



The Cloak



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



Our bell (named Roger)

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Father Lee Hutchson

Roger the Bell

Did you know that the bell at Saint Martin's has a name? The bell's name is Roger, which is short for the name Roger Sweet, the man who gifted the bell to Saint Martin's.

In the early 1980s, the rector of Saint Martin's met Roger in the hospital. Roger was dying of cancer, and he had no family or close friends and not much faith in God. The visits from the priest changed Roger's life as he found the love, friendship, and faith he had been longing for much of his life. He said he wanted to make a gift to the church when he died. He decided to give a bell that would call people to prepare for worship and to take a moment to give thanks for their blessings in life. He also hoped the bell would call people to give thanks for their faith and the guidance that faith provides in how to live a life of faith which honors God.

When you hear Roger calling you to worship on Sundays, take a moment to reflect on who in your life needs some words of love and support. Commit to paying them a visit, and then give thanks to God for the faith which is in you and the love, meaning, and purpose that faith brings to your life.

Fr. Lee



Liturgies in August

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Sunday, August 3 | - 8 Pentecost |
| Sunday, August 10 | - 9 Pentecost |
| Sunday, August 17 | - 10 Pentecost |
| Sunday, August 24 | - 11 Pentecost |
| Sunday, August 31 | - 12 Pentecost |

Ice Cream Social!!

Sundays are for Sundaes!

Save the date . . .

Sunday, August 17

2-4 pm

Come enjoy a variety of ice cream, everything you need to make a delicious sundae, music, and fellowship.



What and When

August

| |
|--|
| 1st Wine Club Saturday August 2 at 11:30am @ James River Winery (see page 5) |
| GriefShare Support Group Tuesday August 5, 12, 19, 26 from 6:30-8:30pm |
| After Wednesday Service Social First Wednesday of the month (August 6) come and gather with us for a light brunch |
| Social Bridge Thursday August 7, 14, 21, 28 at 10am |
| ECW Meeting Saturday August 9 at 9am (see page 11) |
| Men's Breakfast Saturday August 9 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner all men welcome to join us |
| School Supply Collection Deadline Sunday August 10 (see page 10) |
| Vestry Meeting Tuesday August 12 at 7pm |
| St. Martin's Project Saturday August 16 at 9:30am - White Team |
| Ice Cream Social Sunday August 17 from 2-4pm (see page 2) |
| WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday August 19 at 10am |
| Cloak Deadline Wednesday August 20 |

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.

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 the Fall | |
| Holy Eucharist | Wednesday* | 10 am |
| Yoga Stretch (\$3) | Will resume in the Fall | |
| Choir Practice | Will resume in the Fall (Warmups Sundays at 9am) | |
| 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 |
| ECW | 2 nd Saturday | 9 am |
| Men's Breakfast | 2 nd Saturday | 9 am |
| St. Martin's Project | 3 rd Saturday | 9:30 am |

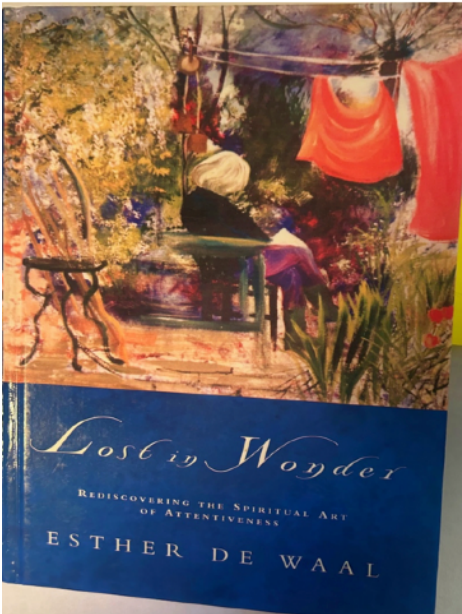


George Crowell, our newest lay reader, on his first Sunday!

Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

“Gifts Given and Gifts Received”

In my latest blog, I mentioned two books that I'm currently reading at my “unstructured time” (as my youngest son, Kevin, puts it) in the afternoons. And one of them is titled *Lost in Wonder: Rediscovering the Spiritual Art of Attentiveness* by Esther de Waal (Liturgical Press, 2003). Let me just give you a taste of it, because you just might want to order it for yourself. She says



Our whole life is a fabrication of gifts received, and we ourselves contribute our gifts to the lives of others. . . and when we respond with thanks, a bond is thereby created between the giver and the one who receives: we become the thanks-giver. . . In the Outer Hebrides in the 19th century, children were taught to start each day with a great act of cosmic thanksgiving, in which they joined their human voices with those of the birds and the wild creatures in a chorus of gratitude and praise, thanking God for these daily gifts and blessings which He showered on them so generously.

Each thing I have received, from Thee it came,
Each thing for which I hope, from Thy love it will come
Each thing I enjoy, it is of Thy bounty.

