



The Cloak



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



This
Garden was
Made for
You and Me

Contents:

2 ~ Fr. Lee's Message / August Liturgies
3 ~ What and When
4 ~ Words from Rev. Dr. Sandi
4 ~ Lamb's Basket
5 ~ Faith & Prayer / Birth...Valerie Wood
6 ~ Thank You, John / Birth...Levi Weaver
7-8 ~ Parish Nurse

8 ~ Condolences

9 ~ Rev. Dr. Sandi

9 ~ Finance Committee Report

10 ~ An Undogmatic Way

11-13 ~ Wine Club

13-14 ~ Scout Troop 777 Eagle Scouts

15 ~ Birthdays + Anniversaries

16 ~ St. Martin's Yellow Pages

Father Lee Hutchson

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me."

It is such a blessing to be a part of a church which is so active in outreach. Saint Martin's Project is a joint effort with three other churches that now provides over 8,000 meals a year to homeless shelters in Richmond. If you have an extra hour on Saturday morning and would like to make sandwiches or pack lunches, give Martha Sneary a call to become a member of a team.



A couple of weeks ago, Saint Martin's sent seven kids and three chaperones on a service trip to North Carolina. The purpose of this year's trip was to help the community of Waynesville, North Carolina, continue to recover from the damage done to it by Hurricane Helene. Our kids assisted in painting, spreading gravel, and removing a metal roof that was leaking because it had been improperly installed by a contractor who took a family's money and then skipped town. Our kids also helped clean up debris from a deck that had been destroyed. It was hard work but brought our kids closer together and gave hope to people who were still suffering the effects of the hurricane. Our kids represented you well as they carried God's love and concern to a community in need. Thank you to Krestin Gibson and Rick Gibbs, who were able to take a week off from work to look after our kids.

There are times in life when we are unable to physically be a part of outreach, but we can see to it that someone goes on our behalf. So thank you for generous gifts to our church, which make both of these activities possible. Thank you!

Fr. Lee



Liturgies in August

Sunday, August 2	- Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 9	- Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 16	- Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 23	- Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 30	- Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

What and When

August

Wine Club Saturday August 1 starting at 11:30a (see page 11)
After Wednesday Service Social First Wednesday of the month (August 5) come and gather with us for a light brunch
Social Bridge Thursday August 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10am
ECW Meeting Will resume in August
Men's Breakfast Saturday August 8 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner all men welcome to join us
Vestry Meeting Tuesday August 11 at 7pm
St. Martin's Project Saturday August 15 at 9:30am - White Team
WE (West End) Quilters Tuesday August 18 at 10am
Cloak Deadline Thursday 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)	May resume in the Fall	
Choir Practice	Will resume in September	
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



Deacon Dawn delivering the July 12 sermon

Words from Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix

Walking

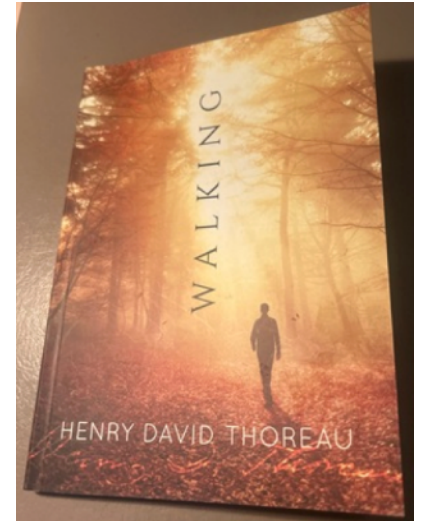
Our chief form of exercise is our daily walk around the neighborhood ... which frequently turns into a social event also, because we know — more or less — the folks around our block as we make our daily, half-hour round. How folks are, who is missing, how everybody is doing on this latest check!

So in thinking about this latest blog and Cloak piece, I decided that “walking” might be an interesting topic because I remembered that somewhere in my study bookcase was a little book titled Walking, a re-publication of a lecture given by Henry David Thoreau in 1851, also given as an article in *The Atlantic* in 1862.

Thoreau is famous for his impassioned embrace of life in the woods near Walden Pond. And this little book on walking has become a classic celebrating a daily walk in nature. And feeding one's spirit. Let me share a couple of quotes with you now:

I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend four hours a day at least — and it is commonly more than that — sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements. (p. 60)

No wealth can buy the requisite leisure, freedom, and independence which are the capital in this profession. It comes only by the grace of God. It requires a direct dispensation from heaven to become a walker. (p. 4)



Well, we don't walk four hours a day. But we do have our “long walk” up to about 40 minutes, and we feel good and virtuous afterward. And again, have checked on all our neighborhood friends in the process!

