



The Cloak

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



Brunswick Stew a Fundraiser for the EYC Mission Trip (see more inside)

Contents:

2 ~ Father Lee's Message
2 ~ Wednesday Discussions
3 ~ What and When / Holy Week
4-5 ~ Words from Rev. Dr. Sandy
5 ~ St. Martin's Happy (zoom) Hour
6 ~ ECW / UTO Ingathering
7 ~ Sunday School Update
7 ~ Website address change / Seen on FB
8-9 ~ Parish Nurse

9 ~ Poem: The Choice
10 ~ Brunswick Stew
11 ~ Finally Outdoor Service again
11 ~ Finance Report
12 ~ Palm Sunday
13 ~ Puzzle to win
14 ~ Birthdays + Anniversaries
14 ~ Condolences: Carolyn Wallace
15 ~ Yellow Pages / Amazon Smiles

Father Lee Hutchison



Outdoor Worship

We will be following diocesan guidelines for in person worship for Easter and for our regular OUTDOOR worship on Sundays at 10 am.

Guidelines are as follows:

If you feel sick or have recently been sick stay home and worship with us online.

If you plan on attending worship on Easter Sunday sign up by calling or emailing the office.

If you attend worship you must wear a mask. We have extra if you forget to bring your mask.

Please remain physically distanced at the exchange of the peace.

It is always wonderful to see you in person. I am hopeful that by early summer we will be able to return to in person worship.

Fa. Lee

Wednesday Discussion led by Father Lee:

Join us for a series of talks by N.T. Wright, the former bishop of Durham, about heaven and the resurrection. Each meeting will last about 30 minutes. You may also buy the book "Surprised by Hope" although it is not required.



Every week on Wed, until Apr 14, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

There are 2 session left but if you have not joined before you still might still find these interesting

Apr 7, 2021 07:00 PM

Apr 14, 2021 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74067311838?pwd=Wm1BUVpMYWZlcGVpbosveGtVb2dUQT09>
https://us04web.zoom.us/meeting/upAtce6rrzoiGdx-ILM3wkKikuFR68XabLrG/ics?icsToken=98tyKu6srjotGdWUuBqPR7YIAo_oKOnzmH5HjadFoTbJLnNEaSJ_PfdkAOQnKNnS

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74067311838?pwd=Wm1BUVpMYWZlcGVpbosveGtVb2dUQT09>

Meeting ID: 740 6731 1838

Passcode: hh2S8e

<https://ntwrightpage.com>

To those who have taken part so far: you can find more interesting readings on his website (see above).

What and When ...

April

Services

see on the right

(We will continue with this format until we have word from our Bishop otherwise)
Finally ... outdoor service again!

Office Hours

open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
from 9 am to 1 pm
Wednesday and Friday by appointment

Zoom Happy Hour

every Thursday at 5:30 pm
Meeting ID: 766 2569 6519 - Passcode: stmThanks
see page 5

Wednesday Night discussions

April 7 and 14 at 7 pm

Cloak Deadline

20th of each month
you can mail something anytime though!

ECW Zoom meeting

Tuesday April 27 at 6 pm (note time change)
Meeting ID: 702 740 7194 - Passcode: ECWmonthly
see page 6

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Outdoor Worship Service	Sunday	10am
Streamed Worship Service on Facebook	Sunday	9am
Streamed Midweek Service on Facebook	Wednesday	10am
Compline Service streamed on Facebook	daily	8 pm
Sunday School for the children	Sunday	7pm

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	7pm
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am
ECW	4 th Tuesday	6 pm

Holy Week!

Under the Tent April 1 to 4

Maundy Thursday	7 pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross	6 pm
Good Friday Service	7 pm
Easter Eve Vigil - Saturday	8 pm
Easter Sunday Service	10am
Easter Egg Hunt afterwards	

Easter Sunday Service - **streamed** - 9 am



Holy Week

Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

“The Bible: ‘The Book That Reads Us’”

The title of this little piece is a quote from someone...don't remember who. Some scripture scholar or other who I ran across while in seminary. And since I write this while it is still Lent, I thought it might be worthwhile to think a little deeper about this book that plays a central role in all of our lives—one way or another. We hear or read the lectionary every Sunday morning and visit the Old Testament (known as the Hebrew Bible), as well as the New Testament. And of course our own Book of Common Prayer—90% of it made up of “biblical phraseology, mashed up and remixed so that we may, as one BCP collect puts it “inwardly digest” it as we pray.”

