



CRADOCK BAPTIST CHURCH

96 Afton Parkway, Portsmouth, VA 23702

cradockbaptist.org 757-485-3500

Leading everyday people to know Christ, love others, and serve the world!

~ June 2026 Newsletter ~

A Note from Our Pastor...

Dear Cradock Family and Friends:

We live in an era that does not approve of Christians and could care less for our values and beliefs. In many places we are not welcomed if we identify ourselves as Christians, especially if we stand up for what we know is right under Almighty God. So taking a stand for Jesus is not only unpopular, but could rick havoc on ourselves, as well as our families. But how can the unbelievers hear the message of Grace and Forgiveness if we do not live those values as well as profess those values? There is an article about Priests living up to their faith in Soviet Russia, even if it could cost them their lives.

You know it has been several decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall and since the Soviet Union collapsed, but there are still many places in this world where darkness, death and defeatism still reside, where the people are made to keep silent, and religion is squashed. But even in these places the church maintains a vigilant protest.

On May Day in 1990, in Moscow's Red Square one such protest took place. "Is it straight, Father?" one Orthodox priest asked another, shifting the heavy, eight-foot crucifix on his shoulder. "Yes," said the other. "It is straight." Together the two priests, along with a group of parishioners holding ropes that steadied the beams of the huge cross, walked the parade route. Before them was passed the official might of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: The usual May Day procession of tanks, missiles, troops, and salutes to the Communist party elite. Behind the tanks surged a giant crowd of protesters, shouting up at Mikhail Gorbachev. "Bread!...Freedom!...Truth!"

As the throng passed directly in front of the Soviet leader **standing** in his place of honor, the priests hoisted their heavy burden toward the sky. The cross emerged from the crowd. As it did, the figure of Jesus Christ obscured the giant poster faces of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels and Vladimir Lenin that provided the backdrop for Gorbachev's reviewing **stand**. "Mikhail Gorbachev!" one of the priests shouted, his deep voice cleaving the clamor of the protesters and piercing straight toward the angry Soviet leader. "Mikhail Gorbachev! Christ is risen!"

Even within the oppressive regime of Soviet Russia the cross is raised and so it is within our lives. When darkness creeps into our heart and we are tempted to hate. When death calls for a loved one and we are left behind. When loneliness threatens to take over every waking moment of our lives the cross emerges from the crowd. And as it does the figure of Jesus Christ obscures all that hate, death, and loneliness can muster.

Are You willing to take that **STAND**, in the face of possible danger? Christ died for you, so you could have your sins forgiven and be acceptable unto the Almighty. He has given you everything, what have you given in return? All He asks is to open your **HEART** and let Him in! Have you done that and are you willing to stand for Jesus.

In His Service: Pastor Dave





*For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be also.*

~ Matthew 6:21

Financial Information for January 1, 2026 ~ May 31, 2026:

Church Financials:

Income (tithes and offerings):	\$ 28,294.89
Expenses (utilities, salaries, et cetera):	\$ 40,548.20
Net Operating Total:	- \$ 12,253.31
Summary Income exceeded expenses by:	- \$ 12,253.31
Annual Expense Budget:	\$ 97,828.55
Year to Date Actual Expenses:	\$ 40,548.20

Church Banking Account Balances:

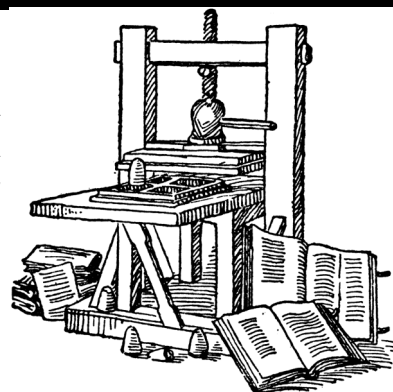
Checking Account:	\$ 11,235.47
Certificate of Deposit Value:	\$ 0.00
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$ 71,522.99

Endowment Fund Balance: \$139,552.00

CBC's Newsletter News...

