



# The Cloak

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



## The Bishop's Visit

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# Father Lee Hutchison



If you have ever gone shopping on “Black” Friday you know it can be a stressful time and requires lots of waiting.

- I once waited in line, for what seemed like an eternity, more like 15 minutes to get the ‘special’ item. The store was packed, people were bumping shoulders. I swore I would never do it again.
- Thanksgiving Day I waited the longest time ever at Richmond Airport. I had an economy fare which meant I could only bring one item. I could not print my boarding pass until I personally confirmed I had one item, which meant waiting in a second line.
- I, generally, avoid amusement parks because you wait in line for 20 minutes for a 5 minute ride.

So, what in life is worth waiting for? Especially if we get stressed out?

The Season of Advent is all about waiting. In Particular waiting for God

- Our ancestors in faith waited 1000s of years for someone to deliver them.
- Mary waiting for the birth of her son.
- You and I wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

As Christians while we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas we live in the reality that things have already changed.

A pregnant woman once said how odd a feeling it was to be carrying new life within her. Even though she could not see that new life it had already changed the way she thought and lived her life. She was already being drawn into a new future and the child had not yet arrived. It was time of great anticipation, excitement and a little bit of fear. That is a great metaphor of our Christian life.



The Holy Spirit is present within our hearts, nurturing the new life of Christ within us. We may not fully understand how this new life will play out however it already shapes the way we think, and act. We have faith in this new future life, whatever it may be, because we believe that God is behind our story. Since God is in charge we don't need to become impatient or stressed as we wait.

I know I need to be patient this Season of Advent, but Advent is not about long lines and pushy shoppers. Advent is about adopting a sense of patience and trust and hope in a God who is in charge of the future.

*Fa. Lee*

# Announcements for ...

# December

All regular meetings are listed on the last page of each issue. Events are listed here which need special mentioning.

~ Christa [stmartinscloak@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinscloak@gmail.com)

## Men's Special Holiday Breakfast

note date and time change!

all St.Martin's men invited / wives too

Saturday Dec. 2 at 8:30 am - Nick's - 8051 Broad  
(close to Harbor Freight and Hancock Fabric)  
Call Sid Akens (804-740-5375) if you need a ride

## Advent wreath making family workshop

Saturday December 2 at 2 pm

sign-up necessary to have enough material

## EYC

Saturday Dec. 2 - 12 noon - Greening of the Church

Sunday Dec.10 - participate in Lessons & Carols

Friday Dec. 15 at 6 pm - Christmas Outing to Ginter Park

Saturday Dec.16 - join in caroling

Sunday Dec. 17 - 10am Youth Sunday but no mtg.

Saturday Dec. 30 at 6 pm - Rehearsal for Feast of Lights  
see page 8

## Poinsettia Sign up

deadline: Sunday December 3

please leave check in envelope with list



## Fall clean-up

Saturday Dec. 9 from 8:30am to 12:30pm

## ECW Christmas Party

Monday Dec. 11 at 5:30 pm

details see page 9

## St. Martin's Project

Saturday Dec. 16 at 9:30 am, Blue Team  
wanted: homemade cookies

## Christmas Caroling

Saturday Dec. 16 at 1 pm



**1st Advent Sunday 12-3** - Chrismon Gift-giving at 10am

**2nd Advent Sunday 12-10** - Lessons and Carols at 10am

**3rd Advent Sunday 12-17** - Christmas Pageant at 10 am

**4th Advent Sunday 12-24** - 8 am service only

## 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 27 at noon**



# Words from the Wardens

by Nancye Greenwood / Sr. Warden

and Rick Gibbs / Jr. Warden

Blessing of the Season to all of our St Martins family ! The message below says it all!



**The Greatest Gift**  
*by Ron Traumer*

**When Christmas shopping is finally done,  
wrapped gifts lie 'neath a tree  
that sparkles bright with tinsel and light  
for everyone to see.**

**Each gift has been selected  
with thoughtfulness and care.  
Brining joy with evey toy  
and other gifts we bear.**

**But let us keep within our heart  
the much greater gift than these.  
One from above, with God's great love  
should bring us to our knees.**

**A gift of birth to all on Earth.  
A gift that's far from small.  
To everyone, He gave His Son...  
The greatest gift of all.**

Merry Christmas!  
Nancye and Rick

© TheHolidaySpot.com

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## Outreach Committee

Christmas will be here soon, and some families struggle each year with trying to afford Christmas for their children. This year the Outreach Committee is adopting two families to help out on Christmas Day. We have put up a tree with paper balls on it in the parish hall. The balls will have a choice of either a piece of clothing or a toy. Please bring the items wrapped before Wednesday, December 20th. Thank you so much!