We — as well as Thoreau — highly recommend this practice to you for both your physical health and your spirit.

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



Lamb's Basket Update . . .

Wow, St. Martin's! We delivered **86 pounds** of food to the Lamb's Basket at the end of June!! Thanks go out to so many in our congregation for their efforts.

Please keep those donations coming. Every single item helps, and we are making a difference!

Faith and Prayer

- Mary Moss

A Day is Like a Thousand Years – August 2016

"But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me"
(Micah 7:7 NIV).

In Micah 7, Israel is suffering under corrupt leaders, and they are desperate for deliverance, promised by God. It's so easy to lose hope "in the waiting." We can become impatient, maybe even angry or bitter at the seeming lack of response from God. We want it now – whatever "it" is!



Waiting is tough, especially when what we hope for holds the promise of being wonderful, or relief from the pain of discomfort, sadness, grief. Either way, it can feel as if God has not heard us, or perhaps even that He doesn't care.

The other day, I read a social media post that reminded me that God, indeed, is in our waiting! The poster's graphic chastised us: "Stop complaining about a delay! It's often preparation for something greater than that for which we ask". Delays can be part of God's process to refine us, and even intended to protect us—redirect us away from something that could harm us—or, at a minimum, not be the best for us. Maybe He wants to give us, as He did Solomon, abundantly more, but everything isn't aligned yet. He knows He is going to bless us in a huge way – and doesn't want to give us less than He plans.

Perhaps He protects us from going in a wrong direction, making a poor decision, or even doing something dangerous to our spirit or our life! In that case, the delay can be a prompt to go in another direction or make another decision.

Remember, God's time is not like our time. *"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day"* (2 Peter 3:8 NIV).

We give thanks for the safe delivery of

Valerie Ann Wood

born June 30, 2026
a little over 6 pounds
21 inches

Congratulations to the happy parents, Andrew & Tatiana Wood! Valerie Ann has a strong lineage at St. Martin's. Her grandmother is Jennifer Cooper, and her great-grandfather is Joe Lamb, making her a part of the Wood, Lamb, Cooper, Howdyshell, and Cole families.



Thank You, John!

Friar John Ogle has served our church for years, and we are certainly better off for it. Certainly, we all remember the Riso-therapy with which he began most of his sermons, a lovely lesson that it's good to find humor where we can. On Sunday, July 26, we were excited to thank Friar John with a reception and tribute after the 10 am service, including food, drinks, and heartfelt (and humorous) stories.



It's a
Boy



We give thanks for the safe delivery of

Levi Weaver

born Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Levi's parents are Shannon and Mark Weaver, and he joins big brother Huck.

He is the grandson of proud grandmother Karen Hood.

Congratulations to the Weaver and Hood families!

↑
Huck & Karen hanging out awaiting Levi's arrival



Parish Nurse by Betty Horne

August 21: National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day

National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day™ was established in remembrance of those lost to illicit fentanyl poisoning and to acknowledge the devastation this drug has brought to hundreds of thousands of affected family members and friends. It is also to educate the public about the ongoing danger of this crisis. This day serves as a nationwide call to action, to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and save lives. This is a day each state has a coordinated response from fentanyl awareness organizations, Congress, Federal Law Enforcement, CDC, first responders, prevention advocates, educators, localities, state health, communities, and affected families sharing their lived experiences. It is also a promise to educate, prevent, and fight for a future free from fentanyl poisoning.

Illicit fentanyl is made in China, where chemical companies produce and ship fentanyl precursors to Mexico. Here, cartels process fentanyl powder and counterfeit pills. These drugs then enter the United States via mail, border smuggling, or through trade loopholes. They are often laced into heroin, cocaine, and meth. Fentanyl is now the leading cause of drug-related deaths.

This counterfeit fentanyl is also being mixed into fake pills like Xanax, Adderall, and oxycodone, often without the user knowing. They are usually cheaper, potent, and deadly. If your prescription doesn't come from a licensed pharmacy, it may be counterfeit and should not be trusted. All it takes is one illicit pill to kill you.

