



The Cloak



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



*The children's
Pageant: one
of the Season's
Highlights!*

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Father Lee Hutchison



It used to be popular to make a new year's resolution. The purpose of the resolution was to make us or the lives of others better.

Perhaps the words of Matthew would make a good resolution for us as Christians. "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect." Matt. 5:48. The word telos translated as perfect also can mean to know your purpose or live your destiny. In other words, know your purpose for living just as your heavenly father knows his purpose.

Knowing our purpose in life and living it out sure would provide clarity for our decision making. It certainly would shape our attitude towards others. As Christians we are called to reflect the generosity and grace of God when times are good and when times are bad.

This is especially important when we need to call for change in our relationships with our family and friends, we need to do it with generosity and grace. Jesus gives us 3 examples of an attitude we should have towards those relationships. Be willing to get treated worse than you deserve, be willing to give more than you are asked, and be willing to go farther than required.

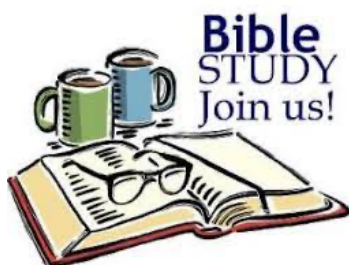
Be willing to get worse than you deserve. If a person insults you do not respond with an insult but expect them to do it again. Jesus would say turn the other cheek. Do not respond in kind.

Be willing to give more than you are asked. Jesus used the example of a person asking another for a tunic(shirt). Jesus says if they ask you for a shirt give them a Cloak(jacket) as well.

Be willing to go farther than required. Jesus used the example of being compelled to carry a roman soldiers gear for a mile, which roman law allowed. Jesus said offer to carry it 2 miles.

Jesus sought to radically change our individual relationships with one another. When our individual relationships reflect the generosity and grace of God the world can change from treating others with contempt or anger or violence. What a different world that would be. How will you live your life in 2024 to reflect the generosity and grace of God.

Fr. Lee



Don't miss it!

Bible Study

will resume

Tuesdays January 16 at 10am -or- Wednesday January 17 at 7pm

"Jesus, the One and Only"

The discussions are very interesting and enlightening.

What and When

January



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



<p>After Wednesday Service social First Wednesday of the month January 3 come and gather with us for a light brunch</p>
<p>Bridge Calendar adjustment January 5, 11, 19, 25 at 10 am</p>
<p>EYC - rehearsal for Feast of Lights Saturday January 6 at 5 pm</p>
<p>Feast of Lights - Burning of the Greens Saturday January 6 at 7 pm</p>
<p>Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 13 at 9 am @ Nick's Bistro all men welcome to join us</p>
<p>ECW meeting for date and time please watch the "Weeklies"</p>
<p>Vestry Meeting Tuesday January 13 at 7 pm</p>
<p>Biblestudy will resume, see page 2</p>
<p>EYC - Game night Saturday January 20 at 6pm</p>
<p>Newcomers Reception Sunday January 21 from 3 to 4 pm (see page 4)</p>
<p>WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday January 16 at 10 am all interested in quilting are welcome</p>
<p>St. Martin's Project Saturday January 20 at 9:30 am - Red Team</p>
<p>Cloak Deadline Saturday January 20</p>

Words from the Wardens

Hello Martinite's, we hope your New Year is off to a fantastic start. We have been privileged to serve as your Wardens this past year. We have enjoyed numerous conversations about all sorts of topics which have helped us to get to know YOU better. This has been a busy year for our parish family, we would like to highlight the following topics that have been impactful to our church:



-Our 60th Anniversary celebration gave us an opportunity to Thank God for his Blessings as well as celebrate St. Martin's 60 years of service and spreading God's Good News!

-We are so excited to see our parish family welcome 17 new members to our parish family, we look forward to getting to know them better while helping our parish family GROW

-We would like to Thank Father Lee for his extraordinary support this year as we took advantage of some volunteer help on many fronts to help sure up our balance sheet. We are so fortunate to have a Rector that is so in tune with his congregation and what their many needs are from education, pastoral support and at times Celebration.

We close wishing each and every one of you a Happy, Healthy New Year filled with exciting new opportunities.

God Bless You Always,

Nancye and Rick



Newcomers!

