



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

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	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	10 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 & 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.

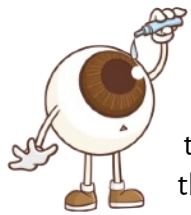


According to the World Health Organization, glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world. As stated above, you may have no symptoms until you start noticing peripheral or side vision loss. It is very important to get an initial comprehensive eye exam and regular eye exams based on your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

Risk factors include

- 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?

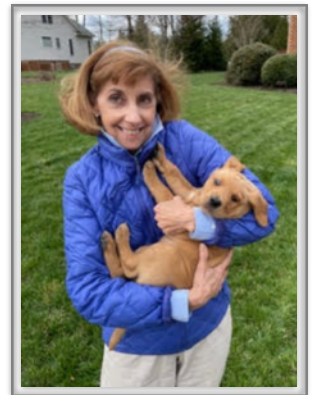
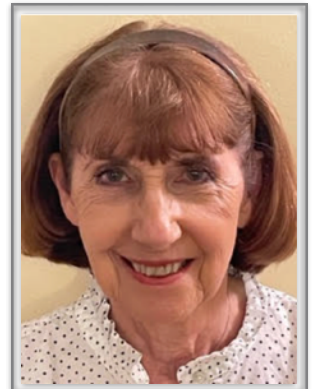
Greater Richmond became our home in 2013. We moved to Henrico County from Sausalito, California when we retired. Although it was not the primary reason for selecting Richmond, it has been rewarding, as I grew up in the Harrisonburg/Mt. Crawford area, and my family is nearby which makes visiting them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



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.

SCAMS FRAUD WHAT TO LOOK FOR

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

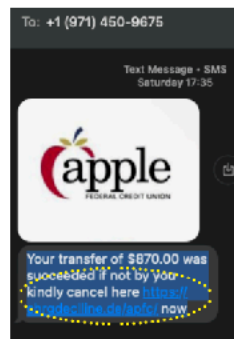
www.IdentityTheft.gov

FTC for reporting your identity theft

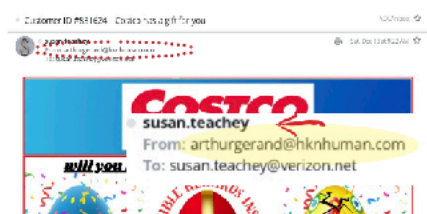
IC3.gov (FBI)

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

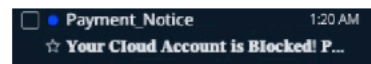
Emails, Websites, Text Messages, Phone Calls Regular Mail... How To Spot A Scam Or Fraud Attempt



DON'T CLICK IT!
Delete It & Block
The Number.

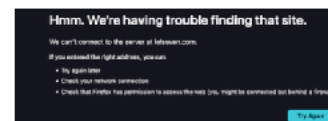


Emails such as this are a scam. Look at the "front" email after the "@". If it has alphabet soup, don't Click Anything. **DELETE IT.**



If an email shows up your email list in a different typeface. **DELETE IT.**

If an email comes through such as this, it is a **SCAM**. Remember to look at the "From" name. *Not sure?* Search for the website online. This one is "lefseven.com" as shown in the email. The result is



www.oag.state.va.us

Virginia Attorney General's Office

804-501-5000 Henrico: call your local police, non-emergency department. Or you can file a report online: www.henrico.gov/services/duty-officer-reporting-system/

All women of our congregation and their responsible daughters are welcome to attend. No sign-up necessary.

Don't miss the FUN!

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



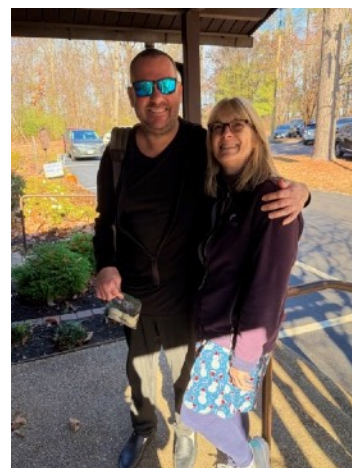
Finance Committee Report - Garland Harwood



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...



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

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*

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 Waylon 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

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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

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!



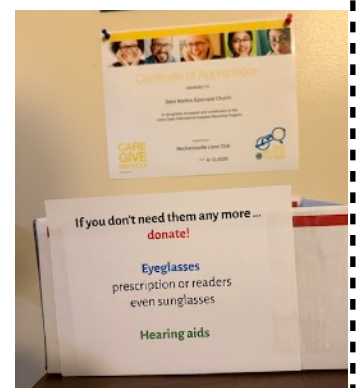
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

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

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,
Trustees: Kerry Alloway, Garland Harwood
& Jim Greenwood

VESTRY

2026	2027	2028
Krestin Gibson	Rick Gibbs	Nancye Greenwood
Garland Harwood	Joe Lamb	Frederick Schlag
Bill White	Elaine Markey	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

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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