



The Cloak



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



Excited
young children
receiving
First
Communion!

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Father Lee Hutchison



Advent

If you own a pet, you have probably noticed there are times when that animal is more aware of your surroundings than you are. They hear things you do not or see things before you can.

Jane Goodall was a primatologist who devoted her life to studying chimpanzees in Tanzania.

She writes about one evening when 2 chimps she had been studying saw each other after an extended absence. They joyfully grabbed each other's hand. Then they climbed a ridge where they sat side by side leaning on each other as the sun set on the horizon.

They seemed to recognize the transcendent nature of friendship and a sunset.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know; my people do not understand (Isaiah 1:3)

Isaiah was writing about the people of God not recognizing the transcendent nature of God's love for them.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I hope all of us can get ourselves to a place where we can experience the transcendent power of God. Where we can be still and know what the Donkey & Ox know instead of checking our email 24/7. I hope that our advent preparation for Christmas allows all of us the time to be still and know the beauty of God's holiness. And allow that beauty to shape every aspect of our lives.



Fr. Lee

What and When ...



December

Men's Breakfast Saturday December 1 at 8 am - this date is a change! Nick's - 8051 Broad Call Sid Akens (804-740-5375) if you need a ride
Hanging of the Greens Saturday December 1 at 11 am
EYC Sat Dec 1 - 11am - Greening of the Church (incl pizza) Sunday Dec 2 - participate in Lessons & Carols Friday Dec.ember 14 at 6 to 9 pm - Christmas Outing Saturday December 15 - join in caroling Sunday December 16 -Feast of Light Rehearsal following 10 am service
Advent wreath making family workshop Saturday December 1 at 2 pm sign-up necessary to have enough material bring garden clippers if you have some
Pageant Practice Sunday December 2 following 10 am service Sunday December 9 following 10 am service
Fall Clean-up Saturday December 8 starting at 8:30 am
Chrismon Workshop Sunday December 9 at 2:30 pm
Christmas Caroling Saturday December 15 at time TBA
ECW Christmas Party Tuesday December 18 at 6 pm
St. Martin's Project Saturday December 15 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
<i>*Healing Service every 3rd Wed.</i>		
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
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	7 pm
Men's Breakfast	2 nd Saturday	8 am
Daughters of the King	3 rd Wednesday	11 am
Daisy Troop	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6-7:30 pm
Book Club	3 rd Thursday	10:30 am
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am
ECW	4 th Tuesday	5:30 pm
EYC	Alternating Sundays after church	
Prayer Shawl Ministry	quarterly	11:30 am

1st Advent Sunday 12-2 - Lessons and Carols at 10am
2nd Advent Sunday 12-9 - Chrismon Gift-giving at 10am
3rd Advent Sunday 12-16 - Christmas Pageant at 10am
4th Advent Sunday 12-23 - regular services

Monday 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)

12-25 Christmas Day

10 am Service without music



Cloak Deadline - please, if possible submit by Wednesday December 26 at 8 pm

Why do we Episcopalians ...?

This is a reprint from a previous issue because of “popular demand”. We hope you enjoy it!

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 December 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 December 6.

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!



Chrismons ~ Christian Symbol Ornaments

December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - Chrismon Gift-giving after 10am service

Bright cards have been sent to every child from infant through 12th grade in the St. Martin's church family inviting them to come and receive their Chrismon gift. Should the card have been lost in the mail don't worry. We will have extra ones available. If you know that your child can not be here at the 10 o'clock service let Christa know (kygerman@hotmail.com) and your Chrismon will be reserved for you in the office.

Leftover Chrismons will be available to buy (\$6 to offset the cost of the material). If your teenager has graduated from 12th grade but wants to continue his/her tradition, let Christa know before Sunday to put you on top of the list.

These are the symbols from year's past:

2008 = Six-point Star of David

2009 = Fish

2010 = Butterfly

2011 = Descending Dove

2012 = Angel

2013 = Shell

2014 = Bottony Cross

2015 = Crown

2016 = Cup & Bread

2017 = Alpha & Omega

2018 = (presented 2nd Advent Sunday at 10am Service)



Chrismons were first developed by Frances Kipps Spencer (1917-1990) for Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, when she volunteered in 1957 to be in charge of decorating the church Christmas tree. She decided instead of traditional balls and colored lights, handmade ornaments would be more appropriate. The word "Chrismon" stands for "Christ's monogram". The word Chrismon and their patterns are copyrighted.

These are my designs and patterns and they are free on the internet (<https://passionate-about-chrismons.blogspot.com/p/blogs.html>). I also research to include an explanation for each symbol. There are 27 different Symbols. I always hope for an inspiration of a new one.

My hope is that these Christian Symbol Ornaments remind us of the true meaning of Christmas and bring as much joy to friends and strangers alike as possible.

