



The Cloak

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



Saint Martin's Burning Bush (?)

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Father Lee Hutchison

Highlights of 226 Annual Convention

Four people were elected to the Standing Committee, which, among their responsibilities, serves as the council of advice to the Bishop. The Executive board presented a budget which reflected cuts necessary to balance the budget. It anticipated 15% reduction in giving by congregations.



Budget

After much discussion the convention declined to approve the budget and referred the budget back to the executive board.

Resourcing God's Mission

This task force, resourcing God's mission, was given the charge to address the gap between opportunities and funding of our mission in the diocese. A plan to ask congregations to give 10% of plate and pledge income to the ministry of our diocese. A resolution will be put forward in 2021 to replace the current "Virginia plan of proportional giving" with the new plan called "Virginia covenantal giving plan."

Resolution 1

A task force was set up to address the issue of equitable access for all people to online church governance meetings.

Resolution 2

Proposed that vestries provide parental leave of 8 weeks with full time compensation for full time clergy and lay employees. This resolution was tabled for further discussion next year.

Resolution 3

Authorized the diocese to begin the process to elect the next bishop Diocesan. It is anticipated that the election and consecration will take place in 2022.

Highlights from Bishop Goffs pastoral address

Our bishop illuminated the impact of COVID 19 on our church life.

"We suspended in-person worship and activities in our church building until it is safe for everyone to regather, and we developed guidelines, protocols, and processes for protecting each other. Our regathering task force has worked long and hard to provide needed information and support to congregations".

The four priorities of the diocese remain the same: healing across differences, resourcing God's mission, care of creation and evangelism. A full time staff person has been hired to coordinate the work of racial justice and healing across the diocese.

On a personal note Bishop Goff announced that she is now cancer free.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Lee".

What and When ...

December

| |
|---|
| Services see on the right (We will continue with this format until we have word from our Bishop otherwise) |
| Office Hours open Monday to Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm Friday by appointment |
| Zoom Happy Hour every Thursday at 5:30 pm see page 5 |
| Christmon giving to the Children Sunday December 6 (St. Nicholas Day) see page 4 |
| Christmas Cookies for shelter Deadline Thursday December 17 For details see weekly email |
| Cloak Deadline 20th of each month you can mail something anytime though! |
| Christmas Eve Service Thursday December 24 time to be announced - watch the weeklies! |

Regular Weekly Events

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

Regular Monthly Events

| Event | Day | Time |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Vestry Meeting | 2 nd Tuesday | 7 pm |
| St. Martin's Project | 3 rd Saturday | 9:30 am |
| ECW | 4 th Tuesday | 5:30 pm |



You are not "doing Facebook"?

No problem!

With this link <https://www.facebook.com/StMartin9000/> you can go to our St. Martin's on Facebook and enjoy the services live. You can scroll to find any service which had been streamed live anytime ... because after it has been live it is like a posted video so you can see it anytime.

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/>

Christmas Eve Service



We plan on having a Christmas Eve Service. It will be an outdoor service with a bonfire similar to our burning of the greens service. The time will be determined at a later date. Watch the weekly email.



Chrismon giving to the children of St. Martin

This is a yearly tradition. Cards will soon be sent to all children in our congregation (newborn through high school). Because of the covid situation and the unknown weather setting a date was somewhat difficult. The cards give specifics but please watch announcements in the weeklies closer to the time.

This year's Chrismon is Noah's Ark with the Rainbow. When all this 'situation' started I thought that the promise of the rainbow was somehow fitting. Even though it is mainly a gift to the children it is not a toy. It can easily get out of shape and this one has some little sharp wire ends.

If some children do not claim their Chrismon and there are leftovers others can ask for it. I am happy to put names on a waiting list. They are free to church friends but if you want to buy it as a gift to somebody else a donation of \$10 towards the material will be appreciated.

Christa (804-787-0525 or kygerman@hotmail.com)



Chrismon Workshop

Another yearly tradition. Unfortunately this can't be done this year. Might as well because I would have not known how to teach this one. This year's ornament is quite tricky to do only once and still do it right. It takes some practice to make it successfully. So hope we can do a Chrismon Workshop next year.