- Jean Rollins

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

- from Ann Robbins and Pat Akins

The Prayer Shawl committee will meet for lunch on Wednesday, December 20 at noon at JJ's Grill at Cross Ridge. Even if you have not been an active member of the group, please join us. Let Ann Robbins (270-6247 or [aerobbins@live.com](mailto:aerobbins@live.com)) or Pat Akins (740-5375 or [pat5193@verizon.net](mailto:pat5193@verizon.net)) know if you can attend as we will make reservations.

Prayer Shawl Meetings are now held quarterly and start at 11:45 am at the church. Next meeting will be held on January 24, 2018.



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## Chrismons ~ Christian Symbol Ornaments

### December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent - Chrismon Gift-giving after 10am service

Just before Thanksgiving bright cards were 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 it 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](mailto: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 = (presented 1st Advent Sunday at 10am Service)



# Notes about Music!



Dear St. Martinites,

This will probably be the last column I write for The Cloak in my capacity as organist/choir director of St. Martin's. I want to use this space to say "Thank You!" to all of you, particularly for the lovely "surprise" champagne brunch given in my honor last Sunday (and I really was surprised when I read about it in the weekly announcements), but even more for the many blessings you have shown to me over the twenty years I have spent with you.

I can say with all honesty that this has been the best job I have ever had. I have felt your appreciation for the work of the choir and for my organ offerings right from the first day. In addition, I have felt your love and encouragement through a number of personal milestone events that happened during these 20 years: the death of my mother, the death of my first husband, the weddings of my two daughters (one of them, twice!) the birth of my only grandchild, and finally, my marriage to my second husband, Steve. You are a fantastic parish, and it is with great sadness that I will leave you at the end of December.

Although it is not considered good form for a retiring employee to continue to attend services and participate in parish life on a regular basis (we need to get out of the way and let the incoming employee build his/her programs and personal relationships), I hope never to lose touch with friends here, and I will always keep St. Martin's in my heart and in my prayers. I know you will be in good hands with the incoming interim organist. He will need your love and support, too.

I wish you all good music, good health and many blessings for the years ahead.

Love,  
Jackie

**Junior Choir:** The Junior Choir will rehearse on Sunday, Dec. 3, after church, and sing at the 10:00 Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 10. We will rehearse again after church on Dec. 10 *if* the time doesn't conflict with pageant practice. We will have a brief rehearsal on Dec. 17 after church, and they will sing at the 5:00 service on Christmas Eve. Thank you for supporting your children in this endeavor. They have been delightful to work with.

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## Congratulations!

... to Katie Bright on the birth of her baby girl Taylor Ash Bright. Taylor was born November 6, at 2:03 a.m. She weighed in at 7 lb 11 oz.

Happy are Grandparents Sandy and Sallie Bright and Uncle Andrew.





# Saying Good-bye to members

Sunday November 12

Oh so difficult. We will miss Barbara and Rob but wish them wonderful times closer to their children.

They became members on January 27, 2002 by confirmation and have been a big part of the St. Martin's family ever since serving in many areas.



## The Sleigh Speaks

All I need do is stand,  
however faded, cracked,  
loose-bolted, boards worn,  
in a meadow; wait in cold, weeds, mud,  
for the snow.  
To old eyes, weathered wood shimmers  
like pewter, rusted runners  
catch sunset, gleam red; memories  
perch in sagging seats.  
Boys strap imagined harnesses  
to the dream of a horse,  
( for little boys, reindeer.)  
Girls drape holly and ribbons  
made of words, polish me  
with laughter, heap smiles like blankets,  
wishes like boxes with bows,  
dolls, soft things, warm cakes,  
puppies and bicycles, in every space.

