



POHICK POST



A special thank you to the generous donors who made our new playground dream a reality.

Priest's Letter

BY THE REVEREND DANIEL CENCI
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE



“Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord.”

Throughout the season of Lent, you will notice that our worship services at Pohick Church will begin a little differently. The season of Lent is a penitential season, meaning that it is a season in which we are particularly called to acknowledge our sinful nature, our dependence on God, and our need for redemption through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The miracle of the resurrection and the gift of eternal life

that we celebrate on Easter is all the more accentuated when experienced through the lens of a holy Lent. The rich, historic liturgies of our Anglican tradition help us to focus on the sanctity of this special season, and they offer us a way to deepen our Lenten practice as we come humbly before the throne of Almighty God.

On the first Sunday of Lent, our service will begin with the Great Litany. The Great Litany was originally written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 16th century, and was meant to be a protestant counterpart to the Roman Catholic litany of saints. The Great Litany was the first part of the Anglican liturgy to be translated into the English Language during the reign of King Henry VIII. It is a lengthy prayer, sometimes chanted, that calls to mind our total dependence on God in every aspect of life. God is our helper, our savior, our deliverer, our strength, and our salvation. In the Litany, we pray for ourselves, for the church, for our community, for our leaders, and for those in various kinds of need. The Litany acknowledges the trinitarian nature of the godhead, and is meant to draw us closer into relationship with our all-powerful God.

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On the second Sunday in Lent, our service will begin with the Exhortation. The Exhortation is perhaps one of the least used liturgies in the Book of Common Prayer, but like the Great Litany, it too has its roots in the 16th century English Reformation. The Exhortation is a call to self-examination, and more particularly, a call to self-examination before one partakes of the Lord's Supper. In the medieval church, the laity very rarely received communion. Mass was celebrated frequently, but typically it was only the clergy who partook of the bread and wine. The average lay person only received communion once a year, and they only received the bread. One of the major reforms introduced in England was the administration of communion more frequently to the laity. But with the introduction of more regular communion, the English reformers believed that the people should be instructed as to the sanctity and gravity of the sacrament before they came forward to the table of the Lord. Therefore, in 1548, Archbishop Cranmer penned the first version of the Exhortation, which has remained a part of the Book of Common Prayer ever since, (albeit it has been slightly adapted over the years.)

The first paragraph explains to the listener the sacrament of Holy Communion. It states that Holy Communion was instituted by Jesus himself on the night before his crucifixion (the Last Supper). The bread and the wine represent the true presence of Christ's body and blood, and they remind us of his sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the world. The consecrated elements of communion are spiritual food that nourishes us as believers. In the Lord's Supper, we are made one body with Christ, and we are united as members of one another. The exhortation also reminds us that Communion is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that all believers will enjoy when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead. The second paragraph of the Exhortation is a call to thanksgiving. After hearing communion explained, we should give thanks to God for all that he has done for us. The prayer calls us to give thanks for the gift of creation itself, for God's providential care and love for his people, and for the greatest gift of all, which is the salvation of the world through his son Jesus Christ.

It is then that the exhortation calls us to examine ourselves. And here, Archbishop Cranmer points us to 1 Corinthians Chapter 11:28-29, "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves." Paul then goes on to talk about how some members of the Corinthian Church have gotten physically sick and even died because of their blatant disregard for the sanctity of the sacrament.

This is why the fourth paragraph of the exhortation says, "For as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's body. Judge yourselves therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord." The Exhortation then calls us to take a hard and honest look at our lives and conduct. Is how we are living, reflecting who we are in Jesus? Is the way that we treat other people and the way that we share God's love, in accordance with God's word and commandments? Upon examining ourselves, if we find that we are guilty, (hint: we are all sinners) we are called to confess our sins, repent, and return to the Lord. This confession can be made directly to God in private, through the general confession in corporate worship, or in the presence of a minister who can offer the assurance of absolution. In our service, the Exhortation will be used as the invitation to corporate confession. For the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays in Lent, our Services will begin with the Penitential Order and Decalogue. After the opening acclamation, the service will continue with the reading of the Ten Commandments (Decalogue), immediately followed by the confession of sin. This is meant to be a reminder of the importance of God's covenantal law, and how His words should be written upon our hearts. The commandments reveal the moral expectations that God has for His people, and they teach us about how we are called to love God and our neighbor. The reading of the commandments is also meant to remind us of where we have fallen short. The responses to each commandment, "Lord, Have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law," are both an acknowledgement of human sin, and a petition for strength to keep God's commandments in the future. The reason that the general confession immediately follows is so the penitent can be assured that despite our inability to perfectly keep God's laws, our God is a merciful and loving God, and he is quick to forgive those who with "hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him..."