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

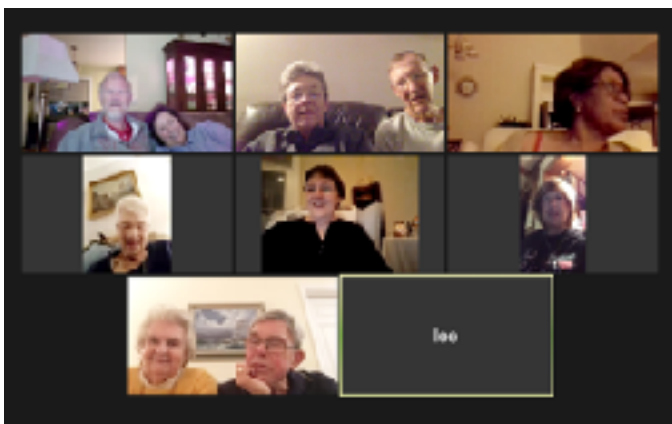


Topic: St Martin's Happy Hour
Time: every Thursday at 5:30 pm

Meeting ID: 766 2569 6519
Passcode: stmThanks



THANKS to Rick Fowler we will continue like in November. See you there?



Zoom meeting November 5



Zoom meeting November 11

Friends are checking in and out if they can't be there the whole 40 minutes. It's nice to sometimes just they 'hello' to the friends we are missing so much.

Finance Committee Report

by Garland Harwood

11/20/2020

What a year 2020 has been and one that we all are ready to put behind us. I certainly feared the worst financially given the pandemic and our inability to attend worship services as we have in the past. However given the wonderful group of people at St. Martin's we have been able to weather the storm nicely!

Our Pledged and Plate income is conservatively estimated to finish the year at \$204,000 vs a budget of \$225,000 however this deficit will be partially offset by expenses expected to come in \$15,000 below budget. In addition, our "other income" was supplemented by a PPP Loan for \$34,000 from the SBA that will become a grant (loan forgiven) when approved in the coming months. Taking everything into account we expect to finish the year with a surplus of \$22,000!

Looking at our Balance Sheet we started 2020 with Equity (Assets minus Liabilities) of \$230,000. We estimate that we will finish the year with Equity of \$225,000 that will grow to \$259,000 early next year when the SBA approves converting our PPP loan into a grant that doesn't need to be repaid.

| Financial Highlights 2020 | end of previous month | MTD October | YTD end of October |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Income | \$192,928.11 | \$12,103.34 | \$205,031.45 |
| Expenses | \$165,141.95 | \$16,982.10 | \$182,124.05 |
| Gain or Loss | \$27,786.16 | -\$4,878.76 | \$22,907.40 |

Vestry Election

Three people were running for Vestry open slots. A vote by email was conducted. At the Sunday Service on November 22 Fr. Lee announced that these are the new vestry members starting 1. January 2021. **Thank you for these volunteers.**

Jean Rollins

My name is Jean Rollins, and I have a great husband and three wonderful grandchildren. I have been an Episcopalian all of my life. Both my father and brother were Priests, so I have spent a lot of time in church. It has been a pleasure for me to have taught Sunday school and have headed up the Nursery. I am currently on the Hostess Committee, the Altar Guild, co-chair of the ECW, Chair of the Flower Committee and Chair of the Outreach Committee. After participating in all of these activities, I am ready for a change and thus am running for the Vestry. I feel that God is telling me to go forward in another direction. I love the Episcopal Church, and I love St. Martin's and am looking forward to working with the Vestry for St. Martin's to grow and continue in our faith.



Rick Gibbs

I am a lifelong Richmonder. I have 2 terrific children in my life, Jake and Maggie. I grew up in the Episcopal church at St. Matthew's, and have attended St. Martin's since 1999. I enjoy working with our youth, serving on our pastoral care committee and participating as a member of our grass cutters union.

I love sports and I am an avid Flying Squirrels Fan! I began organizing The Conquer Chiari Walk Across America for the Richmond area 5 years ago to bring awareness to this illness and raise funds to help find a cure for this disease (my Godson Branden has this illness). This year's walk was virtual due to the pandemic, thanks for the church's continued support!

I work at Liz Moore and Associates. I enjoy helping others with their Real Estate needs. Always something new and different.