That last quote was from a recent article appearing in the *Christian Century* by Ellen Davis, a biblical scholar who has taught at Duke University for the past two decades. She had also taught at Virginia Theological Seminary, my alma mater, and our paths did cross there after I left that campus, but was invited back to discuss a book of hers that had just been published. In that latest article, titled “Weaving my Vocation,” I was struck by a couple of observations of hers that I'd like to share here.

Davis describes the Bible as “a source not of doctrinal propositions but rather of language for reckoning with reality”. She adds that “it is the most fully adequate source known to me of a complex story that rings true, of essential concepts and poetic images that equip me to live in awareness of God, self, and neighbor and make sense of what I experience.” She also said that she learned “something about the kind of questions that are worth engaging century after century” by our ancestors in the faith—both Jews and Christians over millennia. Davis also adds that without the words and stories of scripture, “we would have no way of talking about God in relation to ourselves.”

I think that's a pretty strong statement but unless you are given to direct, mystical rapture, which presumably is beyond words and descriptions in any case, the Bible is indeed our chief way of encountering God. And thinking about that, I turned to my book shelf and pulled off one of my own books written a few years back—because I knew that I had devoted much of a chapter in that book (*Imagination and the Journey of Faith*) to the Bible. In a section labeled “Meeting God in the Story of Scripture,” I read again what I had published in 2008, and found a discussion of scripture that I believe is amazingly complementary to Davis's article.

In that section I repeat a theme that occurs over and over in that work of mine: All good stories, including the ones we read in the Bible, feed our imaginations and can affect us deeply; they are potential conduits of grace-filled images that color the world before us and shape our lives. But then, I hasten to make clear that at least for religious believers, the Bible is not like just any other novel that also can affect us deeply. And I then go on to list at least three ways the Bible stories are distinct from other narrative genres.

First, again for religious believers, “these biblical writers [who set down all these scripture stories] are seen as inspired by God to set down God's particular dealings with humankind in history—responding with limited perspectives to the mighty acts of God—imaginatively describing as best they could the ‘unfathomability of life in history under an inscrutable God.’” Second, the Bible is not just another story “because it contains stories of our ancestors in the faith”—something like a family album. And finally, the Bible is distinct from other narrative works because “the Bible is the church's book. True, I point out that every generation, every denomination and every church gathering reads the scripture stories through the lens of their own culture and times.

Rev. Dr. Sandy continued ... from previous page

And because the Bible is the Church's book, This reading needs to take place within the “stretchable bounds of Judeo-Christian tradition”—meaning that not just anything and everything goes when it comes to confronting the biblical text and imaginatively making something of it.

Let me close this piece with a longer quote from my own writing, because it not only brings us back full circle to the title of this Cloak piece, but makes a final, essential point in closing.

And so, in the last analysis, the Bible is a book about us. We imagine ourselves in the fictionalized characters that we meet there—the farmers and the fishermen, the thieves and the traitors, the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, the servants and the scribes. In short, we see women and men of all sorts and conditions who manage, like us, to be both good and bad, sometimes wondrously or disastrously so. Finally. . .the Bible's stories have the quality of “frictionality”—“irritating qualities which drive us to scratch and read again, aware that there are traces left which never yield” to any final or fixed form.

But the Central Character, as well as Author, who hovers over and behind the text is of course God. As someone has said, “the Bible without God is as unimaginable as Moby Dick without the whale.” This is finally God's book, the One who is not seen directly but who is glimpsed in the lives of the characters who encountered him, and in the imaginations of those inspired to set down these stories that shaped their lives and that ultimately shape our own. (Pg. 98)

And so, despite the fact that Lent has now ended as you are reading this, we are in the great Fifty Days of the Easter season. So pick up again your copy of the Book which reads you and read, mark, and inwardly digest those stories that enable you to encounter God daily in the quiet of your lives.



St. Martin's Happy Hour

It is always a happy time when we see our
Church friends.



Let's chat a while every Thursday!

The meeting starts at 5:30 pm (and will be cut off by the computer after 40 minutes).

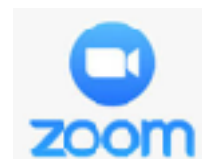
In those 40 minutes you can join anytime.

If you have any question call Rick Fowler 804-370-8273



Topic: St Martin's Happy Hour
Time: every Thursday at 5:30 pm

Meeting ID: 766 2569 6519
Passcode: stmThanks



The next meeting of ECW will be April 27th on Zoom at 6.00pm. (Please note time change)
Meeting ID: 702 740 7194, Passcode: ECWmonthly.