Each day may I remember the source of the mercies
Thou has bestowed on me gently and generously;
Each day may I be fuller in love to thyself.(p. 143)

So I do recommend de Waal's book to you to order and read during your own “unstructured time.”

Blessings, Sandi+

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

Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Victor Shaheen

friend of Thomas Anthony, who passed away on June 20, 2025.

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.



Finance Committee Report

- Garland Harwood



| Financial Highlights 2025 | YTD end of May | MTD June | YTD end of June |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | | | |
| Income | \$94,249.14 | \$19,905.65 | \$114,154.79 |
| Expenses | -\$111,990.91 | -\$18,865.38 | -\$130,856.29 |
| Gain or Loss | -\$17,741.77 | \$1,040.27 | -\$16,701.50 |

Kroger Rewards:
No report this month

The St. Martin's Wine Club

This is a reminder about the new **Saint Martin's Wine Club!** See the July Cloak for more information.

The club meets the first Saturday of each month at 11:30 am. Info for each month will be in the weekly announcements as well as on the doors to the Parish Hall. The first meeting is August 2 at James River Winery. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can plan for the number of attendees. Also, if anyone would like to go who needs transportation, we will work on setting up rides.



If you don't drink wine, no problem! Non-alcoholic refreshments will also be available, so please still join in for the fellowship.

St. Martin's Food Box is the recipient of donations collected. At each event, there will be some sort of **fun container** for cash donations which will be used to purchase food for the food box.

Here are the events currently planned:

- **August 2, 11:30 am**—our first event will be at James River Winery, so hope to see many of you there!!! More specifics will be in the weeklies and on the postings at the church.
- **September 6, 11:30 am**—at Saudé Creek Vineyards, which is located at 16230 Cooks Mill Rd, Lenexa, VA.
- **October 4**—at the Powhatan Wine Festival, located at 3860 Old Buckingham Rd. You are invited to bring a lawn chair, and food trucks will be available. Tickets may be purchased online. (More info to follow)
- **November 1**—at New Kent Winery (more info to follow)
- **December 6**—at St Martin's. Please join us for fellowship, wine, and Paint Night! It has been suggested that each person bring a bottle of wine to share from a specific Region along with a snack that the region is known for. We can talk about this at one of our meetings and decide.



Parish Nurse

by Betty Horne

August is Psoriasis Awareness Month

Plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (sometimes described together) are diseases thought to be mediated by the immune system. Certain immune cells are activated and overproduce inflammatory proteins such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF). These proteins can cause inflammation in the skin, which can cause skin cells to grow too quickly. The skin cells build up and form raised, red patches, often with silvery scales, known as psoriatic lesions. These plaques may itch, be painful, and can bleed. This

protein also causes inflammation in the joints, which can create pain and progressive joint damage.



Psoriasis is not contagious. These red patches often merge into plaques of thickened scaly skin. Psoriasis commonly affects the elbows, knees, and scalp, but can occur anywhere on the body. Some people may have mild psoriasis and not even know it. It may present as small, faint patches of dry skin. Others may have lesions covering much of their body.

The following are types of psoriasis:

- Plaque – The most common type. It causes itchy, dry, and raised skin patches.

- Pustular – this causes discolored scaly skin with tiny pustules on the palms of your hands or the soles of your feet.
- Inverse psoriasis – deep red skin that is smooth (not scaly), usually in skin folds, such as under arms, breast, the genital area, and buttocks.
- Erythrodermic psoriasis – may cause intense redness or discoloration and shedding of skin layers in large sheets. It often covers most of the body and can be life threatening. Contact your provider during a flare.
- Guttate – Starts in childhood or young adulthood, causing small spots on the torso and limbs
- Nail – The nails on your hands and feet develop pits and are discolored. Nails may become loose and separate from the nail bed. Nails may crumble
- Scalp – You may have fine scales on your scalp that look like dandruff or thick plaques that cover the entire area.

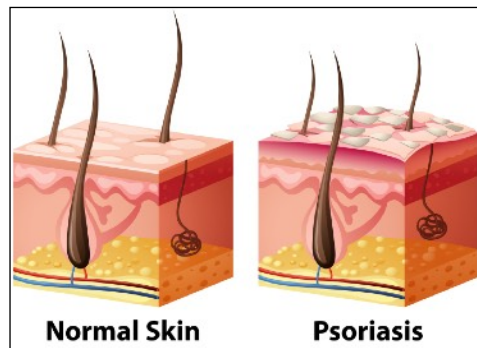
The exact **cause** is still not known. However, genetics (occurring in members of the same family) and environmental factors are thought to play a role. It can affect all races and both sexes. Most patients are diagnosed in their early adult years, but psoriasis can be seen at all ages. Often the appearance of the skin causes sufferers of this condition to withdraw from social events. Many people with psoriasis often suffer from diabetes, heart disease, or high blood pressure.