I slide on blue-whiteness of a road,  
or fly past stars, on a wind  
made of a carol,  
on updrafts of magic,  
glide at last to the miracle  
beyond weariness, age, rust,  
beyond magic, beyond imagining,  
beyond gifts, dreams, wishes:  
starlit Infant, holding hearts  
like treasures, bringing  
faith and joy, love  
and hope.

- Patsy Anne Bickerstaff

# EYC update!

by Sallie Bright

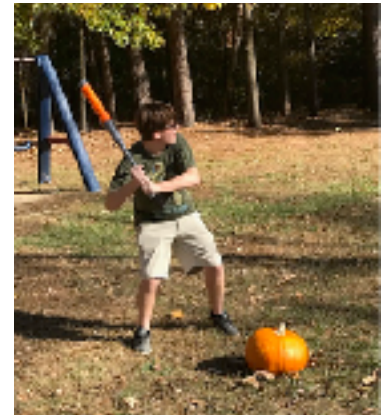
On November 5th, the youth attended church but did not meet afterwards because of the Bishop's visit. Youth Sunday was November 19th. The youth attended church together and enjoyed joining the luncheon honoring Jackie Bitler. The youth studied the Gospel, "The Parable of the Talents," and made small pamphlets which were to have been carried in their pockets last week. These were a list of their talents and how they could be shared with others to spread the Kingdom of God. We talked about how the youth would be involved in the service of Lessons and Carols on December 10th. Afterwards, the youth practiced their softball skills to get ready for the Spring Parent/Youth Softball Game in June.



On December 2nd, the youth will help in the Greening of the Church. Pizza will be served for lunch at noon after which the decorating will begin. On December 10th, the youth will participate in the service of Lessons and Carols. The EYC Advent Outing will be on Friday, December 15th when we will go to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to enjoy their light show. On December 16th, the youth is encouraged to join the congregation in Caroling. Youth Sunday is December 17th - but there will be no meeting after the service. On Saturday, December 30th, we will practice for the Feast of Lights. We will have dinner at 6:00 p.m. following which we will pick parts and go to the sanctuary and practice. The Feast of Lights service is January 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Looking forward to the Advent Season and the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Sallie, Sandy, Rick, and Susie





# ECW update!

- by Sally Dvorak

## ECW CHRISTMAS PARTY

All women of St. Martin's (the young, the young-at-heart and the in between) are encouraged to join us for our annual Christmas party on Monday December 11th at 5.30pm. A light dinner will be provided so please sign up on the bulletin board to ensure we have enough food. After dinner we will sing Christmas carols. Last year's gift exchange was so hilarious that we will once again pass gifts around in a circle in accordance with the directions in a story read by Fr. Lee. Please bring a wrapped gift (limit \$10 and no gag gifts) and come relax at an evening of fun and fellowship. As always, if anyone needs a ride they may call Kim Shook at [804 387 8493](tel:8043878493).

## ECW RAFFLE

The lucky winner of the beautiful Advent calendar was Ann Watts.

## UNITED THANK OFFERING

The fall in-gathering of the UTO has concluded. The total donated was \$617.76 which, added to last May's in-gathering, totals \$1,038.66 collected for 2017. This is an illustration of how every coin really does count. The entire amount will be awarded in grants to carefully screened applicants both locally, nationally and internationally by the national Episcopal Church early in 2018. Please take a blue box home and, as a family, start giving thanks for the many blessings you enjoy as you put coins in the box. The spring in-gathering will be in May.



Everything was set up on Friday for the Holiday Market Sat. Nov.11. It was a busy day with lots of helping hands.



Customers at the Craft table.



Vendors and helpers were very well taken care off.



Kim at the Bake sale table. She made a lot of people happy.



Diana and Jean offering raffle tickets.



And then we were a vendor at the CR Bazaar on Fri Nov 17. We sold "leftovers" from our event and did quite well.





# Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

## Making the Holidays Safe

Tis the season of gift giving but let's try not to give any of the **cold and flu viruses**. The following are some tips to keep you safe through the holidays

Be sure to get your flu/pneumonia shots. Your healthcare provider will advise you based on your age and previous pneumonia shots as to what you may need this year. If you are to have the flu and pneumonia shots, it is preferable to get them at the same time otherwise; there will be a delay in getting the second shot.