The ECW thanks all those parishioners who purchased notecards. There are still some left in the hallway.

The parish hall new poster of members will be donated by the ECW. It is hoped that it will be complete and framed by the time we can use the church building again.

If any members of the congregation would like to borrow the DVD of "Ruth", the Sight and Sound show filmed live at Lancaster, PA please contact Ann Robbins at 270 6247.

Please remember women of St. Martin's are automatically members of the ECW and are always welcome at the meetings.

SPRING ALL 2021 UTO INGATHERING - by Kim Shook

Once again, just like both the Ingatherings for 2020, the United Thank Offering this Spring is going to ask more of you than usual. Not being at church every week, you won't have the opportunity to turn in your boxes or envelopes. But please know that your offerings are more important and needed than ever. The UTO Board plans to continue the focus for the next round of grants to center around recovery efforts from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



There are now three ways to give:

- To give via your phone, simply text **INGATHER** to **41444**
- Give online at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/give/>
- Mail a check, made payable to **UTO** with **Ingathering Diocese of Virginia** in the memo line, to:
The United Thank Offering
DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church
PO Box 958983
St. Louis MO 63195-8983

You can also send/take your checks (with the memo line inscribed, as above) to St. Martin's and we will happily send the donation on for you. The envelopes and boxes are on the table in the hallway of the Parish Hall. I know that children like the ritual of filling the boxes with change.

We are hoping to get all donations by mid June.

Thank you so much for giving to this important cause and for the prayers and sacrifices I know you've all made during this challenging time. I know we are all looking forward to the days when we can safely be together. Until then, be careful and grateful for one another.

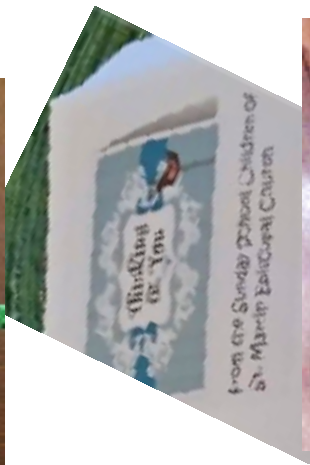
Sunday School Update

- by Kerry Alloway



The Sunday school children at St Martin's made St Patrick's Day crafts & cards for members to spread a little joy to others. They also learned that St Patrick taught the people of Ireland about the Holy Trinity by using a shamrock to illustrate how God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are three in one.

Special thanks to Lily, Logan, Caleb, Wayland, Addie, James, William, Madeline & Olivia.



Zoom Sunday School :

Don't forget about Children's Sunday school. We meet via zoom on Sunday at 7pm.

We have a short time of instruction either about the Gospel reading for Sunday or a timely church topic. One Sunday we learned about the different kinds of candles used in church and their meaning. The meeting number as well as the password are included in our weekly parish email. We hope to see you there!

Here a link for our kid's sermon and worksheet for this week's gospel <https://sermons4kids.com/>

Please note that there was a change in our website address! It is now <http://www.saintmartinschurch.net/>

Seen on Facebook:

This hit me...

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you.
You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them.
You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around.
You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk.
So don't wait to be kind.
Don't wait for someone else to be kind first.
Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change.
Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.
~ Nikki Banas



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

COVID 19 Vaccines

After a bumpy roll out of the Covid Vaccines, we are now reportedly vaccinating more than 2 million people a day. This is great news. We now have three vaccines available to us; the Pfizer, Moderna and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine which is a single dose vaccine. We still have a long way to go to vaccinate enough people to reach herd immunity and curb the spread of the disease. We are also in a race to vaccinate more people to stop the spread of the variants of the virus. These variants tend to spread more easily. So far the vaccines seem to be effective in preventing severe illness and death in those infected with the variants as well.

The number of infections, hospitalization and deaths had been trending down, but seems to have plateaued. With this trend and as more people are vaccinated, many of the restrictions are being removed.

One of the most heart warming consequences of older people being vaccinated, is the ability for grandparents to meet and hug their grandchildren.

However, there are some guidelines that need to be followed. Fully vaccinated grandparents can visit their grandchildren especially if they are local. Travel is still not recommended. They can visit indoors with unvaccinated healthy family members without wearing mask or social distancing, provided



none of the unvaccinated family members are at risk of severe COVID infection. This can happen 2 weeks after completion of the second of the two dose vaccines or after the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The state of Virginia is still completing phase 1b vaccinations which includes: Frontline essential workers, people 65 years and older, people 16 through 64 years with high risk medical condition or disability, people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters and migrant labor camps.

