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## ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE

RESTON, VIRGINIA · [WWW.STANNES-RESTON.ORG](http://WWW.STANNES-RESTON.ORG)

[Access Our Website for Worship Links](#)

## THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

**LIVING STORIES**   
  
**8 AM SERVICE**



**LESSONS & CAROLS**   
  
**10 AM SERVICE** 



We will be featuring the premiere of Rob Hamilton's original piece, *O Nata Lux* at the 10 AM service!

### Scouts Needed for Peace Light on December 7

**Sign Up by Tomorrow - Friday, December 5**



The Peace Light from Bethlehem is a continuously burning flame, originating from the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Israel. It is meant to promote peace, harmony, and unity among people of the world regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion.

For several decades the International Scouting movement – both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts – has actively promoted global peace and harmony through the distribution of the Peace Light, which has allowed the light to travel to over 30 European countries and the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The Peace Light will arrive at St. Anne's at the 8 AM and 10 AM services on December 7. We are looking for Scouts to volunteer to help present the flame from Bethlehem. If you are a Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Cub Scout, or Brownie, we would love to have you join us in uniform to assist with the presentation. Please [contact Jim Hunter](#) for more information.

## Vestry Nominations Due This Sunday!

*Due by This Sunday, December 7*

### We're looking for the next slate of St. Anne's leaders! Could that be YOU?

The Vestry serves as the legislative authority for St. Anne's parish. They oversee parish finances, care and maintain parish facilities, choose parish leadership, and assist the Rector in the nurture and extension of Christ's Church.



St. Anne's Vestry consists of 12 people in addition to the executive committee. Vestry members serve a 3-year term. Each year 4 people rotate off, and 4 new members start their 3-year terms. As a result, we are officially starting the process of accepting nominations for our 2026 Vestry.

If you or someone you know would like to submit their name for consideration to the Nominating Committee, please do so by December 7th to Mother Jess or James Brooks. The nominating committee consists of outgoing Vestry members, the Rector, Associate Rector, and Wardens, and they determine the slate of Vestry candidates.

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### Adult Formation: Making and Praying with Anglican Prayer Beads

*This Sunday, December 7, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Room 6*

Back by popular demand! Join us in the sacred process of making Anglican prayer beads. Mother Anne Cooper will guide us through the holy purpose and prayer practices as gifted bead artist Mary Ann Rich teaches us how to put beads together to create unique and beautiful pieces of art to enhance our connection to God.



[Click here to sign up](#) so we can be sure we have enough materials for everyone. We are requesting a donation of \$5 to cover materials.

Please bring cash or a check made out to St. Anne's on the day of the class.

There is no charge if you want to come and make beads for use by our priests for pastoral calls!

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### Youth Group December Events: Cookie Decorating & Movie Night

*Cookies: This Sunday, December 7, 4-5:30 PM, Room 1*

*Movie: Sunday, December 21, 4-6 PM, Room 1*

After November saw us working hard, December's Youth Group activities are all about FUN!

On **December 7**, bring a wrapped gift for a White Elephant Gift Exchange, and toppings for decorating Christmas cookies to enjoy together and share with your friends and family.



On **December 21**, we'll decide together on a festive holiday movie to watch, complete with movie snacks and plenty of fellowship! Students home from college...please join us, too!

## Gift Card Drive

*Due by This Sunday, December 7*

Just a reminder that all cards must be in by this **Sunday, Dec. 7** (this deadline is not flexible—Cornerstones will start distribution next week). We were able to cover every single child on the list! Thanks so much for your generosity!



## Stargazing & S'mores

*Friday, December 12, 7:00 PM, parking lot  
Cloud date is Sunday, December 14*

Bill Burton and Charles Twardy will be at St. Anne's with their telescopes to guide us on a tour of the night sky next week on Friday, December 12!

We'll also enjoy s'mores by the fire so be sure to bring a camping chair.



So that we know how many people will be there and to be sure we have enough s'mores for everyone, please [click here to sign up to attend](#). It's sure to be a fun time in fellowship with our St. Anne's family.

## Advent in your Inbox

Have you begun playing [Whamageddon](#)? Are your children humming [Light One Candle](#) around the house?

