



POHICK EPISCOPAL CHURCH // NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

POHICK POST



Our Acolytes had a great time representing Pohick at the Washington National Cathedral for the National Acolyte Festival!

IN THIS ISSUE

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

BY THE REVEREND DANIEL CENCI
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE



The season of Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. As the days shorten and the physical darkness of the northern hemisphere increases, we are reminded that the light of Christ grows in our hearts. As Christians, we are called to prepare ourselves not only for the celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem, his first Advent, but also for his glorious return when he shall come in great triumph to judge the living and the dead.

This "second advent" is a day of anticipation for all believers because it will be at that time, that the fullness of God's salvific plan of redemption will come to fruition. For the faithful, the Day of Judgment is not a day to be feared, it is a day to welcome with exceedingly great joy. Because of God's unconditional love for us in his son Jesus Christ, the penitent sinner will be forgiven, the lost will be found, and that which was dead will be raised to new life.

Revelation 21:5 says, "Behold, I make all things new." Christ's return will mark the moment in which heaven and earth will be recreated and restored to perfection.

Through the power of Christ's resurrection, the faithful will be raised from the dust of the earth and will be welcomed into the eternal kingdom of God. This is the hope of the Christian, and this is the promise of our omnipotent Creator. The season of Advent is meant to be a reminder of this hope and of this promise, but also of the fact that Christ's work of salvation is still unfolding.

Priest's Letter
(p. 1-2)

Historic Church
Foundation (p. 3)

Martha Guild
(p. 4)

Christian Education
(p. 5)

Advent & Christmas
(p.6)

Golden Dove
(p.7)



A dinner at the Rectory



Participants of EYC enjoyed capture the flag and a bonfire.



We celebrated several baptisms in November.

As his disciples in the world today, we can never forget that our Lord has chosen his church (us), to be the vessels through which his transformative light reaches this dark and lost world. Advent is indeed a call to action. Like the bridesmaids in Jesus' parable from Matthew 25, we are called to keep our lamps trimmed and burning for the Lord. Through our words and actions, we are to be heralds of the gospel and ambassadors for Christ at all times and in all places. Advent is a time to recommit ourselves to this important calling.

As we move into the busyness of the holidays, it is my hope that you will prayerfully take the time to reflect on the true meaning of this holy season. Just as we outwardly prepare our homes with seasonal décor and outdoor illumination, so too should we inwardly prepare our hearts for the joyful tidings that God's love has come into the world. This eternal message of hope, peace, and grace, is one that perhaps many in our communities have never heard. Please be the light in the darkness this holiday season. Be willing to talk to people about Jesus. Invite your friends, coworkers, and neighbors to join us at Pohick Church for our many worshiping offerings that will tell the beautiful story of Christ's redemption through music, prayer, scripture, and the preached word. We are blessed with a rich liturgical tradition, deeply faithful parishioners, and a beautiful historic church in which to tell the timeless story of God's love for the world. Please also join us as we serve the "least of these" by collecting coats for the homeless, by filling Christmas boxes for the poor, and by providing food for those who hunger. Come and participate in our many fellowship offerings that build up the body of Christ and bring about a sense of community and family. Pohick Church is a wonderful place to recenter yourself and your family on the message of Christ this Christmas. You are loved and welcomed here, and I look forward to seeing you this holiday season as we come together to worship and adore the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and to serve him through faithfulness, love, and obedience.

Faithfully in Christ,
Rev. Daniel

"May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen"

-Book of Occasional Services pg. 23



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.

A recent conditions assessment indicated that replacing the roof of the church building is an urgent, high-priority undertaking. There is currently some damage to the roof, organic growth covering parts of it, and water intrusion into the interior, damaging some wood features. To address this problem, the HPCF applied for and was awarded the Save America's Treasures Grant for the replacement of the roof, estimated to cost \$645,200. The grant will cover half of the cost but requires matching funds for the remaining half. We currently have \$150,000 to apply to the project and need to raise \$172,600. The overall project will take a year, with an expected start in 2026. The start date includes collecting current bids for the work, deciding on a contractor, removal of the current wood shake roof and asbestos tiles, and installation of the new slate roof. Preserving and protecting the masonry and other historic features is a high priority. The project should be complete in time to celebrate our Nation's 250th anniversary.

We welcome any fundraising suggestions and contacts of individuals or organizations that would be willing to contribute to this worthy cause.

We are always looking for new opportunities and welcome 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

John Hishta - Pete Kind - Kathy Kirkland

Brooke Gorman - Jennifer Crump-Strawderman - Tom Mayberry

Martha's Guild



The Martha Guild normally meets the first Monday evening of the month via Zoom beginning at 7:30 pm. All women of Pohick are cordially invite to join the group as they serve Pohick and the community in various ways. Outreach is the major goal to fulfill the mission statement..... "Helping others in need". Martha Guild will not be meeting in December.