I hope this gives you some idea of the interest in my life. I feel very blessed to be a member of the St. Martin's parish family. I would be delighted to serve on our vestry in the coming year if elected.



George Crowell

George Crowell is a graduate of Virginia Tech. He is a partner with the CPA firm of Harris, Hardy and Johnstone, P.C. He has been a CPA for 21 years. He has a beautiful wife and five great kids. He has been a member of St. Martin's for over 2 years.



We also thank the outgoing vestry members who complete their term at the end of this year:

Christa Burr, Garland Harwood and Kim Fiasco.

Outreach

Two trunks full = 383 pounds!

- from Jean Rollins

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Lamb's Basket for Thanksgiving this year.

It was a tremendous success with a lot of food being contributed. These are difficult times for people who are out of work and with some people having their unemployment benefits exhausted. Thanks so much! I am sure that the food collected will be greatly appreciated!



The **Angel Tree** Program with the Prison Fellowship:

The Outreach Committee is again helping children whose parent is incarcerated. An email has been sent out to everyone with the list of these children. We still have several families who have not been "adopted" yet. If you haven't signed up for a family yet, please either text me at (804) : email me at rrroll@embarqmail.com or call me at (804)

883-5487 and let me know what family you would like to help. These children love to receive a gift from the parent who is away from home and won't be there for their Christmas. Thanks to everyone who has chosen a family.

This Angel Tree looks best without anything on it!



A good idea!

Shared by Jean Rollins and Nancye Greenwood:

Food Bank Collection as an Advent Activity

A couple of our parishioners, *Sallie Bright and Vic Hughson*, suggested that we, support the Food Bank by collecting Food as an Advent Activity. Please see the calendar on the right and consider Having YOUR Family contribute.

We will have a collection site at the church to gather in THE GOODS between Christmas and Epiphany!!

Happy Advent



ECW

There are several “back burner” items for the eventual return of ECW meetings. Among these are the fund raising effort for brunch at the Jefferson; the showing of the Sight and Sound production of RUTH and the approval of the current budget. As many know we'd planned to attend the screening of JESUS which was cancelled when the pandemic hit and movie theaters closed. All monies were returned to those who had made reservations to participate. Our final event was the distribution of the St Martin's directory. These were available for pick up the very last Sunday we were able to meet at church! Eventually they were mailed to all members. Susie Teachey has designed and assembled the large poster of the pictures that will eventually replace the one in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Several crafty church members contribute prayer shawls, baby blankets and lap robes to this ministry. In the past, we've met monthly to sort items, tag donations and have our blankets and shawls blessed. And we've gone to lunch. During the

Tour Guide. Rhine River Cruise

“This was the hill,” he said. “The camps were here – and here.” His arm sweeps left to right, eyes follow; he goes on: “The night of Christmas Eve – they all were hungry, tired, had marched all day, knew gravely what they had to do, but it could wait until the sun rose. Bitter cold numbed fingers, crept in lungs and ached, -- well, maybe just a little fire -- a chance to open mail, to read the words of love from home, they knew could be their last.

They knew the distant sound they heard; incredulous – they stopped and listened: “*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht...*” echoed across the dark, bounced off the ice and frost. They answered -- “*all is calm, all is bright...*” Singing with strangers -- enemies – impossible – a concertina, a harmonica, guitar -- the cardboard sign: “NO FIGHT” where did the others find the paint? White handkerchief, a soccer ball – kicking, rolling and laughter in the dark and mud; a feast – Black Forest Cake, biscuits and *macarons*, tobacco, coffee -- shared and passed from hand to hand; Commands ignored; shots fired, but only at the stars -- a memory only few would live to keep.

“The sun,” he says, “would bring the battle. Christmas Day erased the peace and good will. All the boys were men, killing and being killed, not understanding why.” He hesitates, and gazes at the visitors Whose grandfathers had told this story years ago: “Nobody knows the score – who won the soccer game. But everyone recalls, after a century the Carol – *Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh* *Sleep in heavenly peace.*”

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

pandemic, we've not met but many have continued to find peace is knitting/crocheting at home. We have also been able to take several prayer shawls to our church members.



