



The Cloak

St. Martin's – A Christian Church for all people Sharing God's Love, Following Christ, Serving Others



Operation Christmas Child boxes!

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Father Lee Hutchison



From St. Nicholas to Santa Claus

Have you ever wondered how we went from St. Nicholas to Santa Claus? Saint Nicholas was a popular 4th century bishop from Turkey who devoted his ministry to helping the poor.

The most famous story about Nicholas was his help of a couple too poor to afford dowries so their 3 daughters could marry. The night before each daughter came of age he slipped a small purse filled with gold coins into the house so that each daughter could marry.

By the middle ages, the 3 most recognized figures in Christianity were Jesus, Mary and Saint Nicholas

Nicholas became the patron Saint of the Netherlands where he was called Sinterklass.

The Dutch brought the tradition of giving to poor with them when they settled in New Amsterdam. Washington Irving who wrote the “Legend of sleepy hollow” wrote satirical articles about the Dutch in newspaper joking about their sleighs, beards and long pipes

This is when an Episcopalian comes into the picture.

Clement Moore was Episcopal bishop of NY and professor of Greek history

Around 1820 he wrote a poem for his children based on Irving’s satirical stories he changed the feast day of St. Nicholas from Dec. 6th to 25th, and added some reindeer for entertainment. A few years later his poem was published in newspapers. It was called T’was the night before Christmas. In 1890 Coca Cola bought rights to his image of Saint Nick now referred to as Santa Claus. Dressed him in red & white and we have our Santa Clause of today



I share this with you and encourage you to be intentional about living your faith as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Whether you are a parent, god parent, grand parent, aunt, uncle or neighbor the children in your life are dependent upon you to pass down your faith.

- Buy an Advent calendar for them
- Set up an Advent wreath or crèche in your home
- Adopt a child or family to help, and explain to your children it was Jesus who said “As you do to the least of these you do to me.”
- Make sure some of the ornaments on your tree refer to the birth of Christ – hang them up first or last. But make it a special event
- Read the gospel of Luke’s story of the birth of Christ
- Talk about St. Nicholas. His feast day is still Dec. 6th

There is a war on Christmas not waged by Starbucks but by ourselves in our own individual hearts. Be intentional about preparing to celebrate the Birth of our Savior. May you have a blessed season of Advent and a wonderful celebration of the Birth of our Savior!

Fr. Lee

Announcements for December:

1 Tuesday - 5:30 pm - ECW

2, 9 and 16 - 7 pm - Wednesday Night Bible Study

4 and 18 Friday - 6 to 9 pm - EYC meeting

5 Saturday - 8:30 to 12 noon - Fall Clean up

6 Sunday - 10 am service - Lesson & Carols

8 Tuesday - 7 pm - Vestry Meeting

11 Friday - 10 am - Social Bridge will meet the 2nd but not on 4th Friday this month

12 Saturday - 8 am - Mens Breakfast call James Burr if you need a ride

12 Saturday - 2 pm - Caroling



13 Sunday - 10 am service - Chrismon Sunday gift-giving to children of the congregation

13 Sunday - 2:30 pm - Chrismon Workshop watch the "weeklies" for more info

16 Wednesday - 11 am - Daughter of the King

19 Saturday - 9:30 am - St. Martins project - Blue team - 9 am Deadline for cookies see page 9

20 Sunday - 10 am - Christmas pageant

24 Thursday - 5 pm and 11 pm - Christmas Eve Service

25 Friday - 10 am - Christmas Day Service



Fall Festival:

October 31



Erin & Glenn Sprouse - best decorated car!



Special guest Nutzy



Ivy Miller
Best Costume 5 preschool



Tristan Howdyshehl
Best Costume elementary



More Fall Festival:



More Fall Festival:



Christmas Child boxes:

Thank you to our Sunday school students and members of the congregation who donated items, paid shipping fees and packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. The boxes have been delivered to the drop off spot and children around the world will be receiving a gift of love in a shoe box this Christmas. We will continue this project for 2016, hoping to increase participation we will be collecting items each month in the parish hall. Please check the wish list and place your donations in the plastic container that will be provided.