The flu normally comes on suddenly and lasts for about one to two weeks. Symptoms are usually, fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, fatigue and muscle aches. The following conditions make it difficult for a quick recovery from the flu:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Chronic lung disease
- Heart Disease
- Liver and kidney disorders,
- Blood disorders,
- Neurological conditions
- Weakened immune systems
- Severe obesity

Contact your provider if there is:

- Difficulty breathing or chest pain,
- Dehydration, persistent vomiting or belly pain,
- Dizziness or Confusion
- Symptoms that get better then returns worse than before.

### Poisoning

Many plants used for decorations during the holidays can be hazardous to your health particularly children. Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry to name a few. Keep out of the reach of children. Pets can also be affected. If you suspect your child has eaten any part of these plants or is showing signs such as vomiting, diarrhea, rashes, call your doctor or the Poison Center at 800-222-1222



Children may have access to unfinished alcoholic beverages, cups etc. They often try to mimic what the adults do. They will become drunk faster than adults and may even have alcohol poisoning.

Ensure good hand washing when preparing food, washing any utensils that are in contact with raw meat, storing leftovers properly and heating thoroughly before eating. These tips can limit episodes of food poisoning.



## Choking

Small objects and toys have the potential to become a choking hazard for small children. The general rule of thumb is that if it's small enough to fit in the mouths of babies and toddlers, it's too small to play with.

- Tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel and small toys are potential choking hazards for small children because they may block the airway.
- Peanuts or popcorn should not be given to children under four.
- The needles of Christmas trees, evergreen garlands or wreaths can cause painful cuts in the mouth and throat of a child who swallows them,
- Angel hair (made from finely spun glass) and ornament hangers may cause cuts, skin irritation, or eye damage if touched or swallowed by children.

## Fire

Keep your tree secure and away from all heat sources including space heaters and electrical outlets. If you have a live tree make sure it is watered. An artificial tree should be labeled "fire retardant". Be sure to unplug your lights and extinguish all candles before going to bed.

- Avoid using real candles on a tree they can easily start a fire. It takes only a minute for a spark from a candle to burst into flames. Keep lit candles away from windowsills and mantles and use only flame-retardant decorations when decking your halls.
- Don't overload indoor or outdoor electrical outlets.
- Inspect your fireplace professionally before you light your first fire of the season. You can protect your family by using a sturdy fireplace screen when burning fires

- Practice fire safety, have a family emergency plan in the event of a fire and check smoke detectors before you put up your holiday decorations. These steps will ensure that your family can celebrate many holiday seasons to come.

## Accidents

Safety in the kitchen is always a concern when there are small children. This is especially so during the holidays. The smell of holiday cooking and little ones wanting to help is a set up for accidents. To prevent accidents, watch your kids while you bake or cook. Keep pot handles away from the front of the stove. Kitchen appliances should be clean to prevent potential fires.

Remember to buckle up when traveling. If you drink, don't drive or assign a designated driver. Also be alert to impaired drivers especially at night.

Young children should be supervised while playing outdoors in the snow. Sledding accidents are common.

**Wishing you a safe fun filled blessed Christmas season!**



# Dinner & Education Night

Wednesday November 1

This new monthly event was enjoyed very much. The speaker was very interesting



And the dinner was enjoyed by all too.



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# Drawing of the ECW Raffle

Sunday November 19



Congratulations to the lucky winner Ann Watts.

We hope to get a photo of the presentation to the winner for the January Cloak.