Frontline essential workers include:

- Police, Fire and Hazmat
- Corrections and homeless shelter workers
- Childcare/PreK-12 Teachers/Staff
- Food and Agriculture (including veterinarians)
- Manufacturing
- Grocery store workers
- Public transit workers
- Mail carriers
- Officials needed for continuity of government including judges and judicial workers
- Clergy/Faith workers
- Janitorial/cleaning staff

There is a push to get children back to school. On March 2 the US department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a directive that all states immediately make teachers,

school staff and childcare workers eligible for COVID-19 vaccination across all vaccination providers. This includes health departments, health care providers and participating pharmacies.

Hopefully most of our congregation has been fully vaccinated or had at least one vaccine. If you have not already registered with the state, you may call 877-829-4682. After pre-registering you will be contacted when it is your turn to schedule your COVID vaccine. Some Healthcare providers/ General Practitioners are also offering vaccines at their offices. Mass vaccines are given at the Raceway, community centers, some churches, However, these are given by scheduled appointments through the Virginia Registration System (where you pre-registered).

As much as it seems we are seeing a light at the end of a long dark tunnel, we must continue to use measures to mitigate the spread of infection or to reverse the gains made in fighting the disease. We cannot let our guards down. Many European countries are in lock down again as the level of infection there has been rising. We must continue to wash our hands often. For the sake of others who have not been vaccinated or at risk for severe infection especially in crowded setting, we must continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. We should maintain 6 feet when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.

For now, fully vaccinated people can gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask. They can gather with unvaccinated people from one other household, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

We continue to receive updates from the CDC and our health departments. Stay informed to keep you and your family safe. We must all do our part to get this pandemic behind us and return to meeting again as a congregation at church.

Happy Spring! Stay well!

The Choice

The day He rose, He could well have inspired
the men who walked beside him, all those miles;
who sailed the boats; who walked the dust-swept roads,
who joined Him in the Garden, fighting sleep,
slashed off one enemy accuser's ear,
and begged to sit beside his Kingly throne.

He knew their baritones could wield the truth
of Resurrection – and could be believed.
He knew, if they were there when He arose,
He could be lifted on their shoulders – high,
invincible, miraculous -- to war,
Perhaps to claim His rightful Majesty.

And so, it was not they to whom He spoke.
The women – timid, fearful, sorrowful
came walking, bearing oil and sacrifice
and wondered who would push the stone aside
that they might honor Him – were shocked to find
that His decision was to honor *them*.

They brought no dreams of vengeance, victory
or power; only sorrow, grief and tears,
soft voices, soft steps, brave and gentle love.
And as the darkness fled with morning light,
He sought them first, and placed the Miracle
in tender mother-hearts; in women's hands.

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff



Brunswick Stew!

an EYC fundraiser on Saturday March 13



A big 'Thank you' to the Greenwood/Sykes family for making this EYC fundraiser a great success.



Drive-bye social distance pick-up!



Finally - the first outdoor service was announced since mid December!

Sunday March 21



Finance Committee Report

by Garland Harwood

Financial Highlights 2021	end of previous month	MTD February	YTD end of February
Income	\$19,166.00	\$19,006.65	\$38,172.65
Expenses	\$21,031.00	\$19,567.82	\$40,598.82
Gain or Loss	-\$1,865.00	-\$561.17	-\$2,426.17

Palm Sunday

Sunday March 28



The service started at 10am in the Memorial Garden. The procession followed and the service continued under the tent.

Social distancing was observed but friendships were felt.

It was good for our souls!