**You are invited to a newcomers reception (fellowship & refreshments!!)
on Sunday, January 21st from 3-4 pm in our parish hall.
Hear Father Lee & Vestry members talk about Saint Martin's,
meet some members of the church, and hear about opportunities to get involved!**

All worshipping at SAINT MARTIN'S - Come join us for this time to meet our newcomers.

RSVP to the office by email at office@saintmartinschurch.org or call the office at 804-270-6786.

Chrismon workshop - Christa Burr

The workshop on Sunday December 3 was as always a lot of fun. We were only 4 but we were able to add 8 new ornaments of this year's design onto our church tree. That, of course, is always a highlight.



Please, read before you put your Christmas decorations away! A Mistake ... it could be Fun for somebody!

I made every single Chrismon ornament with great care, thinking of my church family and friends. As you read in the explanation of the symbol the 12 gold beads are reminding us of the 12 Apostles. But one ended up only having 11 beads. Judas Iscariot somehow was omitted.

I decided to leave it within all of the ornaments for the church. I would love to know WHO ends up with it. Please, contact me. I am happy to give you also a "regular" one and you might want to choose a special one from my collection.

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

Finance Committee Report

by Garland Harwood

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

Financial Highlights 2023	end of previous month	MTD November	YTD end of November
Income	\$191,162.35	\$24,914.74	\$216,077.09
Expenses	-\$180,873.99	-\$16,959.98	-\$197,833.97
Gain or Loss	\$10,288.36	\$7,954.76	\$18,243.12

Greening of the Church

- Saturday December 2



Ready for Advent.

Thanks!



The Annual Meeting - Sunday December 3 after 10 am service



The Annual Meeting was well attended. Reports were heard by Fr Lee, Rev. Sandi, Sr Warden Nancy Greenwood, Jr Warden Rick Gibbs and Finance Chair Garland Harwood.

Outgoing vestry members are George Crowell, Rick Gibbs and Jean Rollins. Many thanks for their service.

Krestin Gibson, Garland Harwood, Sallie Bright and Bill White have volunteered to serve on the vestry and were unanimously elected. At the January vestry meeting it will be decided who of the four will finish the term to 2025 vacated by Leslie Dering. At that meeting it will also be decided on the Sr Warden and Jr Warden of the coming year.

Carolyn Mowers was elected to the Endowment Committee.

Here are the Bios:

Vestry Team

Sallie Bright

About 19 years ago, Sandy and I found St. Martin's and made it our church home. Sandy passed away four years ago - I will forever be grateful for the love and support of everyone at St. Martin's. We have two children and three grandchildren who have been a huge blessing. I am involved with the EYC, the Bridge Club, and Our New Journey. As a past Teller, Meals on Wheels deliverer, and Vestry member, I look forward to working with the Vestry in fulfilling the mission of St. Martin's.



Krestin Gibson

My family became members at St. Martin's church in 1979. I feel a strong connection to this church because this is where I

was confirmed and married. I moved out of the area and went to another church but wanted to return to where I grew up and felt the most connected. Both my parents are in the memorial garden, another reason this church means so much to me. I have been involved in several projects including planning the Super Bowl party, renovating the nursery, participating in the 60th Anniversary events and currently I am a member of the Alter Guild. I am married and am a registered nurse at an internal medicine practice in the west end.

In closing, being a part of the vestry would be very meaningful to me and look forward to helping St. Martin's continue its mission.

Garland Harwood

I began attending St. Martin's in 1993 when I married my wife Janice Carpi, prior to that I had been a lifelong member of St. Matthews. While attending St. Martin's I have served on the Vestry and have served as Senior and Junior Wardens. I am currently chairman of the Finance Committee and a Trustee of the Church.

Janice and I have 3 children; Anne McKinney, husband Wes and grandchildren Brock, Avery, Keegan, and Hayden; Sarah Sleeman, husband Allen and grandsons Henry & Noah; Garland Harwood, wife Becky and grandchildren Finn and Rosie.

I am retired after a 45 year career with Reynolds Metals Co. and Steel Services. I enjoy golf, fishing, and travel as hobbies and look forward to doing more of all 3 as well as spending time with our growing family in the coming years.

William (Bill) White

I was baptized in an Episcopal church in Staunton and confirmed in an Episcopal church in Roanoke. I was a teenager in Northern Virginia and graduated from the University of Richmond. My working career was entirely with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in the banking supervision department. My major interests are spending time with my family, golf and pickleball. I have two children and two grandchildren.

My church life has been rather sparse over the years, until I found St. Martin's about 18 months ago. Being a member of the church has given me a better perspective of myself and how I perceive others.