Your sister in Christ, Christa

Get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ

I was very happy when **Sally Dvorak's** answers showed up in the Cloak emails without having been directly asked. She took my note in the June Cloak to heart. Sally was the ECW communicator for some time and provided the editor with monthly articles, and quite often photos.



Q: Are you a cradle Episcopalian?

A: No. I was not baptized as a child and did not grow up in a church going family because my father was a Christian Scientist and my mother was a non church going, occasional Anglican. As a child I walked with friends to Sunday School at the Church of England until other friends persuaded me to attend the local Methodist Church.

While in college in Glasgow my Scottish friends invited me to a Presbyterian church and when I was in the working world I attended church of any denomination when and if I felt like it. But I always felt I was missing a vital element in my life.

Q: Have you always lived in the Richmond area?

A: No. I grew up in Wolverhampton, England, during and after WWII, graduated from the Scottish Hotel School in Glasgow in 1954 and subsequently held various hotel and catering jobs in Stratford on Avon, London, Salcombe and Birmingham. In 1961, after several years of non communication, my college boyfriend, Michael Potter, contacted me and suggested I join him in Bermuda. Of course I jumped at the chance to live on an island in a warm climate so I quit my job, rid myself of most of my possessions and with one suitcase flew out to a completely new life. I soon found a job as assistant manager of a guest house, Michael and I fell in love all over again and within 6 months we were married on October 4th, his 30th birthday. Our elder son, Bruce, was the only baby born in Bermuda on leap year day in 1964. Michael worked for Reynolds International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reynolds Metals. In the summer of 1965 Reynolds transferred the International division back to Richmond. We flew into Richmond as green card carrying legal aliens and in 1967 our second son, Francis, was born an American citizen.

Q: How did you find St. Martin's?

A: In 1973 when our sons were aged 9 and 6, Michael and I decided that, although neither of us had grown up attending church, we wanted different for our children so one Sunday we visited St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and remained there for 15 years. In 1974 Francis and I were baptized together and within a few months Bruce, who had been baptized as a baby, and I were confirmed together. It was so special to be baptized and confirmed with my children. By 1990 Michael and I were attending a large Methodist Church but didn't feel at home. Michael mentioned to a colleague at work that we were "shopping" for another small Episcopal church in the woods. That colleague was Rich Thomas. He recommended that we try St. Martin's. We loved the Anglo-Catholic tradition and the rest is history!

Q: What would you like your church friends to know about you, your family, your occupation, hobbies etc?

A: Enthused by America's bicentennial in 1976, Michael, Bruce and I became naturalized citizens the following year. So I can truthfully say "I am British by birth, American by adoption".

Michael died of cancer in December 1994. He was 63 and had recently retired. We both loved to square dance, and I promised him I would continue that friendly activity. John and June Dvorak were very active members of the same club. Sadly, June died in June 1996, aged only 53. Over the next few years, John and my friendship slowly grew into love and we were married at St. Martin's in September 1999. We believe it is truly a blessing

from God to find love a second time around.

John is a cradle Catholic and we attend St. Benedict Catholic Church on alternate weeks.

When time allows, I am a voracious reader. I enjoy exercising, particularly in a pool, and love spending time at our timeshare on the OBX. Now that we have moved to Cedarfield I miss the birds that flocked to our multiple feeders in CrossRidge. I hope to continue to provide food for the bird feeder in the Memorial Garden which was erected, in addition to the statue of St. Francis in the courtyard and a seat in the Memorial Garden, in memory of Michael whose birthday was St. Francis day.

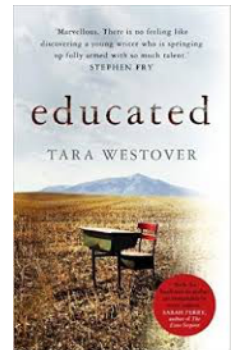
Finance Report

Financial Highlights end of October 2018	MTD	YTD
Income	\$18,655.77	\$193,055.93
Expenses	\$23,178.85	\$177,093.92
Gain or Loss	-\$4,523.08	\$15,962.01

Book Club

December: No meeting!

The book for January:
"Educated" by Tara Westover



ECW update!

- by Jean Rollins

The Annual Christmas Party will be on Tuesday December 18 at 6 pm. A light supper will be provided. All you will need to do is to show up. All women of the church are invited. We will exchange gifts while Father Lee is reading a funny story. If you want to participate bring a wrapped gift (not exceeding \$10). It is a great time to get to know your friends at St. Martin's better and to have a lot of fun. There will not be a business meeting and we hope to sing a few carols if there are enough voices to fill the Parish Hall.

Save the date!

January 5 at 7 pm

Feast of Lights

service lead by our Youth.



Burning of the Greenery.

