



The Cloak

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



**Celebrating
with Hope that
Christmas Eve
2021 will be
different!**

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Father Lee Hutchison



When was Jesus born?

The specific date for the birth of Jesus not mentioned in the Gospels or other historical documents. Most Theologians believe Jesus was born between 6 and 3 B.C.

Scholars estimate the date of the birth of Jesus in three ways:

1. They research the dates associated with historical events and people mentioned in the Gospels of Luke and Mathew.
2. They work backward from an estimation of when Jesus began his ministry.
3. They use astronomy to identify astronomical alignments and the year those alignments occurred.

The Gospels tells us that Tiberius was the Emperor of Rome, Herod was Ruler of area of Jerusalem and that Quirinius was the governor.

Jesus begin his ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius's reign. This took place in 27-28 A.D. if Jesus was 30 when his ministry began. That would put the birth of Jesus around 3-2 B.C. Quirinius conducted a census between 3 and early 2 B.C. This also would put the date of the birth of Jesus around 3-2 B.C. since it was a census which took Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

As for astronomical Events around this time there are several significant events.

Jupiter often associated with the birth of Kings was known as the king planet. It had a conjunction with the planet Venus in August of 3 B.C. Venus was the planet associated with fertility and birth. 20 days later the king planet (Jupiter) entered retrograde and appeared to circle just above the Star Regulus, known as the king star.

We have the king planet uniting itself with the mother planet on August 12, B.C. then joining itself with the king star in the zodiacal sign of Leo while the Sun, the supreme father was in the consolation of Virgo (the Virgin).

We know where these planets were located thanks to Johan Kepler and his laws of planetary motion. These laws allow us to know the location of any planet in the past or future.

Putting historical references and astronomical signs together, Jesus was probably born between late 3 or early 2 B.C.

If you would like a detailed account of the astronomy, a great summary can be found in "The Star that Astonished the World" by Ernest Martin. This book can be read free online at askelm.com/star/index.asp



Fr. Lee

What and When ...

January

Services

see on the right

(We will continue with this format until we have word from our Bishop otherwise)

Regrettably the outdoor services had to be discontinued at the moment because of the spike in the corona virus afflicted

Office Hours

open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
from 9 am to 1 pm

Wednesday and Friday by appointment

The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Wednesday January 6

Zoom Happy Hour

every Thursday at 5:30 pm

see page 4

Cloak Deadline

20th of each month

you can mail something anytime though!

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Outdoor Worship Service	Sunday	-none-
Streamed Worship Service on Facebook	Sunday	10am
Streamed Midweek Service on Facebook	Wednesday	10am
Compline Service streamed on Facebook	daily	8pm
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	9:30am
ECW	4 th Tuesday	5:30pm

You are not "doing Facebook"?

No problem!

With this link [https://](https://www.facebook.com/StMartin9000/)

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/>



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



Finance Committee Report

by Garland Harwood

As of 24 December 2020, **47 pledge cards** received with annual pledges totaling \$ 160,820 (2021)

Last year we received a total of 75 pledge cards with annual pledges totaling \$ 211,267 (2020)

Amount over/under previous year pledge drive

- \$ 50,447

We currently have received 63% of our 2020 total number of pledge cards and 76% of our total pledge amount compared to last year.

We thank all those who have pledged for the coming year. It makes it much easier to plan a budget.

Financial Highlights 2020	end of previous month	MTD November	YTD end of November
Income	\$205,031.45	\$29,741.34	\$234,772.79
Expenses	\$182,124.05	\$23,725.80	\$205,849.85
Gain or Loss	\$22,907.40	\$6,015.54	\$28,922.94

Outreach Committee

- from Jean Rollins

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program. All of the families we received were "adopted" by the parishioners of St. Martin's, and all of the gifts have been delivered. There are a lot of children out there who were remembered by a parent who won't be there to celebrate Christmas with them, but who remembered them and know that they are still loved.



