



The Cloak

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



A winter
dusting of
snow

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What and When

January

Feast of Lights Service & Burning of the Greens Saturday January 3 at 7pm (see page 7)
After Wednesday Service Social First Wednesday of the month (January 7) come and gather with us for a light brunch
Social Bridge Thursday January 8, 16, 22, 29 at 10am
Men's Breakfast Saturday January 10 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner all men welcome to join us
ECW Meeting Saturday January 10 at 10am (see page 9)
Vestry Meeting Tuesday January 13 at 7pm
St. Martin's Project Saturday January 17 at 9:30am - Red Team
WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday January 20 at 10am
Cloak Deadline Tuesday January 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 at a later date
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
Yoga Stretch (\$3)	Tuesday	1 pm
Choir Practice	Thursday	7 pm
Ethiopian Christians	Saturday	6 am
Compline Service -live on Facebook	daily*	8 pm

* all these are streamed live on FaceBook

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Vestry Meeting	2nd Tuesday	7 pm
Midweek Service Social	1st Wednesday	after 10 am service
ECW	2nd Saturday	10 am
Men's Breakfast	2nd Saturday	9 am
St. Martin's Project	3rd Saturday	9:30 am



Outreach Committee

- Martha Sneary & Nancy Fleming

Outreach in December included two projects: the Angel Tree and one connected to the monthly St. Martin's project.

Angel Tree

Thanks to everyone, we have had such a wonderful response and support for the Angel Tree project. We had 30 Angels for the tree this year, and they were all picked up quickly. We had several refurbished bicycles to give away this year in addition to the great toys, clothes, and gift cards. The recipient families and parents could not thank us enough for this outpouring of love. They have been so complimentary of the gifts for their children and thankful that each parent was able to send a nice gift to their child even though they are not able to be with them right now!



St. Martin's Project

In addition to delivering the usual meals to the four shelters for St. Martin's project, we had a large selection of socks, hats, and gloves to take with us. Many of these were collected at the ECW Christmas Party. In addition, there were homemade cookies from many parishioners that were added to the meals.



Services in January



Saturday, January 3 -
Sunday, January 4 -
Sunday, January 11 -
Sunday, January 18 -
Sunday, January 25 -

Feast of Lights Service & Burning of the Greens at 7pm
Second Sunday after Christmas
First Sunday after Epiphany
Second Sunday after Epiphany
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Our 2028 Vestry Members

Nancye Greenwood

I was born in Texas, an Air Force baby, baptized there and then moved back to VA at less than a year old, raised at the Church of the Good Shepherd (5 years while dad was at MCV in med school), then onto Appomattox and St. Ann's, where I grew up, was confirmed, and married. Our family came to St. Martin's in 1981 because of what is now the "Rose Ministry," which was initiated by Betty and AP Hall. That tradition is where a rose is placed on the altar in thanksgiving for the birth of a child. We had just moved to Goochland, so we were looking for a new church home. After having visited St. Martin's a couple of times, Father Frisby visited us and brought us the rose honoring the birth of Bo. We found our home!! Since then, we have served St. Martin's in numerous ways. Jim and I are blessed to have watched our children and now, our grandchildren, as they grow up here and continue to serve. My heart smiles the MOST when I am able to watch our entire family from the choir loft! I have been so fortunate to work with friends from our St. Martin's family, whether it is with the choir, Altar Guild, children's education, the vestry, or fellowship events.



Frederick Schlag



I was born in California, baptized by my Lutheran grandfather, and confirmed in the Episcopal church in which I was raised. My mother was raised Catholic, my father was raised Lutheran, and the Episcopal church was the perfect medial for them. After retiring from the Air Force in 2023, I moved to Virginia to be closer to my remaining immediate family—my brother and sister-in-law. While in the service, I was unable to attend the Episcopal services, as Catholic services and non-denominational services didn't feel like a good fit. Upon moving to Glen Allen, I was on a search for an Episcopal church family, and once attending my first service at St. Martin's, I knew I had found my church home. St. Martin's feels like the church I attended growing up. I'm currently with the Usher guild and looking for additional ways to give back to the community.