Endowment Committee

Carolyn Mowery

Carolyn is a native of Colonial Heights, VA. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's Episcopal church and was a member there before transferring to St Johns, Chester, VA. She has most recently joined St Martin's Episcopal church after living in Appomattox from 2004-2021. Carolyn is a retired teacher of 37 years, teaching both in the public and parochial schools.

Children's sermon on Dec.10



Pageant Rehearsal - Sunday December 10

after 10 am service ... a wonderful chaos!



Pageant - Sunday December 17 during the 10 am service.



ECW Christmas party and update

-Christa Burr



Joy in Service

(Sign of the ECW of VA)

The Christmas Party took place December 9. This month is always the most busy in everyone's life but 18 ladies came together to celebrate.

First the provided breakfast was enjoyed (sorry I was too late to think of taking photos). It was a great time to socialize and get to know each other better.



Carolyn had volunteered to play some Christmas songs for us to sing along which was much enjoyed..

As always Fr Lee read one of the "left-right" stories for us to play the traditional gift exchange. This year we didn't bring gifts for each other but gifts for the shelters our congregation is supporting.



Lots of socks, scarfs and other items will be enjoyed and keep warm those who are not as fortunate as we are. Thanks to all!

The next meeting was not discussed. "Regular" ECW participants will be notified by email. Please also watch the weeklies or bulletins.



EYC update - Sallie Bright

On December 10th, the youth baked Christmas cookies. Thanks so much for Ashley Borders teaching the youth. We hope that the congregation enjoyed the cookies as much as we did eating the broken ones! Many bagged cookies were given to the St. Martin's Project Team on December 17th.

The youth have received their scripts for the Feast of Lights Service on January 6th at 7:00 p.m. This is a fun night starting with the service, the youth undressing the tree, and roasting marshmallows over an open fire for S'mores. Everyone is invited to enjoy the bonfire - bring your tree - and roast marshmallows with us!

On January 20th, we will have a food and game night. We have a few board games; and the youth can bring their favorite game from home.

We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy start to the New Year!



Name Tags

If you were a newcomer to our congregation, wouldn't you like some help to get to know people more easily?



Sponsored by the **ECW** a first badge of NAME TAGS were made available on the louvered doors in the long hallway.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for those who would like the magnetic name tags. Others are clip-on.

If you are missing yours and would like one, please let the office know.

Your help to make visitors and newcomers feel welcomed are appreciated.

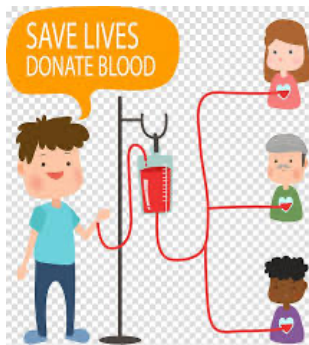


Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

January is national blood donor month

The month of January is designated as National Blood Donor Month in the United States. Due to holiday celebrations, inclement weather, and cold and flu season, the winter months are often a time of reduced donations and an increased risk for blood shortages.

National Blood Donor Month celebrates blood donors during this critical time and reminds people of the importance of donating blood. On December 31, 1969, President Nixon designated January as National Blood Donor Month to honor those who have donated and to encourage people to give blood at this crucial period of the year.



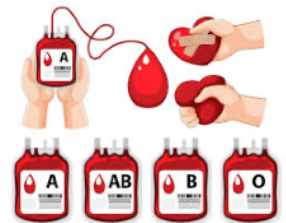
Why do people donate blood?

It truly can be regarded as a selfless gift of life. People who give blood say they do it to support their local communities, hospitals, to give back after a family member needed blood or it just makes them feel good about themselves. It takes a little less than an hour to donate a unit of blood but can make a big difference to a trauma victim or someone having surgery, particularly vascular surgery. One unit of blood can be separated into 4 components and can save multiple lives.

Each unit of blood can produce **red blood cells**, **plasma**, the liquid part of the blood which can be used to improve clotting, and for burn victims as well as patients suffering from shock. **Platelets**, a third component, is also used to help with clotting, but particularly for use with cancer patients or transplant patients. These patients usually have low platelet counts. The fourth component, **cryoprecipitate anti-hemophilic factor (AHF)** is also used for some clotting factor disorders.