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter via email instead of snail mail, please let our office know. Or if you rather no longer wish to receive our periodical; please let us know, so we can respect your wishes. We can be reached at cradockbaptist@gmail.com or 757-485-3500.

Thank you in advance!



Church Notes...



Please pray for the Kraatz Family ...

Phyllis Respress Kraatz

February 14, 1936 ~ May 13, 2026

90 years loved

Phyllis Respress Kraatz, 90, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. A proud graduate of Western High School in Baltimore, Maryland, Phyllis went on to dedicate many years of service to her community, retiring as a Deputy Clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy District Court in Norfolk, Virginia. Phyllis was a deeply devoted member of Cradock Baptist Church, where her faith and servant's heart shone brightly. Over the years, she served her church community in numerous capacities, including working as the Financial Secretary, serving on both the Financial and Floral committees, and serving as a Deacon. Her incredible creative talent even took her to California, where she participated in helping create floats for the famous Rose Bowl Parade. Closer to home, Phyllis was a proud member of the Sterling Point Garden Club, where she fully indulged her love for gardening and flower arranging. She also found great joy in the arts and culture, frequently visiting the Chrysler Museum. Always active and social, she loved learning to play cards and pool with the many friends she made at her residence at Harmony House. Phyllis always had a deep connection to the coast; she was truly "called to the water" and held a lifelong love for lighthouses. Some of her most cherished moments were spent on Gwynn's Island, surrounded by the family she adored. She took immense pride in attending her great-grandchildren's games and regattas, always remaining their biggest cheerleader. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 54 years, Bernie, and leaves behind many lifelong friends. Phyllis leaves a legacy of deep love and family. She is survived by her two children, Marcia Kraatz Kittrell, and Oscar Brian Kraatz and his wife, Melissa; her granddaughter, Sherri Kittrell Stein and her husband, Adam; as well as two step-grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, all of whom loved her dearly. A memorial service was held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at Cradock Baptist Church. Following the service, family and friends were invited to gather to celebrate Phyllis's life at Harmony at Harbor View from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to Cradock Baptist Church, 96 Afton Pkwy, Portsmouth, VA 23702, or to the charity of your choice.



Church Notes...



Our Robin Class...

Our Robin Class wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and support! We love learning more about and drawing closer to Jesus every week!

Please Join Us on June 28, 2026...

The Tidewater Concert Band will be playing during our Worship Service on Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. A lovely time will be had by all!



Weekly Family Bible Study with Dinner...



All are welcome to our weekly *Family Bible Study with Dinner* on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your family and/or friends with you, as this event is open to all ages! Dinner will be provided. Bring your Bible! We will meet on July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29!

MomCO Ministry Meeting...

Join us on July 21, 2026 at 7:00 p. m. for our *MomCo* meeting. We will meet in the downstairs social hall. This is for all moms - young, older, stepmoms, grandmothers, aunts and who want to be a mom! Childcare will be provided.



MOMCO



Join Us for Family Fun Night...

Cradock Baptist Church will offer *Family Fun Night* on August 14, 2026 at



Vacation Bible School News...

VBS will be held at Cradock Baptist Church from 6 :0 p.m. until 8:00pm on July 28, 29 & 30, 2026. This year's theme is, "Galaxy". If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Erin Bracy at 757-404-0695.



JUNE

6 DeShawna Ward
 16 Pat Steverson
 25 Betty Large
 29 Jessica Vick

JULY

3 Mike Bracy
 9 Leroy Hartung, Jr.
 11 David Ward
 16 Justice King
 19 Noah Anderson
 30 Kenzie Sprayberry
 31 Bryant Bracy
 31 Tori Spivey

May God bestow special birthday blessings to those celebrating!



JUNE

7 Mike & Joan Mercer
 21 Randy & Jessica Vick

JULY

20 Dan & Teena Coronado

*May God bestow special wedding anniversary blessings
 upon the couples celebrating!*

*Kid's Coloring
Fun Page...*





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96 AFTON PARKWAY
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23702-2836

2 STAMPS

Leading everyday people to know Christ, love others, and serve the world!

MAILING LABEL



This is the day the Lord has made!
~ Psalm 118:24