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**ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE



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## Come Join Us for Two Incredible Offerings this Sunday!

### Praying with African American Spirituals

*This Sunday, May 17, 4:00-5:30 PM, Library*

The Spirituals were created, prayed, and sung to express a deep and abiding faith in God and to share stories of the enslaved. The Spirituals were also used as a means of communicating coded messages. The songs provided hope, comfort and promise of a better future.



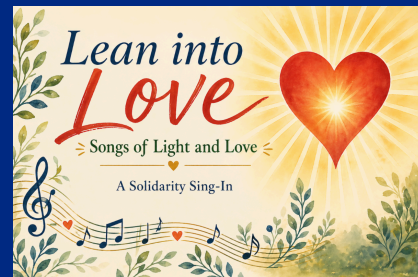
We will be exploring "*Oh, Freedom*," a traditional African American spiritual that emerged in the post-Civil War period as an expression of emancipation and resistance to bondage. The song was later used during the Civil Rights Movement, transforming from a post-emancipation spiritual into a core freedom song that embodied activists' resolve against racial segregation and oppression.

Please reach out to [Mtr Anne](#) or [Chris Cameron](#) with questions.

### Lean into Love: Songs of Light and Love; A Solidarity Sing-In

*This Sunday, May 17, 5:30 PM, Sanctuary*

Join Voices for Justice and Herndon/Reston Singing Resistance for a powerful community care gathering that brings people together through connection and song.



This solidarity sing-in is an opportunity to stand with neighbors impacted by ICE actions. Admission is free but donations are warmly welcomed to support mutual aid efforts within the community.

We are also looking for volunteers willing to bring a treat for the reception that will follow the Sing-In. Please [click here to sign up](#).

## High School Seniors!

Please **email Mtr. Kara** so we can be sure to have a gift ready for you on Recognition Sunday!



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## Youth Group is Going Bowling

*This Sunday, 4:00-6:00 PM, Sterling*

This Sunday afternoon (May 17), from 4:00-6:00 PM, we're going bowling! All youth (and former youth group members back from school) are invited to join us at [Lucky Strike Bowling in Sterling](#) for the year end celebration at Lucky Strike, Sterling!



Although the RSVP deadline has passed, we still have room for a few more people, so please reach out to [Mtr. Kara](#) or [Sarah Brummet](#) if you'd like to attend.

This event is free for youth to attend. Our reservation will cover the shoe rental, lane reservation, some arcade credits and snacks!

Looking forward to seeing you there and celebrating another great year!

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## Don't Miss the Final Weeks of Sunday School!

Mark your calendars—these last weeks of Sunday School are going to be fun!

**Sunday, May 24** (Memorial Day Weekend + Pentecost!)

Yes, we will have Sunday School—and you won't want to miss it. Your kids will be part of a special Pentecost surprise you'll be talking about long after Java Junction!

**Sunday, May 31** – Last Day of Sunday School

We're going out with a bang! All classes will team up for a creative, all-ages project to share with the parish during our Summer Celebration. Come be part of this joyful finale to a great year.

## Recognition Sunday

*June 7, 10:00 AM*

On June 7, we'll celebrate Recognition Sunday as part of Summer Celebration weekend—a chance to celebrate the people and milestones that shape our life together.

Graduating this year? From kindergarten to grad school, we want to cheer you on! No need to sign up—just come forward during the service.

We'll also give thanks for our amazing Sunday School teachers, who have poured so much love and care into our children this year.

**Come be part of these joyful, meaningful moments!  
We'd love to celebrate with you!**

## Summer Celebration Sign Up - **Deadline to register is TOMORROW!**

[Click here to sign up to participate](#)

Join us for St. Anne's annual exciting, family-friendly Summer Celebration and *sign up today to participate!*

Showcase your craft or talent, lead a hands-on activity, perform a song or dance, share your poetry, or offer a special treat to enjoy. However you choose to participate, this is your moment to shine, and the possibilities are endless!

Save the date and [sign up today!](#) Deadline to sign up is tomorrow, May 15!

***Note you do not have to sign up to come and enjoy the artists and performances but you DO need to sign up if you would like to showcase your art, perform, or bring a snack or goodie.***



## Food Pantry Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Make volunteering with our food pantry part of your summer plans! It's a meaningful way to serve the community — and a wonderful opportunity for youth seeking volunteer service hours.



