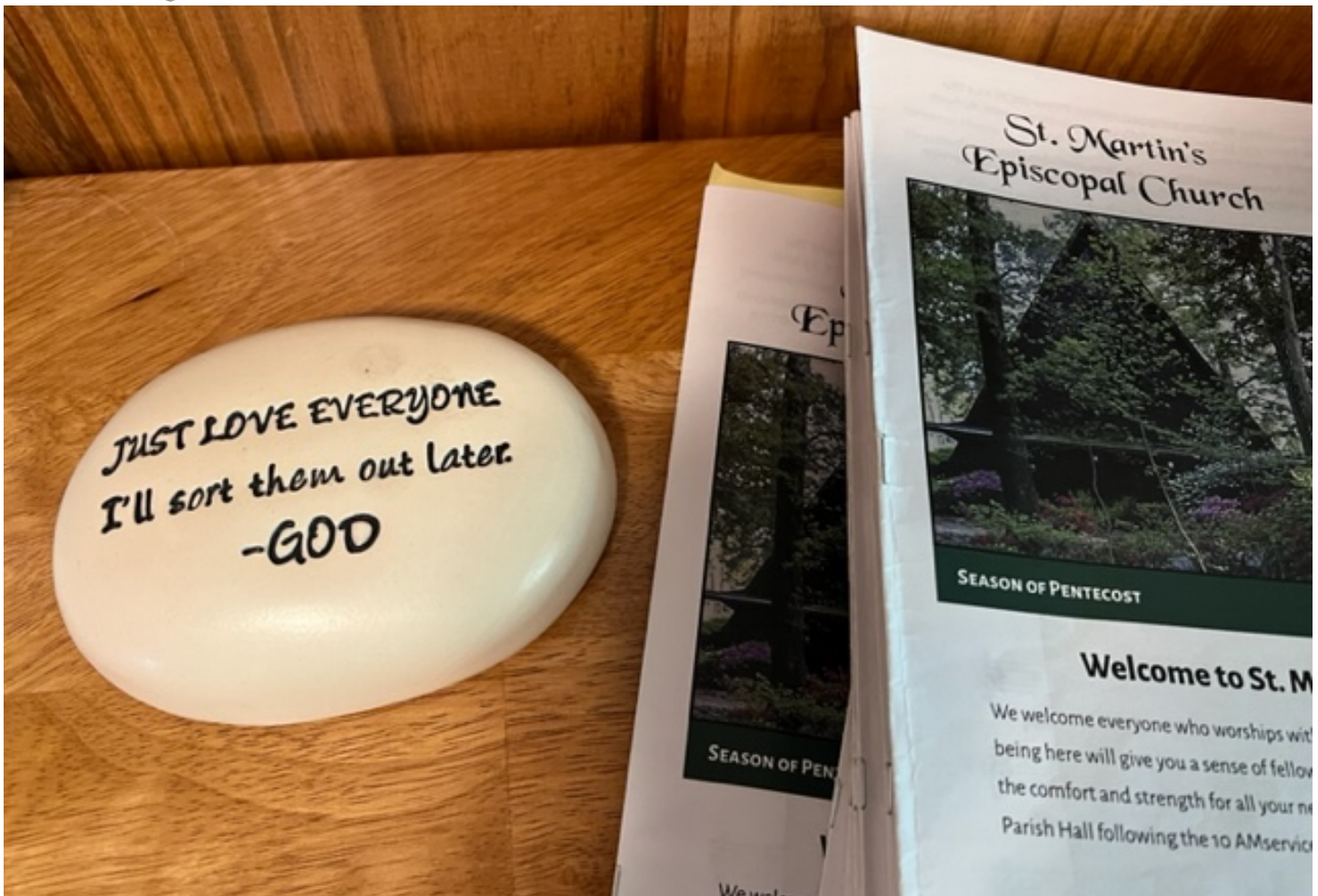




The Cloak

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



Seen on
the side table
in the
Vestibule
of our church.

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Father Lee Hutchison



The season of advent begins our preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus we celebrate is more than simply the birth of a child. It is the joining together of heaven and earth. As the blessing at Christmas declares “May God who in the word made flesh joined heaven to earth grant you his peace and favor.”

In hope of a restored relationship between God and humanity the psalmist writes;

‘Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; Righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.’ (Psalm 85:10-11)

At Christmas heaven and earth joined together. The love of God came down from heaven incarnate in human flesh. God's steadfast love was made fully known.

The prophet Isaiah had prophesied a reconnection between God and creation.