Triggers may include respiratory infections, strep throat, tonsillitis, stress, and injury to the skin. Taking medications

such as antimalarial, some blood pressure meds, Lithium or Indomethacin can trigger a flare up. Stress and hormone changes e.g., puberty, menopause, after giving birth can trigger a first-time event or cause flare-ups if you already have psoriasis. Interestingly, symptoms may improve or even go away during pregnancy.

Some of the following can also cause a flare up:

- Withdrawing the use of topical steroids abruptly.
- Extended time in the sun/sunburn. You will want to protect your skin before going outdoors.
- Any skin injury e.g. cut, scrape, bug bite or where you scratch the skin.
- People who are overweight tend to get plaques in skin creases or folds.
- Psoriasis tends to get worse in the winter when the air is cold and dry. Keep skin moist or use a humidifier at home.



physicians, and other medical doctors. Some patients have also seen other allied health professionals such as acupuncturists, holistic practitioners, chiropractors, and nutritionists.

Treatment:

Topical treatments are medications that are applied to the skin. They are usually the first line of defense in treating psoriasis. They slow down or normalize excessive cell reproduction and reduce psoriasis inflammation. Topical ointment or creams can be purchased over the counter (OTC), but many are prescribed. Many OTC treatments contain

active ingredients such as salicylic acid and coal tar and are approved by the FDA for the treatment of psoriasis. There are other products that contain substances such as aloe vera, jojoba, zinc pyrithione, and capsaicin, which are used to moisturize, soothe, remove scale, or relieve itching.

Steroids are the most frequently used treatment for psoriasis. They are

referred to as anti-inflammatory agents, because they reduce the swelling and redness of lesions. Anthralin, synthetic vitamin D₃, and vitamin A are also used in prescription topical treatments to control psoriasis lesions.

Immune suppression drugs such as Enbrel, Humira, and Remicade, given by injections, are often used to treat moderate to severe psoriasis. These drugs are by prescription only. These medicines affect the immune system. They can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. It is important to notify your doctor at the first sign of any infection, fevers, cough, redness, swelling, bruising, bleeding, or paleness. Your doctor will want to test you for TB before you take Enbrel, Humira, or Remicade.

Before taking any of the above medications, let your doctor know if you:

- Have any existing medical conditions
- Are taking any medicines, including herbals

- Think you have, are being treated for, have signs of, or are prone to infection. Have any open cuts or sores
- Have diabetes, HIV, or a weak immune system
- Have TB or have been in close contact with someone who has had TB
- Were born in, lived in, or traveled to countries where there is more risk for getting TB. Ask your doctor if you are not sure.
- Have or had hepatitis B
- Have or have had heart failure
- Use the medicine Kineret® (anakinra), Orencia® (abatacept), or Cytoxan® (cyclophosphamide)
- Are taking anti-diabetic medicines
- Have, have had, or develop a serious nervous disorder, seizures, any numbness or tingling, or a disease that affects your nervous system such as multiple sclerosis or Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Are scheduled to have surgery
- Have recently received or are scheduled for any vaccines. All vaccines should be brought up to date before starting these drugs. You should not take live vaccines.
- Are allergic to rubber or latex
- Are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Have been around someone with chicken pox



- Upper respiratory infections (sinus infections)
- Headache

Living with psoriasis

While no foods have been known to cause psoriasis, certain types of foods and drinks can make it worse, including:

- Alcohol
- Dairy
- Refined carbs
- Saturated fats and trans fats
- Added sugar
- Gluten
- Red meat

Certain foods reduce inflammation. Adding them to your diet may improve your psoriasis symptoms.

Among them are:

- Fish (especially tuna, mackerel, salmon, sardines, and herring) and other lean proteins
- Plant-based proteins such as tofu
- Fruits and vegetables
- Olive oil
- Nuts and seeds, such as walnuts, flaxseed, and chia seeds
- Beans and lentils
- Whole grains
- Low-fat dairy, in small amounts
- Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, including specially fortified yogurt, milk, eggs, and juices.

Some side effects of the above medicines are:

- New infections or worsening of infections you already have
- Hepatitis B could become active if you already had it
- Nervous system problems, such as multiple sclerosis, seizures, or inflammation of the nerves of the eyes; blood problems (some fatal)
- New or worsening heart failure
- New or worsening psoriasis
- Allergic reactions
- Injection site reactions

There are certain things you can do to make living with psoriasis more manageable and easier over time:

- Take short, daily baths with warm water and allergen-free soap. Pat dry, softly on dry areas.
- Moisturize your skin with a thick, rich cream or ointment.
- Your doctor may recommend a light therapy box that shines directly onto your skin.

Otherwise, it's good to get at least



15-30 minutes of daily sunlight.

- Exercise, get lots of sleep, and try different relaxation practices, such as meditation.
- Keep a journal of what causes your flare-ups. This will help you to identify what works and what doesn't.

