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## ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE

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

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## Vestry Corner

On Sunday, December 14, Vestry met for their regularly scheduled meeting. Members kicked off the meeting with a spirited discussion of their favorite Christmas traditions and holiday movies. Vestry heard an update on our pledge campaign from the Stewardship chairs and also approved the 2026 budget. Finally, Vestry voted to move forward with an exciting new initiative coming out of the ongoing visioning sessions - more to come on this in January! It was so exciting and fulfilling to end the year making preparations for the short- and long-term future of St. Anne's.



## Envisioning the Future of St. Anne's: Zoom Session

**Tonight, Thursday, December 18 via Zoom, 7:00 PM**

**Developing a vision for our parish is a parish-wide effort**, not the job of a small committee. To this end, we have been holding in-person facilitated visioning groups to brainstorm ideas. The ideas will be collated and analyzed for trends in opinions, or even a possible consensus, on the direction in which God is leading St. Anne's.

For those who have not been able to attend in person, we will be holding a session via Zoom tonight, Thursday, Dec 18 at 7 PM.

To participate in the zoom session, [click here to sign up](#) so we know how many to expect tonight.

Following is the Zoom information:

- [Click here to join the Zoom meeting \(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106940791?pwd=rp1FrRPZIRjuYVkJkuofw4dXWB8dbf.1>\)](#)
- **Meeting ID:** 841 0694 0791
- **Passcode:** 640272

Any questions, please reach out to [Chris Cameron](#) or [Suzi Jones](#).



## Youth Visioning Meeting (RESCHEDULED!)

**Sunday, January 11**

**Middle School: 4:00-5:00 PM**

**High School/College: 5:00-6:00 PM**

**Calling all youth and college-age students!** What would you want to do with St. Anne's if we weren't limited by time, money or people? Come to our Youth Visioning Meeting, and let the Visioning Team know your hopes for the future of St. Anne's.

Does the youth room need changes? Let's talk. More acolyte training? We can do that. Do you think we need to build a waterslide in the parking lot? That's probably not going to happen. But come let us know anyway!

**Join us on Sunday, January 11.** Middle School students will be meeting from **4 to 5** and High School and college students will be meeting from **5 to 6**. Come and help St. Anne's prepare for our next season of worshiping and serving God in this place.

## Youth Group December Event: Movie Night

**This Sunday, December 21, 4-6 PM, Room 1**

What are your favorite tree nut-and peanut-free movie munchies? Bring them to Youth Group this Sunday and win a prize!

Envisioning the Future of St. Anne's Zoom Session

Thursday, December 18, 7 PM

Join in the discussion on the direction in which God is leading St. Anne's!

[SIGN UP USING LINK IN THE E NEWS](#)

A small image of a wooden signpost with a green sign that reads "St. Anne's". The sign is set against a background of fallen autumn leaves.

We're welcoming back last year's seniors with a **Movie Night this Sunday from 4 to 6**. (Note that we're ending a little later than usual to accommodate movie run times. Also, seriously, no nuts--we have folks with life-threatening allergies among us.)

Bring a friend and join us!



## Calling All Cookie Elves!

*Sign up here:* <https://signup.com/go/bFBtisN>

A beloved St. Anne's Java Junction Christmas tradition is sharing plenty of Christmas cookies with our congregation and guests! Each year we go through 25–30 dozen, and we would be so grateful for your help.

If you're already baking, please consider making an extra dozen for Java Junction—thank you! And if you spot some delicious store-bought cookies while you're out shopping, those are wonderful too!



Pictured are Eileen Ellis and Shon Cooper from last year's Christmas Eve, preparing the cookies!

Please [take a moment to sign up](#) so we can plan accordingly. You may bring cookies early on Sunday, December 21, or drop them off by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24.

The Java Junction team is also preparing a buffet for our clergy, musicians, and staff, and there are additional items listed on the [signup](#) for those who would like to contribute. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## Advent in your Inbox

In last week's Advent in your inbox we celebrated JOY. In this, our final week of Advent, we will look at LOVE, God's LOVE and our own for each other, and there will be more age-related ideas for remembering the incarnation among all the moving parts and people and wrapping paper.

If you aren't receiving our special e-newsletter but would like to, please [sign up 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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## Key Kids Moment

This Sunday, Cooper talked to us about the weeks of Advent, and the themes we've been exploring: peace, hope, and joy. Cooper shared that his favorite theme is joy, and that he finds joy in his nice warm house, especially in the winter.



## 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.

If you/your child is interested, please [email Emily Muha](#) and [Mtr Kara](#) today to let them know.

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## National Cathedral Tour: Open to Everyone!

*Saturday, January 10, 2026, 10AM*

Are you interested in joining the Washington National Cathedral, Behind the Scenes tour on Saturday, January 10th at 10AM? There is room for eight more people even if you do not have a child in Sunday school!

This 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.

Please email Emily Muha ([EmilyMuha@gmail.com](mailto:EmilyMuha@gmail.com)) before December 27th if you are interested. Tour price is \$40.

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## Coats Still Being Collected

We're truly blessed and grateful for the coats we have received thus far and we pray that you'll continue donating to this need as the temperatures dip and the need increases. Your generosity and kindness goes a long way and is appreciated.



Help provide a warm, fresh start to those who are newly released from prison. OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources) of Fairfax needs gently used, clean, washable, water-resistant coats in sizes AS to AXXXXL for men and women. They cannot use dressy, long wool coats that need to be dry-cleaned.

An OAR labeled box for donations is available in the Narthex. Together let's bring warmth to our neighbors and to our hearts and make the world a better place through our collective actions.

Please feel free to [email Shon Cooper](#) if you have any questions or interest in volunteering to this ministry.

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## St. Anne's Office Closed

The St. Anne's office will be closed December 25 through January 2. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, and the next weekly e-newsletter will be sent on January 8.

For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message on the office phone and someone will get back to you.



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



Gathered 'round the fire at stargazing!



Big THANKS to Dave Muha for his help in setting up the St. Anne's Christmas tree!

## 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)

## 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.

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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