



The Cloak



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



Our altar dressed for Lent

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Father Lee Hutchison



Years ago, I shared a story of being stranded on the rim of a canyon we had climbed to the top of to see the sunset. However, clouds quickly moved, the temperature plummeted, the wind began to blow, and it quickly became too dark to get down. Our leader insisted on trying to get down in the dark, but he fell and was injured. There were only a few scrubby bushes to protect us from the wind. We huddled together covered by a trash bag one of us had in our pockets. It was so Cold. Shivering from the cold, about 2 in the morning we prayed for some kind of sign we would make it till morning...praying it would be great if a flashlight or beam of light would suddenly appear to help us get off of the canyon rim. We finished our prayer. No beam appeared from the heavens, and no flashlight appeared. However, a few moments later, a light across the canyon and many, many miles away turned on. It was transformative for us. Our attitudes changed in that it somehow seemed warmer. The light could not help us get down, but it gave hope and that hope gave us the courage to meet our challenge and carried us through the night. Light of hope, whether in our possession or not, inspires one's soul even if you must wait.

John contrasts the power of light and darkness throughout his Gospel. In describing the incarnation of Jesus, he wrote, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." The focus of Easter has never been on egg hunts. It has always been about finding a way out of the darkness. As John began his Gospel describing Jesus as light in a dark world, he brings his Gospel to a close with the resurrection of Jesus with the words, "While it was still dark Mary went back to the tomb." Mary did not go back when the bright warmth of the sun was shining. While it was still dark, she went to the tomb. When we are in some need in our life, we like to move ahead. It seems counterintuitive to look back, yet Mary went back to the last place she had seen Jesus which happened to be at one of the lowest points in her life. Meister Eckhart, a priest, theologian, and mystic, wrote a lot about finding inner peace for one's soul. He wrote, "If you want to find God you have got to go back to where you lost him." Many people believe they will find God in the future when the conditions are just right like when "I finally get my life together." Yet, God has never been about waiting to love us until we get our life together, for it was while we were still imperfect that Christ died for us. When your prayers do not seem to connect and when your life is filled with anxiety or heartache while life seems dark, go back to where you last knew God.

Because Mary went back to the tomb, Mary found that the stone covering the grave had been moved away. Then the Risen Jesus spoke to Mary by name, proving he was alive. It is in the darkness that the light of the resurrection shines its brightest. When we discover that God stands with us in the darkness...that is transformational. It gives us the strength to be faithful. If darkness is encroaching upon you, go back to the tomb or go back to when you last saw Jesus in your life and discover the risen Christ.

The transformative power of Easter finds its power when you and I share our stories with others and light their path through the darkness.



Fr. Lee

What and When

April

<p>GriefShare Support Group Tuesday April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 6:30-8:30pm</p>
<p>After Wednesday Service Social First Wednesday of the month (April 2) come and gather with us for a light brunch</p>
<p>Social Bridge Thursday April 3, 10, 24 at 10am (Note: no Bridge on 4/17)</p>
<p>Yoga Stretch Note: No class on Thursday April 3</p>
<p>Palm Folding & Egg Stuffing Sunday April 6 after coffee hour</p>
<p>Vestry Meeting Tuesday April 8 at 7pm</p>
<p>ECW Meeting Saturday April 12 at 9am (see page 8)</p>
<p>Men's Breakfast Saturday April 12 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner all men welcome to join us</p>
<p>Palm Sunday & Holy Week April 13-20 (see services page 4)</p>
<p>WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday April 15 at 10am</p>
<p>Choir Practice Note: No practice on Thursday April 17</p>
<p>St. Martin's Project Saturday April 19 at 9:30am - Red Team</p>
<p>EYC Easter Egg Hiding Sunday April 20, time TBD</p>
<p>Easter Sunday April 20</p>
<p>Cloak Deadline Sunday April 20</p>

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	Will resume in May	
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
Yoga Stretch (\$3)	Thursday	1 pm
Choir Practice	Thursday	7pm
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	1 st Wednesday	after 10 am service
ECW	2 nd Saturday	9 am
Men's Breakfast	2 nd Saturday	9 am
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am

UPCOMING

Bunco Game Night

Friday May 2 from 6:30-8:30pm (see page 6)

Important: Only church dates/events are listed in this calendar but our Lord's building is used by other groups. If you are scheduling an event for your group please consult with the large calendar in the copy room or the church office first.