Christmas Child wish list:

January – Toothpaste, tooth brushes and plastic containers for toothbrush

February – Soap, plastic soap containers and wash cloths

March – Flashlights

April – flashlight batteries, will announce battery sizes after flashlights are purchased

May – Plastic cups and bowls

June – Jump ropes, Legos and baby dolls (darker skin)

July – Modeling clay, plastic shoe boxes and balls

Aug – T shirts (solid colors or print with no writing on them)

Sept – Schools supplies—pencils and sharpeners, pens, erasers, paper, modeling clay, crayons, markers, rulers, math flash cards, rulers, protractors and

Oct – shipping fee donations

We missed walking in the CROP Walk this year due to the rainy weather but would like to thank those that donated money to relieve world hunger.



Blessing of the Christmas Child boxes

during the service November 15

first the children's sermon



Book Club update:

During these busy times of the year we all need to take time to RECHARGE our minds to keep our focus.

READ & RELAX

Join the Book Club, relaxing for an hour or so reading will recharge you mentally and physically.

We meet the 3rd Thursday at 11 am, which is a new time of day, in the parish hall. No Meeting in December.

The book for January:

The Girl on the train by Paula Hawkins

Books we have read in 2012:

The Glass Castle by Rebecca Walls

Room by Emma Donahue

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Murial Barbery

The Pinnacle Seven by Jackie Richards

A Covert Affair by Jenet Conant

The Sanctuary of Outcasts by Neil White

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton

The Postmistress by Sarah Blake

The Memory Keepers Daughter by Kim Edwards

- Pat Rourk



If you know of somebody not on these lists (including yourself) please let the office know.
If we don't know ...



12/01 James Logan
12/01 Lorelei Cooper
12/02 Jennifer Cooper
12/03 Victoria Hughson
12/03 Errol Stephens
12/04 Alex Woolwine
12/05 Florence Chellodorai
12/05 Katie Bright
12/06 Marie Atkins
12/07 Joe Lamb
12/07 (Roanna) N'neka Logan
12/07 Stella Prskalo
12/10 Ria Kirby
12/12 John Dvorak
12/15 Carter Hood
12/16 Chris Patoray
12/17 Kevin Bailey
12/17 Beverly Stone
12/18 Scott Goodman
12/19 Austin Newcomb
12/20 Sean Reid
12/22 Louise Bassett
12/25 Carl Newcomb
12/25 Merielle Horne
12/26 Christa Burr

12/01 Jim & Victoria Hughson
12/15/2013 Ria & Bob Kirby
12/21/1965 James & Ruth Barrett
12/22 Darrell & Melinda Jenkins
12/22 Jenny & Jim Richardson
12/22/1984 Beverly & George Stone



LAMB's Basket
"...Feed the hungry and you fulfill"
Matthew 25:35

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

The Wednesday announcements will tell us what is needed especially this month. Please place your donations in the basket in the hallway.

Outreach Committee:



"The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who gave coats and jackets to be given to those in need, food for the Thanksgiving Basket, and items for the Fisher House. You were all very generous and the recipients were very grateful. Thank you so much!"

"It has been a tradition that **St. Martin's Project** includes homemade Christmas cookies with the sandwiches that we prepare the Saturday before Christmas. If you are interested in helping us with this, please have your cookies at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 19th. It really is a treat for the homeless to receive these cookies."

- Jean Rollins

Welcome

new Acolyte
Tristan Howdyshell
October 25



Hosanna

In dark,
in silence,
desert village,
a speck in sand;
behind a dim inn,
in animals' stable-cave,
a sound, almost imperceptible
awakens. A single star, moving
across black sky, trails a swath of
sparkling light. Wings flutter, harps,
bells, trumpets, voices, open in a joyful
Alleluia! to unsuspecting earth, Every known
sound becomes a hymn of thanksgiving. Every
color startles, shimmers, refracts, reflects all praise,
all glory, all beauty, all brightness, all infinite love.
The Master of every stone, every light; Lord of all trees,
flowers, waters, wind, every bird, every animal, every soul,
body, mind of every human, Source of all wisdom, goodness,
mercy, laughter, brotherhood, has folded miraculously,
swiftly, silently, unaccountably, into the form of this
gentle infant, magnificent gift, so much more than
the earth could ever deserve or imagine. Let every
sound ring into the universe now and forever; let
every light shine forth celebration, and humble
gratitude, and adoration. Let every soul rise to
proclaim the glory of His being. Let every
knee bend at the side of the manger,
all hands clasp in worship, all lips
tell the story forever, the story
of healing in a wounded
world, of hope and
love and new life
beginning
in silence,
in dark.

- Patsy Bickerstaff

Friday set-up for the Holiday Market



“ECM”en helping.
Thank you!