Annually, over 100,000 drug-related deaths occur, with 70% attributed to fentanyl. This occurs nationwide, affecting all demographics and every community. The CDC notes a 24.5% decline from 2024 – 2025. The focus is on education (for all ages) about fentanyl and the different ways it is mixed with fake pills. Avoid buying drugs on the street, at the mall, through social media, or from unverified mail order sources. These are often laced with fentanyl.



Pt on pharmaceutical fentanyl must be under medical supervision. The CDC recommends that people on high daily doses of pharmaceutical

fentanyl or other opioids have Naloxone (Narcan) available in case of an overdose.

Naloxone (Narcan) quickly reverses the effects of opioids and can restore normal breathing within 2 to 3 minutes. It can prevent death due to overdose of opioids

including fentanyl, if given in a timely fashion. It can easily be given by nasal spray or injection by bystanders even without medical training. It is short-acting and may be repeated if needed. It is available in your most local pharmacy without a prescription. People who use illicit drugs should never do so alone so that emergency assistance is available in case of an overdose.

Fentanyl test strips (FTS) can be used to help identify if fentanyl has been added to drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine, or heroin. By dipping test strips into a sample of illicit drugs mixed with water, you can tell within 5 minutes if the drug test is positive for fentanyl. Any such drug should be discarded due to the risk of overdose and death. However, a negative result does not rule out the presence of fentanyl. Some types of fentanyl may not be detected with these strips. Contact your local health department to learn how to obtain fentanyl strips.

To lower your risk of overdose and keep yourself and others safe:

- Keep Naloxone readily available on you and at home.

- Avoid mixing drugs, including alcohol.
- Never take pills that did not come from a licensed pharmacy and were prescribed for someone else.
- Ask for help if you are ready to get treatment for your substance abuse.
- Use fentanyl strips – they can sometimes detect the presence of fentanyl in different kinds of drugs (no test is 100% accurate).

Be safe, be educated, be involved in measures to keep your home and community safe and to keep the downward trend of deaths due to overdose.

Stay cool and hydrated.

Sources: CDC, NHS, Facing Fentanyl website



Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Errol Stephens

Father of Francis Stephens, and a relative of Adrienne Stephens. Errol passed away June 28, 2026.

Please keep the Stephens family in your prayers.



Condolences!

to the family and friends of

Brandon Howdyshell

Brother of Kevin, Brother-in-law of Ashley, and Uncle of Tristan and Kenzie. Brandon was born May 23, 1980 and passed away July 15, 2026.

Please keep the Howdyshell family in your prayers.

Rev. Dr. Sandi - Sunday, July 26

Rev. Dr. Sandi made her special return to the pulpit on July 26!
It was uplifting to hear your sage message once again, Sandi.



Finance Committee Report - Garland Harwood



Financial Highlights 2026	YTD end of May	MTD June	YTD end of June
Income	\$90,041.55	\$20,036.21	\$110,077.76
Expenses	-\$102,448.08	-\$22,913.36	-\$125,361.44
Gain or Loss	-\$12,406.53	-\$2,877.15	-\$15,283.68

An Undogmatic Way

One more session being held on August 23!

Deacon Dawn welcomes you to a space to talk about Jesus. Visit sophiasem.org if you are interested in learning more about how Sophia Theological Seminary is helping with food insecurity and making space for talking about God and what it means to follow Christ.

An Undogmatic Way
a space to question & to rebuild

We invite you to a new space to talk about the Jesus stuff without all the
~~"must believe"~~
or the
~~"always believed"~~
or the
~~"no questions allowed"~~
inclusive, inquisitive, informal

June 28, July 26, and Aug 23 from 6-7:30pm
O'Toole's Restaurant and Pub
4800 Forest Hill Ave, RVA 23225
Want more info? Email info@sophiasem.org

sophiasem.org

An Undogmatic Way is a safe and supportive space to explore faith and how it moves with us and within us as we learn, experience, and grow. You are welcome. Your challenging questions, thoughts, and ideas are welcome. Sophia Seminary faculty, Drs. Mark Biddle and Melissa Jackson invite you to join in an open, honest, and informal conversation about "deconstructing" parts of our faith and building anew in its place.

The St. Martin's Wine Club - Krestin Gibson, Nancye Greenwood, and Jean Rollins

August Wine Club Adventure

Our wine club will be meeting on **August 1**. On our adventure this month, we will be visiting 2 wineries about 30 min from church.

