



The Cloak



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



**Father Jerry
leading a
recent
children's
sermon**

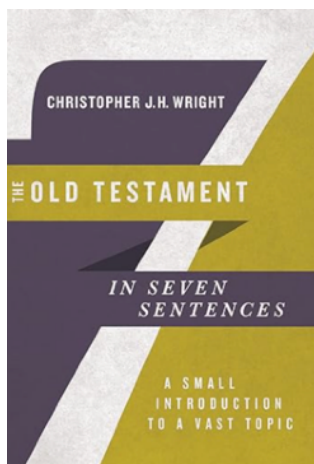
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Father Lee Hutchson

Our fall programming kicks into high gear with a picnic following the 10 am service on September 14. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Kids are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing during the children's sermon.

Bible Study returns the following week, Tuesday mornings at 10am and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. When Jesus was asked what was the most important part of God's Law to keep, Jesus responded with 2 sentences: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.



Our Guide will be the book *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences* by Christopher Wright (available for sale online). The seven sentences provide a summary of the most important themes on which the Old Testament story is built.

I hope you are enjoying these last long days of Summer!

Fr. Lee



Liturgies in September

Sunday, September 7	- 13 Pentecost
Sunday, September 14	- 14 Pentecost
Sunday, September 21	- 15 Pentecost
Sunday, September 28	- 16 Pentecost

Confirmation Classes

This year's confirmation classes begin this month and continue through October. They will be held following the 10am services on Sunday mornings. Here are the dates for the six classes:

September 21
September 28
October 5
October 12
October 19
October 26



What and When

September

GriefShare Support Group Tuesday September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 6:30-8:30pm
After Wednesday Service Social First Wednesday of the month (September 3) come and gather with us for a light brunch
Social Bridge Thursday September 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10am
Choir Practice Resumes Thursday September 4 at 7pm (see page 6)
Wine Club Saturday September 6 at 11:30am @ Saudé Creek Vineyards (see page 9)
Vestry Meeting Tuesday September 9 at 7pm
ECW Meeting Saturday September 13 at 9am (see page 5)
Men's Breakfast Saturday September 13 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner all men welcome to join us
Rally Day & Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, September 14 (see page 6)
WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday September 16 at 10am
Bible Study Resumes Tuesday Sept. 16 & Wednesday Sept. 17 (see page 2)
St. Martin's Project Saturday September 20 at 9:30am - Blue Team
Cloak Deadline Saturday September 20
Confirmation Classes Sunday September 21, 28 (see page 2)
Conquer Chiari Walk Saturday September 27 (see page 11)

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	7p
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
Yoga Stretch (\$3)	Will resume in the Fall	
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



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.

Outreach Committee

- Martha Sneary and Nancy Fleming

The Outreach Committee's school supply drive was a success once again. We greatly appreciate the support of the Richmond Women's Club and church members for their generosity in supporting this important cause. It was such a good turnout to help and encourage the return to school for our students and teachers.

Recently, Pat Akins, Nancy Fleming, and Martha Sneary met to divide the wonderful load of supplies received. We divided the supplies between Ridge Elementary, Skipwith Elementary, and Longan Elementary. They were all happy to get these and thankful for our support.



Ridge Elementary



Skipwith Elementary



Longan Elementary

ECW Update

- Christa Burr

The August 9 meeting was very much enjoyed by all who attended. As always, it started at 9 am with a shared breakfast, a short meeting at 9:30 am followed by the presentation by our Mary Moss.

Mary, as “the woman at the well,” spoke to us in a way that gave us things to think about. A discussion followed. Thank you, Mary! It was awesome.



Our next meeting:

Please join us on Saturday, September 13 at 9am. As always, we start with breakfast (either shared or your own). The program should start promptly at 9:30 am.

Our guest speaker will be the Reverend Rennie Chew. He is the Director of "**A Servant's Heart Ministry**," a local nonprofit organization, which provides direct ministry to those unhoused in the city of Richmond. The group meets twice a month and provides meals, toiletries, clothes, and spiritual caring. Over the last seven years the group has sponsored picnics, church services, and one-to-one prayer and prayer circles providing a way to build community. Our Deacon Dawn is very involved in this organization.

We hope you will be able to join us in the Parish Hall. A short business session might follow after the speaker.

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, and newcomers are welcomed 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.

Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Rylan French

She was the 12-year-old daughter of a friend of the Fiasco family who passed away on August 7.

Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Choir Practice



Choir practice resumes at 7pm on Thursday, September 4. Come

early for wine and cheese to kick off the new season!