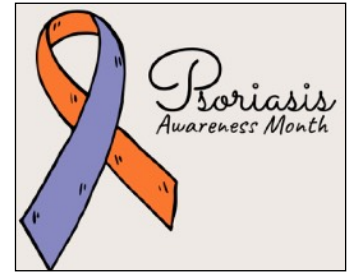
Psoriasis and mental health

Taking care of your mental health is very important. People with psoriasis tend to isolate themselves as they are self-conscious of the lesions, particularly if the lesions are very visible and prominent. They have a greater chance of having certain mental health

conditions. Tell your doctor if you have some of the following symptoms:

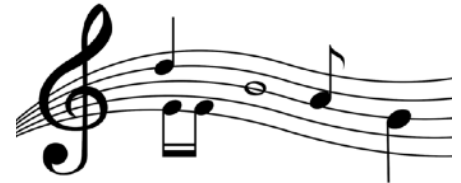
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Sexual dysfunction
- Substance use disorders
- Sleep disorders
- Eating disorders
- Psychosis

Excerpts from the National Psoriasis Foundation



St. Martin's Choir - Powell Johann

The parish choir is currently on its annual summer hiatus. These stalwart servants of the Lord deserve your deep praise and thanks for all they do to enhance worship in this place. Whilst Thursday choir practices are on summer vacation, **warm ups will still be in loft on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM and all are welcome.**



Our numbers are down due to the inevitabilities of time. Therefore, I ask each of you to prayerfully during the summer consider this ministry - especially men. Perhaps you know a teenager who might not wish to be as visible as an acolyte but would wish to participate in a very meaningful way to the worship of God? We would make them most very welcome. They would gain not only experience but a host of honorary godparents!!

And in this summer season we will have a congregational hymn sung during the offertory collection where the congregation remains seated and sings the hymn standing for the presentation and familiar Doxology. It would be a great blessing if you would give the Choirmaster a short list of hymns from either the 1940 or the 1982 Hymnals that you would like to sing at this time.

Yours faithfully

Powell Johann

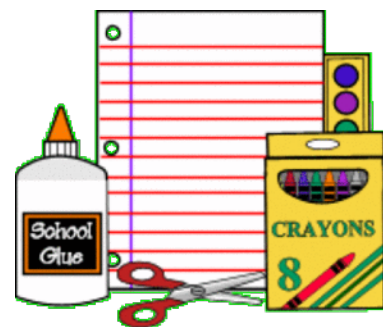
pjohann@comcast.net

Outreach Committee - Martha Sneary

The Outreach Committee has two projects going on now.

The first is the collection of school supplies for local elementary schools. There is a list posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. The last day to donate items is **Sunday, August 10**. Thank you to all who participate in this drive to help students and their teachers have the supplies that they need!

The second is the collection of bereavement items for Fisher House (to give to family members when a loved one dies). These items can be decorative candles, sweet



framed remembrances, wind chimes, window ornaments, statuettes, etc. Please look through things you have at home and see if you have things that fit this description that you are willing to donate. The items do need to be in new or like-new condition. For example, candles cannot have been burned, and framed items need to be in good shape and not faded. This is a new idea we're trying, but I know I have items such as these, and I'm betting that there are others that do as well. We will deliver these things to Fisher House **later in August**.



Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Inge Albertes

She was a close friend of Christa Burr for 60 plus years, but passed away recently.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.



Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Jon Shuck

father of Esmé Borders' good friend, who passed away suddenly on July 10, 2025.

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.


The July meeting took place on the 12th, the regular second Saturday of the month at 9 am but this time at Kitchen 33, a new non-profit 501 ©(3) public charity, owned and operated by American River Restoration, headquartered in Glen Allen, VA. You might want to check out their website: <https://kitchen33.org/> Make sure you scroll down. Nine ladies enjoyed the breakfast and had interesting talks about retreats and potential speakers.

You do not want to miss the next meeting. At 9 am we start with a potluck breakfast or bring just your own. Promptly at 9:30 am, one of our own St. Martin's sisters has a presentation for us.

You're invited!

Join us for the next ECW meeting on Saturday, August 9. Mary Moss will bring to life *The Woman at the Well* and guide a heartfelt discussion on how we can respond when Jesus bids us to "come thirsty."

Mary will also have copies of her books, *Woman at the Well* and *Woman with the Alabaster Jar*, available for purchase. Cash or checks are preferred, and she'll be happy to sign your copy.

 A time for reflection, connection, and renewal.

Mary Moss - Author, Coach, Speaker, Storyteller

You can find me online: linktr.ee/themarymoss



Bringing something to the potluck is not a must. There is always plenty.

Christa was requested and has promised to do a better job teaching the "Fröbelsterne" (see last Cloak). All those interested can stay after this month's presentation. It really is not as difficult as it looks but make wonderful little surprises for your friends in Advent.