Mike Shook

Mike has been a member of St. Martin's since 2012. He was raised Roman Catholic and joined the Episcopal Church while living in Salem, VA nearly 35 years ago. During his time at St. Martin's, he has been active with the St. Martin's Project and is a frequent Sunday greeter and teller. He has also recently begun volunteering as a Meals on Wheels delivery person. He has previously served on the Endowment Committee and as Stewardship co-chair. Mike sees service on the vestry as an opportunity to explore ways to focus our outreach efforts in our community and to strengthen our commitment to spiritual support within the congregation. On the personal side, he recently retired from his career as associate state budget director, where he managed fiscal policy for Virginia's health and human services agencies.





Parish Nurse

by Betty Horne

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month

Approximately 35% of people living in the US have vision related loss. This equates to more than 4 million people. There are literally no symptoms to indicate you have glaucoma. As a result, up to 40% of your vision can be lost without realizing there is a problem. Unfortunately, glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness. It is six to eight times more prevalent in African Americans and Latino populations than Caucasians. Limited access to healthcare may be partly to blame for lack of early detection.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal eyesight without warning. It is more common in the middle-age and elderly population but can affect people of all ages. There is no cure for glaucoma, although medication or surgical intervention can slow or prevent further vision loss. Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. The optic nerve is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain.

There are two main types of glaucoma: Primary open angle glaucoma and closed angle glaucoma. Both present with increased pressure inside the eye, known as Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP). Optic nerve damage

can also occur when the intra ocular pressure is normal. This is known as normal tension glaucoma. Early detection is necessary to stop the progression of glaucoma.

Other medical conditions can contribute to glaucoma. This is known as Secondary glaucoma. These conditions contribute to increased pressure in the eye resulting in optic nerve damage and vision loss.



According to the World Health Organization, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world. As stated above, you may have no symptoms until you start noticing peripheral or side vision loss. It is very important to get an initial comprehensive eye exam and regular eye exams based on your age or medical condition as needed. If you are diagnosed with glaucoma, treatment can start immediately.

Risk factors

- People of African, Asian, and Hispanic descent
- People over 60
- Family members of people already diagnosed with glaucoma
- People with diabetes
- People who are severely nearsighted

Treatment for glaucoma includes:



Eye drops – usually the first choice of treatment. These often control the pressure in the eyes by helping the fluid to drain better or decreasing the amount of fluid the eye makes.

Laser treatment is sometimes used in combination with eye drops to achieve the same goal. The two main types of laser surgery are Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) – used for open angle glaucoma, and Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) – used for those with angle closure glaucoma.

Incisional surgery is done in a hospital or surgery center using a microscope and very tiny instruments to make a tiny cut in the eye. The goal of all the above is to reduce the pressure in the eye and decrease further vision loss. Regular exams are especially important for people at higher risk for glaucoma. So, keep those appointments with your ophthalmologist and follow the treatment plan prescribed for you to help preserve your vision.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

Source: Glaucoma Research Foundation

Tuckahoe Learning Grove's Giving Project

Tuckahoe Learning Cove (TLC), which meets at St. Martin's, took part in giving to our food box as a "Giving Project." The children were excited to help fill the box! Thanks to Courtney Thompson, TLC's founder and lead teacher, for sharing the pics. And, thanks to the kids for sharing!

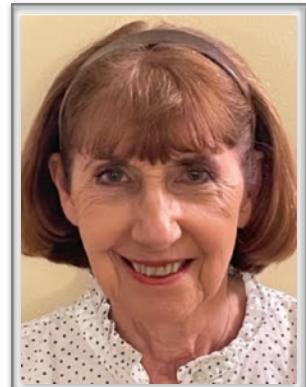


Get to Know Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ

[Mary Arnold](#)

Q. Are you a cradle Episcopalian?

Although I have attended the Episcopal church since 1994, my membership is Mennonite, and I expect it to remain there. On December 14th, the church celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of my congregation in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Hearing the history from the 1825 founding was very interesting and informative.



Q. Have you always lived in the Richmond area?

Greater Richmond became our home in 2013. We moved to Henrico County from Sausalito, California when we retired. Although it was not the primary reason for selecting Richmond, it has been rewarding, as I grew up in the Harrisonburg/Mt. Crawford area, and my family is nearby which makes visiting them more frequent and much easier!



Q. How did you find St. Martin's?

Oddly enough, I looked online at the Episcopal parishes in Richmond and Henrico. Then, I visited a number of them and attended one for a year before finding St. Martin's. This parish offers the traditional, spiritual church experience that I find fulfilling and meaningful.

