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ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE

RESTON, VIRGINIA · WWW.STANNES-RESTON.ORG

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Vestry Corner

On Sunday, the Vestry reviewed finances, approved several administrative and personnel actions, discussed the ongoing Capital Campaign and building needs, and received updates on parish programs and upcoming events.

Overall, the meeting was thoughtful and collaborative, with members noting both strong teamwork and some fatigue from the pace of ongoing work.



Blessing of the Animals

*This Sunday, October 4, 1:00 PM, Outdoors
In case of rain, we will be in the Narthex*

Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1:00 PM. Blessing will be held outdoors at St. Anne's. In case of rain, we will move to the Narthex.

Saint Francis first blessed animals early in his ministry sometime between 1210–1215. The story goes that he was wandering around outdoors one warm afternoon, full of self-doubt, when he noticed a flock of birds in his path. He immediately felt the need to first talk to them as though they were his equals and then preach to them about God's glories and the reasons why people and animals should be grateful for these blessings. One might say that this was also the beginning of the environmental movement since Francis recognized that human beings are intrinsically connected to all of creation!



Upcoming Adult Formation Offering: Living Faithfully with Alzheimer's

Sunday, October 11, 4:00-5:30 PM, Library

We'll begin the first of four sessions in our 'Living Faithfully with Alzheimer's Series' on October 11 for 4 consecutive Sundays.

Featuring former Assistant Bishop of Virginia, Porter Taylor, explore the spiritual journey of living with Alzheimer's through the lens of faith, loss, and gratitude.

Questions? Please [reach out to Chris Cameron](#)



To see an entire schedule of our Adult Formation Fall offerings [click here](#).

Youth @ St. Anne's

Sunday, October 11, 2:30 PM, Herndon Moose Lodge



Because many of us will be at Shrine Mont this week, **there will not be a youth meeting at 2:30 this Sunday**. However, all youth are invited to bring their pets to the **Blessing of the Animals at 1 PM** right in the St. Anne's parking lot.

On **October 11**, join St. Anne's Youth in our monthly service opportunity! We will meet at **2:30 at Herndon Moose Lodge**, 779 Center St. in Herndon, to help with the unpacking for The Closet's Everything Christmas sale.

Although the unpacking runs until 5:00, we'll plan to leave at our regular ending time of 4:00 PM. Drop-off and pick-up from the Moose Lodge. So that we can let The Closet know how many people to expect, please [sign up here](#).

Black Nativity by Langston Hughes -

Save the Date & [Sign Up Today!](#)

Friday, December 4, 6:30 PM, depart St. Anne's Production at George Mason University's Hylton Theater Sign-up deadline is October 9

This Advent Season enjoy Langston Hughes' joyous musical *Black Nativity* with St. Annes on Friday, December 4 at George Mason University's Hylton theater!



First performed in 1961, this powerful work blends scripture with gospel, blues, and spirituals, creating a vibrant expression of faith, joy, and community. This professional touring company performance of *Black Nativity* completely sold out in 2025.

We were able to reserve a block of 40 tickets and coach bus transportation for \$55 per person. The bus departs the church parking lot at 6:30 PM on Dec. 4.

[Click here to sign up](#) and pay.

Note that we don't want financial considerations to prevent anyone from participating. Please contact [Mtr Kara](#) if you need financial assistance. You can still register - simply choose the appropriate option from the drop-down menu in the sign-up form.

Deadline to sign up is October 9 but don't wait because this is a popular event and will likely sell out.

Please contact [Lorraine Cross](#) with any questions.

Help Provide a Warm, Fresh Start

Sunday, October 4, 2026-Sunday, February 7, 2027

Your generosity can help provide a warm, fresh start for people who are newly released from prison.

OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources) of Fairfax is collecting gently used, clean, washable, water-resistant coats in sizes AS through AXXXXL. Please note that OAR cannot use dressy, long wool coats that require dry cleaning.



An OAR-labeled donation box will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, October 4, through Sunday, February 7.

We are also looking for volunteers who can help pick up donated coats and deliver them to OAR in Fairfax. If this ministry speaks to you and you would like to donate coats or help with transportation, please [contact Shon Cooper](#).

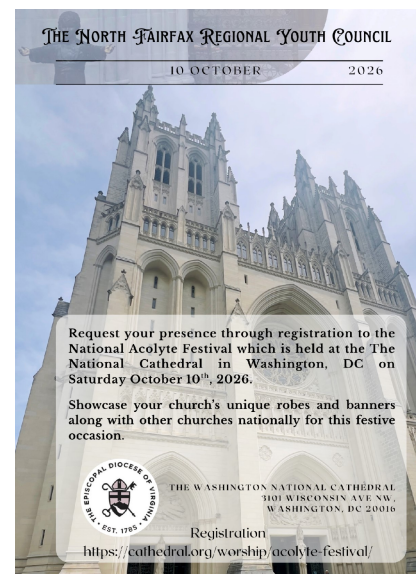
To learn more about OAR and the important work they do in our community, [click here](#).

Youth! Come Join Us for the National Acolyte Festival

Saturday, October 10, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM, Washington National Cathedral

Washington National Cathedral is delighted to welcome acolytes, servers, and vergers from across the country each year to celebrate this vital ministry of service and faith.