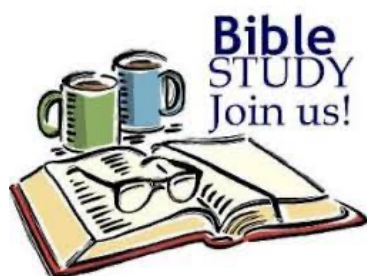
For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince of peace...He will establish justice and uphold it with righteousness from this time onward and forever. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

You and I are the offspring of this joining together of heaven and earth. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence within us, we are joined in the incarnation. We are called to share this inheritance with the world. Our baptismal promises remind us of what we are called to do;

- Continue in the apostles teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayers
- Proclaim in word and deed the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Serve Christ loving our neighbor as ourselves
- Strive for justice and peace among all and respect the dignity of every human being

Me we all have a blessed celebration of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ - The kiss of heaven and earth and may the spirit of God give us the courage to stand for our faith and share our joy with the world.

Fr. Lee



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Don't miss it!

Bible Study - Essential 100

Tuesdays Dec. 5, 12, 19 at 10am -or-

Wednesdays Dec. 6, 13, 20 at 7pm

Bible sections to read beforehand announced every week in the midweek email.

Reading list also available on the table in the Narthex.

Note from an attendee: even if I can't read beforehand, or if I can not attend every week, I learn something every time I can attend.

What and When

December

Bridge Calendar adjustment December 1, 7, 14, 22 at 10 am
EYC (and others) - Greening of the Church Saturday December 2 at 10 am
Workshop Advent wreath/centerpiece Saturday December 2 at 10 am
1st Advent St Martin's Annual Meeting Sunday December 3 after late service
Chrismon Workshop Sunday December 3 at 3 pm (see page 16)
After Wednesday Service social First Wednesday of the month December 6 come and gather with us for a light brunch
ECW Christmas Party Saturday December 9 at 9 am (see page 7)
Men's Breakfast Saturday, December 9 at 9 am @ Nick's Bistro all men welcome to join us
2nd Advent Sunday December 10
EYC meeting Sunday December 10 after late service (see page 4)
WE (West End) Quilters no meeting in December
Christmas cookies for shelters deadline Friday December 15 (see page 7)
St. Martin's Project Saturday December 16 at 9:30 am - Blue Team
3rd Advent Sunday December 17 Christmas Pageant during the service Chrismon giving after the service (see page 16)
UTO Ingathering deadline Sunday December 17 (see page 6)
4th Advent Sunday December 24 - services as usual

Regular Weekly or Monthly Events are usually not listed in the left column.

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Sunday Services	Sunday	8 am* & 10 am*
Boy Scouts	Monday	7 pm
MOW Meals on Wheels	Tuesday	10 am
Bible Study	Tuesday	10 am or
	Wednesday	7 pm
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
Yoga Stretch	Thursday	1 pm *New*
Sr. Choir Practice	Thursday	7:30 pm
Ethiopian Christians	Saturday	6 am
Compline Service -live on Facebook	daily*	8 pm

* all these are streamed live on FaceBook

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	7 pm
Midweek Service social	1st Wednesday	after 10 am service
Men's Breakfast	2 nd Saturday	9 am
ECW	TBD	
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am



Christmas Eve Services

5 pm Family Service with children's sermon and music
(no incense)
10:30 pm Caroling - 11 pm Service (with incense)

Christmas Day

Monday December 25 - 10 am worship



Words from the Wardens

Happy Advent (almost)!

As we approach the beginning of our liturgical year, we at St Martins take the season of Advent to prepare for the birth of Christ with all of the joy, love, peace and hope that it brings. We hope that you will use this time for inward reflection for what that all means to you! And, further, as we move forward and prepare for Jesus' Birthday, we will also figure out a way to keep that Joy, Love, Peace and Hope moving forward and building into 2024!

With Love in Christ,
Nancye and Rick



EYC update - Sallie Bright

The youth had their movie night November 17th. We discussed racism and hate as presented in the movie "Remember the Titans". Further discussion after the movie was directed towards the conflict in Israel. Our hope in achieving peace in the world lies with our youth. We are very thankful that our young people can experience diversity in such a spiritual and peaceful setting at St. Martin's.

On December 2nd, the youth will help the Altar Guild decorate the church for Advent. Please be there by 10:00 a.m. Our next meeting is December 10th. After church, we will be baking Christmas cookies for the congregation - and of course, I'm sure the youth will get their fill that day! Also, the Feast of Lights scripts and parts will be handed out at the end of the meeting.