Q. What would you like your church friends to know about you, your family, your occupation, your hobbies, etc?

A new job opportunity relocated me from Washington, D. C. to San Francisco. After completing a postgraduate degree, my professional focus was in banking with the big 3 U. S. banks. In the early 2000s, my husband and I established a consulting company that focused on project management. Most of my engagements were on information security. In 2012, we agreed to retire and move from California. We settled in Glen Allen for cultural opportunities and a high level of medical care. After twelve years, we continue to enjoy our community along with new friends and volunteer activities.

Feast of Lights & Burning of the Greens

Saturday, January 3
7 pm

Join us for the Feast of Lights service, celebrating the Epiphany, and the Burning of the Greens immediately after. Bring your Christmas tree and any other seasonal greens to be burned as we bid farewell to Christmas and welcome Jesus as the light of the world.



ECW Update

- Christa Burr

Our regular monthly meeting on **Saturday, December 13** was our Christmas Party. It started as always by sharing a meal which in December is provided. We were very excited that we were going to be 24 in attendance.

After the meal we exchanged the gifts. As you had read in last month's Cloak, the gifts were not for us. Everybody brought a gift bag with socks, hats, or gloves. And, in the bottom was a little treat for the person who ended up with it.



We all sat in a circle, and Jr Warden Rick Gibbs read a "left/right story." The gifts were passed left and right accordingly, and we had a lot of fun.

Collecting the socks, hats, and gloves for shelters was a project of the Outreach Committee. Unfortunately, we don't have a photo of that mountain, but it made the givers as happy as the recipients hopefully too.

Next, we sat in the circle again to sing some carols. Carolyn Mowery once again provided the instrumental music.



A big THANK YOU to those organizing the meal, to Rick for reading while Fr Lee was gone, to Carolyn for leading our caroling, and to all who came to share the Christmas spirit.

The next meeting

The next regular meeting is on **Saturday, January 10 at 10 am** (note the new time). As always, we will start with sharing food, friendship, and chatting. If you bring food, please come a little

bit earlier. We try to start promptly at 10:30 am with the program.

THANK YOU to Susan Teachey for volunteering to share her knowledge. She will talk about **Scams and Frauds**. We are more in danger of becoming a victim than ever. Here are some warnings if you will not be able to attend the meeting.



by Susan S. Teachey (aka Susie!)

Frauds and Scams attack us through so many modes - some we don't even realize. It is overwhelming and only gaining speed. Now with AI, it has increased even more and there is no end in sight for this. These are just a few examples of the possible thousands of scams out there.

Here are some quick tips to look and listen for:

EMAIL: Check the email address that it comes from first. If the information after the "@" is garbled letters, that's a **SCAM**.

TEXT MESSAGES: Don't recognize the number? No message left? **BLOCK THE NUMBER**.

MAIL: If you receive a check and the send asks you to send some of it back, **IT'S A SCAM**

UNKNOWN CALLER: Don't answer it. If a voicemail is not left, then it's likely a **SCAM**.

And there are more.

NEVER provide your social security number to an unknown party.

NEVER provide a credit card number or check over the phone to an unknown party.

Even when they sound like a very nice person, if they ask for any financial or personal identifying information, **JUST HANG UP**.

IF YOU ARE THREATENED, HANG UP. Some are very abusive and will threaten you with being arrested!

**Susan is not an expert. She is sharing this information from personal experiences.*

PROTECT YOURSELF

Lifelock, LastPass, and Norton are the most secure to hold your information, passwords and provide virus protection on your computer. There are others, these are the three this writer uses.

REPORTING FRAUD

www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov

FTC's primary reporting platform

www.IdentityTheft.gov

FTC for reporting your identity theft

IC3.gov (FBI)

For internet, email, and online attempts to get your information

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Condolences!

Sadly, several members of our congregation have recently lost loved ones.

We give thanks for their lives and offer condolences to:



to the family and friends of

Russ Wuestefeld

Uncle of Thomas Anthony. Russ was born on February 22, 1943 passed away November 9, 2025.

Please keep Thomas and his whole family in your prayers.

to the family and friends of

Clyde Douglas Floyd

A friend of Thomas Anthony. He was born on June 10, 1954 and passed away November 22, 2025.

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

to the family and friends of

Carole Anderson Shahda

Mother of Annette Woolwine. Carole was born on April 14, 1937 and passed away December 6, 2025.

Please keep Annette and her whole family in your prayers.

to the family and friends of

Beverly Wolfe Hudson

Aunt of Ashley Borders and Keith, Great Aunt of Colin and Esmé. Beverly was born on August 5, 1942 and passed away Friday, December 12, 2025.