The festival runs from 9 am to 2:30 pm and begins as participants join in the longest and most colorful procession imaginable, the Grandest of Processions, as we prepare to gather around Christ's table for a festival Holy Eucharist!



Following the service, participants are invited to spend the afternoon exploring the Cathedral, the grounds, or join a variety of fun workshops and offerings: perfect your thurible techniques, help build the LEGO® Cathedral, create a liturgical streamer, take a look at Cathedral treasures, or peruse exhibitors.

We are encouraging all St. Anne's acolytes, past and present, to participate in the Festival.

Shon Cooper is the North Fairfax Regional Youth Event Facilitator and mentioned that having our acolytes gather for this experience is a goal for our North Fairfax Regional Youth Delegates. If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please reach out to [Shon](#) or [click here for more information and to register](#).

Brunch & Learn for Sunday School Teachers & Parents of Sunday School-Aged Children

Saturday, October 17, 9:00-11:30 AM, Library

Please join us on Saturday, October 17, from 9:00–11:30 AM at St. Anne's for a special Brunch & Learn with Mother Kara.

We'll explore how children develop their spiritual lives and discover ways we can nurture and support them as they grow in faith. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn, share ideas, and connect with one another. And, of course, there will be lots of yummy food and plenty of time for fellowship! We hope you'll join us!



Kids Key Moment

This week, Lizzie and Jane told us about Abram and Sarai and their big name change. In addition, Lianna told us about the plagues of Egypt, Arden and Nora showed us their "bad guy snakes" from the Garden of Eden, and Helen told us about Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt, and God the Great Pillar.



Vote Faithfully Series

Thursdays, Oct. 1 (**TODAY**) & Nov. 5; 1:30-2:00 PM

The last Episcopal Church Vote Faithfully networking call before the election will take place TODAY at 1:30 PM (Thursday, October 1). [Click here to join the zoom.](#)



On the first Thursday of each month from June through November, The Episcopal Church's Public Policy and Witness team is hosting a series of "Vote Faithfully" calls to support voter engagement in ways consistent with Episcopal values.

During the calls, hosts will share resources and ideas to help congregations promote voting and civic participation while remaining nonpartisan (avoiding support for specific political parties, candidates, or platforms).

[Registration and additional information can be found here.](#)

Any questions, [reach out to Susan Schreiner.](#)

The most reliable source for answers to your questions about the November 3 election can be found at the [State Department of Elections](#) and your county Office of Elections.

Virginians will elect a US senator and members of the US House of Representatives and vote on three proposed amendments to the state constitution. Some jurisdictions will also vote on local offices and issues

Early in person voting and voting by mail are underway now. Visit your county Office or Elections website for locations and hours or early voting sites or to request a ballot by mail. You can also check your registration and view a sample ballot.



Volunteer with The Closet

Try something new! Volunteer with The Closet, a well-run thrift store that gives back to the community in countless ways. Its success depends on dedicated volunteers, and every helping hand is truly valued.



Volunteer Dates Assigned to St. Anne's

- Tuesday, October 13
- Thursday, November 5
- Tuesday, December 1
- Saturday, December 26

They will also be needing extra support from the volunteers the week of October 12, getting things unpacked, priced, and put on display tables at the Moose Lodge for the Everything Christmas Sale on October 16-17. Everyone really enjoys helping with this event.

If you and/or a friend might be interested in volunteering, please give it a try! You won't regret it! Please feel free to [reach out to Rita Smith](#) if you have any questions or would like to join the fun!

Other Upcoming Closet Dates to Save

- October 16–17: Everything Christmas Sale
- December 12: Winter Market

Everything Christmas is Coming!

The Closet's 2026 Everything Christmas event is in mid-October. Sales dates are 3-7 PM Friday, October 16, and 9:00 AM-12:00 PM on Saturday, October 17, at the Herndon Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street in Herndon.

The Closet needs volunteers the entire week leading up to and including the sales dates and cleanup afterwards. High school students in particular are needed on October 10 to transfer 500+ donation bins to the Moose Lodge and for the cleanup. Next will come the unpacking of the bins on Sunday afternoon and then checking, pricing and displaying merchandise Monday-Thursday.

We welcome high school students as their school schedules permit (happy to confirm volunteer hours) and adults throughout the week, starting on Sunday, Oct. 11, and continuing through to the actual sale and cleanup. This will be our October youth @ St. Anne's service event.

All volunteering is at the Moose Lodge, 779 Center Street, Herndon.

[Click here to sign up.](#)

St. Anne's Vestry

Daria Antonucci, Sarah Brummett, Bernadette Capelle, Marian Egge, Rosie Horn (Jr Warden), Brandon Huffman, Margaret Light (Sr Warden), Christian Pelfrey, Suzanne Robinson, Nancy Santoro, Matt Scott, The Very Rev. Jessica Holthus (Rector & Chair), The Rev. Kara Laughlin (Associate Rector for Discipleship)

Contact Us

[The Very Reverend Jessica Holthus](#), Rector
[The Reverend Kara Laughlin](#), Associate Rector for Discipleship
[Robert Hamilton](#), Music Director
[Margaret Light](#), 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.

Have an announcement? Need to reserve space?

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 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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