Week One of Advent in Your Inbox landed last Saturday, and we have three weeks (and maybe a few bonus emails) to go! We received many requests to be added to the email list - and just added everyone this week - so if you do not see it in your inbox this Saturday, please let us know (please check your spam filter first!).



If you aren't receiving our special e-newsletter designed to help families talk about and practice faith at home, you can [sign up here](#).

## Christmas Flower Dedications

*Due by December 17*

It is a tradition at St. Anne's to adorn the church at Christmas with poinsettias and other special flowers. You are invited to dedicate these flowers in memory of a loved one who has passed away or in thanksgiving for blessings. A \$45 suggested donation (any amount welcome!) [may be made here](#).



## Share your Creche on Epiphany!

*Sunday, January 4*



A St. Anne's tradition! Don't put away that nativity scene before the three kings arrive! Bring it to church with you on January 4th so we can all admire it! Place your creche on a special display table before you go in for the service. Linger after the service to enjoy shepherds, angels, critters and holy families.



Label your nativity scene (or scenes) with your name and any history you'd like to share. Plan to both bring AND take home your creche on Jan. 4.

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## Kids Key Moment

This Sunday, all of our Sunday School children made Advent wreaths for celebrating the season of Advent at home. They also showed off their Advent 'zines,' one for each week of Advent and one for Christmas Eve.

If your family missed this fun Sunday, there will be Advent zines in each classroom throughout Advent. If your family would like an at-home Advent wreath, [email Mtr Kara](#) and she will get one to you.



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## Labyrinth Walk Leader Featured in Ecommunique

*Good Friday Stations of the Cross Coming  
Friday, April 3, 2026, time TBD*

Our very own Rev. Linda Calkins was featured in the Diocesan Ecommunique this month for her gifts in leading labyrinth walks and using prayer beads. We are blessed that **on Good Friday in 2026, she'll lead a Stations of the Cross labyrinth right here at St. Anne's, Reston!** Mark your calendars now and see the article [HERE](#).



While you are viewing the Ecommunique, [sign up to receive diocesan news](#) directly to your inbox!

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## Interested in a National Cathedral Tour?

On Saturday, January 10th at 10AM, Emily Muha (who is a docent at Washington National Cathedral) has arranged private tours for St. Anne's Elementary age Sunday School youth (K-5th grade) and their family. Duration is approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes.



Two options are available for parents:

### **Option # 1**

For the Sunday School Children (K-5th grade), Emily will lead a scavenger hunt throughout the Cathedral to find surprising critters and creatures. The scavenger hunt will feature picture clues and a map to find hidden animals like butterflies, dinosaurs, and panda cubs in the Cathedral's artwork. Cost per child is \$12. Cost per Parent joining child on Scavenger hunt is \$17.

### Option #2 for parents:

While your child is on scavenger hunt throughout the cathedral with Emily Muha, parents have an option of going on a private Behind the Scenes tour of the cathedral with Dora Currea (a fabulous long time docent at the cathedral). Discover the Cathedral's hidden stories as you marvel at the building's artistry and engineering. Journey through stone stairwells and passageways to see stained glass windows up close and magnificent views. Cost for Parent for the Behind the Scenes Tour is \$40.

The Option #2 tour is:

- Not for those with fear of heights or those with limited mobility. All participants must be able to climb stairs. Be prepared for a variety of spaces that include close quarters, dim lighting, stair climbing, and heights.
- All participants must be at least 11 years old; those aged 11 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Infants cannot be carried on Behind the Scenes Tours.
- By purchasing tickets for a Behind the Scenes Tour, you acknowledge that you and everyone in your party are physically able to participate in the tour.

We are currently trying to gauge interest in the tour. If you/your child is interested, please [email Emily Muha](#) and [Mtr Kara](#) to let them know.

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## The Closet Volunteer Schedule

We recently received the Volunteer schedule for The Closet covering the period from now through the middle of April 2026. We know this is a busy time for everyone but hopefully you are already putting things on your 2026 calendar and will be able to take a minute to add these important dates. We have been assigned six days and they are:



- Monday, December 15 (we already had this one scheduled)
- Saturday, January 10
- Monday, February 2
- Tuesday, February 24
- Wednesday, March 18
- Thursday, April 9

To everyone who gives their time at The Closet—please know how deeply you are appreciated. Your contributions made a tremendous impact in our community this year. Here's to continuing the great work together! If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please [reach out to Rita Smith](#).