ECW Holiday Market

November 14

Although the ECW planned the Holiday Market, it became a successful churchwide event thanks to the many people who contributed their time, talent and treasure. The help with moving furniture on both Friday and Saturday, procuring and installing the street signage, selling raffle tickets, contributing to the bake sale, white elephant stall and craft table were all much appreciated. To those members and friends who attended and supported all the vendors, the ECW thanks you for your generosity.

The raffle proceeds alone were \$1,162.00 which will be shared between the John Wallace Scholarship fund and the ECW. The exquisite Advent wallhanging was won by Connie Hall, who, while not a member of St. Martin's, is a staunch supporter. Congratulations Connie!!

On Tuesday December 1st the ECW will meet at 5.30pm in one of the classrooms to wrap up the Holiday Market. They will also discuss plans for their December 15th Christmas party to which all women of the church are invited. It promises to be a relaxing evening of food, fellowship and fun.

- Sally Dvorak (ECW publicity person)



More Holiday Market:



The vendors and workers did not have to starve.

The lucky Raffle Winner

The lucky winner Connie H. was very happy when Christa contacted her and brought her the Chrismon-Adventcalendar Wallquilt. She is wellknown by many members because she does their hair at Salon D'Sylvia in Tuckernuck Square.



The EYC happenings:

Fun times!
Our youth went bowling on
November 20.





Boys Home
of Virginia

BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA

Boys Home provides residential education for boys, ages 6 - 17. Our mission is to help each resident strive toward becoming a responsible and productive member of society by developing his potential — Spiritually, Mentally, Physically, and Socially.

The main campus of Boys Home is located two and one-half miles west of Covington, Virginia on Route 60. The campus consists of 70 developed acres, along with 1,400 mountainous acres of woods, streams and cliffs where the boys can hunt, fish or swim.

The Boys Home Christmas Tree Farm complements our campus in offering the perfect setting for young men to learn personal responsibility and discipline in a Christian environment.

Great Trees ...Great Kids!



CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS & TRIMMINGS

Choose & Cut Trees and Christmas Shop

OPEN Friday, Saturday and Sunday

November 27 - December 20

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Open House: November 28
(Children's activities and door prizes)

"No Frills" Fridays are Dec. 4, 11 & 18

CHOOSE FROM: WHITE PINE, NORWAY
SPRUCE & SELECTED VARIETIES

- * Cash, Checks and Credit Cards Accepted
- * Assistance Provided
- * Bow Saws and Tree Baling
- * Refreshments
- * Restrooms
- * Member of Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association and Cooperative Forest Management Program



TREE FARM HISTORY 22 YEARS AND COUNTING!

Joanne Tannehill, in her bequest, left her Augusta County Christmas Tree Farm to Boys Home. As a teaching and learning experience for the residents at Boys Home, our residents have been actively participating in all aspects of the operation since 1994.

In the spring, the boys place young seedlings in planting beds and relocate mature transplants to the tree fields. In the summer and fall, they shear trees and groom fields. During the winter, they harvest trees for wholesale and assist with the "choose & cut" sales at the Farm.

In 1997, we renovated the Gift Shop. This year be sure to take a walking tour of the tree fields and observe the progress we have made in the variety, quality, and quantity of trees we have planted.

With the continuing support of our many friends and supporters, we look forward to another successful Christmas season.



Parish Nurse

by Betty Horne

Tips for enjoying the Holiday Season.

The holidays can be filled with tasty and deceptively high-calorie food and drinks. Before you know it the numbers on your scales have moved up. Soon you will be contemplating your New Year's resolutions. Do not lose heart! Here are some healthy tips to keep you mindful of your intake throughout the season. Start your resolution of keeping healthy habits now!

Don't torture yourself by keeping candy and sweets around the house. Do not buy more than a week or so ahead of time if you are entertaining, or you will be tempted to snack. If it isn't available, you will not be as tempted.

Get those left over sweets out of the house. After the event, take the remainder to work or other events. Forget the sales on leftover candy. Instead buy a decorative item for your home that you can enjoy for years to come. This will not add calories!

Plan time for exercise/activity in your weekly routine. During October through December, add a few minutes to your standard routine. Walk to a co-workers office or desk instead of calling. Push the grocery cart back into the store instead of leaving it in the outside cart return. If possible, take the stairs instead of an elevator. Every extra step counts.