As we begin the season of Lent, it is my hope that you will allow the beautiful liturgies of our church to shape your Lenten journey. I pray that you will join me in recognizing where we as individuals, and as a church, have fallen short of God's expectations, and together seek God's reconciling love. In this season of penitence, may we acknowledge the amazing gift of mercy that our Lord Jesus Christ has bestowed upon us, and may we be prepared to joyfully celebrate the gift of eternal life that his Easter resurrection promises.

Faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Daniel

Historic Pohick Church Foundation Report

The Historic Pohick Church Foundation (HPCF) is a 501 (c) (3) 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. HPCF also raises funds for the authentication, preservation, and display of Historic Church artifacts. Everyone in the Parish is a member of the Corporation. The Corporation has a twelve-member Board of Directors that raises funds and decides on the expenditure of the funds for the upkeep of the Sanctuary and historical artifacts. The Board nominates new Directors, and the Vestry approves the members of the Board for a term of five years. The Directors are eligible to renew their terms every five years. There is usually at least one opening on the Board annually.

The Corporation was established to separate the preservation of Pohick Church as a National Landmark from its function as an active Church. Some people and organizations support the preservation of historical buildings, but do not support religious institutions. The Board is expected to raise funds outside the Parish and does so by letter and grant writing as well as contributions from the Parish, which are often from estates of Parishioners and donations made to HPCF in lieu of flowers at funerals.

In 2025, the HPCF funded the replacement of the Northwest Stairs after the old accessibility ramp was removed.

In 2024, the Foundation commissioned a condition assessment of the church. Roof replacement was identified as an urgent need. There is damage to the roof, organic growth covering parts of it, and water intrusion into the interior, which has damaged 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 with an estimated cost of \$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 still 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 roof. Preserving and protecting the masonry and other historic features is a high priority. Through fundraising efforts this fall, \$13,000 has been collected. The Franconia and Woodbridge Moose Lodges donated \$11,000 thanks to Andrea Gurrola. All fundraising suggestions are welcome along with any individual contacts or organizations that would be willing to contribute to this worthy cause. For example, some Parishioners may work for organizations that provide matching charitable donations. 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



Lent & Easter 2026

<i>February</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Pancake Supper, 5pm	18 Ash Wednesday, noon, 7 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Potluck (6 pm), Lent Program (6:30 pm), Compline (7:15 pm).	26	27	28

<i>March</i>						
1	2	3	4 Potluck (6 pm), Lent Program (6:30 pm) Compline (7:15 pm).	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Potluck (6 pm), Lent Program (6:30 pm), Compline (7:15 pm).	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Potluck (6 pm), Choral Evensong (7 pm)	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Potluck (6 pm), Lent Program (6:30 pm), Compline (7:15 pm).	26	27	28
29	30	31				

"A Journey with the Twelve Apostles"

Beginning February 25, join Rev. Daniel on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm for the 2026 Lenten pot-luck supper series! This year's theme is the life and journeys of the twelve apostles. Examine where each apostle is mentioned in the canonized scripture, paying close attention to their role in the Jesus movement, and how they lived out their calling to follow Christ. The series will also look at church tradition and extra-biblical sources that will help understand what may have happened to the apostles after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. A children's program on the lives of the Apostles will also be offered at the same time. Everyone is invited to attend and be a part of this apostolic journey! Please bring a dish to share!



Holy Week

- Palm Sunday – March 29 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:15 am Sunday School and Children's Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II Fellowship Hour after both the 8 am and 10:30 am services in the Parish House.
- Maundy Thursday – April 2, 7 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I Washing of Feet, Stripping of Altar, Procession to Altar of Repose
- Good Friday – April 3 12 pm, Rite I with music and 7 pm Rite I, spoken Stations of the Cross follows the 12 noon Service

Easter Sunday, April 5

- 6:00 am Flame Walk
- 6:45 am Easter Prayer in Church
- 7 am Hot Cross Buns Breakfast
- 7:30 am Rite I Eucharist, Spoken
- 9:00 am Rite II, Choral
- 10:15 am Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Easter Sunday
- 11:15 am Rite I, Choral



Christian Education Director's Letter

SUSAN PEHRSSON, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy New Year! May God bless you.