More fun ECW meetings are being planned for the rest of the year. The Episcopal church considers all women in the congregations part of the ECW. There is no "official" becoming a member. All ladies and responsible daughters are very welcome. We would welcome newcomers with open arms.

If you want to be notified with special information which did not make it into the monthly newsletter or weekly info, please notify kygerman@hotmail.com to be added to that list.

And don't forget to bring your old eye glasses and/or old hearing aids. Somebody would very much appreciate using them.



The ECW will get them to the right place.

A Writing by Powell Johann

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin

My qualifications for making this address are simply that I am a fully paid-up member of the Anglican Society of Mary and the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham, and as most of you have by now figured out I am a thoroughly unreformed, unrepentant and unreconstructed Anglo-Catholic.

Thursday – August 15, fully 90% of the Christian world celebrated a major Holy Day of Obligation – what our Prayer Book calls simply the Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin – and what the Orthodox call the **Dormition** or the Falling Asleep of the Blessed Virgin and what Roman Catholics and some of our own Anglican and Episcopalian brothers and sisters call the **Assumption**. It is the oldest and the most important Feast in the Calendar specifically about Our Lady. The Orthodox precede the observance with a two-week mini-Lent (bless them!) of strict fasting and prayer! It is a public holiday in much of the world – from Italy France and Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Bavaria, Austria, Luxembourg, Greece – much of Africa to the Philippines and in French Catholic Canada. In New York City the “alternate side of the street parking regulations” are suspended on this day.



It has been associated with a prehistoric early celebration of the summer harvest and is probably another example of the Church incorporating pagan festivals into the Church Year both to teach and to celebrate. Many ethnic neighborhoods in the USA, as well as Europe and beyond, have parades and fairs and street parties as well as fireworks to mark the taking up of Mary to Heaven.

On All Saints Day in 1950, the Bishop of Rome – that suave and sophisticated prelate Eugenio Pacelli who had guided the Roman Church through the perils of World War II and had by his own remarkable and unsung heroism saved the lives of countless Italian Jews and thousands of others from the blood-thirst of Hitler's puppet Mussolini – using – for the one and only time since its definition - the power of the Pope to make an infallible pronouncement from the Throne of Saint Peter – Pope Pius XII proclaimed as dogma – a necessary part of the Faith – that **“after her life was completed, the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into Heavenly glory.”**

The statement – greeted with real joy by Roman Catholics - is deliberately vague about specifics, but it is very important to understanding and believing in our own personal salvation and eternal joy in His Kingdom.

Roman Catholics as well as the Orthodox believe that Mary died a natural death – when and where is a matter of irresolvable speculation. Ephesus with Saint John caring for her has one claim – Jerusalem surrounded by the Apostles is another. Whether it happened three years after the Resurrection or 15 is also debated. But the dogma – believed if not codified since the 4th century – is that after her death Christ Our Lord - her divine son – reunited her body and soul in heavenly glory – she enjoys what is our final and everlasting hope – Life in the Resurrection in His Kingdom.

Her body, her dry bones do not exist in this world any longer – she has been ‘assumed’ to Glory or, as our own collect says, “taken to” Jesus. What is quite certain is that in a Christendom nearly obsessed with relics and holy places from the earliest days, there has never been any tradition at all of a site of Mary's tomb where one can pray at her final resting place or are there in existence any relics of her physical body. Not one! - to this very day.

Thankfully, no one tries to explain how this has happened, and Mary's Assumption exists in the Faith alongside the account of Our Lord's Ascension. Like the Ascension, what it speaks about is more important than the nature of the

physics involved. What is important here is to remember that Jesus – ascends – goes back to His Father - under His own power in His Resurrected Glory. Mary, a creature – highly exalted, but still a creature – is **taken up** by the power of her son and savior – where and how she goes is by His Grace and love.
“and I will raise him up on the last day”.

The saints are normally observed on the most important days of their lives – the day they entered into the “Life of the World to Come”, the day of their death. In our prayers we remember those gone before us – the saints and our own loved-ones, on their heavenly birthdays – not their physical ones – a specific practice I strongly recommend we adopt here. We know the exact dates for some of the saints; others are set on the days churches or shrines were dedicated to them if the exact dates of their deaths are not known – many of the Apostles are commemorated in that way – for example. In our own liturgical calendar, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King is ‘observed’ by the Episcopal Church on the day he was murdered in April, not on the January date near his earthly birthday. How much more appropriate is it that, as Christians, we remember the saints on the day they came face to face with the Eternal Christ? The date – exactly of Mary’s death is unknown – as is the date of Christmas – but the importance to us is enormous. She has gone before us.