The first winery is Fifty-Third Winery and Vineyard and is a farm winery in Louisa County. They open at 11:00 AM. Our plan will be to meet there around 11:30 for wine tasting and light lunch. We can bring in food, so we are thinking that if everyone could bring something light to share, we will be set!

Our second winery is on the way back into town and is Bandits Ridge Winery. We can share a light dessert as we taste wine here, as they also allow food to be brought in. We think we will be here around 1:30 PM, BUT WE ARE NOT ON ANY KIND OF TIMELINE!

Addresses are:

1st 53rd Winery
13372 Shannon Hill Rd
Louisa 23093

2nd Bandits Ridge Winery
5061 Broad Street Road
Louisa 23093



Please sign up on the bulletin board at church, and if you would like to ride with someone, please indicate that.

Hope to see everyone there!

P.S. Don't forget that we support the Food Box at St Martins with our donations!

Photos from the July Bourbon & Bubbles tasting in the parish hall. . .



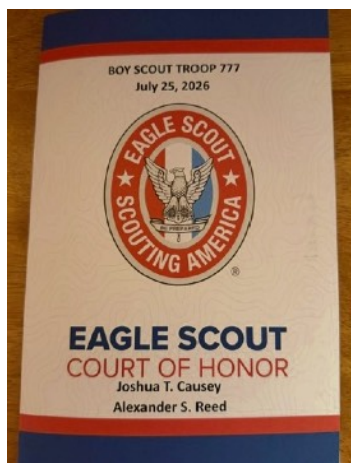


Wine Club continued ... from previous page



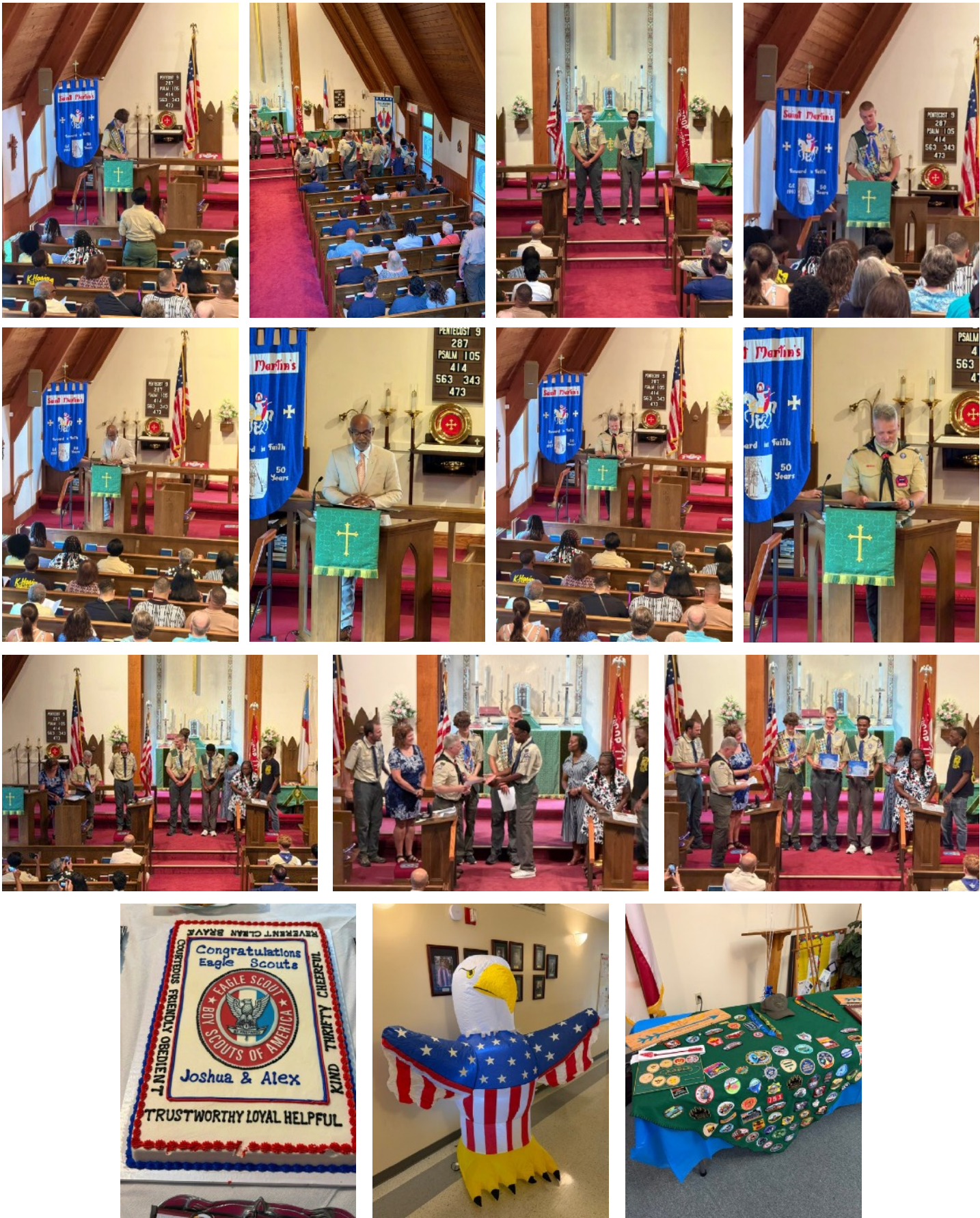
Scout Troop 777 Eagle Scout Court of Honor