The Church School students delivered a beautiful Christmas Pageant on December 13. All the children in Church School had a part in the program from the youngest angels through high school. Pohick is blessed to have people who take time from their busy lives to learn about Jesus all year long. This is especially true as they come together and tell the story of his birth. Hopefully, the students come away from these experiences knowing the true meaning of Christmas.

In addition to the talented students, there are many other people who worked together in a caring and loving way to make the Christmas Pageant possible.

Special thanks are due to the following people:

- Special thanks to Courtney Greathouse and Lisa Arnold, directors, for guidance with the cast and crew.
- The Rev. Daniel M. Cenci and the Rev. Ted Renaud, for guidance and support.
- Neil Hogg, Senior Warden, for support and encouragement.
- Carolyn Cockroft, for playing the music for the Christmas Pageant.
- Molly Diaz, for accompaniment, baritone ukulele
- Olivia Diaz for being the Christmas Pageant soloist.
- The wonderful, loving and giving Church School teachers for teaching the students their lines and songs for the Christmas Pageant. Without their help, the Christmas Pageant would not have been possible.
- Jessica Cenci for fitting the costumes.
- Chris Brown for setting up and operating the sound equipment.
- Clint Herbert for his unwavering support for the Christian Education Program, including his hard work preparing the set.
- Connie Myers and Jenny Corsey for preparing the reception.
- Beth Altman, Pehr Pehrsson, Connie and Dennis Myers for helping with the set.
- The parents and families of the cast and crew who brought them to rehearsals, helped with their lines, dressed the cast, and did many other things too numerous to mention.

I am very thankful for everyone who worked hard to make this event a success.

From February 25 through March 25, in addition to Church School classes, a Lenten Program will be offered for children and youth on Wednesday Night. Immediately after the Potluck Supper, the program will provide scripture lessons and activities from 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm. The nursery will be open for children under 3 years old. The Lenten program prepares the students for the joyous resurrection of our Lord, celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 5. On Easter, children are encouraged to bring flowers to add to a cross in the church and at 10:15 am enjoy an Easter Hunt. Church School and Children's Chapel will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Mark the calendar for Vacation Bible School, which will be held from July 13 through July 17. The theme this year is Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS: where kids become Challengers, face frosty adventures, and discover lasting faith. By week's end, they'll be shouting: "Challenge accepted—with God, I am strong."

Any questions can be directed to Susan Pehrsson. All comments or questions concerning the programs are welcome – contact Susan Pehrsson at 703-282-6574 or spehrsson@pohick.org.

POHICK'S GOLDEN DOVE GIFT SHOP

THANKS for the continued support and contributions toward helping those in need! The photo below shows appreciation from Bethlehem Christian shop owner, Bassem, for the 4th quarter donation to him to assist during difficult times. He provides the Golden Dove with beautiful handmade olive wood items at a great price.



Rev Binder and Chris hand delivered the gift to Bassem.

Looking for something particular? Please contact shop buyers, Charlotte Knipling and Pamela Nelson, with ideas.

Can you spare a few hours a quarter to help out as a shop volunteer? Contact Donna Crawford for information and training. New volunteers are welcome! Time commitment is minimal and work schedule is flexible. Join this fun team!

Shop suggestions, contact Kathy Bray and/or Carol Heintze, the Parish representatives.



GOLDEN DOVE HOURS

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

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

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



Shop Display at Christmas



Annual Christmas Sale!

★ ★ ★ ——— *Martha's Guild* ——— ★ ★ ★



The Martha Guild will meet via Zoom on Monday, March 2 beginning at 7:30 pm. All women of the church are cordially invited to attend. Contact Connie Myers with any questions about the group, or look for members at the Coffee Hours on Sunday.

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:

Dan Derbes, Molly Diaz, Rick Church, John Egan,
Christopher Hempel, Patrick Riley, Tom Wright, Barbara
Schavland (youth rep 25/26), Olivia Diaz (youth rep
26/27), Hal Yarwood



Vestry Gram

Date: _____ From: _____

Subject: _____