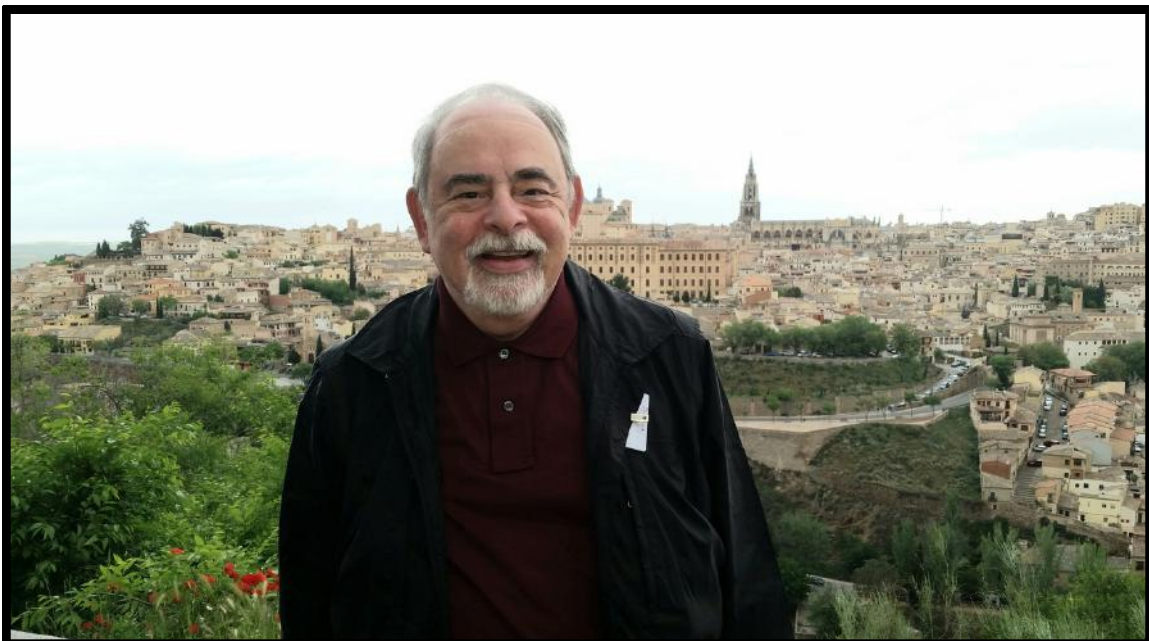
For more information, please contact Connie Myers at jetskiing@hotmail.com or at 703-201-2204



Letter from the Altmans

The Altman family wishes to thank everyone in the Pohick church family for their many kindnesses, prayers and support during Phil's recent illness and passing. We could feel your love surrounding us. We are so blessed to be a part of this community.

Gratefully,
Beth Altman





Christian Education Director's Letter

SUSAN PEHRSSON, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Pohick is pleased to have several new families join Church School this year, and there are many students participating in Children's Chapel and Grace Space each Sunday.

In preparation for Advent, the Church School families are invited to make Advent Wreaths on November 23. Molly Diaz will be leading this event.

The Pohick students are working hard to prepare for the Christmas Pageant scheduled for December 13 in the Church at 2:00 pm. Lisa Arnold and Courtney Greathouse will direct the Pageant. There are parts available for all the children in Church School. The children will learn their songs during class time. Parents are needed to help them their children learn their lines. There are two very important rehearsal dates scheduled on December 7 during Church School and December 13 at 12 noon. It is very important that all students be present for these two rehearsals. Any questions can be directed to Susan Pehrsson.

Church School will be taking a break December 21 and 28. Children's Chapel will not be held on December 28.

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



Pohick Outreach

- For those who have been furloughed and are in need of financial assistance, Pohick Church has a Discretionary Fund. Please contact Rev. Daniel at the Parish office, 703 339-6572.
- Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) News: Thanks to the generosity of the Pohick family, LCAC received more than 50 coats, hats, gloves, etc. for their annual Winter Coat Drive.
- Thank you for donating to the 2025 Thanksgiving Food basket drive: Pohick received a variety of donations exceeding \$2000!
- EYC OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES – We dropped off 92 shoeboxes at the collection points at Burke Community Church and Calvary Road Baptist Church. Thank you to our congregation, who so generously support the program.
- Afghan Ministry Update: Thank You to those who continue to donate to the Afghan Ministry with their time, talent or treasure. We provided paper towels and toilet paper in October and 2 \$100 Aldi gift cards in November. Parishioners may donate through myEoffering, or with checks or cash, making sure you designate the donation is for the Afghan Ministry. Please reach out to Patty Mitchell, Nancy Sage or Carney McCullough with any questions or ideas. Thank you for all your continued support!



Advent & Christmas

- Dec. 7: Advent Lessons & Carols, 7pm with reception to follow and potluck supper at 6pm in the Parish House. Please RSVP online.
- Dec 13: Christmas Pageant, 2pm with reception to follow
- Dec 14: EYC Christmas Party, 5pm -8pm
- Dec 16: Caroling at The Fairfax, 6pm
- Dec 24: “Colonial Candlelight Christmas,” 4:30pm & 11:00pm (musical prelude starting at 10:30pm)
- Dec 25: Christmas Day Service 10am
- Dec 28: A Christmas Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, 10am

POHICK'S GOLDEN DOVE GIFT SHOP

Thanks for supporting the shop through purchases; all proceeds go toward helping those in need within the parish, community, country, and world.

Proceeds from the Country Fair, Gunston Hall board, Episcopal Church Women, and a donation totaled approximately \$1,300!



GOLDEN DOVE NEW HOURS

First and Third Sundays
8:45 am -10:30 am

Second and Fourth
Sundays
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Open First Saturday of
each month from 1:00
pm – 3:00 pm during
Docent Tours, and
during special events.



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: The Reverend 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: _____