



The Cloak

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



Is Saint
Francis
turning his
back on
purpose?

(photo taken 11-30)

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Father Lee Hutchson



Christmas can be such a wonderful time of the year. We celebrate “God with us” in the birth of Jesus. We exchange gifts and eat lots of great tasting food and hopefully see lots of family and friends.

However, Christmas can be a challenge for those experiencing grief. For some this will be their first Christmas without someone they love, or perhaps a person they loved died on or near Christmas. What can we say or do to those experiencing grief? Some suggestions:

- 1) Listen more than talk. Words will not take away a person's sorrow however listening to a person talk through their feeling does help.
- 2) Let them decide which events to attend and which ones to skip. Just don't let them skip everything.
- 3) Encourage them to share stories of their loved one.
- 4) Let them cry, no questions asked.

If you have lost a loved one be intentional about remembering them.

- Light a candle at dinner or place a candle on the fire place mantel and take time to share your memories of them.
- Give generously. If you lost your mom or dad, help out a single parent. Give to research to cure disease. If your loved one was a veteran, support a veteran's group.

If you are experiencing grief, you are not alone. You are surrounded by people going thru various stages of grief. Give them a call and share a hug or a cry together.

Feelings of loss are not unnatural, at one time Jesus himself felt forsaken by God. Grief is a universal emotion. We need to be upfront and confront our feelings head on. Doing so honors those we love and allows us to carry on in life in a healthy way.

Fa. Lee



What and When ...



December

Wednesday Morning Coffee December 4 - after service
Wednesday Night Discussion Group ??? at 7pm
Saint Nicholas Friday December 6
Fall Clean-up Saturday December 7 at 8:30 am
Chrismon Workshop Saturday December 7 at 10 am
Bishop Goff's visit Sunday December 8 at 10am service members being received and confirmed
EYC Sunday Dec 8 - Feast of Lights rehearsal Friday Dec 20 - Christmas Outing at 6pm
ECW Christmas Party Tuesday December 11 at 5:30pm see page 5
Men's Breakfast Saturday December 14 at 8 am Nick's - 8051 Broad Call Sid Akens (804-740-5375) if you need a ride all men welcome! invite a friend!
St. Martin's Project Saturday December 21 at 9:30 am, Blue Team

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Sunday Services	Sunday	8 & 10 am
Boy Scouts	Monday	7 pm
Meals on Wheels	Tuesday	10:15 am-12 pm
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
*Healing Service every 3rd Wed.		
Cub Scouts	Thursday	6:45 pm-7:45 pm
Sr. Choir Practice	Thursday	7:30 pm
Social Bridge	Friday	10 am-1 pm
Ethiopian Christians	Saturday	6 am

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Morning Coffee hour	1st Wednesday	after service
Vestry Meeting	2nd Tuesday	7 pm
Men's Breakfast	2nd Saturday	8 am
Daughters of the King	3rd Wednesday	11 am
Daisy Troop	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6-7:30 pm
Book Club	3rd Thursday	10:30 am
St. Martin's Project	3rd Saturday	9:30 am
ECW	4th Tuesday	5:30 pm
EYC	Alternating Sundays	after church
Prayer Shawl Ministry	quarterly	11:30 am

1st Advent Sunday 12-1 - Lessons and Carols at 10am

2nd Advent Sunday 12-8 - Bishop's visit/Confirmation

3rd Advent Sunday 12-15 -

Chrismon Gift-giving at 10am

Christmas Caroling (lunch after church/depart)

Christmas Pageant at 3 pm

4th Advent Sunday 12-22 - regular services

Tuesday 12-24 Christmas Eve Services

5 pm Family Service with children's sermon and music
(no incense)

10:30 pm Caroling - 11 pm Service (with incense)

Wednesday 12-25 Christmas Day

10 am Service without music





November 25, 2019

*"Be still and know that I am God."
(Psalm 46:11)*

Be Still. Slow Down. It's Advent.

When I was a parish priest, we would hang signs with those words all over the church buildings. We did it because in the crush of preparing to celebrate Jesus who came to earth as a newborn two thousand years ago, stillness can be elusive. Without moments of stillness, the press of shopping and making, parties and baking can overwhelm us. We might forget that Christmas has anything to do with Jesus. We might forget that Jesus not only came in the past, but that Jesus comes to us in the present and that Jesus will come again in God's anticipated future. When we forget any of the tenses of Jesus' coming, our Advent wonder is flattened.



Being still and slowing down gives God room to move in our lives and to remind us of what our preparations are really all about. So why not adopt a simple, daily practice -- like having a cup of tea or coffee with God each day? Prepare your hot beverage as usual, any time of day, then close the door on everything else for ten minutes as you drink it. You can talk to God as you would to any friend with whom you share a cup. You can spill out your anger and hurt, as you would with a loved one whom you know deep down will love you no matter what. You can sit in complete silence as you would with someone who knows you so well that you don't have to say a word. Just sit. Just be. Just for the time it takes to drink one cup.