### **Saturday Volunteer Opportunities:**

9:30 a.m. – Noon on June 6 and August 1

Help sort and shelve donations from Cool Green Bags.

### **Thursday Volunteer Opportunities:**

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on June 18, July 16, and August 20

Support our monthly distribution day by helping welcome guests and distribute food and other essentials to nearly 150 households.

We also offer many additional volunteer shifts and opportunities throughout the summer. To learn more or sign up, please contact [Glen Corso](#) or [Bernadette Capelle](#).

**Please note that we are at capacity and have begun a wait list. If you plan to register, you will be added to the wait list. Any questions, [reach out to Sheri](#).**

# 2026 SHRINE MONT RETREAT

## October 2-4, 2026



**There's a Chair on the Porch  
with Your Name On It!**

### **Shrine Mont Registration...limited availability!**

*Retreat date is October 2-4*

*Early Bird Registration due by this Sun, May 10*

*Final Deadline is Sun, June 7*

[Sign Up Here!](#)

The October 2-4 retreat is a wonderful way to get to know one another in a relaxed setting, and to reconnect with our families, friends, and with God.

***What is a Shrine Mont retreat?*** The weekend is designed to bring us together through fellowship, recreation, reflection, and worship in a setting that features fresh air, beautiful nature, plenty of rocking chairs, and wonderful people.

Activities will be organized for the weekend, but there will also be plenty of leisure time. Take advantage of an organized program, enjoy a nap, read a good book by the pond, chat with others on a porch, walk the outdoor labyrinth, or hike the mountain up to the cross. Design the weekend you need!

***Who attends the parish retreat?*** Anyone! Those who attend are young and old, families and singles, grandparents and grandchildren, toddlers and teenagers...the same people you see in church on Sunday are the folks you can expect to see at the retreat!

***Where is Shrine Mont?*** The Shrine Mont Conference and Retreat Center is located in Orkney Springs - a community in western Shenandoah County, Virginia. It is about a two hour drive from Reston without traffic. [Click here for more information and photos.](#)

***What is the cost and how do I/my family sign up?***

#### **Adults and Youth 13 yrs and older:**

- \$200 PER PERSON for DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ONLY (with roommate)
- \$250 PER PERSON for SINGLE OCCUPANCY (private room)

#### **Children:**

- 8 to 12 years: \$110 PER PERSON
- 4 to 7 years: \$55 PER PERSON
- Children 0 to 3 are always free

**No single family, regardless of size, will be charged more than \$550.** If you are able to pay more, or the full amount, we will gratefully accept it and apply the funds to overall retreat costs. See one of the clergy for information on Shrine Mont Scholarships if you need help meeting registration costs.

If you have any questions or need assistance, [contact Sheri Schaffer](#), our Parish Admin.

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## Pentecost Sunday is May 24

*Sunday, May 24*

Pentecost means the "fiftieth day" after Easter. It is the day on which we celebrate Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples to be God's very presence with them, and us, always. Pentecost is also affectionately known as the birthday of the Church! All are encouraged to wear red in celebration!



### Seeking Baptism?

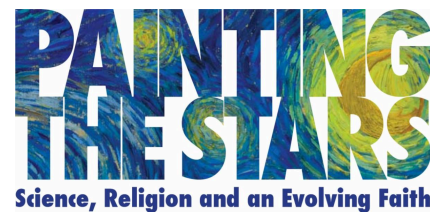
We will be celebrating baptisms this year on Pentecost! If you would like to be baptized or have your child baptized, please [contact the church office](#) as soon as possible so we may add you to our Pentecost schedule.

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## Adult Formation: Painting the Stars Final Gathering and Potluck

*Sunday, May 24, 4:00-6:00, Library*

We're closing out Painting the Stars, our Living the Questions series, with a final gathering and potluck on May 24 (Pentecost weekend).



We'll turn our attention to Christian mysticism—what it is, and why it still matters for the church.

Bring your favorite finger food or snack to share, and join the conversation. No prior sessions required—just come ready to listen, wonder, and join in.

If you have any questions, reach out to [Mtr. Kara](#) or [Suzi Jones](#).

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## Newcomers Brunch

*Sunday, May 31, 12:00, Library*

If you're new to St. Anne's or still discerning whether it might become your spiritual home, we warmly invite you to join us for a Newcomers Brunch on May 31 at noon.

This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other new faces, meet members of our community, and learn more about life at St. Anne's, including ways to get involved and grow in fellowship.