Finance Committee Report

by Garland Harwood

Amazon Smiles YTD - \$122.84
Kroger Rewards YTD - \$119.84

Financial Highlights 2023	end of previous month	MTD October	YTD end of October
Income	\$161,244.46	\$29,917.89	\$191,162.35
Expenses	-\$161,837.26	-\$19,036.73	-\$180,873.99
Gain or Loss	-\$592.80	\$10,881.16	\$10,288.36

Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

"Compassion in Redemption"

I received a very thoughtful and eloquent response to my Sept. 20, 2023 blog, "[Redemption is Always Possible](#)." This response came to me from a Federal District Judge in Ann Arbor, Michigan:

I have a lot of responses. At the beginning of my judgeship, now almost 10 years ago, I was startled by defendants and their families who were asking me for forgiveness and mercy at the time of their sentencing. I was confused by those requests. I wasn't the victim of the crime, and more importantly, I'm not a clergy member and I didn't feel qualified to offer mercy. But as time went on, I did some reading about mercy and forgiveness, and I realized how important it is for the individuals who were asking for it, so I started trying to provide both when it felt appropriate. I started finding words that would convey mercy and forgiveness. Often, I quote Bryan Stevenson and tell the defendant that "we are all more than the worst thing we've ever done" and then I go from there to talk about the defendant's potential and something good that they have done.

Sometimes I have to dig deep for the positives — one time I had watched what's called pole camera footage as part of the case. It's a camera that law enforcement installs outside someone's house to get access to live video of who's coming and going. (They are installed by cops posing as utility line workers fixing an electrical or telephone line, hence the term "pole" camera.) I saw on the camera that the defendant had come home at night and noticed that his neighbor's trash cans were still out. He went and brought them to his neighbor's house. I was able to tell him that when no one was looking, or so he thought, he was kind to his neighbors and to be commended for that. I think to this day, everyone I have offered forgiveness and mercy to has started to cry — they have so little of that in their lives.

Last week I was at a conference in Washington, D.C., called "Rewriting the Sentence." It was put on by the Aleph Institute and the Center for Human Dignity. The whole thing was overwhelming. At the end, we had a virtual meeting with three prisoners in a Virginia state prison. One had been in custody for 37 years and he got his first visit in all those years about six months prior when the law school clinic reached out to him to be a part of a restorative justice project. The other two had been in for 17 and 20 years respectively. It was a powerful experience to hear how they felt about the judge who sentenced them, about the victims they had harmed, and about their own lives. One thing I took away from that session was that going to prison is a passive thing for a defendant. Restorative justice is the opposite. It requires hard work for a defendant, including actually taking responsibility for the harm they caused.

I spoke on a panel called "Courage and Compassion in Sentencing." The hardest part of the panel was that one of the other two judges on the panel was a federal judge in New Jersey whose only son had been murdered by a man who hated women having positions of authority. Her husband was also shot and he had come to the conference as well. Esther had a picture of her son on the inside of her folder with her remarks — I have that same picture in my office because I sent her a letter when he was murdered, and someone sent me a thank-you with the same picture of him. But he sure came to life for me in her binder. Judge Salas said that she sentences very differently after being a crime victim. She has more compassion and more forgiveness and mercy. She has been so severely traumatized that she started to understand what she referred to as "dysregulation" of emotions and actions, and she had to engage in some intensive work on her own and with her husband to begin the healing process. That gave her insight into some of the defendants' experiences that led to their criminal conduct.

I have to get back to work. Thanks for a chance to think about all of this. It's a part of my everyday life now, but it's still good to stop and think.

A blog from my website: <http://www.sandralevy.net>.

Fall 2023 UTO INGATHERING

It is time for the second Ingathering of funds for the 2023 United Thank Offering. In 2023 the focus for applications was “innovative mission and ministry projects addressing all aspects of the worldwide incarceration crisis, specifically: preventative programs and intervention; prisoner support outreach; prison reform work; or post-prison re-entry”.



The **easiest way** is to just bring your checks/cash (with the memo line inscribed UTO) to church and put them in the collection plate on Sunday and we will happily send the donation on for you. The envelopes and boxes are on the table in the hallway outside the Parish Hall. I know that children like the ritual of filling the boxes with change.

We plan to do the final Ingathering of donations on December 17th.

The various options for giving include texting, online and mailing a check directly. The directions are below:

- 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

Thank you for choosing to support his Christ-directed ministry. I know that Mike and I give in thankfulness for the blessings of our St. Martin's family and our ability to give where we can. - Kim Shook

Angel Tree Program 2023

- Nancy Fleming

Angels are now available for pick up from the tree. Our goal is to have the gifts or a Christmas card with the gift card returned to church **by December 17, 2023** to allow time for mailing and delivery.

Some Angels on the tree will include a gift suggestion, age, gender, and first name of a child.

Some Angels will include the name of the child but with a gift card noted. These children are from a distance too far to deliver and we have opted to use gift cards to provide them a Christmas gift.

The gift or card amount should be around \$30 and the Outreach Committee will deliver or address and mail them. Please let us know if you have any questions.