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



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

Giving thanks

As we approach the holiday season, thanksgiving, and even as we look back on the year, we can find so many things to be thankful for. In a year when there is so much turmoil: disastrous hurricanes in the east, wild fires in the west and so much tragedy. It seems like there is nothing but bad news. While we are thankful for all God has blessed us with, let us remember and pray for those who are not so fortunate, doing whatever we can to help. This December I thought I would revisit an article I wrote many years ago on being thankful.

Did you know that counting your blessings can increase your emotional health? The following are documented benefits of giving thanks.

1. Giving thanks promotes health and well being. Researchers have studied 3 groups of students: one group listed what they were grateful for, the other listed what they were angry about and the third made random lists. The group who listed what they were grateful for was the happiest at the end of the experiment. What was even more interesting was that the students who expressed gratitude were less likely to be sick throughout the semester. "Thanks be to God for his in expressible gifts, 2 Corinthians 9:15"
2. Being grateful increases your blessings. We take for granted the blue skies, the beautiful sunset, the flowers and the bountiful harvest. The more we notice all the beauty of nature and give thanks for all we enjoy, including our freedom, the more blessed we seem to be! "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him" Colossians 3:17

3. The consequences of not being grateful. "And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it" Numbers 11:1. People who are not grateful tend to complain, mostly about anything or everything! We can make that choice to have a grateful heart (an attitude of gratitude). Think of the benefits!
4. Gratitude keeps us continually aware that the Lord is close by. It motivates us to look for His purpose in our circumstances. Thanking God focuses our attention on Him rather than our circumstances.
5. Thankfulness is an essential ingredient for joy. Gratitude transforms anxiety into peace, which passes all understanding. Be fearful for nothing, but in everything with prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep your heart and mind through Jesus Christ our Lord. Philippians 4:6-7



Try taking a gratitude challenge

- ✓ List 5 living people you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 physical abilities you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 of your possessions you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 things about nature you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 things about today you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 places on earth you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 modern day inventions you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 foods you are grateful for
- ✓ List 5 things about the gospel you are grateful for

This holiday season as you gather with your family and friends around the table, take turns during the blessing of the meal, to give thanks for one thing that each is grateful for. Above all let us be grateful for the greatest gift of all this Christmastide - God's only begotten son, Jesus, born in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas, best wishes for a Happy, healthy New Year.



Discovery

Somewhere in the soul
Wonder finds the instant
of life, as when a snowflake,
lace crocheted by the tiniest of angels,
comes to rest; its crystal facets glitter,
perfect star, on night air's
velvet surface,
just as it settles, before it melts
or hides in a crowd
that blends and covers.

The instant is a gift,
flash of hope in wilderness,
glorious in its onliness, eager
to be part of forever;
to be a lightspark
in an owl's eye, or over a treetop;
icebite on the back of a hand;
a drop of water
on a deer's tongue.

The gift is a Child;
new, perfect, strange,
still familiar, ancient ---
promise and fulfillment;
beginning and completion,
that smiles before keepers
of wisdom, who come with gifts,
seeking him through sandblown days
and shivering nights; who see
His face in the faces
of all children ever born.

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

The Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Richmond Fisher House. The Fisher House supports our Veterans who have given so much to serve our Country. The items you donated will certainly help the families who are staying at the House.

This year the Outreach Committee is doing something a little different for Christmas. We have received names of **children whose parent is incarcerated**. We will have a tree set up in the parish hall with the names of these children and what kind of gift that they would like to receive from their parent. The limit for each gift is \$20.00. Starting on Sunday, December 2nd, just take an Angel Tree tag off the tree, let a member of the Outreach Committee know what tag you took off, buy the gift, and then bring the wrapped gift back by Friday, December 14th. The Outreach Committee will then deliver these gifts to the children.



We are also **collecting socks** for the men, women, and children who are living in the shelters that we support during the year. Please bring in any size socks by Friday, December 14th and put them in the box located in the hallway, and we will deliver them to the shelters on Saturday, December 15th.



Also, remember to bring in **home baked cookies** which the St. Martin's Project will be putting in the sandwich bags on Saturday, December 15th. After eating those store-bought cookies all year, the homeless in these shelters look forward to having the real thing – homemade cookies.



Thanks so much for your help in making Christmas such a blessing for those in need!

- Jean Rollins



Committee members discussing what needs to be done.

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

"...I was hungry and you fed me"
Matthew 25:35

Pageant Rehearsal



Looking forward to things to come!

Something to think about ~ from your editor Christa Burr

Sunday of the Thanksgiving weekend I didn't really feel like going to the church service. Our older daughter and family left at 7:30 am to go back to Nashville, my leg with the new knee hurt and I could have found some more excuses. I was sure that the Lord would not have minded. But then I did go.

Good thing I did! Father Lee's sermon really talked to me. I took the photo to remind me to tell him.