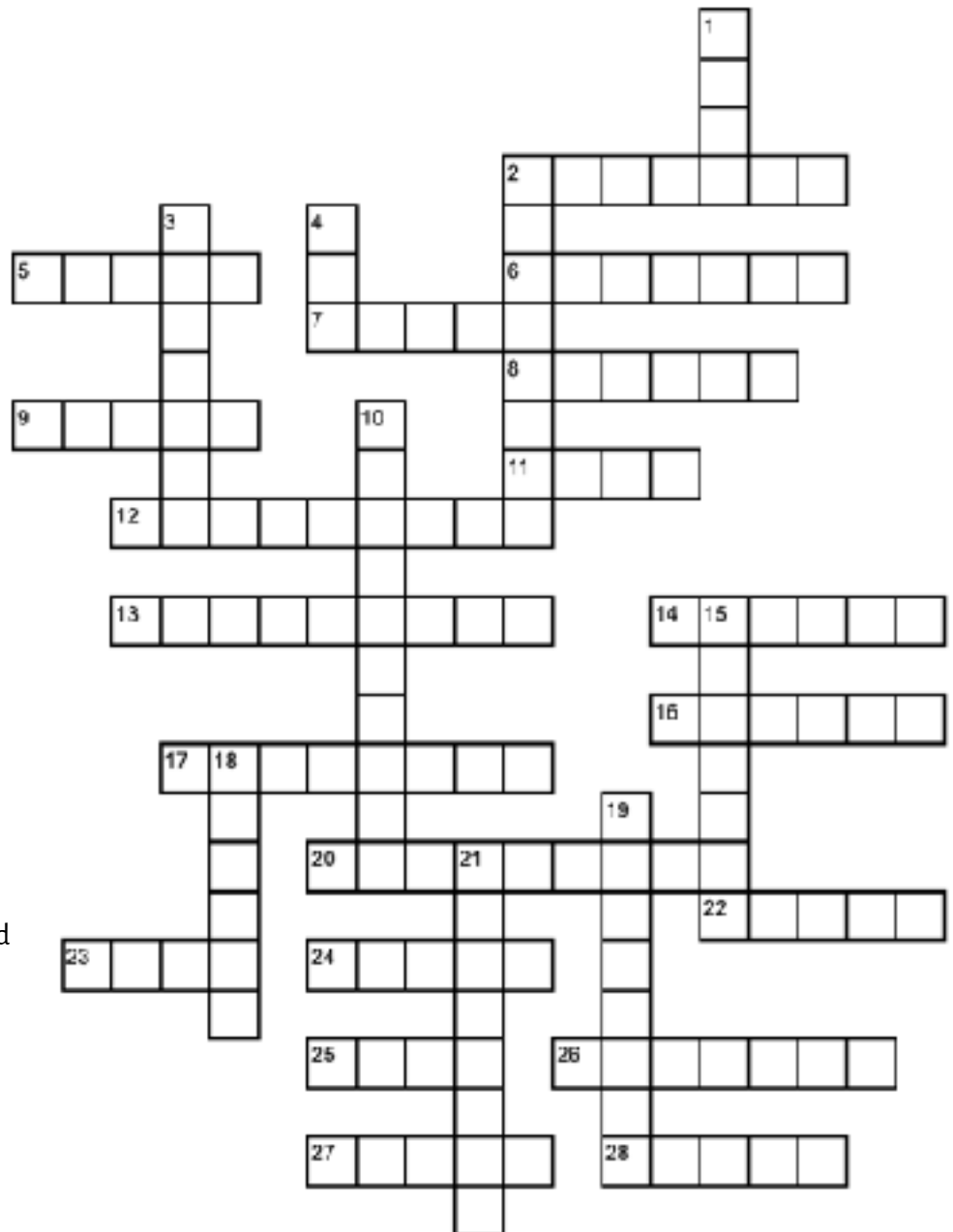
Homemade Puzzle for St. Martin's

by Christa

I hope you have fun with this. If you email a comment to the Cloak ... about this puzzle or about this issue ... I will put your name into a drawing for a handmade gift by me. Deadline: 15th of April.

You can win!

But you need to participate!



Across

- 2 The first martyr
- 5 Involuntary cross carrier
- 6 8th plague upon Egypt
- 7 Our choir director
- 8 Which country is called Holy Land
- 9 Who betrayed Jesus
- 11 Wife of Boaz
- 12 Celebrated in December
- 13 Where was baby Moses found
- 14 Important Saint for us
- 16 Who was thrown into a well
- 17 Services in pandemic are ...
- 20 Celebrated 5 weeks after Easter
- 22 Number of Beatitudes
- 23 Place of first miracle
- 24 Holy Week meal
- 25 Who was blinded
- 26 First book of the Bible
- 27 Who was swallowed by a whale
- 28 Name of Ruth's MIL

Down

- 1 Who built what he was told
- 2 Who cast lots for clothes
- 3 Who did David kill
- 4 Esau's hair color
- 10 In which garden did Jesus pray
- 15 Youth Server
- 18 Who was doubting
- 19 How many Stations of the Cross
- 21 Monthly publication