Scout Troop 777 held its Eagle Scout Court of Honor at St. Martin's on Saturday, July 25. The troop's new Scoutmaster is St. Martin's own Walter Hartman. The Court of Honor had a remarkable turnout with 92 people in attendance. Roger Gregory, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, was the keynote speaker.



The Cloak 2026/8 page 13

Scouts continued ...
on next page





*
 08/05 Sensai Horne
 08/05 Jay Sykes
 08/06 Jacob Henderson
 08/06 John Baldyga
 08/07 Kyle Stephenson
 08/11 Adrienne Stephens
 08/11 Maggie Witt
 08/11 Glenn Sprouse
 08/12 Ruth Barrett
 08/13 Adam Marcus
 08/14 Mike Shook
 08/14 Wade Waller
 08/14 Kyle Stephenson
 08/15 Taylor Murphy
 08/15 Barbara Lockridge
 08/16 Martha Hall
 08/16 Andrew Wood
 08/18 Jaiden Logan
 08/20 Jean Rollins
 08/20 Garrett Greenwood
 08/20 Elliot Greenwood
 08/23 Layne Hood
 08/26 Peacha Sasser
 08/26 Virginia Tucker
 08/27 Jonathan Horne
 08/29 Sandy Goolsby
 08/29 Sloan Verlander
 08/30 Sid Akens
 08/30 William Thirion
 *

*
 09/01 Bob Barritt
 09/02 Cameron Britton
 09/03 Julia Stephenson
 09/04 Richard Thomas
 09/08 Robert Kemp
 09/08 Ann Robbins
 09/08 Jody Harlow
 09/08 Gavin Jackson
 09/09 Colin Waller
 09/09 Owen Waller
 09/09 Daniel Clements
 09/12 Isabella Pérez
 09/13 Amy Bailey
 09/15 Lauren Bailey
 09/15 Rick Fowler
 09/15 Mike Murphy
 09/15 Logan Thirion
 09/17 Selassie Horne
 09/17 Vicky Echevarria
 09/19 Sandra McAllister
 09/19 Devin Horne
 09/21 Paniz Babollahzadeh
 09/22 Gavin Patoray
 09/22 Azrael Horne
 09/23 Declan Savitz
 09/24 Mary Moss
 09/24 Harold Nelson
 09/25 Erin Sprouse
 09/25 Rick Gibbs
 09/26 Dawn McNamara
 09/28 Andrew Hutchison
 09/28 Sandi Levy-Mix
 09/29 Mary Arnold
 09/29 Wayne Britton
 *

*
 08/01/ Barbara & Russell Campeau
 08/11/2007 Jay & Carrilynn Sykes
 08/17/ Kathy & Bill Rankine
 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
 *



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.



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.

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!



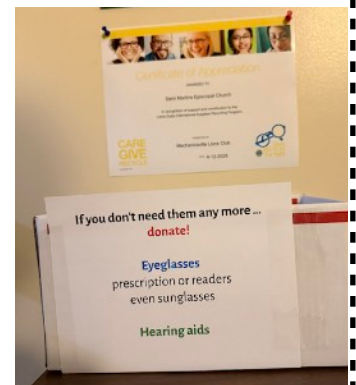
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

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: Bill White
Junior Warden: Rick Gibbs

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