, Darius Rowe, Scott Curtis, Linda Curtis, Betsy Clark

Early Church Marketplace October 14th 2018

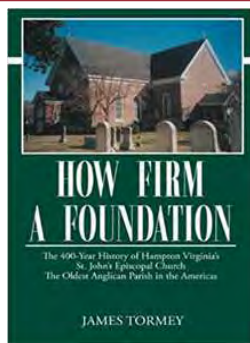
## Bible Study



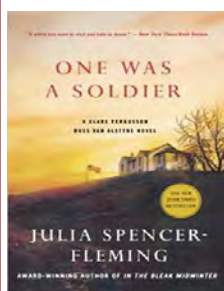
Please join in the discussion as we decide where to go next in our study of Holy Scripture. We will begin our study of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. We meet on Wednesdays at 2:30pm in the library/stage area. Join us, or contact Mark with any questions: [mark@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:mark@stjohnshampton.org). "Drop In" visitors are truly welcome!

## Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will learn about Paul, who he was and what he wrote. We will talk about Paul's place in the early church and discuss some controversial things Paul talked about. Examples include: a women's place in the home and church, marriage, sexuality and a little talk about government. Samantha is leading this class at 9:15am in the parish hall.



This insightful and informative book written by our own Jim Tormey walks the reader from the Jamestown settlement in 1607 through the founding at Kecoughtan—the original name of the town—three wars and four church buildings. Almost miraculously, the fourth, built in 1728, survived all that Hampton's turbulent history has thrown its way, including a devastating fire that leveled the town during the Civil War. Pick up your copy in the church office for \$20.00.



The Book Club meets on Monday evenings on the stage in the parish hall at 5:30pm for discussion, refreshments, and fellowship. Newcomers are welcome. We would love to see you! On Monday, October 29th, we will finish the 7th book in the Clare Ferguson/Russ Van Alstyne mystery series by Julia Spencer-Fleming, *One Was A Soldier*. The books are available at the meeting or in the Christian Formation office.



## PAUL CLASS ONLINE:

If you would like to learn more about Paul, consider participating in the online class on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. If you cannot watch it at that time, you can tune in at a later time. We are trying to make this as flexible as possible.

All you need is an internet connection. Copy and paste this address:

<https://zoom.us/j/692941026> and then follow the prompt to click "Open

URL:Zoom Launcher." You should see where it is loading and waiting for the host (Samantha) to join the meeting. Once the Wednesday evening class is recorded, we will post a link to the website and facebook page. Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions! **\*If you are using your phone or tablet, you will need to download the Zoom app to view.\*** The next class will be October 31st at 7:30pm.





## STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, October 14th, was Celebration Sunday. We thanked all of those parishioners who have sent their pledge cards for 2019. As of that date 74 pledges have been received but we still have a long way to go! The Vestry must have in hand all of our pledges before a budget for 2019 can be prepared. **PLEASE** make every effort to get your pledge in to the church office as soon as you can possibly do this. Thank you. *Stephen Rous for the Stewardship Committee*

## REMEMBERING YOUR LOVED ONES

Beginning October 28th, there will be a very special All Saints ribbon available in the parish hall. Honor your deceased family and friends by writing their names on a ribbon. The ribbon will be displayed in our worship area on All Saints Sunday, November 4th.

Your loved ones name(s) must be on the ribbon by November 3rd.

## NOVEMBER 4, 2018



**Daylight Savings Time ends at 2AM. Set your clocks back one hour.**

10:30am- Baptism

4pm- Choral Evensong & Reception

## SEEING OUR REGION WITH TOURIST EYES:

Our last trip was to the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, and we had a great time! We started with Morning Prayer in the Parish hall. Then we traveled in two cars to Norfolk, enjoyed the museum, and had a fine lunch at the landmark Doumar's!

Our next trip is set for Friday, November 30th, and we will either go to the Norfolk Zoo or the Museum of the American Revolution in Yorktown. If you are interested in going, please sign up with the Parish office or call Bob Harper, 757-604-6519.



## ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

Are you looking for a way to serve St. John's? Then the Altar Guild is looking for you. This quiet, behind the scenes "holy house work" is a true gift to the entire congregation. The mission of the Altar Guild is to assist the clergy with the conduct of worship. We have openings at both the 8am and 10:30am services. If walking up to the altar with the elements makes you nervous, we can arrange for someone to walk for you. It's strictly up to you; you decide on your schedule. We can have you trained in no time! Contact Lynn Kirkland at 757-532-1528 or contact any Altar Guild member for further information. We would love to have you!

**St. Anne's Guild** will meet in the parish hall at 10:30am on Tuesday, Nov. 6th Jane Heiby will be bringing her Canine Companion puppy. Jane will speak on the important role these highly trained dogs play in supporting their human companions. Light refreshments will be served. You don't need to be a member of the Guild to attend. ALL are welcome.

Coffee Hour hosts are needed for **December 16th and 23rd!** The sign up sheet is posted in the parish hall. Please consider signing up to host!



It doesn't have to be a lot of work, you don't even have to cook. Ideas include: veggies, fruit, cheese, crackers, cookies, mini sandwiches, breads, brownies, pretzels, trail mix, danish, and donuts. Thank you!



### **Downtown Hampton Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving**

Join us for the Downtown Hampton Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving. This year Phoebus United Methodist Church will be hosting the event on Sunday, November 18th at 7pm. Their address is 300 E. Mellen Street Hampton, VA.

The church office will be closed for the holiday on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.



### *Passages*

**Pamela Waddell Shaw**

Born on May 21, 1951 and entered life eternal on October 10, 2018.

*O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Pamela and grant her entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP p.493)*



Come to the parish hall on Sunday and pick up a yard sign. We hope that you will proudly display the sign in your yard to let people know who we are and where we are.

### *November Birthdays*

1 Stephen Rous  
1 Donald Klovstad  
4 Christine Kline  
7 Shirley Price  
7 Stocky Hobart  
10 Anita Harrell  
10 Betsy Bouchard  
12 Linda McMahon  
17 Erma Bockoven  
19 Thomas Munson  
20 Betty Alexander  
23 Steve Adams  
26 Jennifer Rowe  
27 Ken Kline  
27 Jacie Keller  
28 Sarah Moore  
30 Charlie Bowen



*Please contact the office if we have missed your birthday or anniversary:*

**757-722-2567**

**[office@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:office@stjohnshampton.org)**

### *Passages*

Cora Mae Battin was born on October 21st to Brian and Emily Battin. Grandparents are Jay & Paula Hogg. Welcome to the St. John's Family, Cora!



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
100 West Queens Way  
Hampton VA 23669  
(757) 722-2567  
office@stjohnshampton.org

## St. John's Staff



**The Rev. Samantha Vincent– Alexander, Rector**

sjrector@stjohnshampton.org

**The Rev. Mark Riley, Assistant Rector**

mark@stjohnshampton.org

**Deborah Carr, Organist and Music Director**

music@stjohnshampton.org

**Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate**

janeprice30@aol.com

**Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator**

formation@stjohnshampton.org

**Jenn Devlin, Parish Administrator**

office@stjohnshampton.org

**Darlene Jackson, Communications Assistant**

communications@stjohnshampton.org

**Nathan Houser, Sexton**

## Vestry

Bill Brown (2018)  
Whiting Chisman, Jr. (2019)  
Patrick Dennehey (2019)  
Duncan Garnett (2018)  
Bob Harper (2019)  
Rosemary Hobart (2018)  
Charlie Edmonson (2018)  
Stephen Rous (2020)  
Ruth Simmons (2020)

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
9am-4pm

*In case of Pastoral Emergency,  
please call 757-504-3504.*

## Sunday Worship

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:30am Holy Eucharist  
Nursery Provided  
for Christian Formation  
and for the 10:30am service.