# Bishop Shannon Johnston's visit

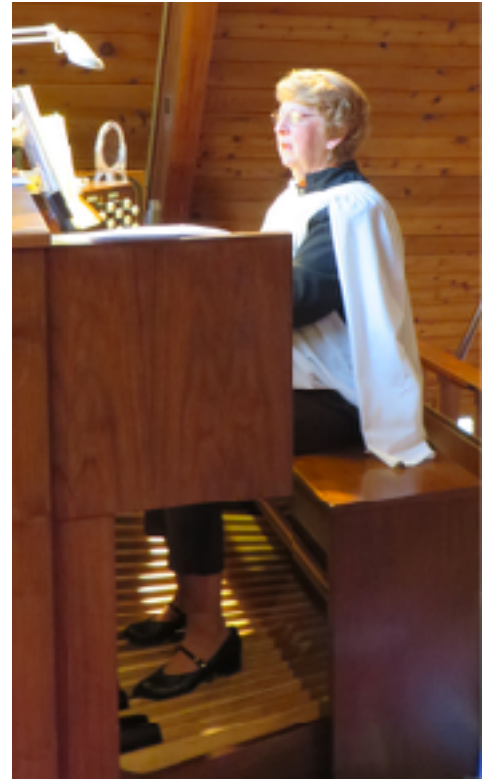
Sunday November 5





# Champagne Brunch Reception for Jackie Bitler

Sunday November 19



It is hard to believe that 19 years have flown by so quickly. Our organist, Jackie Bitler, arrived as an interim organist on Palm Sunday 1998. Perhaps she was purified by being thrown into the fire of all the services of Holy week but Jackie wound up staying at Saint Martin's. Her last day of service will be December 31.

I know my ministry has been blessed by her leadership of our choir and her selection of music over these many years. Jackie, I know that God will bless you and Steve in the years ahead. Thank you for your loyalty to St. Martin's and your friendship to me and all of us at St. Martin's. - Fr. Lee





Reception f. Jackie continued ...  
from previous page



speeches and toasts!



Reception f. Jackie continued ...  
on next page



Reception f. Jackie continued ...  
from previous page





Reception f. Jackie continued ...  
from previous page



## Beauty in the Memorial Garden

photos by Sally Dvorak



# Blessing of Operation Christmas Child

Sunday November 12



Our children were happy to bring the boxes for Operation Christmas Child to the Altar at the time of the children's sermon.





\*  
 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 Florence Chellodorai  
 12/05 Katie Bright  
 12/06 Marie Atkins  
 12/07 N'neka Logan  
 12/07 Joe Lamb  
 12/07 Stella Prskalo  
 12/10 Ria 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 Machalinski  
 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  
 01/25 Kathie Longbricco  
 01/27 James Sykes  
 01/27 Addison Sykes  
 01/28 Merry Beth Hall  
 01/30 Taylor Hood  
 01/31 Sharon Lindsey  
 \*

\*  
 12/01/1990 Jim & Victoria Hughson  
 12/15/2013 Ria & Bob Kirby  
 12/21/1965 Ruth & James Barrett  
 12/22 Jenny & Jim Richardson  
 12/22/1984 George & Beverly Stone  
 12/22 Darrell & Melinda Jenkins  
 \*  
 \*  
 none in January  
 \*

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



# 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!

## 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

## Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Sunday Services	Sunday	8 & 10 am
Boy Scouts	Monday	7 pm
Women's Bible Study	selected Mondays	10-12 am
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
Vestry Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7 pm
Men's Breakfast	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	8 am
Daughters of the King	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	11 am
Daisy Troop	1st & 3rd Wednesday	6-7:30 pm
Book Club	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	10:30 am
St. Martin's Project	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	9:30 am
ECW	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	5:30 pm
EYC	selected Fridays (see calendar)	6-9 pm
Prayer Shawl Ministry	quarterly	11:45 am



## ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

<b>Rector:</b>	The Very Rev. Lee A. Hutchson
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster:</b>	Jacqueline L. Bitler
<b>Administrative Assistant:</b>	Sherry Wilson
<b>CHURCH OFFICE</b>	
(804) 270-6786 (Phone) (804) 270-3286 (Fax)	
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Website: <a href="http://www.saintmartinschurch.org">www.saintmartinschurch.org</a>	

## Office Hours

Monday–Friday	9 am-1 pm
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<b>Trustee Emeritus:</b>	Robert I. Kirby
<b>Trustees:</b>	Kerry Alloway, A. P. Hall, Jr. & Garland Harwood

## VESTRY

2017	2018	2019
Steve Alloway	Linda Fairtile	Nancye Greenwood
Sean Cooper	Betty Horne	George Crowell
Barbara Campeau	Sandra Goolsby	Rick Gibbs

<b>Senior Warden:</b>	Nancye Greenwood
<b>Junior Warden:</b>	Rick Gibbs
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Darrell Jenkins
<b>Register:</b>	Nan Scott
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Mike Fiasco
<b>Editor:</b>	Christa Burr

# St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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[stmartinscloak@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinscloak@gmail.com)