The blood donation process

- Locally you can donate blood to the American Red Cross and other centers such as CSL plasma and others. You will want to find your location and make an appointment.
- There may be blood drives in your area such as a community blood drive through places of work or worship. There is also the bloodmobile.
- You must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds.
- You will need to produce 2 forms of ID. You will be directed as to which ones.
- If you have been recently ill or travelled outside the country, you will need to let the center know.
- At the center you will be given a health screening including questions about your health, lifestyle, medications you're taking, and other medical



Parish Nurse continued ... from previous page

conditions you may have. This information is confidential.

- They will do a check of your vital signs – Temperature, blood pressure and pulse.
- You will have your blood checked to see if your blood count is acceptable to donate blood.
- Once you are cleared to donate, preparing the site and withdrawing the blood only takes about 10 minutes.

Care after donation

- A Pressure bandage is applied to the site at the end of the procedure.
- You will be expected to stay for a while for refreshments and observation. You may leave when you feel strong enough.
- You will be instructed to increase fluid intake (avoid alcohol, smoking) for 24 to 48 hours.

- If you feel faint or lightheaded you will be instructed to lie down. Avoid strenuous work.
- If you have some oozing at the site, apply pressure and elevate the arm for 3-5 minutes. You may apply a snug bandage.

As you can see, much of the time spent at the facility is screening and ensuring that you are safe and healthy to donate!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy new year!



Outreach Committee

- Jean Rollins

The Outreach Committee has been busy sponsoring the collection of food for the Lamb's Basket. In November we collected 211 lbs. and on December the 7th, we collected 126 lbs., and on December the 26th, we collected 229 lbs (which was the largest amount collected at one time). Thanks so much to all of the parishioners at St. Martin's who brought in this food. It has helped so many people.



We have also continued to make lunches for the for shelters in the Richmond area. This month we collected homemade cookies and with the help of the ECW, we delivered socks, hats, and gloves. It takes a lot of people to buy the food for the shelters, make the sandwiches, put the lunches together and then drive to the shelters. However, it is also fun to work together and to get to know our fellow Martinites and to see the faces of happiness when we deliver the lunches. Thanks to everyone involved!



- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| * | | * | |
| 01/04 | Tony Romano | 02/01 | Scott Alloway |
| 01/06 | Chris Smack | 02/06 | Elaine Jacobson |
| 01/08 | Carol Roseme | 02/09 | Thomas Anthony |
| 01/09 | Martha Murphy | 02/09 | Chris Baughan |
| 01/10 | Greg Echevarria | 02/10 | Powell Johann |
| 01/11 | Betsy Crowell | 02/10 | Annette S. Woolwine |
| 01/12 | Madison Britton | 02/10 | Waylon Thirion |
| 01/17 | Bob Kirby | 02/13 | Dennis Pinner |
| 01/18 | Alex Goolsby | 02/13 | Wesley Fiasco |
| 01/22 | Thomas Verlander | 02/14 | Frank Lamb |
| 01/24 | Jill Grumbine | 02/16 | Darrell Jenkins |
| 01/26 | Ida Moore | 02/17 | Mariella Ponce |
| 01/27 | James Sykes | 02/21 | Susan Iervolino |
| 01/27 | Addison Sykes | 02/26 | Anne Shirey |
| 01/27 | Jessica Shook | 02/26 | Stephanie Machalinski |
| 01/29 | Millie Lindsey | 02/27 | Nicole Baroody |
| 01/30 | Taylor Hood | 02/27 | Brianna Bailey |
| 01/31 | Sharon Lindsey | * | |
| * | | | |

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



Fr Lee, thank you for caring for us all year long. To you and your family: Happy New Year!

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 smartinscloak@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.)

Jr Warden Rick ready to deliver Pointsettias to our shut-ins. Thank you, Pastoral Care Committee.



ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Lee A. Hutchson
Priest Associate: Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix
Priest Associate: Rev. Jerry Sneary
Monastic Associate: John Ogle
Organist & Choirmaster: Powell Johann

CHURCH OFFICE

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday 10 am-12pm
(it is best to call before you come)

Tue + Wed: Thomas Anthony

Mon, Thu, Fri: Paniz (volunteer)

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

VESTRY

2024	2025	2026
Nancye Greenwood		will be announced
Mike Shook	Linda Fairtile	after Jan. vestry mtg.
Betty Horne	Jim Moss	

Senior Warden:

Junior Warden:

Clerk:

Treasurer: N'neka Logan (interim)

Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco

Cloak Editor: Christa Burr



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