Finance Committee Report - Garland Harwood



Financial Highlights 2025	YTD end of June	MTD July	YTD end of July
Income	\$114,154.79	\$20,892.31	\$135,047.10
Expenses	-\$130,856.29	-\$17,277.66	-\$148,133.95
Gain or Loss	-\$16,701.50	\$3,614.65	-\$13,086.85

Kroger Rewards:
No report this month

Rally Day

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 14. It's always an eventful day each September at St. Martin's. We celebrate the **start of the Sunday School** year, have a **Blessing of the Backpacks**, and enjoy an **indoor picnic!**



Please come for some food and fellowship at the indoor picnic following the 10am service. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Just bring a side dish or dessert if you can.

Students, don't forget to bring your backpacks (or whatever you carry your school supplies in).



Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

“De-Cluttering Our Lives”^[1]

If you have ever been to our house or driven by, you will have seen a large Tulip Poplar at the end of our driveway. That tree was not “well,” and needs to be dealt with one way or another—including taking the thing down. Our arborist suggested some solutions, but then one day David noticed some tree work being done next door and chatted with the foreman. He made a good offer to just cut the poplar down, and we took him up on it!

Later that day the tree was gone. They also trimmed other trees in our yard, cutting off branches that were just sucking up nutrients from the ground and depriving the trees that were left. If you look carefully at the lead photo, you can see the tree climber halfway up a large tree that has shaded the house for years, trimming those excess branches off.

Anyway, I wasn't sure I would like the changes in our front yard, but as it turns out, I think the whole thing turned out pretty well, and the yard looks much cleaner and less cluttered than before. And thinking about it, I decided the whole tree and branch cutting experience could be taken for a metaphor of our lives, that probably also could stand some de-cluttering from time to time. Mine surely does right now.

A dear friend of mine sent me a book a year or so back titled *The Lives We Actually Have* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie (Random House, 2023)—a collection of quotes and Bible passages appropriate to our various everyday lives. I turned to one chapter titled “for This Overwhelming Day,” and wanted to share a bit with you who are reading this Cloak piece. In the form of a prayer, they write:

Slow me down, God/ Place your hand upon me/ and steady the racing of my heart,/ Take this weight from my shoulders,/ and pry these to-dos from my fingers./ Deepen my breath and still my mind/ so that I can remember whose hands actually do keep the stars hung in space. I know by my body's limits/ and the clock's relentless ticking/ that not everything has to be/ done by me. (Pgs. 90-91)

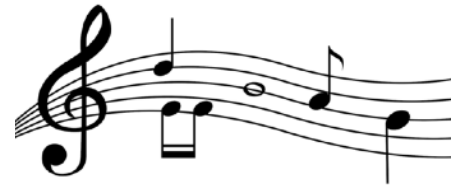
Actually that line, “slow me down God,” is from an anonymous prayer written decades ago that I have stuck in the pages of my bible that I keep by my chair in the bedroom and that I sit on during my “unstructured times” during the day, as my youngest son puts it.

Well, yes—getting back to our yard—I really like the cleaner view from our porch and when I can manage it, I love my life as I am trying my best to un-clutter it. So try it yourself if you could also use a little de-cluttering in your daily life. I promise you, you will be grateful for the trimming.

Blessings, Sandi+



^[1]For a more complete treatment of this topic, please see my latest blog on my website at www.sandralevy.net



Hymns

Earlier this summer the choir organized a survey of the congregation to have them choose- anonymously- their favorite hymns. We had 22 individual replies with a total of 33 different hymns. Since then, we have tried to include at least one favorite in every service where appropriate.

A wag has recently written a very insightful book on being an adult chorister in several choirs through the past 20+ years. He noted that when asked about hymns, parishioners invariably said:

"We never sing the old hymns
We never sing any new hymns
The hymns are too long
The organist plays too loudly
The organ is so soft we cannot follow the music
The hymns are too fast
The hymns are too slow
Why can't we sing popular songs?"

Sigh.....

Here at St. Martin's the general idea is that the opening hymn is a general hymn of praise- the gradual/sequence hymn refers directly to the Gospel reading -The communion hymn is devotional, and the closing hymn is missionary- to send us on our way to do His work in His world. Of course we do not always succeed in this ideal, and it is difficult to find hymns that directly refer to the Gospel every week.