Special Services in April

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 6 | - Fifth Sunday of Lent |
| Sunday, April 13 | - Palm Sunday |
| Thursday, April 17 | - Maundy Thursday service, 7pm |
| Friday, April 18 | - Stations of the Cross, 6pm
- Good Friday service, 7pm |
| Saturday, April 19 | - Easter Vigil, 8pm (followed by champagne and treats) |
| Sunday, April 20 | - Easter Sunday (bring your bells if you wish) |
| Sunday, April 27 | - Second Sunday of Easter |

Lamb's Basket Update . . .



We delivered **88 pounds** of food to the Lamb's Basket in March!! Thanks go out to so many in our congregation for their efforts.

Please keep the donations coming. Every single item helps, and we are making a difference! These items are the ones most needed:

CANNED soups, potatoes, fruits of all kinds, mixed vegetables, peas, carrots, and pet food. Glass containers, like mayonnaise, salad dressings, items in clear bottles are also accepted.

Let's Take the Road and Follow April

Let's take the road and follow April;
April's heart is wild with glee,
April's lips were made for laughter,
What though rain and tears come after-
April calls and we are free!

Let's take the road and follow April-
Just a merry child is she-
Where she treads green things start growing-
April calls, we must be going-
April calls and we are free!

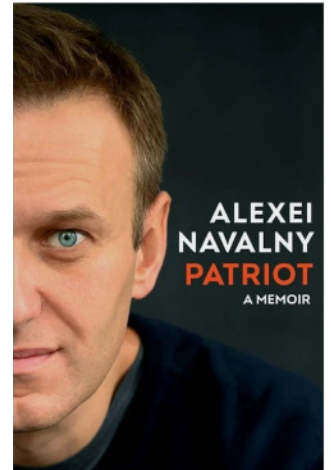
Poem by Annette Lynne

Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

“Alexei Navalny Speaks From the Grave”

Some of you know that for the better part of a year, I spent my afternoons slowly reading the prison diary collected and published last year by Navalny's widow, Julia Navalny. (*Alexei Navalny Patriot: A Memoir*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2024). It's a very big book, and I only could read four or five pages at a sitting. At the end of the work, there is an Epilogue that I wanted to share with you—the essence of his final words.

If you remember the story beginning in 2020 while on a plane headed for Russia, Navalny was suddenly stricken with the effects of poisoning that had been ordered and carried out by Putin's men. After nearly dying and then treated in a German hospital, Navalny decided nevertheless that he would return to Russia to fight against the unjust authoritarian government run by “thieves and rogues.” He was immediately arrested when his plane landed in Russia—his home country that he was determined to save.



He was placed in severe prison conditions for four years after trial after trial on trumped up charges, and he finally died in a prison above the Arctic Circle on one cold day as he walked out to exercise. Apparently he knew he was going to die—he hadn't been well for some time and he could not receive any real medical care. So in the Epilogue, he describes two techniques he had worked out for living as well as he could to the end.

His first technique was to imagine the worst thing that could now happen. “The important thing is not to torment yourself with anger, hatred, fantasies of revenge, but to move instantly to acceptance. Instead of yelling, you need to think about the situation calmly. So what if that worst thing comes to pass? Worse things happen.”

The second technique is religion. Turns out Navalny was a devout Russian Orthodox, and he asserts that “faith makes life simpler.” He asks, “Do you believe in the immortality of the soul? If so, then don't worry about the morrow. Because the morrow is perfectly capable of taking care of itself.”

And Navalny ends his memoir with these words from the grave: “My job is to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and leave it to good old Jesus and the rest of his family to deal with everything else. They won't let me down and will sort out all my headaches. As they say in prison here, they will take my punches for me.”

And shortly after that, this courageous man took a walk in the arctic cold, and died without family or friends, but sustained by Jesus and his family to the end. And so, let us pray that we all may be sustained at the end of our days in this life.

If you would like to read more insightful writings, please see Rev. Dr. Sandi's website: [Sandra M. Levy-Achtemeier, Ph.D. – Website & Blog](#)

Outreach Committee

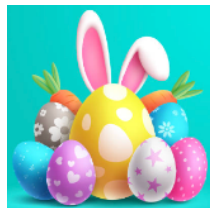
- Martha Sneary



The Ingathering for items for Safe Harbor Women's Shelter begins this month, April. Please watch for the list that will be posted on the bulletin board for items needed.