St. Martin's has participated in this program for several years and is coordinated by the Prison Ministries. Incarcerated parents and even grandparents are able to request that we send their child a gift from them. They can write a brief note which we include on the Angel and the gift is sent to each child. This has been a very rewarding process and the children and families are appreciative of the joy it provides each child to receive a special gift from their parent who is not able to be with them.



(You might want to read the article from Rev. Sandi on the previous page!)

Outreach Committee

- Jean Rollins

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the members of the Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club for their generous donations this year. They have given school supplies for the three schools that we have helped, pillows for the four shelters that we have helped, cookies for the shelters, and several other projects that we have had here at St. Martin's. They meet in the Parish Hall at St. Martin's on the second Thursday of each month. Not only do they help St. Martin's with various Projects, but they help other Community events during the year. Thanks so much for your generosity.



Many Coats and Jackets were collected and delivered!

The Outreach Committee is once again asking parishioners to bake **Christmas cookies** for the four shelters that we help out during the year. We fix 130 bag lunches and would love to fill them with homemade cookies. We are also asking if you can bring in **brand new socks** to be delivered to the shelters. They can use men, women and children socks all kinds of sizes. Please have these in the church **by Friday, December the 15th**. Thanks so much!

ECW update

- Christa Burr

Happy to report that the workshops and the bazaar were fun and a success. Thank you to all who participated. The fellowship and friendship is so enjoyable.

Coming up: **December 9** (Saturday) at 9am - **Christmas Party**

Come and enjoy a provided breakfast.

We will sing some Christmas songs and as always exchange gifts with a Christmas story read by Fr. Lee.

For those who want to participate in the gift exchange ... the gifts will NOT be for us.

Please bring a charity gift in a gift bag for the shelters we support with socks (see above article). Besides socks they are thrilled about anything new to keep warm like shawls, gloves or hats.

The ECW is open to all ladies and responsible daughters. We would welcome newcomers with open arms. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board because it is helpful if we know who is coming (for set-up etc) but please feel free to just show up.



Joy in Service
(Sign of the ECW of VA)

Notes about Music - Powell Johann



As everyone knows there are more experts and exalted degrees in church music than in any other field. Not wishing to be pedantic but simply informative perhaps the following will be of some interest.

Music is the bicycle the Liturgy rides upon. From the night after the Last Supper onwards the gathered church has always incorporated music in her worship of the Risen Lord. Traditionally the tune of the hymn sung by the apostles leaving John Mark's house on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane is the tune we use for the Lord's Prayer/ Our Father. This links us unequivocally with the apostolic band and Jesus.

From the Dark Ages onwards the church has set a liturgy which should not be tinkered with but is set forth for our own growth in the Faith and in the reception of Grace. There are five invariable parts of the Mass/Holy Eucharist. These are traditionally sung- sometimes to the most glorious music ever composed by Bach, Haydn, Mozart and more. The 5 parts are" Kyrie- which as the early church did we sing in Greek- the Gloria in excelsis – the hymn of the Angles on the first Christmas and omitted in Advent and Lent- the Creed- the Nicene Creed always from the beginning of its use liturgically- "Credo in UNUM Deum" I believe in One God- making a point of personal individual belief in the Holy Trinity. The Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit- the sung call to know we are at that moment before God's eternal throne awaiting the coming of Our Saviour in bread and wine. And finally the Agnus Dei- a hymn to God present in the sacramental elements to 'have mercy on us". No Liturgy is quite complete without these 5 elements and they are to be sung even if to a simple plainsong or a glorious Viennese setting.

After these 5 there are the Propers of the Day. Short liturgical phrases from scripture that set the tone of the liturgy- In the Books of Common Prayer they have been often eliminated save now for the collect, lessons and psalm.

In place of the Introit we usually sing a hymn.

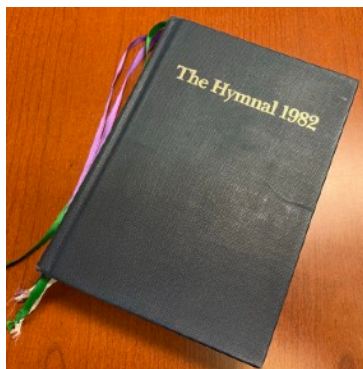
There are sentences and Alleluia verses that accompany the proclamation of the Gospel and quiet prayers at the Offertory canon/consecration and at the Thanksgiving.

All are usually sung to plainsong of the early Middle Ages. Perhaps in future we will incorporate some into our worship?