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

COVID, COVID, COVID

Bad news/Good News! Covid-19 infections are on the rise across the country. In many states much higher than the first wave of the pandemic. A recent update from our governor places Virginia at the 4th lowest infection rate in the country. We have been doing much better than most states by wearing our mask, maintaining social distancing, washing our hands and avoiding contact with infected persons. The good news is, that there is a glimmer of hope with two vaccines showing a 95% efficacy rate against the virus. Pfizer and Moderna are planning to request emergency use approval from the FDA to start distributing the vaccines. It is remarkable that vaccines have been manufactured in less than a year! This was done because of the dedicated scientists, researchers and courageous volunteers who were all part of these trials and resulting vaccines. We have one such volunteer in our congregation. I was fortunate to chat with **Annette Woolwine** about her experience as a volunteer for the corona virus vaccine. These were some of her comments:

Q. How were you associated with this study?

A. *In early summer, Channel 12 announced that Pfizer was looking for volunteers to be part of their study in developing and testing a vaccine for the corona virus. I went to the website and answered a few questions which included my demographics and whether or not I had any pre-existing conditions.*

Q. What made you volunteer?

A. *I didn't consider myself courageous. I did it because I was healthy and wanted to do anything I could to help others. I saw so many people dying alone from this virus. It's just so sad.*

Q. How did your children feel about you entering the study?

A. *They were OK with it.*

Q. Were there any criteria/baseline health required?

A. *I had a baseline physical. I had forms to sign that there were possible side effects from the vaccine and that I was entering the study at my own risk. I was also given a kit which included a thermometer and nasal swabs for self testing if needed. I could go out 2-3 times a week wearing a mask and basically following the CDC guidelines.*



Q. How long were you involved in the study?

A. *The study is for 2 years. I will continue to follow up every 6 months till the end of the study. Once I was accepted for the study I had an app on my phone where I could communicate with the center. I had to answer questions on the app every Sunday to report any changes in my health. If there were changes at any time I would report it via the app and also call the office to report and for updates.*

Q. What were your instructions or precautions stated to you once you were vaccinated?

A. *I was given a list of symptoms to report which included fevers, chills, cough, body aches etc.*

Q. Was there more than one vaccine given to you?

A. *I had my first dose around September 25th. I had blood work done before and a few days after each dose. The second dose was on October 2nd. I will continue to have serial labs until the end of the study.*

Q. Did you have any side effects?

A. *Apart from some soreness in my arm from the shot, I had no symptoms from the first shot. After the second shot I had a fever of >100, body aches, felt tired, loss of appetite, sore throat, congestion and lethargy. The symptoms subsided within three days.*

Q. What would you say to anyone who is skeptical about taking the vaccine once it is available?

A. *I would ask them their reason for being skeptical. Do you doubt the existence of the virus? Are you afraid of long term effects? Have you had allergic reactions associated with vaccines in the past? Ultimately you have to do what's best for you. I think most of us would rather see people out and about again, back to work or school and just getting back to living. I think we will see less depression.*

Since I started writing this article Pfizer has applied for emergency use approval for the vaccine. I have followed up with a couple of our parishioners who contracted the virus and I am happy to report they have no residual effects from the virus. **Thank you Annette** for sharing your experience. We will follow your progress. Best wishes and Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Everyone please be safe through Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will most likely not be the same as in previous years. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines. As bleak as things may seem, there are many things we can be thankful for. May the Peace of God fill your hearts with Hope and Joy this Christmas and best wishes for a more healthy, prosperous new year.

If you have MASKS from Christa's last batch: trying to make them extra safe I used a stabilizer to give the fabric more substance. Husbands says that they are a bit too stiff. Washing (especially after several times) will make them way softer. Just throw them into the washing machine and dryer with your clothes.

Some Sunday Services during the pandemic!



November 1 - All Saints day A special soloist at the virtual service. And the reading of the names of those we have lost. If you missed it, you can still find it on FaceBook.



November 8 - "Parking Lot Service" is a wonderful experience, especially when the weather is so nice like on this day. Anthems provided by our organist David and choir member Michelle are a great addition to our service experience.



More Sunday Services photos during the pandemic!



Communion - Fr. Lee and the Altar Guild saw to it that even during these times when the covid virus makes everything so difficult our services are still very special.

