



ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE

RESTON, VIRGINIA · WWW.STANNES-RESTON.ORG

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Upcoming Adult Formation Offerings

This Sunday, September 27, 4:00-5:30 PM, Library
Sunday, October 11, 4:00-5:30 PM, Library



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We'll begin the first of four sessions in our *Praying with the African American Spirituals* series. We're thrilled to kick off the series with *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, an African American Spiritual and well known Christian hymn on September 27.

We're so excited to continue this popular series for a fourth year, with two sessions this fall and two more in the spring. You can expect opportunities to engage with our country's history and faith through music while expanding and deepening our racial justice ministry.

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

We'll begin the first of four sessions in our *'Living Faithfully with Alzheimer's Series'* on October 11. 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](#). Note there is no adult formation on October 4 due to the Shrine Mont retreat.

Youth @ St. Anne's: "Seek First"

This Sunday, Sept 27, and the 4th Sunday of every month, 2:30-4:30, Room 1

Join Mother Kara and Martha Furniss this Sunday, September 27, as we explore what being faithful can look like in today's world.

We'll look at the places where God is changing us and where God might be wanting us to change the world. (For youth who are thinking of being confirmed next year, these sessions will count for Confirmation preparation as well.)



137 families in our community.

Our pantry provided pre-packed grocery bags, fresh produce, frozen meat, toilet paper, and a wide variety of additional food choices. Together, the families we served included 392 individuals: 132 children, 152 adults, and 108 senior citizens.



This distribution was made possible by an incredible team of volunteers. The response to our recent call for additional help was tremendous, and we had a full slate of volunteers on hand to distribute food, help our neighbors select items that best suited their families, and accompany those with small children, older adults, or mobility challenges as they shopped with a food pantry cart. **We are so grateful for everyone who gave their time and energy to make the day run so smoothly.**

Our diaper team also had a busy day, serving 44 families with 72 packages of diapers. We were especially grateful to have a generous supply of several diaper sizes, although we were very short on wipes. By the end of the distribution, we had provided diapers ranging from newborn through size 7.

Because we also serve walk-in clients throughout the month, we occasionally find ourselves short on a particular size by distribution day. This month, we had no size 3 diapers available, but thankfully we had an ample supply of size 4 diapers, which families were happy to receive. Powdered formula also went very quickly.

We are always grateful to receive baby and toddler items, including diapers, wipes, formula, and other essentials. These items make a tremendous difference to the families we serve.

Thank you for your continued generosity, compassion, and love for our neighbors in need. Your support helps ensure that families in our community have access to food and other necessities when they need them most.

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](#).

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.



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!

Youth! Come Join Us for the National Acolyte Festival

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

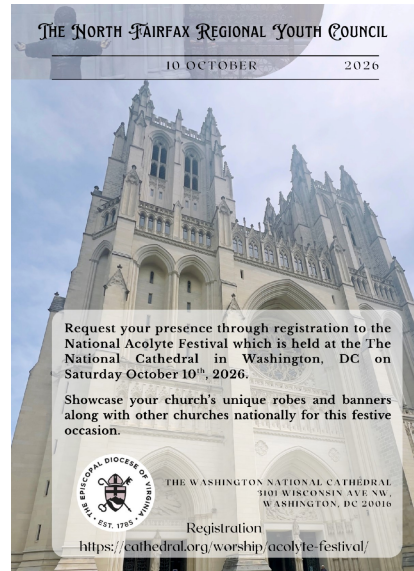
Washington National Cathedral is delighted to welcome acolytes, servers, and vergers from across the country each year to celebrate this vital ministry of service and faith.

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](#).



Kids Key Moment

Our Sunday School children proudly shared their beautiful "Creation Mural," created together as they explored the wonder and beauty of God's creation. From the sky and sea to plants, animals, and everything in between, their mural is a wonderful reminder of just how much there is to celebrate and care for in our world.



Vote Faithfully

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.

Any questions about voting and registration can be directed to [Carol Hurlburt](#)

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.](#)

Seen Around St. Anne's



Our food pantry team is grateful to our friends from Shoresim Jewish Community for adding a donation drive to their services these past two weeks!



CPR and AED training in the library on Saturday.

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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