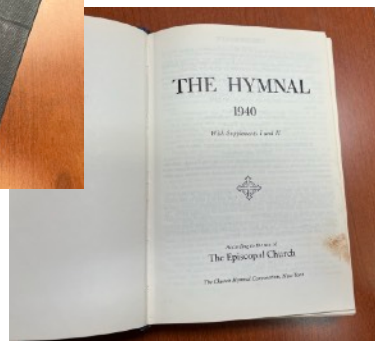
Then there are the hymns. There are the three principal hymns at the entry- Gospel procession and the closing rite. One is often inserted as a devotion during the administration of communion. With apologies to the immortal Jackie Gleason, hymns are NOT traveling music. They are not sung to cover an action. The hymns are carefully chosen to point the theme of the day. The opening hymn is one of praise to God. The Gospel gradual or sequence hymn is (we hope) directly pointed at the gospel text for the day. The concluding hymn does try to be missionary as we go forth to proclaim Him to the world. It amazes me that in many non-Liturgical churches and even some Episcopal ones that are more "Evangelical" they sing two verses of a well-loved hymn and get to the sermon, announcements or whatever. By leaving off the other verses they entirely miss the point the punch line if you will. One nearby church thinks it is perfectly fine just to have two verses of "O come all ye faithful" on Christmas Eve. Wow!

Most hymns are best served by not over use. Some are so great they are used several times in the appropriate seasons. Because of the text of the gospel lesson on Nov.12 some churches used the great hymn "Lo He comes with clouds descending" but I decided that since it should be sung twice in Advent we would save it for that. And- we do not sing Christmas hymns or carols before sundown on Christmas eve nor triumphant hymns in Lent and Passiontide, except to extoll the Triumph of His Cross.

Music continued ... from previous page



(both hymnals in our St. Martin's library)



That said I would like to know your favorite hymns from the 1982 Hymnal- (soon to be replaced)- the dear old 1940 Hymnal or one of the English Hymnals please. If appropriate we will incorporate favorites in the services. And your comments are always gladly received. Remember we are here to Praise the Lord and give thanks and to receive Him in His Holy Sacrament and our hymns and songs must reflect this. Laus Deo!

- Powell

Liquid Refreshment - Powell Johann

No one is certain when or where the martini was invented: some say it was named after Martini and Rossi vermouth, while others point either to a bartender in San Francisco or to the town of Martinez, California. Whatever its origins, there would be no “Martini” or “Martinez” had there been no saint called Martin to make the name popular in Christian lands. And so we rightly claim the king of cocktails in honor of the great saint of Tours—who, incidentally, is **the patron saint of “penitent drunkards”** (apparently, impenitent drunkards must find another celestial sponsor). Our Martlemas Martini, which first appeared in [*Drinking with the Saints*](#), is made with Grey Goose vodka in a nod to the legend about the geese. The lemon twist, on the other hand, represents Martin's torn cloak.

Martlemas Martini

2 oz. Grey Goose vodka

1 dash dry vermouth

1 lemon twist

Pour vodka and vermouth into a mixing glass with ice and stir forty times. Strain into a cocktail glass. Express lemon oil into the glass by wringing the lemon twist and then use the twist as garnish.



A photo submitted by Powell of a painting by G.Adolf Closs “Sankt Martin”.

Gustav Adolf Carl Closs was a German painter, illustrator, heraldist and entomologist. He had studied painting and art on several German Universities.

Born: May 6, 1864, Stuttgart, Germany

Died: September 3, 1938, Wilmersdorf, Berlin, Germany



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

National influenza vaccination week

December 4-8 is National influenza vaccination week. Each year, the first week of December is designated to help raise awareness about the importance of flu vaccination. Everyone 6 months and older are encouraged to get their annual flu shot, especially young children and others at higher risk. The more people are vaccinated against the flu, the more people are protected from flu.

Millions of children get sick with the flu each year and thousands will be hospitalized. Since flu viruses are constantly changing and protection from vaccination decreases over time, getting a flu vaccine every year is the best way to prevent flu. Flu vaccines are proven to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccination in December or later is still beneficial as flu activity is high and continues to increase across the country.



Flu signs and symptoms - may come on suddenly and may present with some or all of the following:

- Fever*/feeling feverish or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)

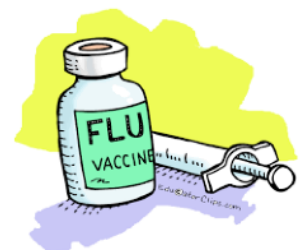
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.
**It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.*

Treatment

- If you get sick with flu, influenza antiviral drugs may be a treatment option. Antiviral drugs work best when started early, such as one to two days after your flu symptoms begin.
- Call your doctor promptly if you are at higher risk of serious flu complications and you get the flu. People at higher risk of flu complications include young children, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant people, and people with certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease.
- When treatment is started within 1-2 days after flu symptoms begin, influenza antiviral drugs can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you are sick by 1 or 2 days. They might also prevent some flu complications like pneumonia.
- For people at higher risk of serious flu complications, treatment with influenza antiviral drugs can mean the difference between milder or more serious illness possibly resulting in a hospital stay.