If you plan to attend, please [RSVP to Daria Antonucci](#) by May 25 so we can prepare a welcoming table with plenty of food and refreshments for all.

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## Evensong

*Saturday, June 6, 5:00 PM, Sanctuary*

Please join us for a service of Choral Evensong on Saturday, June 6th at 5:00 PM!

As part of the festivities for the end of the program year, come hear the choir, and join together in this beautiful, centuries-old service of song and prayer.



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## Are You New? We'd Like to Celebrate YOU!

*Sunday, June 7, 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM*

Have you joined St. Anne's in the past year? We want to connect with you and celebrate YOU being a part of St. Anne's!

On **Sunday, June 7, at both the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services we will be holding a [Welcome Liturgy](#)** for anyone who is new to our parish in the past year. While we have connected with some of you, we know there are others who may not have been ready to be acknowledged.



We are so glad you are here and would like to celebrate you! [Please reach out to Mtr Jess](#) or the [Church Office](#) to be a part of this fun celebration.

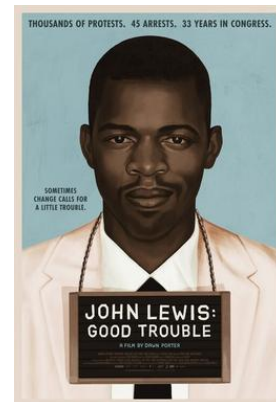
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## Adult Formation: Movies that Make You Think

*Tuesday, June 16, 6:00 PM, Library*

As we remember and honor Juneteenth National Independence Day, join us for a showing of ***John Lewis: Good Trouble***, a 2020 American documentary film about the life of civil rights activist and United States Congressman, John Lewis.

***John Lewis: Good Trouble*** premiered in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on June 19, 2020 to commemorate Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.



We'll have pizza before, and discussion after, the film. A voluntary donation of \$5 is requested to cover the cost of food. For more information, [contact Chris Cameron](#).

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## 🔑 Key Kids Canticle Moment 🔑

This week the 3-6 grades shared their metaphors for what God is like, and it sounded so much like a Canticle (a small song of praise) that we decided to type it up and share it again!

## Kids' Key Canticle!

*By the Grade 3-4 and 5-6 Sunday School Classes*

God is like a mother crocodile;  
She protects her eggs.  
Even though we are all made in the image of God,  
God makes us feel unique.  
God lifts me up when I am scared;  
When I am sad, God is hope.

God is like a light  
Giving warmth and illumination.  
God is like a light in the darkness;  
God makes me feel safe and happy.  
God makes me feel safe,  
Like a lighthouse in a wild storm.

God is like a fountain providing water;  
Like a fountain to make us calm.  
God is like a tree that nurses its fruit,  
Keeping the fruit strong and healthy.  
God is like a bandaid,  
Healing and forgiving.

God makes me feel part of a whole.  
God is peace.  
God is like a nintendo switch Pokemon Violet,  
Giving us adventures in a vast, open world.

## Critical Diaper Need

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase a package of diapers from St. Anne's Amazon Wish List. It's quick and convenient and the diapers will be sent straight to St. Anne's!

When we're fully stocked for a distribution, these two shelves are filled to the brim with diapers. They hold sizes five and six, which are the sizes we need most right now, especially as we gear up for Pantry Day next week.



To make it easy to donate, we created an Amazon Wish List with the most needed diaper sizes (5 and 6). Simply [click here](#) and choose a package of diapers to add to your cart. They will be shipped directly to St. Anne's.

In addition to full cases, we are also grateful for smaller, soft packs of 20–30 diapers, which are very helpful for distribution.

**If you're able, we would greatly appreciate your help in filling these shelves ahead of our pantry distribution next week.** Your continued support means so much to us, and we are truly thankful for your generosity.

## "Lay Weeders" Wanted

Looking to make a difference at St. Anne's? Join the "Lay Weeders" gardening team! No green thumb required...just a willingness to lend a hand with occasional weeding and gardening projects.

[Email Sheri](#) to be added to the gardening team list, then watch for upcoming planting and weeding days and join us when you can. Open to ages 12 and up, and youth can earn community service hours while helping beautify our parish grounds!