Pastoral Care Committee



I wanted to take a minute to check in with you to let you know there had been some busy elves on the Pastoral Care Committee. We usually take a plant or gift to our home bound folks BUT this year was a little different. We decided after chatting with Father Lee that because of the pandemic and so many folks isolated at home and unable to come to church we wanted to reach out to them and let them know that they are missed as members of our St. Martins family and they are in our prayers. We wished 51 members of our parish family Merry Christmas by delivering a poinsettia to them. This included our home bound folks plus a couple, our children in Sunday School, our Youth Group and those who deliver compline every evening. Most were very excited to see someone from church and loved the gesture.

I wanted to thank the elves on our pastoral care committee for delivering all these plants. The committee includes Betty Horne, her sister helps out, Kerry Alloway, thanks to Scott as well, Jean Rollins and Nancye Greenwood , Vicki Pinner and her driver Dennis. Our committee is rounded out with Ann Robbins, Father Lee and me.

Nice for all of us to see some faces we have not seen in months.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas

from Rick Gibbs

Condolences!

to the family of

Janice Kelly

and all who knew and loved her from the 8 o'clock service.
She died on December 19, 2020

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in the land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

COVID, COVID, COVID

Light at the end of a long, dark tunnel?

The Pfizer Covid 19 vaccine has been approved and is being administered across the country. The Moderna vaccine is under review for emergency use authorization. The odds are favorable that this one will also be approved. This is good news. The first batch of vaccines are being distributed to Healthcare workers, front line workers and residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities.

The next group of recipients will most likely be people 65 years and older and people with underlying medical conditions such as kidney disease, heart disease and cancer. It is estimated that most Americans will not be vaccinated before late spring or early summer. CVS and Walgreen's will be able to administer the vaccine as well.

The bad news is, that in the meantime, the virus continues to spread, claiming many lives and creating a shortage of hospital and ICU beds. We are seeing deaths of over three thousand of our countrymen

each day! **We cannot afford to let down our guard.** We **must** continue to wear our masks, maintain our distance, wash our hands and avoid crowds. Our lives and the lives of our loved



ones depend on it. As tired as we are of living this way for the past 9 months, there is hope that this time next year we will be able to celebrate beating this virus and being able to socialize again.

I have been asked many times if one should take the vaccine. Whether it is safe to take. The answer is a resounding yes. Just like the mass vaccination to eradicate polio or small pox, we should all take the vaccine when it is offered, to help defeat the corona virus. The Covid 19 vaccine is a 2 part vaccine and both doses must be taken. The vaccine has been studied, data reviewed and scrutinized by multiple researchers, scientists and volunteers and the like. It has been deemed safe. At this point the vaccine will not be given to pregnant women and children under 16 years of age. Please refer to your healthcare provider for specific questions regarding your situation.

There were 2 incidents of allergic reactions reported in the UK on the first day of the roll out of the vaccine. There has been at least one incident of an anaphylactic reaction here in the US. There was a public safety advisory that people who have had allergic reactions to vaccines in the past or who carry an EpiPen for anaphylactic reactions should not take the vaccine. Most centers administering the vaccine now allow recipients to wait for several minutes after receiving the vaccine to be sure there are no issues. Soreness at the injection site is the most common complaint.



Some participants in the Pfizer study reported the following symptoms after the second shot:

- headaches
- chills
- fever
- muscle pain
- joint pain
- sore throat

These symptoms generally lasted ~ 3 days. I am sure we will be observing for any additional issues. We will continue to learn more about the virus, the response to the vaccine, more emerging vaccines, and effective treatment of the virus through the next few months. We all have to hang in there as we go through this pandemic together. We can do this.

Best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and a happy new year! We look forward to worshipping in church again soon.

Betty

Note: the Moderna vaccine has since been approved.