*

04/01 Pat Akens
 04/02 Tiffany Clements
 04/02 Rosemary Simmons
 04/03 Danielle Brenner
 04/03 Lois Gibbs
 04/05 Trudy Britton
 04/07 Megan Greenwood
 04/07 Moboluwaji Akinfolajimi
 04/08 Samantha Romano
 04/10 Dean Bracaloni
 04/10 Michele Hutchson
 04/12 Olivia Alloway
 04/12 Esme Borders
 04/13 Eniola Akinfolajimi
 04/14 Noah Sleeman
 04/14 Grace Wood
 04/15 Vicki Pinner
 04/16 Sally Dvorak
 04/17 Sallie Bright
 04/17 Sandy Mann
 04/22 Tristan Howdyshell
 04/23 Tyler Newcomb
 04/24 Jim Richardson
 04/26 Susan Teachey
 04/27 Joyce Ragland
 04/27 Zahara Iervolino
 04/28 Richard Rollins
 04/28 Brenda Rahn
 04/28 Russell Campeau
 04/29 Allen Sleeman
 04/30 A. P. Hall

*

*

05/07 Carl McAllister
 05/07 Cynthia Cramer
 05/09 Beth Miller
 05/09 Mike Miller
 05/14 Phyllis Berkle
 05/15 Lucas Verlander
 05/16 Bland Wade
 05/17 Harrison Alloway
 05/19 Ben Verlander
 05/21 Judith Wade
 05/21 Titilayo Akinfolajimi
 05/21 Stephen Harlow
 05/21 Shannon Werner
 05/23 Julie Crews
 05/24 Keith Borders
 05/24 Delbert Lovell
 05/27 Kerry Alloway
 05/29 Steve Row
 05/31 Jim Hughson

*

**If you know of
 somebody not on
 these lists
 (including
 yourself) please
 let the office
 know.**

*

04/12/1980 Scott & Kerry Alloway
 04/25/1992 Scott & Mary Goodman
 *
 *
 05/01 Wayne & Alison Potter
 05/08/2009 Allen & Sarah Sleeman
 05/15/2009 Layne & Karen Hood
 05/15/1974 Christine & Craig Watt
 05/19/2001 N'neka & James Logan
 05/21/1994 Carl & Vicki Newcomb
 05/21/1988 Bland & Judith Wade
 05/28 Jim & Nancye Greenwood
 05/28/2011 Bo & Megan Greenwood
 *

Condolences!

to the family of

Carolyn Wallace

who died March 25, 2021

Our hearts go out to daughter Ashley
 Borders and her husband Keith,
 grandchildren Colin and Esme

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

Perfect for a couple or family of 4.

Located directly on the beach in Hatteras Village, NC.

Contact Bob or Max Barritt (h) 270-3862 or (c) 512-4586

Amazon Smiles:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> or click the box above.
2. Create an amazon account or log in.
3. Go to "Or pick your own charitable organization" and type "**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**" then click Search.
4. Locate "**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**" in Henrico VA.
5. Then start shopping!

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases **to St. Martin's!**
We are grateful for your participation!

If you are not yet taking advantage of the **Amazon Smiles** offer for another charity, please consider to do it now to benefit St. Martin's. It's easy see above!

Every little bit helps!

Travel Agent Available

Our friend Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix has given me the following information if you are in the mood to travel as hopefully this awful pandemic is on the wane.

Michele Esterling is her daughter-in-law and has been part of the travel industry for many years.



The following is from the company flyer:

Michele Esterling, Personal Journey Consultant, provides outstanding personal service for all your travel needs: Air, hotel, cruises, customized land tours and vacation homes. Exclusive rates. Contact her at Next Trip Journeys. (888)444-5555 ext 605. Or Michele.esterling@nexttrip.com. www.nexttripcruise.com.

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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



ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Lee A. Hutchson
Priest Associate: Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix
Organist & Choirmaster: David R. Hopkins
Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wilson
Sunday School Coordinator:
Head of Nursery:

CHURCH OFFICE

(804) 270-6786 (Phone) (804) 270-3286 (Fax)

E-mail: saintmartinsec@gmail.com

Website: www.saintmartinschurch.net

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 am-1 pm
Wednesday and Friday by appointment

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

VESTRY

2021	2022	2023
Steve Alloway	David Mix	George Crowell
N'neka Logan	Dianne O'Kelley Lamb	Rick Gibbs
Craig Watt	Susan Teachey	Jean Rollins

Senior Warden: Rick Gibbs
Junior Warden: David Mix

Register:
Treasurer: Darrell Jenkins
Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco
Cloak Editor: Christa Burr



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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