Of course when a Sunday has a particular significance beyond the normal Sunday- All Saints/All Souls for example- the hymns reflect that emphasis- and the intensive seasons- Advent/Christmas/Epiphany – Lent/Easter/Ascension/ Pentecost bring their own hymns into use. People are often bemused that here we continue to sing Easter Hymns long after Easter Day but we remember that Easter celebrates the great 50 Days (church speak for a long time) until the coming of God the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Of the choices in the survey, it would come as no surprise that "Onward Christian Soldiers" was Number 1- a hymn which we normally sing twice a year- on the Sunday we observe Saint Martin the Bishop and Soldier for Christ and on the Sunday near Memorial Day. Number 2 was a tie for "Lift High the Cross" and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God". Again, "Lift High" is sung at least twice a year- soon for the Sunday closest to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and again in Passiontide- and perhaps on a Sunday when the sacrament of baptism is celebrated. In the sadly truncated form ostensibly to save time in the fall, "I Sing a Song" is used as the entry hymn for the Children. We have sung all the others in the year previous to the survey save two- one with the line about 'loud boiling test tubes' and from the 1940 Hymnal "Once to Every Man and Nation". Strangely there were no Christmas hymns/carols chosen and only one Easter Hymn- "Welcome Happy Morning". Frankly that is disheartening.

A much revered teacher instructed me long ago to not 'play' the music but to 'play the words'. I believe the hymns are every bit as important as the lessons and the collect and even the sermon! They are carefully chosen to reflect our worship of the Risen Lord.

It would always be helpful to have your comments and observations, but sing with joy and gladness-

Powell Johann

pjohann@comcast.net

The St. Martin's Wine Club

Our 1st wine outing was a success with lots of fun and great fellowship! See the photos below. **We raised \$146 to buy food for Saint Martin's Food Box! A big thank you to Karen & Layne Hood for stocking the box!**



Our next wine club gathering will be Saturday, September 6 at Saudé Creek Vineyards. It is east of town in New Kent County, and the address is 16230 Cooks Mill Road, Lanexa, VA, 23089.

We do not have reserved tables, as there was a \$100 charge. The winery opens at 11 am, and Jim and Nancye Greenwood will arrive at opening and hold tables. Krestin Gibson will meet all who want to carpool at church at 10:30 am. We **really** need for all who are going to sign up on the bulletin board so we will know how many tables we need.

The venue is very beautiful, and the wines are tasty. Saudé Creek does not allow outside food, but do have food trucks.

Hope to see all there!



Please note that the Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club (MRWC) is inviting all women of St. Martin's to attend this special event.

The members of
GFWC Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club
invite you to an evening to



Support Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence

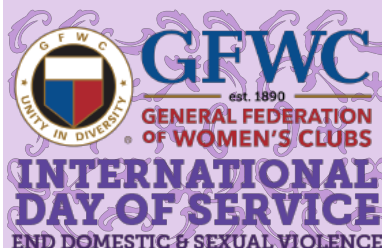
- Learn about area resources that support victims of domestic and sexual violence
- Shop during a silent auction with all proceeds going to buy gas/grocery gift cards for victims and to the Chesterfield Domestic Violence Task Force (CDVTF) Carolyn Miller Memorial Fund
- Enjoy refreshments and an evening of fellowship with like-minded women

September 25, 2025, 7:00 pm

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

9000 St Martins Lane, Henrico, VA 23294

RSVP by September 20 to Pat Cloey, 2nd VP, at patcloey@verizon.net



Sponsored by
GFWC Metropolitan Richmond Woman's Club
Member of Lee District, GFWC Virginia, and
General Federation of Women's Clubs



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 I (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.



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

September is Healthy Aging Month

Healthy aging month reminds us of the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. If you are retired, it may be a time to reinvent yourself, perhaps by traveling, a new career, a new passion or hobby, or even a new sport. Take this time to reevaluate what your years going forward may look like. Staying active or involved as long as possible is the key. The following may help:

Improving your physical health - exercise

- Exercise promotes physical fitness and stimulates the growth of new brain cells
- Slows down the process of aging
- Sweating during exercise clears the pores of dead cells and debris
- It can help you fall asleep faster and improve the quality of sleep
- As you get in shape you may notice a boost in your confidence



- Exercise decreases the risk of disease and loss of mobility
- Walking is the easiest, and as a benefit, you get to meet people along the way
- Take long strides, heel first. Wear comfortable shoes.
- Walking with a buddy doesn't make it seem like work

- Good posture - stand straight, holding your stomach in and shoulders back
- Some people enjoy swimming, bicycling, dancing, playing golf, or fishing

Mental wellness

- Age is a number. It does not always dictate how you feel or what you can do.
- Positive thinking goes a long way toward feeling better about yourself
- Be positive in your daily conversations and actions
- Distance yourself from people who have a negative outlook on life
- Surround yourself with happy, energetic people of all ages
- The normal process of aging does not rob you of your memory