Prevention

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important action in reducing your risk of flu





and its potentially serious outcomes.

- Flu vaccines help to reduce the burden of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths on the health care system each year.
- Flu vaccination also has been shown to reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.
- This season, all flu vaccines are designed to protect against four flu viruses.
- Everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine, ideally by the end of October but people should continue to get vaccinated as long as flu viruses pose a threat to their community.
- Vaccination of people at higher risk of developing serious flu complications is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- Vaccination also is important for healthcare workers, and other people who live with or care for people at higher risk to keep from spreading flu to them. This is especially true for people who work in long-term care facilities, which are home to many of the people most vulnerable to flu.
- Children younger than 6 months are at higher risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.
- Take other preventive actions in addition to vaccination that may help reduce the spread of viruses like flu.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - If you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. For flu,

CDC recommends that people stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone except to get medical care or other necessities. Fever should be gone without the need to use a fever-reducing medicine.

- Cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.



- Masks also can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. People who are sick might be asked to wear a mask to protect others, but a mask can protect the wearer too. This might be especially important if you are at higher risk of developing serious complications from flu.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.



- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with viruses that cause flu.



- Virus in the air can spread between people more easily indoors than outdoors. Improving air quality, such as opening windows or using air purifiers, can help reduce the amount of virus you are exposed to.

Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.

- If you are sick with flu, antiviral drugs can be used to treat your illness.

Parish Nurse continued ... from previous page

- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.
- Flu antiviral drugs can make flu illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complication
- Studies show that flu antiviral drugs work best for treatment when they are started within 2 days of getting sick, but starting them later can still be helpful, especially if the sick person has a higher risk factor or is very sick from flu.
- If you are at higher risk from flu and get flu symptoms, call your health care provider early so you can be treated with flu antivirals if needed.
- Follow your doctor's instructions for taking this drug.

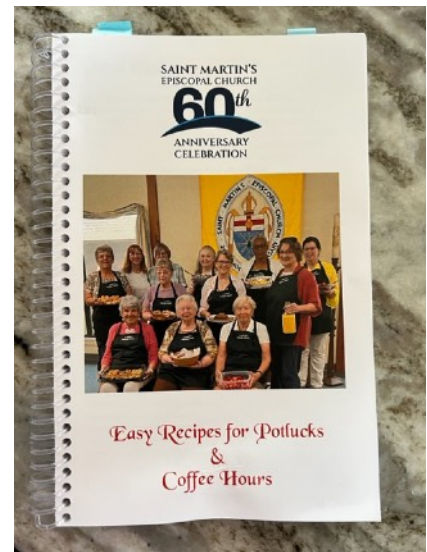
This year there are 2 other viruses we have to be concerned about as the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors - RSV and Covid. Thankfully there are vaccines available for both. Again the young, those 65 and older and those with weakened immune systems or multiple health issues are at risk.

Be wise, immunize!



Wishing you a reflective Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christ birth.

Be well this flu season.



THANK YOU to all who shared favorite recipes for **St. Martin's 60th Anniversary Cookbook**

Yes, several were sold at the CrossRidge Bazaar.

Thank you also for giving feed-back about the cookbook and the recipes.

David Hopkins about "Dutch Baby" page 10-11:
Made your recipe this morning. Smells wonderful. Looks beautiful. Taste great. My German great grandmother (fathers side of the family) is in the kitchen with me now.

Martha about "Ten Minute Coffee Cake" page 97:
Pour topping over cake butter before baking!

Martha brought the coffee cake to the coffee time after the service Sunday November 26. In the photo what was left when I saw it. Obviously very good.



Looking forward to more comments! - editor

Get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ

Susan Scott Teachey has worn several hats at St. Martin's including being the editor before me. Thank you for showing me the "how to". And thank you for introducing yourself to us.



Q: Are you a cradle Episcopalian?

A: Oh, yes! I was baptized as a baby at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA, on June 27, 1965. I was 8 weeks old. In 1987-1988, I converted to Catholicism because I was getting married in the Catholic church, so I went through the whole process of catechism. I have come back to the Episcopal Church 100%. I did learn a lot during catechism, and I'm grateful to have had that opportunity.

Sadly, the marriage was annulled, but he was able to marry a couple of years later and has 6 children! I am very happy for him and we touch base every so often.

Q: Have you always lived in the Richmond area?

A: I was born here at Richmond Memorial Hospital (no longer in existence). My maternal grandfather was the first doctor to examine me! Dr. Carl Lingamfelter was a doctor in the city of Richmond, first with MCV Medical College of Virginia (now VCU), and then went on to a private practice. For those of you who remember the restaurant inside of MCV, "Skull and Bones," my grandfather had a hand in that project.