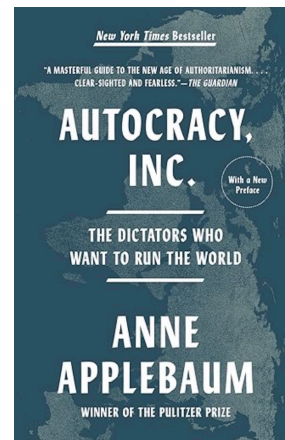


## St. Anne's Book Club

*This Monday, May 18, 9:30 AM via Zoom*

Book: *Autocracy, Inc. The Dictators Who Want to Run the World*, by Anne Applebaum.

We think we know what an autocratic state looks like: There is an all-powerful leader at the top. He controls the police. The police threaten the people with violence. There are evil collaborators, and maybe some brave dissidents. But in the 21st century, there is so much more to it. Nowadays, autocracies work together, from China to Russia to Iran. Corrupt companies and kleptocrats in one country do business with corrupt companies and kleptocrats in another. The police in one country can arm and train the police in another, diplomats band together to bend international rules, and propagandists share resources and themes, pounding home the same messages about the weakness of democracy and the evil of America.



Disapproval and sanctions cannot move the autocrats. Even popular opposition movements, from Venezuela to Hong Kong to Moscow, don't stand a chance. The members of Autocracy, Inc, aren't linked by a unifying ideology, like communism, that can be defeated, but by a common desire for power, wealth, and impunity. In this urgent treatise, Anne Applebaum calls for the democracies to fight a new kind of threat.

A new preface to the paperback edition highlights the increased relevance of these dangerous dynamics in light of the return of Donald Trump to the American presidency.

**Please note the NEW TIME of 9:30 AM on Monday, May 18.**

Per Don, you may also want to read *ON TYRANNY: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, by Timothy Snyder.

For questions and the zoom information, please [email Don Boileau](#).

## Join Us For VBS in June

*June 22-26, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM*

We love our little campers and are looking for MORE! VBS is set for June 22-26, and registration is open now! Do you know a family who might enjoy spending some time at St. Anne's the week after school lets out? Invite them to come and share what our campers call "the **BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!**"

Date is Monday, June 22 to Friday, June 26 (9:00 am to 12:15 pm daily), and the theme this year is *Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is!*



Sign up for campers and volunteers is below. If you have any questions, please [email Anna Mary Coburn](mailto:anna.mary.coburn@stanneepiscopal.org) or call her at 703-795-6283.

- [For camper registration, click here](#)
- [For junior counselor registration, click here](#)
- [For adult volunteer registration, click here](#)

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## Moving Mountains Mission Trip

*July 11-18, 2026*

[Get information and register now here!](#)

Youth who will be rising 9th–12th graders this summer (and rising 8th graders who attend with a parent—so current 8th graders and up) are invited to join St. Anne's and the North Fairfax Region for our youth mission trip to Southwest Virginia.



Last year, our team built multiple ramps and helped improve a family's living conditions. Because of that work, one woman was finally able to access parts of her home she previously couldn't reach. The impact was powerful—for her and for all of us.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow, and build lasting friendships with fellow St. Anne's teens. Bonds formed during the week often continue throughout the year, as last summer's group so beautifully demonstrated. Clifton H. Poole will lead the trip, with Mtr. Kara serving as chaplain.

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## Saturday Liturgies with Prayers and Singing

*Saturdays, 12:00 PM, Sterling*

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon holds a Liturgy on **Saturdays at noon** in Sterling and has invited members of St. Anne's to join in offering prayers and singing for immigrants. These take place every Saturday.

All are welcome to participate in this time of prayer, reflection, and song.

Location is 75 Vintage Park Plaza in Sterling, VA (Please note: The St. Timothy's/St. Anne's group gathers on Indian Creek Dr. As you turn onto Indian Creek Drive, you will see the group gathered and there is plenty of street parking)

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



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**Seen Around St. Anne's...**



An enormous THANK YOU to Carol Ivory, Pam Russ and Marion Spurlock for planting the beautiful flowers in the front entrance to St. Anne's.



An enormous THANK YOU also goes out to Linda Booth and Kat Rader from SPARC for picking up all these size 10 diapers for the pantry from Women Giving Back.

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## St. Anne's Vestry

Daria Antonucci, Sarah Brummett, Bernadette Capelle, Marian Egge, Rosie Horn, Brandon Huffman, Margaret Light (Sr Warden), Christian Pelfrey, Suzanne Robinson, Nancy Santoro, Matt Scott, Cat Tucker (Jr Warden), 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  
[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.

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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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