Please keep the Hudson and Borders families in your prayers..

to the family and friends of

Bernadine "Bern" Stephenson

Mother of Kyle Stephenson. Bern was born on May 1, 1930 and passed away December 13, 2025.

Please keep Kyle and his whole family in your prayers.



St. Martin's Wine Club - Saturday, December 6

The Wine Club painting event was enjoyed by many.

We received step-by-step instructions, but all of the paintings turned out unique.



The sample!



Left:

Who knew that Father Lee also has an artistic side?



Wine Club continued ... from previous page



Finance Committee Report

- Garland Harwood

Financial Highlights 2025	YTD end of October	MTD November	YTD end of November
Income	\$186,725.84	\$30,873.21	\$217,599.05
Expenses	-\$205,706.81	-\$32,055.23	-\$237,762.04
Gain or Loss	-\$18,980.97	-\$1,182.02	-\$20,162.99



Happy Birthday Father Lee

- Sunday, November 23 (His birthday is the 24th)



Thanksgiving Eve

- Wednesday, November 26

Some photos from the luncheon after the Thanksgiving Eve service...



Chrismon Workshop

- Sunday, November 30

Christa Burr led the annual workshop where she taught everyone how to make this year's Chrismon, the Lamb. We made larger ones that we hung on the church tree in the sanctuary, and in exchange, we got smaller ones to take home and put on our own trees. It was a very good time!



Chrismon Pageant

- Sunday, December 21

Pre pageant breakfast and preparation...



Christmas Pageant continued ... from previous page

Pageant time...





*

01/04 Tony Romano
 01/06 Chris Smack
 01/08 Carol Roseme
 01/09 Martha Murphy
 01/10 Greg Echevarria
 01/11 Betsy Crowell
 01/12 Madison Britton
 01/17 Bob Kirby
 01/22 Thomas Verlander
 01/24 Jill Grumbine
 01/27 James Sykes
 01/27 Addison Sykes
 01/27 Jessica Shook
 01/27 Lissa Power-deFur
 01/29 Millie Lindsey
 01/30 Taylor Hood
 01/31 Sharon Lindsey
 01/31 Frederick Schlag

*

02/01 Scott Alloway
 02/02 Kitty Pendleton
 02/06 Elaine Jacobson
 02/09 Thomas Anthony
 02/09 Chris Baughan
 02/10 Powell Johann
 02/10 Wylon Thirion
 02/10 Annette S. Woolwine
 02/13 Dennis Pinner
 02/13 Wesley Fiasco
 02/16 Darrell Jenkins
 02/17 Mariella Ponce
 02/21 Susan Iervolino
 02/23 Simon Rowley
 02/26 Stephanie Machalinski
 02/27 Brianna Bailey

*



*

01/08/2022 Holden & Hannah Andrews
 *
 *
 02/14/1987 Carl & Sandra McAllister
 *

First Sunday of Advent



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

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!



For private Piano Lessons

contact

Carolyn Mowery

434-391-4938 (please leave message)

or

clmowery61@hotmail.com



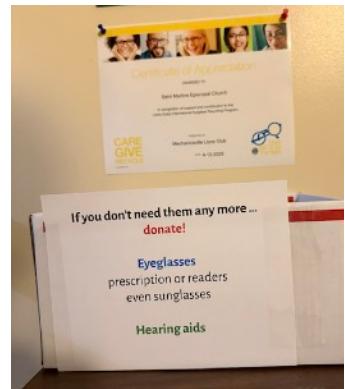
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

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

CHURCH OFFICE

(804) 270-6786 (Phone) (804) 270-3286 (Fax)
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,
Kerry Alloway, Garland Harwood
& Jim Greenwood

VESTRY

2026

Krestin Gibson
Garland Harwood
Bill White

2027

Rick Gibbs
Joe Lamb
Elaine Markey

2028

Nancye Greenwood
Frederick Schlag
Mike Shook

Senior Warden:

Elected at January Vestry Meeting

Junior Warden:

Elected at January Vestry Meeting

Clerk:

Treasurer: N'neka Logan (interim)
Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco
Cloak Editor: Ashley Borders



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

9000 St. Martins Lane · Richmond, VA 23294

804-270-6786 (tel) · 804-270-3286 (fax)

Website: <https://saintmartinschurch.org>

E-mail: office@saintmartinschurch.org

To submit articles or ideas for The Cloak, email:

cloak@saintmartinschurch.org