In 1978, my mother moved us to Northern Virginia. She was a real estate agent in the Richmond area, but being a woman real estate agent at that point in time didn't do well in this area. So off to Reston, VA we went. And it snowed 4 feet of snow that very winter! I was 13/14 and already mad that we left Richmond, but now, in a place with all that snow! I was a little rebellious.

In the end it did turn out ok. I made a good life there for a time and built my career there. In 1984, I attended George Mason University and took data processing classes because I was all about computers. During one class, a government contractor came in and asked who in this room has had any computer exposure at all. Three of us out of nearly 50 raised our hands. And all three of us got offered a job right then and there! I finally came back to Richmond in 2009 and moved into the family house in Short Pump, which I ultimately bought from my Dad.



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

A: Whew, well that's a loaded question! LOL! When I came back in 2009, I considered going to Saint Stephen's because that's where my father went. But honestly, and I hope I don't hurt anyone's feelings, it was just too stuffy for me. So I got on the internet and found Episcopal churches in this area. I visited a couple before Saint Martin's. In fact, the day I came to Saint Martin's for the first time I got lost and kept ending up on Broad Street.

I saw one little street to the left; if it wasn't there, I would go home. I was sitting at the red light on Broad Street and Homeview, growing frustrated by the minute. What happened next makes me sound crazy but it truly did happen. In my rear mirror I saw this tremendously large flock of birds that bore to the left where I

Get to know continued ... from previous page

was turning. And lo and behold, I found Saint Martin's. The best part is that the moment I sat in a pew, I knew this was it, and Saint Martin's is now part of the foundation of my life. I am blessed to be a lay person, a Compline leader, was on the vestry twice, and provide graphic design for the church.

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

A: I'm a computer graphic designer who tries to keep up with all the technology being introduced constantly. For about 5 minutes in 1994, I knew everything about computer graphic design. I do have to say that I have been blessed and fortunate to literally grow with the computer graphic design industry and the changes over the years...WOW. Currently, I work for myself at home and own a little business called Graphics By Susie (www.graphicsbysusie.com). I'm a published author and wrote "the 9/11 Patriot...Viewpoint of an Average American Girl". All proceeds from that have been donated because while it cost me money to self-publish, it was worth every penny to help others as the book sold. It's on Amazon and some other outlets as well.

I've also started writing my second book. The working title is "Shut Up and Listen."

Most of my family is local. My mom and dad are in their early 80s and doing well. Dad had a massive heart attack (widow maker) in September and has 5 stents in his heart. He's not quite out of the woods yet, but his doctor is very pleased.

I have one brother, Dan. He's younger than me, and I used to pick on him incessantly when we were kids, and I was bigger than him. Well, suddenly, Dan got much taller and fed it all right back to me! We laugh about it to this day. And, of course, there are my dogs, Dixie (13) and Greta (5), both dachshunds. Dixie is a long-hair double dapple (big spots and little spots of color), and Greta is a smooth red. They bring joy to me every day...although I could do without the "presents" with fur or feathers. Greta hunts and brings them to me. But she's a dachshund, so it's in her blood, I suppose!

Boy Scouts Brunswick Stew Fundraiser - November 11



Annual Advent Wreath and/or Centerpiece Workshop

Saturday December 2 at 10 am



Material will be provided. It is a very easy project and the result is always nice. Come and join the fellowship and get into the spirit of Advent.

You could also make your own Count-down-to-Christmas candle.



Advent Calendar Candle workshop

- was November 11



Some were made for personal use but most to sell. They were lovely and most were sold. Thank you to all.



Visitors from the Virginia Boy's home

Sunday November 5 - The Director and some students explaining what a difference this school makes in their lives.

A Chrismon Tradition

Every year Chrismons are offered to all the children at St. Martin's. This year it is on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. That is good because the Burr household has more time to make more.

Cards will be mailed to the children and we hope they will come on December 17 and claim their gift. As the cards say: if you can not come this day, please let Christa know in advance and it will be reserved.

After December 17 leftovers will be given away so there is also one offered to households which do not have children to claim theirs. If you love the Chrismons and would like to have one for your tree, please contact Christa: kygerman@hotmail.com and you will be on the list for first come, first served until they are all gone. Please, don't be shy.

This year's Chrismon:

Pure Heart



The heart is mentioned in the New Revised Standard Version Bible 898 times. 166 times in the New Testament.

Matthew 22:37 ... Jesus said unto him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Mark 11:23 ... "Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and thrown into the sea", and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you."

The Heart, made with pearls, symbolizes Jesus' love for all of us and his pureness of heart.

