



POHICK POST



Rev. Ted Renaud was ordained as a Deacon and we are blessed to have Rev. Renaud as our Assistant Rector at Pohick!

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Priest's Letter

BY THE REVEREND DANIEL CENCI
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE



Greetings Pohickians,

It has been a great summer to do God's work at Pohick Church! Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted with our Vacation Bible School, EYC work week, parish retreat, Declaration of Independence commemoration, BSA crab feast, and the many other events and activities that took place over the past several months.

We have been blessed to see lots of visitors and newcomers in our church, and we are excited to welcome them to the Pohick family! Our ministry fair on September 7 was another great success! Through the ministry fair, parishioners and visitors had the opportunity to learn about the many groups and service opportunities at Pohick Church. If you were unable to attend the ministry fair, check out the "ministries" tab on our church website (www.pohick.org) and contact the church office if you are interested in serving our Lord at Pohick.

I am also thankful to all of you for your continued participation in corporate worship and your faithfulness in prayer and service. At the center of all our events and activities is the call to worship and glorify God. At Pohick we believe in the power of prayer, and we encourage every parishioner to live up to their full potential as a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray that God would use our parish to foster spiritual growth, to proclaim His word, and serve His people in love.

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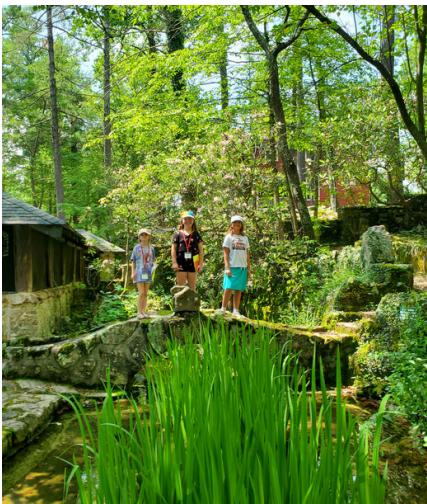
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Rev. Cenci prays over Dr. Femi at his Birthday party.



A reading of The Fairfax Resolves



Youth enjoying the congregational retreat at Shrine Mont

As we move into the fall season, we are excited to keep the spiritual momentum of our summer activities going. Sunday school, EYC, and children's chapel will all be resuming in September. If you are the parent of young children or youth, please remember to make participation in Church activities a priority for your family. Church isn't an obligation, it is an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and to receive the "spiritual treasure" that is of immeasurable value. As the father of two young children, I know well the demands of school, sports, and extracurricular activities, but as great as these things are, they should never replace our holy call to worship God and to serve in His church. At Pohick, we are a family of believers and everyone's participation and commitment to the church is a valuable gift.

In addition to our regular services and Christian education opportunities, we have several other big events coming up this fall. Join us the weekend of September 19 through 21 as we make apple butter the old-fashioned way! This is a fun activity for parishioners and community members of all ages and is a great way to experience a true Virginia tradition. We also have our annual Country Fair on October 4. So, bring your family, friends, and neighbors and come on down to the Pohick fairgrounds for food, fellowship, games, and music! The Country Fair will also feature historic interpreters, docent tours of our sacred spaces, and a special organ concert highlighting traditional Anglican church music.

Our fall schedule also includes several special worship opportunities. Among them are our annual Blessing of the Animals on October 19, our Reformation Sunday liturgy on October 26, our All Hallows' Eve service (in the Pohick Cemetery) on October 31, and our All Saints Liturgy on November 2. We invite you to come and experience the full breadth of our beautiful Anglican liturgical tradition!

At Pohick Church, we are truly blessed to have a vibrant and growing parish. I am thankful for each of you and for the work that God is doing in your life. I look forward to the plethora of fall activities and worship opportunities, and I hope that you will join me in inviting others to be a part of our growing Pohick family!

Faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Cenci



Historic Pohick Church Foundation

The Historic Pohick Church Foundation (HPCF) is a 501 (c) corporation that was established in 1983 exclusively to raise and expend funds for the maintenance, upkeep and preservation of the historic Pohick Church building and the immediately surrounding church yard. The Corporation was established to separate the preservation of Pohick Church as a National Landmark from its functions as an active church. The Board raises funds by letter and grant writing, as well as contributions from the Parish, often from estates of parishioners and when families designate gifts to HPCF in lieu of flowers at funerals.