Social wellness

- Smile often – Don't forget regular dental visits to maintain healthy teeth and gums
- Plan a trip, visit family and friends you have not seen in a while
- Experience new things, places, and cultures
- Invite a friend to meet for lunch or a meal
- Find opportunities to volunteer or mentor a young person
- Learn a new skill

- Take a class, e.g. computer class to keep up with technology
- You may enjoy crossword puzzles, other games, or watching jeopardy
- You may discover you enjoy painting or learning a musical instrument
- Join a Bible study group

Financial wellness

- Be sure your financial health is in order
- Work with your financial advisor to see how funds for your retirement will best work for your lifestyle
- Check with the Social Security Administration for help in figuring out how much you get for retirement

- ☑ Above all, reevaluate your diet to ensure you have a well-balanced diet. Expanding your knowledge of health and nutrition will help in maintaining good health.
- ☑ Keep your doctor's appointments as scheduled. This will also help you to keep track of your goals. This is a good time to schedule your annual physical or other screenings.
- ☑ Don't forget your fruits and vegetables. Research shows that fruits and vegetables are crucial to promoting good health.
- ☑ If you have no medical conditions such as diabetes or intolerance to these foods, you can never eat too much.



Happy Healthy Aging Month!

Ice Cream Social

- Sunday, August 17







*
 09/01 Bob Barritt
 09/02 Cameron Britton
 09/03 Julia Stephenson
 09/04 Nancy Fleming
 09/04 Richard Thomas
 09/08 Robert Kemp
 09/08 Ann Robbins
 09/08 Jody Harlow
 09/09 Colin Waller
 09/09 Owen Waller
 09/09 Daniel Clements
 09/12 Isabella Perez
 09/13 Amy Bailey
 09/15 Lauren Bailey
 09/15 Rick Fowler
 09/15 Mike Murphy
 09/15 Logan Thirion
 09/17 Selasi Horne
 09/17 Vicky Echevarria
 09/19 Sandra McAllister
 09/21 Paniz Babollahzadeh
 09/22 Gavin Patoray
 09/24 Mary Moss
 09/24 Harold Nelson
 09/25 Erin Sprouse
 09/25 Rick Gibbs
 09/26 Dawn McNamara
 09/28 Andrew Hutchson
 09/28 Sandi Levy-Mix
 09/29 Mary Arnold
 09/29 Wayne Britton
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*
 10/06 Blake Bailey
 10/06 James Burr
 10/06 Vicki Newcomb
 10/06 Tori Pinner
 10/08 Marci Jerina
 10/09 David Mix
 10/11 Bo Greenwood
 10/11 Hannah Andrews
 10/12 Francis Stephens
 10/12 Warrick Stephenson
 10/13 John Ogle
 10/13 Lisa Johnson
 10/14 Pat deFur
 10/15 Reece Hartman
 10/16 Lauren Rowley
 10/19 Lisa Hummel
 10/20 Cameron Baughan
 10/20 Nancy Suthard
 10/21 Bennett Jenkins
 10/22 Vaiden Lindsey
 10/23 Betty Horne
 10/24 Walter Hartman
 10/28 Martha Sneary
 10/29 Caleb Greene
 *

*
 09/01/1990 Lee & Michele Hutchson
 09/02/1961 Sid & Pat Akens
 09/02/1995 Martha & Mike Murphy
 09/02/2006 Kevin & Ashley Howdyshehl
 09/09/2000 Keith & Ashley Borders
 *
 *
 10/01/1994 Trudy & Wayne Britton
 10/06/1979 Linda & Harold Nelson
 10/07/2017 Gina & Sean Reid
 10/09/ Ginny & Rick Fowler
 10/12/2002 Mike & Kim Fiasco
 10/18/2008 Holly & William Thirion
 10/21/2017 Claire & Chris Baughan
 10/23/2023 Grace & Jonathan Cole
 *



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!



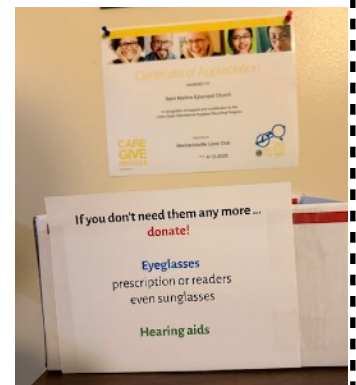
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

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. Hutchison
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



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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cloak@saintmartinschurch.org