Belief in Mary’s Assumption is a pious extra for Anglicans as is her Immaculate Conception. Anglo-Catholics believe these doctrines firmly and see them as a mark of the fullness of the Faith – but they are NOT required. We believe the importance of the Assumption is not just in the Glory that is now Mary’s – it is in the promise of that glory – shown in her that awaits all of us – as a creature she is redeemed by her own son – and like a child of Adam and Eve she too had to die a physical death – but, as we believe, in sure and certain hope, she has been taken up to eternal bliss by her son. She shows us what is to be our reward for Faith and humble obedience to the call of God. Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

As the Mother of Jesus, who is our Lord and brother – she is our Mother too. Denigrating or worse – ignoring her and her place in the plan of our salvation is, I hope, beneath us all. Blessed John Keble wrote a beautiful hymn about the motherhood of Mary with the line –
“Ave Maria, thou whose name all BUT adoring love may claim”

Across the globe countless millions ask for our blessed mother’s prayers daily in the second most beloved prayer of all Christians

- “Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee – blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb – Jesus”
- we are on safe ground here even for rabid protestants – this is all directly quoted from scripture in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

The second half of the prayer concludes
... “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen” –

I don’t know about each of you, but I can use all the prayers I can get – and I trust especially at the hour of death. I am sure we all have asked our earthly mothers to pray for us – even when they have crossed over to that other shore and are now in that greater light. How very appropriate that we ask for the prayers of Our Saviour’s Mother, too?

The title “Mother of God” – we as Anglicans can have no quarrel with it, was decided at the 3rd Ecumenical Council at Ephesus in the 431A. D. – Anglicans have always accepted the teachings – as infallible – of the first 7 Councils of the undivided Church. The actual word used is “Theotokos” or God-bearer. “Theotokos” is translated from the Greek into English as the very graceful “Mother of God”. The Council did not, and we do not mean or understand this to imply that Mary the Maid of Nazareth gives birth to the eternal – she is His creature – the old carol refers to her as:



“Thy Maker's maker and thy Father's mother” –

and as another carol says:

“twas Mary Virgin – none but she
and God would call her- ‘mother’”.

The Anglican Bishop when confronted by an irate Calvinist said: ” Well if she was not the Mother of God, whose mother was she?”

In that great calling and duty, how can we possibly ever express the devotion we owe her who shaped and formed and led the Holy Child who redeems us all?

In trying to express this beautiful mystery, there is another ancient doctrine about Mary that results in great confusion - not just for protestants but even good catholic boys like Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly who get it wrong all the time:

The Immaculate Conception.

Briefly I will try to make this clear, and you can have a great time explaining to your RC friends how wrong they are in their muddle about it.

The **Immaculate Conception** is NOT the **Virgin Birth**. It is not a virginal conception. It is not, but obliquely, connected to Christ Himself – The Church in the medieval period concerned about the concept that Original Sin as passed to each of us by our human nature, made normal human flesh unsuitable for God the Son. Original Sin is part of each of us by the normal human process of being born – (and this is not about sex, either – leave that discussion for another day!) - Mary the daughter of Saint Anne and Saint Joachim is conceived and born in the natural human way – however by God's decree – by His fiat – she is preserved from the stain of original sin from the first moment of her conception so that her flesh – the flesh she would give God Himself - is pure and sinless. Immaculate.

Thus before she was born Mary, received only the same Grace we receive at our Baptism – in the white robes and dresses and suits of the Baptismal Candidates we reflect the purity of soul candidates receive in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus by Faith in Him, through His Sacrament. Mary, by her humble obedience, known prior to her existence by the Father received the Grace of baptismal salvation at the moment of her conception. The early church believed all of this without question, and Saint Augustine of Hippo taught it firmly. It becomes a matter of great concern to the Scholastics of the late Middle Ages, and St. Thomas Aquinas and others argued heatedly over it for centuries. The arguments today seem tedious and often hilarious if they were not so intense. However, in the 19th century the majority of the world's Roman Catholic bishops petitioned Pope Pius IX to define the doctrine. It was not

a matter of dogma until 1854 and the first Vatican Council that the Church did this. Much joy and argument ensued and there appeared a group known as the Old Catholics who left the Roman Church using the proclamation as their excuse – but there was more about politics than religion in this eruption.

Some four years later in Lourdes in remote southern France an illiterate peasant girl named Bernadette had an encounter with “a lady in white” who told her she was “The Immaculate Conception” – a term unknown to the girl. The Lady showed Bernadette where there was a spring of water in this barren land and miracles began. The thousands of crutches and braces and wheelchairs left there since as testimonials perhaps testify to the truth of the peasant girl's vision? It has become the most popular of all the world's pilgrimage sites.

Strangely, it was Saint Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 12th century and various English Schoolmen and religious who lobbied for and first observed a feast specifically remembering the Immaculate Conception. It is a very English idea. This feast is December the 8th and it too has a long history before the doctrine was proclaimed officially in 1854. It is also a pious belief for Anglicans - NOT required - it is rejected by the Orthodox (who, by the way, completely believe what the doctrine teaches!) Their rejection has more to do with their hurt feelings after the Great Schism of the 11th century and the arrogance of the Romans to make dogma out of something they were not consulted about.