To be safe we bring our chairs and masks. Some even bring their own prayer books. Chairs or books are there for those who need them. And at our outdoor services we do have communion. A table is set up for you to get things to take to your place.

As you can see in the photos, a wafer is in the bottom and wine in the top, both sealed. During the liturgy when the officiant says the appropriate words we all raise the communion wafer (turn) cup. And then (at the appropriate time) we all unseal and partake. Don't worry, the officiant explains everything before each service. It is so meaningful. Return the used 'chalice' to the table after the service. The Altar Guild takes care of it appropriately.



On **November 22** the service was moved from the parking lot to the breezeway. That place had been used several times when it was raining. Now the challenge on Sundays might be the cold. Outdoor heaters were purchased and the breezeway spilled over towards St. Francis and the Memorial Garden.

The beautiful blooming camellias were also a bonus.



Services continued... from previous page



Service getting ready to start.

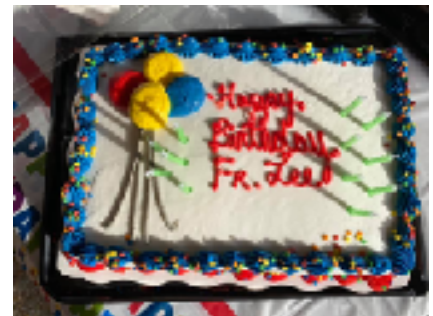


A birthday card ready



to be signed for Fr. Lee

Happy Birthday, Fr. Lee!
We like your hat.



And getting ready for the streamed service afterwards.





*
 12/01 Lorelei Cooper
 12/01 James Logan
 12/02 Jennifer Cooper
 12/03 Errol Stephens
 12/03 Victoria Hughson
 12/04 Alex Woolwine
 12/05 Katie Bright
 12/06 Marie Atkins
 12/07 (Roanna) N'neka Logan
 12/07 Joe Lamb
 12/10 Nasira Horne
 12/10 Ria Springer
 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
 12/20 Robert Melia
 12/25 Merielle Horne
 12/25 Carl Newcomb
 12/26 Christa Burr
 *

*
 01/04 Tony Romano
 01/05 Jamie Sichi
 01/07 Dorothy Brenner
 01/07 Patsy Bickerstaff
 01/08 Andrew Rieber
 01/08 Carol Roseme
 01/09 Martha Murphy
 01/10 Greg Echevarria
 01/11 Betsy Crowell
 01/12 Madison Britton
 01/17 Bob Kirby
 01/18 Cynthia Scott
 01/22 Thomas Verlander
 01/24 Jill Grumbine
 01/27 James Sykes
 01/27 Addison Sykes
 01/27 Jessica Shook
 01/28 Merry Beth Hall
 01/29 Millie Lindsey
 01/30 Taylor Hood
 01/31 Sharon Lindsey
 *

*
 12/01/1990 Jim & Victoria Hughson
 12/15/2013 Bob Kirby & Ria Springer
 12/21/2018 Sandy Levy & David Mix
 12/21/1965 Ruth & James Barrett
 12/22 Jim & Jenny Richardson
 12/22/1984 George & Beverly Stone
 12/22 Darrell & Melinda Jenkins
 *
 *
 - none in January -
 *

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

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.

CHRISTMAS POETRY



Wider Perspectives Press has just published a new collection of Christmas-themed poetry by Patsy Anne Bickerstaff, titled **Images at Christmas.**

It is appropriate as a keepsake, gifts or just in case you "need a little Christmas"

during difficult and trying times. The book includes poems which have been published in December issues of The Cloak, as well as a prize-winning Christmas Chancel Drama in verse.

Images at Christmas sells for \$15.00 per copy. To order please contact the author by email at granypatsy@yahoo.com.



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

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.



LAMB's Basket
— Faith, Hope and Love for the
Lamb of God —

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!

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:

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Friday by appointment

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

VESTRY

| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Christa Burr | Steve Alloway | David Mix |
| Garland Harwood | N'neka Logan | Dianne O'Kelley Lamb |
| Kim Fiasco | Craig Watt | Susan Teachey |

Senior Warden: Steve Alloway
Junior Warden: Garland Harwood

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



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