Recently Pohick was approved for the Save America's Treasures Grant to replace the roof on the sanctuary. This is a matching funds grant, so there will be an effort to raise the matching funds in the coming months. All fundraising suggestions are welcome along with contacts of individuals or organizations that would be willing to contribute to this worthy cause.

HPCF provided the funds to replace the Northwest Steps of the church after the temporary ramp was removed.

HPCF is always looking for new opportunities, and welcomes ideas and suggestions from the Parish.

Board of Directors

Susan Pehrsson, President

Jeff Parker, Vice President

John Pasour, Treasurer

Dan Derbes, Secretary

Dave Billingsley, Junior Warden

Rev Daniel Cenci, Priest-in-Charge

Neil Sunderland - Pete Kind - Kathy Kirkland

Brooke Gorman - Jennifer Crump-Strawderman - Tom Mayberry

Martha's Guild



The Martha Guild will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 6 beginning at 7:30 pm. All Women of the Church are cordially invited to join this wonderful group. Questions --- contact Connie Myers at 703/201-2204 or jetskiing@hotmail.com.

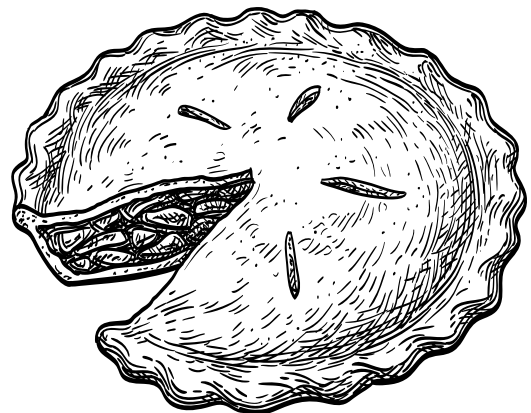


Attention All Women of Pohick ---- Pohick will be hosting the Diocese of Virginia Episcopal Church Women Fall meeting on Saturday, October 11. The guest speaker will be Bishop Mark Stevenson. Flyers and the registration forms are located on the table outside of the office and in the Common Room. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Attend this event and meet women from around the Diocese. Questions --- contact Helen Parker or Connie Myers at 703/201-2204 or jetskiing@hotmail.com.



Country Fair Apple Pie Contest

The Martha Guild is sponsoring an Apple Pie Contest at the Pohick Country Fair being held on Saturday, October 4. Applications are located on the table outside of the main office and in the Common Room. Pie entries must be brought to the Baked Goods/Country Store Booth by 11:00 am on Fair Day. Questions --- contact Connie Myers at 703/201-2204 or jetskiing@hotmail.com





Christian Education Director's Letter

SUSAN PEHRSSON, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Grace Space Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) had record numbers of children this year and were very successful. Grace Space Camp led by Susan Yarwood was closely coordinated with the Vacation Bible School program. Seven toddlers, 18-36 months, enjoyed a spiritual program with their moms, while their older brothers and sisters attended VBS. Toddlers had music, crafts, outside recreation, and snacks. Susan Yarwood did an amazing job and provided an outstanding, age-appropriate program.

Sixty-nine children, which is up from 50 last summer, attended VBS. Seventy-eight percent of the children were from the community. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, the children had a wonderful experience. The teen volunteers acted out the Bible stories daily and the children rotated through Crafts, Music, Recreation, and Snack time while learning that God is with them wherever they go. On Friday afternoon, there was an appreciation luncheon for the teachers and volunteers. On Friday evening, the children performed the songs they learned for their parents followed by a dessert reception. This year, a security team was on campus to monitor the grounds and report any unexpected visitors.

Margaret Gunggoll, resident of The Fairfax and friend of Charlotte Knipling, generously led Storytelling this summer. We are fortunate to have this loving and caring retired kindergarten teacher serving the young children. Replacing Brooke Gorman this fall, Catherine Gonzalez has agreed to be a Godly Play storyteller. On September 7, the children and youth enjoyed Popsicles 'N Popcorn to kick off the Children and Youth programs. Parents had the opportunity to meet the teachers and advisors as well as register their children for all the Children and Youth programs.

Church School resumed on September 14 with classes from 9:15 am - 10:15 am. There are four Church School classes this year: Godly Play for preschool (age 3) to 1st grade downstairs in Classroom E&F, and 2nd to 4th grade upstairs in Classroom A&B; Weaving God's Promises for 5th to 8th grade in Classroom C; and Journey 2 Adulthood for the High School students in the Teen Trailer. Children's Chapel provides an age-appropriate church service for preschool through second grade children during the 10:30 am service. The children join their parents in the church at the Peace.