Prayer of Zacchaeus

(from *Zacchaeus and the Citizens of Jericho*)

Unworthy as I am, there's not a man so blessed as I;
God built a tree for me to climb, to watch His Son walk by!
And You have found and chosen me, poor burlesque of a bird,
To take you to my home, and see Your face, and hear Your word.
Your humble civil servant here, with all I have and am;
Pray, lead me to Your kingdom, as a shepherd leads his lamb.
From where I am, with what I have, I'll strive with all my might,
To follow...and if there's a tree around, I don't need height!
From all of wisdom's ocean, I've distilled this priceless minim:
It's not how high the head or heart; what matters is what's in 'em.
You've planted in my soul the seeds of God's great love and power;
It's only right that I should offer back its fruit and flower.
Use me whatever way You will, though I am flawed and small,
For isn't that the meaning of Your story, after all?
Whatever You expect or need, I pledge to do, or be.
For somehow, I believe....that You would climb a tree for me.

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

Funerals

St Martin registered the following funerals during the year 2020.

Douglas Hart Van Ness	February 19, 2020	
Richard Hutchson	February 23, 2020	father of Lee Hutchson
Helen Walsh,	July 19, 2020	beloved member of the community
Edna Hensley	August 28, 2020	mother of Phyllis Berkle
John T. Beck	September 14, 2020	husband of Sally Tucker

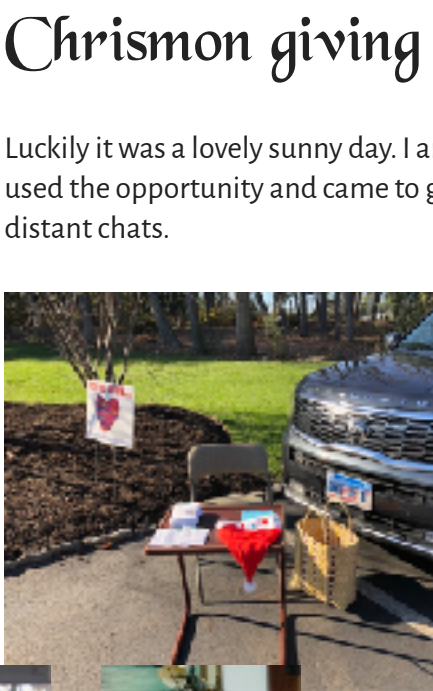
Condolences to the above families and all who have lost loved ones in these especially difficult time,

Some Sunday Services during the pandemic!



Sunday December 8 was a sunny but cold day. Children were also in attendance and Chrismos were given out.

Sunday services continued ... from previous page



Chrismon giving drive-by:

Luckily it was a lovely sunny day. I am happy that some of my church friends used the opportunity and came to get their ornaments. We had nice social distant chats.



Thank you...

to all of you who let me know what the Chrismons mean to you. Some of you send me a photo of your trees. It meant a lot to me.

Christmas Eve Service



At 1 pm a service was streamed live with music. Soloist Branch Fields sang at this service ...



... and again at the 2 pm outdoor service. 37 were in attendance.

As there were only 4 people at the 3 pm service it was held inside.





- * 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

- * 02/01 Scott Alloway
- 02/06 Elaine Jacobson
- 02/07 Larry Reid
- 02/08 Carolyn Wallace
- 02/09 Thomas Anthony
- 02/09 Chris Baughan
- 02/10 Waylon Thirion
- 02/10 Annette S. Woolwine
- 02/13 Dennis Pinner
- 02/13 Mikayla Fiasco
- 02/14 Frank Lamb
- 02/16 Darrell Jenkins
- 02/21 Susan Iervolino
- 02/21 Ian Woolwine
- 02/26 Stephanie Machalinski
- 02/26 Anne Shirey
- 02/27 Brianna Bailey
- 02/27 Nicole Baroody
- 02/28 Randy Chowning

- * - none in January -
- * 02/14/1987 Carl & Sandra McAllister
- * 02/14 Bill & Anne Shirey
- *

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

Condolences!

to the family of

Dodie Corpening

who died December 28, 2020

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.

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!



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

For your information:

So far in 2020 St. Martin has received \$120.74.

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.

Every little bit helps!

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

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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:

Junior Warden:

Register:

Treasurer: Darrell Jenkins

Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco

Cloak Editor: Christa Burr



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