Safe Harbor plays a critical role in the greater Richmond area by providing emergency shelter services to women (and their children) experiencing domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and/or human trafficking. They also provide counseling, court advocacy, and outreach among their services. Safe Harbor is a different organization from the shelter for unhoused women that St. Martin's project takes meals to monthly.

Easter Egg Hunt



Calling all kids! We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 20**, immediately following the 10 am Easter service. Remember to bring an Easter basket or other container to gather all of your goodies. Don't miss out on the fun!!

Bunco Game Night

The ECW is sponsoring an evening of fun playing "Bunco" on **Friday, May 2nd**, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Refreshments will be provided, and donations will go to the Youth Mission Trip.

You don't need to know how to play. We will teach you!



Finance Committee Report

- Garland Harwood



Financial Highlights 2025	YTD end of January	MTD February	YTD end of February
Income	\$18,890.22	\$17,761.20	\$36,651.42
Expenses	-\$23,630.84	-\$19,071.20	-\$42,702.04
Gain or Loss	-\$4,740.62	-\$1,310.00	-\$6,050.62

Kroger Rewards:
\$72.41 received in March



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

April 30th is Therapy Animal Day

National Therapy Animal Day occurs every April 30th. It is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate and honor the amazing work of therapy animals and their handlers in communities across the country and around the world. These handlers volunteer their time and compassion to brighten the lives of those in their community by sharing their special pet. This is also an opportunity to consider if becoming a therapy animal team is right for you.



handlers are also trained to effectively ensure that interactions are safe for both the animal and those they interact with.

Therapy animals can be seen in hospitals and in a dentist's office to soothe a frightened child. They can be seen in a classroom at school or a reading program at a library. Therapy animals can also be seen at community events where people can pet the animals and learn more about therapy animals and volunteering. You may also see these animals after a traumatic event such as a school shooting or after a natural disaster. Often, veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), can be seen with a dog helping to improve health and wellbeing. They are so important in providing support, empathy and kindness in whatever setting they may be found and with those they interact.

If you would like to become a volunteer or if you would like more information on working with therapy animals, this is one source:

How does this work?

Therapy animals can provide physical, psychological, and emotional benefits to those they interact with. Most frequently, they are dogs but can include cats, rabbits, and horses to name a few. They can be seen in healthcare settings, assisted living facilities, schools and in the community. They are evaluated on their ability to safely interact with people, and their



[345 118th Ave. SE #100](https://www.petpartners.org/locations/345-118th-Ave-SE-100-Bellevue-WA-98005)

[Bellevue, WA 98005](https://www.petpartners.org/locations/345-118th-Ave-SE-100-Bellevue-WA-98005)

[425.679.5530](https://www.petpartners.org/locations/345-118th-Ave-SE-100-Bellevue-WA-98005)

ECW Update

- Christa Burr

The February meeting was held on Saturday the 8th and 9 ladies were in attendance. After the breakfast at a short business meeting it was decided to host a Bunco social event on Friday, May 2 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Participants don't need to know how to play the game. It is quick to learn with many teachers around.



A total of 13 blankets were finished in the two meetings and they were blessed at the 10 o'clock service the next day. Unfortunately no photos were available.

We did receive a lovely thank you text though. And ... FYI ... the quilters who are meeting in our Parish Hall every month were visited by Jill's blankets organizers at their March 18 meeting and tied 21 blankets with them.

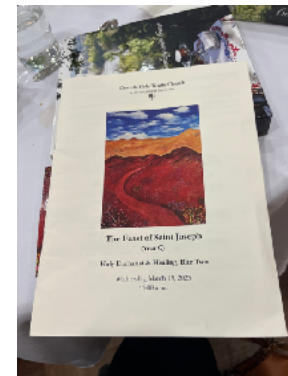


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And this was offered:
A Lenten Retreat with Bishop Susan Goff and some ladies went and spoke very excitedly about it afterwards. We hope to get a report at our next meeting.

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The next meeting will be on **Saturday April 12 at 9 am** at the church. After the usual social breakfast time a representative from the Lion's Club will talk to us about their "collecting old eye glasses" and what they do with them once they receive them. We will also have a little Easter fun craft to do. A surprise! As always, all ladies of the church are considered a part of the ECW. We hope to see you!