God has always been with you. God will always be with you. So enjoy the warmth of the mug in your hands. Enjoy the wonder of the warmth of God's love as you prepare to celebrate again the greatest love of all.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority





CHRISTMAS PARTY

-the ECW Christmas party will be held on Wednesday December 11th at 5.30pm. We will

enjoy a light dinner provided by the ECW.

Please bring new decorative socks (price limit \$15) IN A GIFT BAG. After Fr. Lee reads a funny Christmas story, during which we will pass the gift bags to left or right as the story dictates, there will be a contest to determine



the “funniest” and the “prettiest” socks. The judges will be Fr. Lee and Jackie Bitler. The socks will then be donated to the women and children's center. Jackie will lead us in singing Christmas carols.

All women of St. Martin's are automatically members of the ECW and are encouraged to attend this evening of Christmas fellowship, food and fun.

SANITIZER - bottles of sanitizer, provided by the ECW, are in the pew racks for your convenience during this flu season.



SPEAKER - Awut Mayom Agok, (Deborah), a 2011 graduate of Sudan's Hope and Resurrection Secondary School, started many years ago by Jennifer Ernst of Richmond, is on an

inspirational speaking tour of the USA. She is an international speaker on equality for women, and peace and reconciliation. Don't miss one of her talks in Richmond. Various venues and dates in early December, along with a more comprehensive biography, are posted on the bulletin board.

Christmas at Grandma's

(a memory)

We come from Church to Grandma's house; our ears still warm from carols, and the words of Luke; wearing new clothes, and clutching favorites of new toys Santa left for us at home, too wonderful to leave alone all day.

Her magic weaves a fragrance in the air of baking, roasting, lemon, cinnamon; It blends with cedar- smell – a Christmas tree alive with colored bubble- candle lights – and greets the friends and cousins at the door.

At seven, I am old enough to help: Now, rolling balls of dough in cloverleaves, and standing on a stool to rinse dark kale in her white kitchen sink, I know the pride of nurturing, creating – “woman's work.”

The feast will last all afternoon; the guests will come and go, with gifts and stories, laugh, remember Christmases from other years, and faces they will only see again in Grandma's smile, and soft words to their souls.

The gifts are treasures: boats and bears, a doll, a locket, and a book – “Little Red Hen;” a story with a lesson I have learned already, as I watched my Grandma's hands: A woman really can do anything.

May Christmas bring God's joy in every way, heal bitterness of winter, hate and fear, bring memories and hopes and kindest loves, sunshine and music, laughter and new dreams; and may there be a Grandma in your heart.

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

Outreach

The **Coat Drive** was a HUGE success. The Outreach Committee thanks you for the many coats and jackets you brought to church. They will be cleaned by Puritan Cleaners and delivered to the Salvation Army. There will be a lot of people a bit warmer this winter.



The response to the **Thanksgiving Food Drive** was awesome! Thank you for your participation. The Outreach Committee delivered **237** pounds to the Lamb's Basket.

Angel Tree

There is a Christmas tree in the Parish Hall with names of children hoping for a gift this year. This is the second year that the Outreach Committee has sponsored The Angel Tree Program. Parents who are incarcerated are encouraged to give the names of their children and what they want for Christmas to the Angel Tree Program. They in turn give churches and other organizations, this information. We have received the names of 36 children who live in the Henrico and Richmond City areas. We have placed tags on the tree in the parish hall.

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.



Please take one of these tags, shop for that child (the amount is \$25.00), put the tag on the gift, and then bring it back and put it under the tree by Sunday, December 15th. We will then deliver these gifts to the children. It brings a lot of happiness to these children whose parent is incarcerated, knowing that they are thinking of them. Thank you so much for your support in this project.



This Angel Tree looks best without anything on it!

Finance

Report

Financial Highlights 2019	end of previous month	MTD October	YTD end of October
Income	\$152,961.40	\$21,013.32	\$173,974.72
Expenses	\$169,930.18	\$18,549.06	\$188,479.24
Gain or Loss	-\$16,968.78	\$2,464.26	-\$14,504.52

Vestry

On Sunday November 17 we held a special vestry election to elect new vestry members to take office January 1. New members elected were Dianne O'Kelley Lamb and Susan Teachey. The change of the bishop's visit necessitated the delay of David Mix's addition to the vestry. We are grateful for the willingness of these people to serve St. Martin's as vestry members. Thank you!

Great big **THANK YOU** also to the outgoing vestry members Nancye Greenwood, George Crowell and Rick Gibbs.



Thank you to Kerry Alloway for sharing this photo of the **blessing of the animals**.

For those with fur-babies it is always a great event.

Advent wreath workshop

Saturday November 30



Thank you especially to Brianna Bailey for making the wreath for the Sunday School.



And while we worked on the wreaths, the squirrels had a feast. Saint Francis didn't mind. (see front page photo)

Congratulations!



to **Lauren & Rob Rowley**

on their marriage
on Saturday November 16, 2019

We wish them many wonderful happy years together.