But like the Assumption what the Immaculate Conception says about all of us who believe in Him is more important than the specifics.

He is the pure paschal lamb – spotless from the flesh of his holy mother – Immaculate - to be the sacrifice for our sin and the salvation of the world – we too, by his blood are washed clean from every stain of sin and are now pure to enter and enjoy forever His Kingdom. We too are Immaculate now and called to a sinless life in His Grace and Power. Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

I will not speculate as to whether or not the Blessed Virgin ever sinned in her earthly life – is the sword that Saint Luke tells of through old Simeon and Anna at the Temple the sword of doubt at the foot of the cross/ or did she just swat the Holy Child when the occasion demanded???? At some point it might be fun to look at all the reported appearances of Our Lady through all the centuries down to the apparitions today at Medjugorje in the Balkans. Archbishop Lord David Hope says that these ‘appearances’ are an extension of the Annunciation when St. Gabriel the Archangel “broke through the veil from Heaven” – now it is the Blessed Virgin herself who makes these visits for God. Seeing all the healings that take place at Lourdes and Fatima and Guadeloupe and others – and the medical testimonials to them even at our own Anglican Shrine – small and humble though it is – at Walsingham in Britain - make one pause in solemn wonder.

In Olde England the pilgrims on the road were so numerous - “as the stars in the Milky Way” the English called that celestial phenomenon “The Walsingham Way”. The Virgin had appeared in Walsingham in the 11th century to a noblewoman (of course – not a peasant – that would not be fit for Anglicans!) – and she had built there a replica of the house in Nazareth where the Virgin and Saint Joseph reared the Christ Child. Millions came and many were healed in the waters of the well discovered when the Holy House was built – of course.

In the 16th century a wicked and greedy king had the ancient shrine destroyed at the behest of his “religious” advisors. The image of the Mother and Child was ceremonially burnt at the stake in Smithfield. The last monks were cruelly slaughtered for their faith.

In the early 20th century a young and bit eccentric priest came to this remote Norfolk village as vicar and set about rebuilding the shrine and the pilgrimage. A pilgrimage church was built and a well uncovered and the miracles too resumed. Millions go there for spiritual refreshment and some in hope for a cure or answer to prayer – over 500,000 this year alone so far! (The Romans have gotten into the act and restored a rival (and tacky!) shrine. They crowd into the Anglican shrine for a blessing at the Holy Well since their newer shrine church does not have one!) (Now the Greek Orthodox have a church at Walsingham and even the Methodists!) Our Lady is quite ecumenical if her children do tend to squabble amongst themselves.



The back wall of the Anglican church is covered with wooden 3 x 5 cards with thanksgivings engraved on them; for “Sight restored” – “return of a son safely from the War” – “healing from polio” and “for the gift of Faith”. All very simple – hundreds of them - and they are constantly added to. Prayer is powerful and answered. I am quite sure aided by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin.

The saints are **not** optional extras for us – they are part of the family and the light of Christ shines through them brightly – leading us to Him. We specifically state in the Creeds that we believe in the Communion of Saints. We pray with them and ask for their intercession as millions have done before us – that is the meaning of Communion – praying together. And prayer is answered. Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

The Blessed and Glorious ever- Virgin Mother of God – Mary – the Queen of Heaven - is not the sole property of our Roman brothers and sisters – she is not just the mysterious face peering from the Orthodox icons only – she is ours too, a living and important facet of our Anglican expression of the Faith. She is our sister - our mother - and our Queen. Her prayers help us all – Most Gloriously Her “last day” has come and we believe He has “raised her up”. Her life of perfect obedience shines as a beacon to lead us to Him - through the stars, through the Milky Way, the Walsingham Way, to where she has gone before us – to rest and reign with Him in Heaven.

*Across an azure arch of star-lit skies,
Full-orbed and effulgent, moves the harvest-moon
Lulled by the lullabies the night winds croon;
The flowers have folded fast their drowsy eyes,
The meadow land in outstretched slumber lies:
And the soft-splendour of the night's still noon,
Which garish day will shadow all too soon
Enwraps the dreaming world it beautifies:*

*On such another night long years ago
Methinks, Madonna, did the angels come,
Winging their downward way to earth below
From yonder glorious, silver, starry dome,
And bear thee backward with them when they went
To be the Queen of that bright firmament.*

September 27th, 2025

Register @ walk.conquerchiari.org

RICHMOND, VA

Westchester Commons Shopping Center
15786 WC Main Street
Midlothian, VA



SCAN TO DONATE
Location:

RICHMOND



REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM

WALK STARTS: 10:00 AM

CONTACT:

Rick Gibbs | (804) 437-4728
Rhgbaseball@gmail.com

*Walk distance is 1 or 2 miles,
walk at your fitness level.*



Chiari Malformation is a serious neurological disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the US.