Planning will start for the Christmas Pageant in early November and the Pageant will be held on December 13. The live nativity will be offered again this year. Pohick is very blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers to teach and help with church school. Looking forward to the coming year and working with the outstanding children and youth.

All comments or questions concerning our programs are welcome. Contact Susan Pehrsson at 703/282-6574 or spehrsson@pohick.org.



EYC Update

THE REVEREND TED RENAUD, ASSISTANT RECTOR / YOUTH MINISTER

I am excited for the 2025/2026 EYC year to begin! **EYC will meet from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm on Sunday evenings.** Last year, EYC was very involved in the community doing a soccer outreach, Christmas Caroling at The Fairfax, and stuffing over 180 snack bags for the Lorton Community Action Center. EYC will continue to build on these events as well as meet with other EYC groups in the area for regional events. We begin the year with a CPR training. Over the course of the year, I will continue to work with EYC to promote spiritual well-being with a focus on growth and outreach. In addition to the events already mentioned, we will continue with our involvement in all things Pohick, including the Country Fair, Bake Sale, Plant Sale, Pancake Supper, Coffee House, and the retreat.

If you would like to get involved with EYC as a parent volunteer, please let me know. I am truly grateful for the trust placed in me as Youth Minister.



Youth from EYC attended a Nats game together at the conclusion of VBS

Music Minister

Meet Pohick's New Music Director



Please welcome Pohick's new Music Director - Ronald Butts Boehmer! He has served as Music Director in parishes in Texas, Italy and the Southeastern US. Ronald is a graduate of the Salerno Conservatory of Music in Italy as well as a US Veteran. Recently, Ronald was Dean of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He is originally from Dallas, lived 20 years in Italy, and now resides in Germantown, MD. Be sure to introduce yourself to Ronald!

2025 Ministry Fair

7



Representatives from Education for Ministry (EFM) and the Docent's Guild.



Learning more about EYC



The Lay Eucharist Ministry



The Bell Choir, St. Francis Choir, Children & Youth Choir and the Choir of Pohick are seeking new members.



The Ann Mason Guild seeking volunteers.



Pohick Book Club.

What is an All Hallows' Eve service?

THE REVEREND DANIEL CENCI, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Despite common accusation that Halloween is “the Devil’s holiday,” the celebration of Halloween actually has its roots in the Christian faith. The word Halloween is derived from the Old English word “Hallow,” which means “saint.” Halloween (or All Hallows' Eve) is the eve of All Saints Day, which Christians celebrate on November 1. All Saints Day is a day to remember and commemorate the saints of God and the Martyrs of the Christian faith. The date of All Saints Day was originally in the spring but was moved to November 1 during the ninth century in order to coincide with a Celtic pagan festival. This is where the association with the Devil comes in, but the purpose of this move was not to paganize Christianity, but to Christianize paganism. The hope was that offering an alternative celebration to the pagan festival would help to direct the pagan peoples of Europe away from idolatry and toward Christianity. Instead of worshiping the gods of the pre-Christian British Isles, the Christians were encouraged to set aside a day to worship the one true God and remember the faithful saints of God who had set an example of Christian living during their lives.

For liturgical Christians, the Celebration of All Saints begins on the eve of November 1 (Halloween night) with a candlelight service of Vespers (Evening Prayers.) This is a service of thanksgiving for the light of Jesus Christ and for the faithful Christians who have gone before us and have passed on the Gospel to each successive generation. During the service, the names of departed Christians are read aloud, and the participants are reminded of the fact that these saints are now part of the great cloud of witnesses who reside in the heavenly kingdom of God. In the service, we are also reminded that all Christians (living and dead) are the saints of God and that together we make up the body of Christ.

Join us this All Hallow's Eve (October 31) at 5:00 pm in the Pohick Cemetery as we give thanks to God for all the saints who have passed on the gospel of salvation to us today.