The Circle reminds us of eternity and the never-ending love of our God for us.

The 12 beads in the Circle remind us of the 12 followers of Jesus who became the first missionaries of the christian faith.

Chrismon workshop

- Christa Burr

Another yearly tradition. We will meet this coming **Sunday December 3 at 3 pm** to make this year's ornament,

Unfortunately I forgot to put up a sign-up sheet on the board and don't know who will participate. The Annual Meeting is going to make it a really busy day and changing to a different date/time is not possible on such short notice. But this Chrismon is quite easy to make and I am sure we will enjoy the fellowship.

Those who have joined me before know that we make the larger Chrismon (where the pearls and beads have larger holes) and adding what we made to the church tree in the Sanctuary.

If you read this in time, please let me know that you are coming so I am sure I have enough material.

Looking forward to seeing you. Christa kygerman@hotmail.com

Thank You !

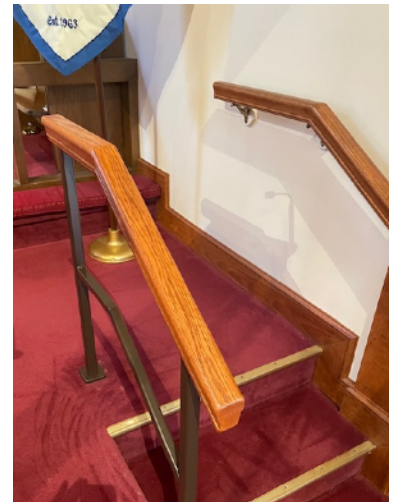
... to Amy Bailey for making these awesome room signs!



Thank You !

... to Layne Hood, who made the smooth wood caps for our railings, to make us safe again.

Left, right and in the middle!



Fall Festival

Saturday October 28



Fall Festival continued... from previous page





*		*	
12/01	Lorelei Cooper	01/04	Tony Romano
12/01	James Logan	01/06	Chris Smack
12/02	Jennifer Cooper	01/08	Carol Roseme
12/03	Victoria Hughson	01/09	Martha Murphy
12/03	Errol Stephens	01/10	Greg Echevarria
12/03	Linda Nelson	01/11	Betsy Crowell
12/05	Katie Bright	01/12	Madison Britton
12/06	Marie Atkins	01/17	Bob Kirby
12/07	N'neka Logan	01/18	Alex Goolsby
12/07	Joe Lamb	01/22	Thomas Verlander
12/08	Susan Stowell	01/24	Jill Grumbine
12/10	Nasira Horne	01/26	Ida Moore
12/10	Ria Springer	01/27	James Sykes
12/14	Stephanie Dupaul	01/27	Addison Sykes
12/15	Carter Hood	01/27	Jessica Shook
12/16	Chris Patoray	01/29	Millie Lindsey
12/16	Krestin Gibson	01/30	Taylor Hood
12/17	Kevin Bailey	01/31	Sharon Lindsey
12/17	Beverly Stone	*	
12/18	Scott Goodman		
12/19	Austin Newcomb		
12/20	Sean Reid		
12/25	Merielle Horne		
12/25	Carl Newcomb		
12/26	Christa Burr		
12/26	Eliana Ponce		
*			

*	
12/01/1990	Jim & Victoria Hughson
12/14/2013	Amberlyn & Wilson Ponce
12/15/2013	Bob Kirby & Ria Springer
12/21/2018	Sandy Levy & David Mix
12/21/1965	Ruth & James Barrett
12/22	Jenny & Jim Richardson
12/22	Darrell & Melinda Jenkins
*	
*	
-none-	
*	

Seen on FaceBook:



Every Member and Friend of St. Martin's is important. If you have not given us your birth dates and wedding dates, please email them to stmartinscloak@gmail.com.

We would like to say a prayer for you too on your special day.

(We like to know the year too but it is for demographic purposes only. Birth years are sometimes published but for children only.)

ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Lee A. Hutchson
Priest Associate: Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix
Monastic Associate: John Ogle
Organist & Choirmaster: Powell Johann
Parish Coordinator:
Head of Nursery:

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 am-1 pm
(it is best to call before you come)
Office closed: December 25 and 26

Trustee Emeritus: Robert I. Kirby,
Trustees: Kerry Alloway, Garland Harwood
& Jim Greenwood

VESTRY

2023	2024	2025
George Crowell	Nancye Greenwood	Leslie Dering
Rick Gibbs	Mike Shook	Linda Fairtile
Jean Rollins	Betty Horne	Jim Moss

Senior Warden: Nancye Greenwood

Junior Warden: Rick Gibbs

Clerk:

Treasurer: Darrell Jenkins

Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco

Cloak Editor: Christa Burr



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