The Conquer Chiari Walk Across America is a series of local awareness and fundraising walks held on the 3rd and 4th Saturday of September, uniting patients and their families across the country. Join us on this special day to help support the thousands of people struggling with this life changing diagnosis.

Proceeds will be used to fund Chiari research, education and awareness programs.

Participation is free. T-shirts will be provided for pre-registered walkers who have raised a minimum of \$50. (deadline is 8/16).

Conquer Chiari, known formally as the C&S Patient Education Foundation is a Pennsylvania 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes of Chiari patients through education, awareness, and research.

10th Annual Walk!!

***LIMITED SEATING* BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS**

Andy Armadillo is the beloved Texas Roadhouse mascot.
Andy will be joining us the day of the WALK!
Come meet Nutzy with the Richmond Flying Squirrels!



@CONQUER CHIARI RICHMOND, VA



TOGETHER We Walk. TOGETHER We fight. TOGETHER We Win.

Youth Mission Trip

- Sunday, June 22 through Friday, June 27











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|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|
| * | | * | |
| 08/05 | Sensai Horne | 09/01 | Bob Barritt |
| 08/05 | Jay Sykes | 09/02 | Cameron Britton |
| 08/06 | Jacob Henderson | 09/03 | Julia Stephenson |
| 08/07 | Kyle Stephenson | 09/04 | Nancy Fleming |
| 08/11 | Adrienne Stephens | 09/04 | Richard Thomas |
| 08/11 | Maggie Witt | 09/08 | Robert Kemp |
| 08/11 | Glenn Sprouse | 09/08 | Ann Robbins |
| 08/12 | Ruth Barrett | 09/08 | Jody Harlow |
| 08/13 | Adam Marcus | 09/09 | Colin Waller |
| 08/14 | Mike Shook | 09/09 | Owen Waller |
| 08/14 | Wade Waller | 09/09 | Daniel Clements |
| 08/14 | Kyle Stephenson | 09/13 | Amy Bailey |
| 08/15 | Taylor Murphy | 09/15 | Lauren Bailey |
| 08/15 | Barbara Lockridge | 09/15 | Rick Fowler |
| 08/16 | Martha Hall | 09/15 | Mike Murphy |
| 08/16 | Andrew Wood | 09/15 | Logan Thirion |
| 08/18 | Jaiden Logan | 09/17 | Selasi Horne |
| 08/20 | Jean Rollins | 09/17 | Vicky Echevarria |
| 08/23 | Layne Hood | 09/19 | Sandra McAllister |
| 08/25 | Garrett Greenwood | 09/21 | Paniz Babollahzadeh |
| 08/25 | Elliot Greenwood | 09/22 | Gavin Patoray |
| 08/26 | Peacha Sasser | 09/24 | Mary Moss |
| 08/26 | Virginia Tucker | 09/24 | Harold Nelson |
| 08/27 | Jonathan Horne | 09/25 | Erin Sprouse |
| 08/29 | Sandy Goolsby | 09/25 | Rick Gibbs |
| 08/29 | Sloan Verlander | 09/26 | Dawn McNamara |
| 08/30 | Sid Akens | 09/28 | Andrew Hutchison |
| 08/30 | William Thirion | 09/28 | Sandi Levy-Mix |
| * | | 09/29 | Mary Arnold |
| | | 09/29 | Wayne Britton |
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|------------|---------------------------|--|
| * | | |
| 08/01/ | Barbara & Russell Campeau | |
| 08/11/2007 | Jay & Carrilynn Sykes | |
| 08/19/2012 | Sharon & Harrison Alloway | |
| 08/28/1987 | Bob & Max Barritt | |
| * | | |
| * | | |
| 09/01/1990 | Lee & Michele Hutchison | |
| 09/02/1961 | Sid & Pat Akens | |
| 09/02/1995 | Martha & Mike Murphy | |
| 09/02/2006 | Kevin & Ashley Howdyshell | |
| 09/09/2000 | Keith & Ashley Borders | |
| * | | |



Children's sermon on July 20

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!



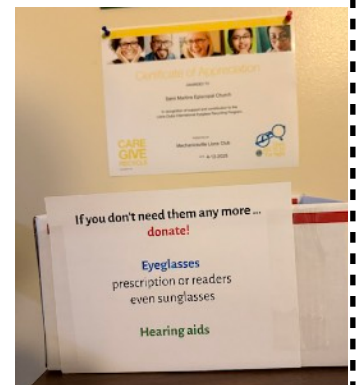
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

Please remember that those glasses you don't use any longer could mean a lot to somebody who can't see or read otherwise.

Same with hearing aids that are no longer needed. They can really help people who cannot otherwise get any.

The ECW will take care of them.

THANK YOU!



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

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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

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Treasurer: N'neka Logan (interim)
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