Updates in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

BY DON BROWNLEE

- **Pope Leo XIV Positions Himself as “first among equals”:** Leo described the papal office as a calling to “serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them.” This terminology underscored the role of all baptized believers as “living stones” (1 Peter 2:5), who are called “to build God’s house in fraternal communion, in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of diversity.” READ MORE at Pohick.org/Anglican-Communion
- **New Archbishop of Canterbury?** the Church of England most of the winter and spring to name the representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) that will recommend Abp. Justin’s successor. CONTINUED at Pohick.org/Anglican-Communion
- **Former Archbishop of Ctb. Speaks Out:** “The reality is I got it wrong. As Archbishop, there are no excuses.” “I know I let God down. I let people down.” CONTINUED on Pohick.org/Anglican-Communion
- **New Primate Controversy?** Three of the Anglican Communion’s provinces elected new primates this summer, and one is inflaming tensions within the Communion. CONTINUED on Pohick.org/Anglican-Communion
- **this is the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea:** Pope Francis and Abp. Welby Discuss Easter Date. READ MORE at Pohick.org/Anglican-Communion



70th Anniversary



AGO Chapter Hymn Festival Celebration

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists celebrated their 70th Anniversary, Monday, September 8, 2025 with an anniversary dinner and Hymn Festival Service at Christ Church Alexandria. The Chapter was founded on September 11, 1955 as the Alexandria Chapter AGO. Linda Wilberger Egan read a Reading. A featured hymn was sung, "The first one ever, oh, ever" - Ballad, (673, The Hymnal 1982), with words and music by Linda Wilberger Egan, Minister of Music Emerita at Pohick Church. Alvin Ted Gustin was honored for 60 years as a chapter member. Ronald Butts Boehmer, Chapter Past Dean, read the 70th anniversary congratulatory letter to the chapter from the National AGO President.

POHICK CHURCH

COUNTRY FAIR

MUSIC-FOOD-FUN

4 OCTOBER, 2025

10:00am - 3:00pm

- BBQ, burgers, hot dogs, fries, and more
- Guided tours of historic Pohick Church
- Famous Pohick Apple Butter
- Country Store baked goods
- Pony rides & bounce house for kids
- Pumpkin patch & face painting
- Classic Turkey Shoot tradition
- Games and prizes for all ages
- Craft vendors & local artisans
- Car Show on the front fairgrounds
- Live music



9301 Richmond Hwy. Lorton, VA
www.pohick.org

POHICK'S GOLDEN DOVE GIFT SHOP

The Golden Dove has new items, fall decor, personalized Pohick backpacks, apple butter, and more-great gifts for all! The Shop is open on Fair Day - come shop when attending docent tours or when coming and going to the upper level parking lot!

December 7 - Annual Christmas Sale in the Common Room!
Mark the calendar!

Proceeds go toward helping those in need. Thanks for the continued support!



GOLDEN DOVE HOURS

Sundays
8:45 am - 10:30 am

First Saturdays
1:00 pm - 3:00pm
(during docent tours)



Pohick Church
9301 Richmond Highway
Lorton, Virginia 22079 - 1519

Return Service Requested

Pohick Church -- the Home Church of George Washington and George Mason: In Christ: Embracing our Past, Welcoming in the Present, Transforming for the Future.

Pohick Church Hours

Sunday Eucharists
8:00 am and 10:30 am
9:15 am Christian Education and Fellowship

Wednesdays
7:00 pm Compline (via Microsoft Teams)

Saturdays
First Saturday Docent Tours 1:00 pm
(other tours Sunday after second service, or arranged through Pohick Office)



POHICK EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 1774 home church of George Washington and George Mason.
In Christ: Embracing our history, welcoming in the present, transforming for the future.

Pohick Church Staff

Priest-In-Charge: The Reverend Daniel Cenci
Assistant Rector/ Youth Minister: Ted Renaud
Minister of Music: Ronald Butts Boehmer
Director of Education: Susan Pehrsson
Finance Admin: Julie Ramacciotti
Sexton: Clint Herbert
Administrative Asst.: Kara Faunt
Cemetery Warden: Sandra Caesar
Communications Manager: Deborah Hennig

Pohick Church Vestry

Neil Hogg, Sr. Warden
Dave Billingsley, Jr. Warden
Andrea Gurrola, Treasurer
Tom Mayberry, Register

Members:
Chris Brown, Beth Cooke, Dan Derbes, Molly Diaz, Rick Church,
Kathy Kirkland, Jeff Schavland, Barbara Schavland (youth rep), Hal Yarwood



Vestry Gram

Date: _____ From: _____
Subject: _____