Never go to a holiday meal hungry. Many of us will eat very little before a big celebration or gathering to save plenty of room for all the treats. This can lead to overeating. This year, start your day with a healthy breakfast and head into the festivities with a low level of hunger. Control your portion sizes as well as choosing food with lower calories. Choose your favorite foods and skip the ones you eat regularly or your least favorite.

Watch your liquid calorie intake! Punches, ciders, and adult beverages add calories and do not fill you up. For example, a large cider is the equivalent of eating a donut. You may find that you need to run an extra mile or two just to burn those extra calories! Try low sugar or calorie free options. Water is a must.

Holidays are for enjoying the company around you more than the food on your plate. Interact with family and friends in conversation, and put your fork and knife down to chat for a moment. Allowing space in between bites will give your stomach time to send that full feeling signal to your brain.

Prayer Shawl Group:

Still looking for Help!

The Prayer Shawl Group needs your help. If you can knit or crochet shawls, scarfs, baby blankets or lap robes and donate them to our group, we can then give them to shut-ins, new babies or high school seniors. This would greatly help our small group. We could also use donations to help pay for the yarn for these items. Donations of yarn (acrylic preferred), would help too. We meet monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 11am.

Please call Carolyn Wallace (515-0112) or Pat Akens (Pat5193@verizon.net) for more information.



Donation envelope boxes:

For those who like to use the donation envelopes will find their boxes at the end of this month on the table in the hall way. We will announce that in the "Weeklies".

If you had a box this year, the computer will automatically assign the same number box to you for next year except if you have let us know on your pledge card.

If you not had a box before but would like one and did not so note on your pledge card, let Christa know ... kygerman@hotmail.com

December has two extra special envelopes:

Advent Offering

Donations are used for Outreach

Christmas

Donations supply Father Lee's Discretionary Fund (to help throughout the year those in need in a confidential way).



Sorry! I missed it!

Betsy Crowell had shared this photo with me ... taken at the baptism of Jack Greenwood on Oct 11. Jack's cousin William was seen tasting the celebratory cake. This picture is too good not to share.

**Cloak deadline:
Saturday December 26 - 9 pm**

St. Martin's Yellow Pages

This area is where you can post your service or product to let your fellow St. Martinites know how you can help them, and you can give those who post here your support.

OCEANFRONT BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

Located directly on the beach in Hatteras
Village, NC. Contact Bob or Max Barritt
(h) 270-3862 or (c) 512-4586



DERING'S CLEANING SERVICE:

If interested getting your home
super good cleaned, call Leslie at 239-5865.
Licensed, Insured & Bonded

Original Art Work and Photography by Pat Rourk

Note cards and Placemats
Card \$1.50 ea. or 4 for \$5.00
Placemats \$8 ea.

Several samples of cards and a placemat
can be found in a folder in the Library
Pat Rourk, 270-1887



ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

Rector: The Very Rev. Lee A. Hutchson
Organist & Choirmaster: Jacqueline L. Bitler
Administrative Assistant: Andrea Vidal

CHURCH OFFICE

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Sunday Services	Sunday	8 & 10 am
Boy Scouts	Monday	7 pm
Women's Bible Study	Tuesday	10 am - 12pm
Meals on Wheels	Tuesday	10:15am -12pm
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
* <i>Healing Service every 3rd Wed.</i>		
Cub Scouts	Thursday	6:45pm - 7:45pm
Sr. Choir Practice	Thursday	7:30 pm
Ethiopian Christians	Saturday	6 am



Trustee Emeritus: Robert I. Kirby
Trustees: Kerry Alloway, A. P. Hall, Jr.
& Garland Harwood

VESTRY

2015	2016	2017
Sallie Bright	Lauren Alloway	Steve Alloway
Rick Gibbs	Garland Harwood	Sean Cooper
Larry Reid	Susan Teachey	Barbara Campeau

Senior Warden: Rick Gibbs
Junior Warden: Garland Harwood
Treasurer: Darrell Jenkins
Register: Nan Scott

Assistant Treasurer: Christa Burr
Editor: Christa Burr

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	7 pm
Social Bridge	2 nd & 4 th Friday	10am - 1pm
Men's Breakfast	2 nd Saturday	8 am
Daughters of the King	3 rd Wednesday	11 am
Book Club	3 rd Thursday	11am - 12pm
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am
ECW	4 th Tuesday	5:30 pm
Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 th Wednesday	11 am
EYC	selected Fridays (see calendar)	6 - 9 pm

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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