Lauren is the daughter of Kerry and Scott Alloway

Chrismon Workshop

Saturday December 7 at 10 am

Chrismons are my passion. I am grateful for the gift the Lord has given me to design these precious ornaments. All children of this congregation are invited to receive one after the service on Sunday December 15.

If you want to learn how to make this year's ornament you are welcome to the workshop. We will make the same ornament in the larger version and gift it to the church by hanging it on the tree in the sanctuary when it is finished. You may bring a friend but please let me know so I have enough material. Hope to see you!

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

Save the date!

Saturday January 4, 2020 at 7 pm

Feast of Lights

service lead by our Youth - always very meaningful!

Burning of the Greens afterwards.

Bring your "not so fresh" Christmas tree to be burned. Marshmallows. Hot cider etc. Much fun and fellowship.





Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

Are you ready for the Holidays!

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration, visiting friends and family as well as enjoying religious events.



However for some older adults it can be a lonely, difficult time often leading to depression. The key is to take care of your body, mind and spirit.

Body

Be sure to get your flu shot and pneumonia shot if it is due. Avoid people who have an infectious disease. This can limit your exposure to seasonal illnesses and keep you healthy through the holidays.

Eat a healthy diet where most of your calories are from fruits, vegetables, grains and other delicious low fat foods. These also provide energy. If you are going to a party avoid skipping meals as it may cause you to eat more at one event. Try not to over indulge over the holidays.

If you drink, do so in moderation and have a designated driver .



Mind

Do not try to make this the perfect holiday. Be realistic in your expectations. Be firm and say no to obligations that may cause you stress. Breathe deeply

to relieve tension. Take short breaks to relax. Volunteer in activities where you help others. You may find this produces a sense of joy.

Spend time with people you love. Take time for reflection on the deeper meaning of Christmas for you personally, for your family, humanity and the world.

Spirit

For those who suffer loss of parent, spouse, sibling or children, this can be a very emotional time. In addition if you can no longer drive or travel that adds to the sense of isolation. The following may help:

- Maintain good health by eating well
- Take medications as prescribed
- Remain active and get plenty of rest
- Create a new holiday tradition or adjust a current tradition as circumstances change
- Be creative - handmade gifts can help limit expenses and can be a calming experience
- Family members or friends can call or visit their loved ones, no matter how brief
- Taking your loved one out on a social outing can brighten their day
- If you think your older friend or family is depressed, explain your concern and why
- Offer to accompany the loved one to the doctor
- Offer your support

May you share the joy of this Season of Advent and Christmas often and everywhere. You may brighten someone's day. Happy Holidays!

EYC - Halloween Haunt at Kings Dominion

Saturday November 2



Happy Birthday, Father Lee!

Sunday November 24



November 24 after church



EYC Spaghetti continued... from previous page



December 6 (Friday) is Saint Nicholas day.

There was a very good article in the Cloak December 2018 page 4 you might want to read.

Why do we Episcopalians ...?

From St. Nicholas to Santa Claus



The Editor is retiring!

After four and a half years or 54 newsletter, this is my last issue. It is time for new ideas, a new style.

The grandchildren are growing up very fast and we need to spend time with them as long as they want that.

Traveling has to be done before we are too old. Things have to be created like Chrismons have to be designed as long as I am able. My head is full with them.

I hope you have enjoyed those 54 issues.

I love St. Martin's and all you fellow members. See you Sunday! Christa



PS: Issues of each year were bound and can be enjoyed in the Parish Hall.



*

12/01 Lorelei Cooper
 12/01 James Logan
 12/02 Jennifer Cooper
 12/03 Victoria Hughson
 12/03 Errol Stephens
 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 Robert Melia
 12/20 Sean Reid
 12/25 Merielle Horne
 12/25 Carl Newcomb
 12/26 Christa Burr
 12/29 Bill Godfrey

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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

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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

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none in January

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

Condolences!

to Rob Rowley and the Alloway family
 on the passing of Rob's Grandmother

Margaret Sturgill

on October 23

(sincere apologies from the editor who
 missed this for the previous Cloak,
 especially since this occurred so close
 before Rob and Lauren's wedding)

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.



DERING'S CLEANING SERVICE:

If interested in your home getting a super good cleaning,
call Leslie at 239-5865.

Now also offering house or pet sitting,

Licensed, Insured & Bonded



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

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!

Need a pet or house sitter?

Available for overnights and drop-ins. Call for pricing.
References available. Jessica Shook (daughter of Mike and Kim). Phone # 804-380-0117.



At Home Pet Sitters

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–Friday 9 am–1 pm

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

VESTRY

2019	2020	2021
Nancye Greenwood	Christa Burr	Steve Alloway
George Crowell	Garland Harwood	N'neka Logan
Rick Gibbs	Kim Fiasco	Craig Watt

Senior Warden: Nancye Greenwood
Junior Warden: Rick Gibbs

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



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