Another thing was one of the hymns. Most of the time words of the songs don't really sink in. Sometimes though the words can be so special.



Saturday November 3

Thanks to Julie Crews for the photos!



The vendors were ready and the ECW had lovely things to sell.



Michelle, did you find something for Fr. Lee?



ECW Market continued ... from previous page



“Leftover” sale

on Sunday November 4

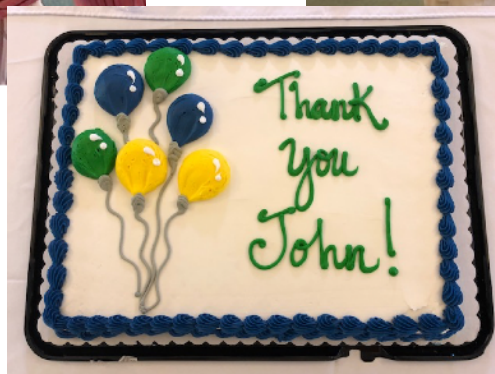


ECW at CR Bazaar

Friday November 16



Saying Thank-you to Friar John Ogle Sunday Nov. 4



Friar John continued ... from previous page





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

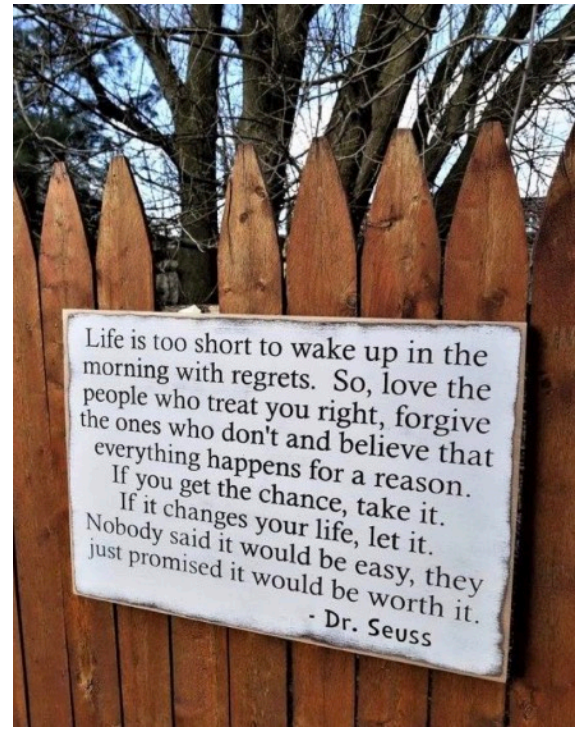


- *
 - 12/01 Lorelei Cooper
 - 12/01 James Logan
 - 12/02 Jennifer Cooper
 - 12/03 Errol Stephens
 - 12/03 Victoria Hughson
 - 12/04 Alex Woolwine
 - 12/05 Katie Bright
 - 12/06 Marie Atkins
 - 12/07 N'neka Logan
 - 12/07 Joe Lamb
 - 12/10 Ria Springer Kirby
 - 12/12 John Dvorak
 - 12/15 Carter Hood
 - 12/16 Chris Patoray
 - 12/17 Kevin Bailey
 - 12/17 Beverly Stone
 - 12/18 Scott Goodman
 - 12/19 Austin Newcomb
 - 12/20 Robert Melia
 - 12/20 Sean Reid
 - 12/25 Merielle Horne
 - 12/25 Carl Newcomb
 - 12/26 Christa Burr
 - 12/29 Bill Godfrey
- *

- *
 - 01/03 Sandy Bright
 - 01/04 Tony Romano
 - 01/05 Jamie Sichi
 - 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
 - 01/14 Archana Samuel
 - 01/17 Bob Kirby
 - 01/18 Cynthia Scott
 - 01/24 Jill Grumbine
 - 01/27 James Sykes
 - 01/27 Addison Sykes
 - 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 Ria Springer & Bob Kirby
 - 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
- *

Seen on FaceBook:



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.
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

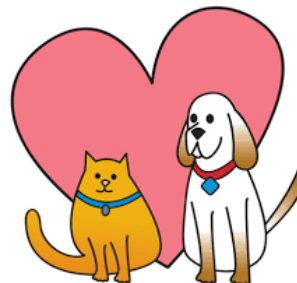
Amazon Smiles:

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.



ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

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

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Website: www.saintmartinschurch.org

Office Hours

Monday–Friday 9am–1pm

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

VESTRY

2018	2019	2020
Linda Fairtile	Nancye Greenwood	Christa Burr
Betty Horne	George Crowell	Garland Harwood
Sandra Goolsby	Rick Gibbs	Kim Fiasco

Senior Warden: Rick Gibbs
Junior Warden: Garland Harwood

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



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