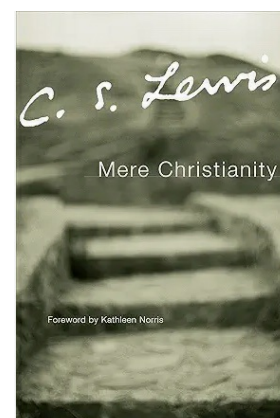
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## St. Anne's Book Club

*This Monday, December 8, 9:00 AM via Zoom*

The St. Anne's Book Club will meet Monday, December 8 at 9:00 AM to discuss C. S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*.

*Mere Christianity* explores the core beliefs of Christianity by providing an unequaled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. A brilliant collection, *Mere Christianity* remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writer and thinkers of our age.



The book brings together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War II. Lewis discusses what everyone is curious about: right and wrong, human nature, morality, marriage, sins, forgiveness, faith, hope, generosity, and kindness.

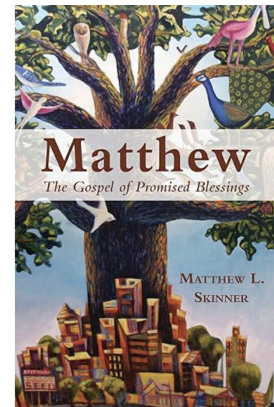
[Contact Don Boileau](#) to be placed on the mailing list for the zoom link.

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## Monday Morning Book Club

*Monday mornings via Zoom*

The Monday Morning Book Club is reading ***Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings*** by Matthew Skinner. This six-part exploration of an enigmatic Gospel takes readers into the themes, topics, and tensions at the heart of Matthew's story about the life and work of Jesus. Chapters focus on blessing and comfort, judgment and retribution, the meaning of discipleship, Jesus' vision for the Church and world, conflicts and complaints, and how the Gospel of Matthew speaks to believers today.



If you would like to participate or have questions, please [reach out to Jane Smith](#).

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## Inclement Weather Reminder

St. Anne's operates on the same schedule as Fairfax County Public schools when it comes to inclement weather. If schools are closed for the day, all activities at St. Anne's are canceled and the office is closed.



When schools open late, morning activities are canceled and the office will open at noon.

When schools close early, activities in the evening are canceled.

When FCPS cancels activities over the weekend, all Sunday School classes and other special programs are canceled. To confirm Sunday worship services in inclement weather, please check the St. Anne's Facebook page.

If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed on a bad weather day, the best way to reach us is to call 703-437-6530. The phone is monitored throughout the day and someone will get back to you.

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## Seen Around St. Anne's...





As Advent begins, the sun casts a radiant light over the Christ candle.

You never know what you'll find here at St. Anne's on any given day! This week, [Luxy Balloons](#) transformed several of our classrooms into balloon-filling stations for one of their upcoming events. Pictured are Yoe Isaza and the owner, Brittany Bradly. Fun times!

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## St. Anne's Vestry

Daria Antonucci, James Brooks (senior warden), Sarah Brummett, Bernadette Capelle, Rosie Horn, Carol Leos, Christian Pelfrey, Clifton Poole, Suzanne Robinson, Nancy Santoro, Charlie Saunders (junior warden), Cat Tucker, The Very Rev. Jessica Holthus (rector & chair), The Rev. Kara Laughlin (associate rector for discipleship)

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## Contact Us

[The Very Reverend Jessica Holthus](#), Rector  
[The Reverend Kara Laughlin](#), Associate Rector for Discipleship  
[Robert Hamilton](#), Music Director  
[James Brooks](#), Senior Warden  
[Sheri Schaffer](#), Parish Administrator  
[Angie Gray](#), Office Administrator

Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We are available by phone and email at other times. We check the office voicemail at (703) 437-6530 regularly.

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The **deadline to submit an announcement for enews is 12:00 pm on Tuesdays** [Email it to Sheri](#). In addition to the text of your announcement, include any graphics, photos and links in your email.

To **reserve space at St. Anne's for an upcoming meeting/event**, [email Sheri](#) with the date, time and number of people you expect in attendance.

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