Pancake Supper - Tuesday, March 4



Pancake Supper continued... from previous page



Pancake Supper continued... from previous page



Pancake Supper continued... from previous page



Happy Birthday Dariush!



Dariush Babollahzadeh celebrated his birthday with his St. Martin's church family!





*
 04/01 Pat Akens
 04/01 Owen Rowley
 04/01 Jim Smack
 04/02 Tiffany Clements
 04/05 Trudy Britton
 04/07 Moboluwaji Akinfolajimi
 04/07 Megan Greenwood
 04/08 Samantha Romano
 04/09 Elaine Markey
 04/10 Michele Hutchson
 04/11 Lance Hartman
 04/12 Olivia Alloway
 04/12 Esmé Borders
 04/13 Eniola Akinfolajimi
 04/14 Grace Wood
 04/15 Karlee Rankine
 04/15 Vicki Pinner
 04/17 Sallie Bright
 04/17 Wilson Ponce
 04/22 Tristan Howdysshell
 04/23 Sandy McGuire
 04/23 Tyler Newcomb
 04/26 Susan Teachey
 04/27 Joyce Ragland
 04/27 Zahara Iervolino
 04/28 Richard Rollins
 04/28 Russell Campeau
 04/29 Stacey Hartman
 *

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 05/05 Jerry Sneary
 05/07 Carl McAllister
 05/10 Molly Fretwell
 05/13 Bob Southward
 05/14 Phyllis Berkle
 05/15 Lucas Verlander
 05/17 Harrison Alloway
 05/18 Daniz Babollahzadeh
 05/19 Ben Verlander
 05/21 Titilayo Akinfolajimi
 05/21 Shannon Weaver
 05/21 Stephen Harlow
 05/24 Keith Borders
 05/27 Kerry Alloway
 05/27 Jeff Moss
 05/29 Steve Row
 05/31 Jim Hughson
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 04/12/1980 Scott & Kerry Alloway
 04/24/1998 Dariush & Golnaz Babollahzadeh
 04/25/1992 Scott & Mary Goodman
 04/28/2001 Dawn & Dan McNamara
 *
 *
 05/01/ Alison & Wayne Potter
 05/15/2009 Layne & Karen Hood
 05/15/1974 Christine & Craig Watt
 05/19/2001 N'neka & James Logan
 05/21/1994 Carl & Vicki Newcomb
 05/28/ Jim & Nancye Greenwood
 05/28/2011 Bo & Megan Greenwood
 05/30/1992 Stephanie & Glen Dupaul
 *



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 registrar@saintmartinschurch.org. (We like to know the year too but only for demographic purposes. Birth years are sometimes published for children only.)

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

registrar@saintmartinschurch.org

Please send any changes to do with the directory like the portrait photos, addresses, emails, telephone/cell phone numbers, birthdays and anniversaries to the above address as well.

Newcomers, please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like to get the weekly email and/or The Cloak.

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.



OCEANFRONT BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

Perfect for a couple or family of 4.

Located directly on the beach in Hatteras Village, NC.
Contact Bob or Max Barritt (h) 270-3862 or (c) 512-4586

For private Piano Lessons
contact

Carolyn Mowery

434-391-4938 (please leave message)
or
clmowery61@hotmail.com



Blessing Box

Stock the Little Free Pantry!

When you have to shop for your food anyway, why not also pick up a few non-perishable items for the "Little Free Pantry?"

No glass containers please. Also, nothing which could spoil in the summer heat like mayonnaise, dressings, etc.

We are happy to report that the contents of the box is very well used. It is often empty.

Help to keep it filled!



YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The weekly announcements will tell us often what is needed. Please place your donations in the basket in the hallway.



Do you need ideas for what you could bring for the Lamb's Basket? You can find the answer for most needed items in most of St. Martin's weeklies.

ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

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

CHURCH OFFICE

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E-mail: office@saintmartinschurch.org

Website: <https://saintmartinschurch.org>

Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm

It is best to call the office or Thomas Anthony (804-944-5620) before you come.

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

VESTRY

2025	2026	2027
Linda Fairtile	Krestin Gibson	Rick Gibbs
Jim Moss	Garland Harwood	Joe Lamb
	Bill White	Elaine Markey

Senior Warden: Bill White

Junior Warden: Rick Gibbs

Clerk:

Treasurer: N'neka Logan (interim)

Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco

Cloak Editor: Ashley Borders



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cloak@saintmartinschurch.org