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ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOMING · DIVERSE · PROGRESSIVE

RESTON, VIRGINIA · WWW.STANNES-RESTON.ORG

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Advent 1 Begins This Sunday

YOU ARE INVITED TO
ADVENT AT ST. ANNE'S

SATURDAYS IN ADVENT
Receive "Advent in Your Inbox"
Exclusive Emails for the entire family on Advent activities

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
Sunday School Wreath-making
10 AM, Classroom 6

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 7, 14, 21
Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
9 AM, Classrooms & Great Hall

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
Lighting of the Peace Candle
8 & 10 AM, Sanctuary
Advent Lessons & Carols
10 AM, Sanctuary
Christmas Gift Cards for Children Due
Youth Group: Cookie Decorating
4-5:30 PM, Room 1
Adult Formation: Anglican Bead Workshop
4-6 PM, Library

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 (Cloud date is Dec 14)
Stargazing
7:00 PM, Parking Lot

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
Pantry Distribution
11:00 AM, Narthex

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
Youth Group: Christmas Movie Party
4-6:00 PM, Room 1

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Final Pageant Rehearsal
2 PM, Sanctuary

Come join us for [Advent!](#) We will continue our tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath with prayers in worship.

Make sure to pick up your advent devotional!

Children will receive a special set of adorable, tiny activity booklets for each week in Advent during Sunday School. For those that don't attend, they will be available in the narthex.

Vestry Corner

Vestry met on Sunday for their regularly scheduled meeting. Our stewardship chairs, Bernadette Capelle and Rosie Horn, shared an update on our pledge campaign. As of today, we are at 79% of our goal of \$795,000.

Our Treasurer, Karl Hafer, presented our draft budget for 2026. In addition, our pantry manager, Glen Corso and inventory manager, Bernadette Capelle, provided a special presentation about the incredible work the pantry is doing. They spoke on the growing food insecurity in our area and their vision for the future of the pantry.

Mtr Jess shared about the ongoing vision process and the tremendous energy that is present in the sessions. Leadership is exploring ways to embody the new ideas coming out of these discussions.



Vestry Nominations

Due by Sunday, December 7

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

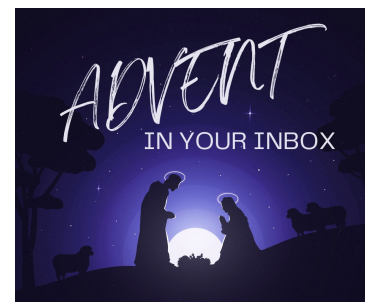
The Vestry serves as the legislative authority for St. Anne's parish. They oversee parish finances, care and maintain parish facilities, choose parish leadership, and assist the Rector in the nurture and extension of Christ's Church.

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.

Advent in your Inbox

[Click here to receive exclusive Advent emails](#) every Saturday from Mtr. Kara—thoughtfully created for the whole family to spark conversation about our faith! Reflecting on what really matters during Advent can enlighten us to open our hearts to Jesus and our neighbors for a memorable journey through the season.



Adult Formation: Making and Praying with Anglican Prayer Beads

*Sunday, December 7, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, Library
Requested donation of \$5 per person please*

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!



Youth Group December Events: Cookie Decorating & Movie Night

Cookies: 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!

Scouts Needed for Peace Light on December 7

Sign Up by 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.

Gift Card Drive Still Needs Sponsors

Due by Sunday, December 7

Eight children on the list still need a sponsor

Our annual partnership with Cornerstones continues with our Gifts for Kids drive. THANK YOU SO MUCH to those of you who have already signed up to provide card(s). The need is great.

There are still children to sign up for. Please [click here to supply a gift card](#) for one of our younger neighbors in need. Once on the sign-up, choose the child or (children) you would like to purchase the gift card for.

The gift card wishes are either \$50 or \$75 depending on the age of the child.

Once you've purchased the gift card(s):

- Write the amount of the card on the top right of the card in permanent ink.
- Place the card in an envelope with the child's name and number on the front of the envelope (you will see the number to the left of their name in the sign-up)
- Put the envelope in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office (**please mark the outer envelope with "kids."**)

Cards must be in by **Sunday, Dec. 7** (this deadline is not flexible—Cornerstones will start distribution that week). 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.

November Pantry Update

FOOD:

At the November food distribution the St. Anne's Food Pantry provided 190 pre-packed grocery bags, fresh produce, frozen meat, fresh eggs and a very large variety of choice items to 131 families with 391 family members. The families we provided food to have 117 children, 162 adults and 112 Senior Citizens. The number of families and family members provided with food are very similar to the October food distribution, slightly below those we served in September and 15% higher than those we served in August.



For December, we are anticipating very strong demand and our food supplies have been strengthened by very generous donations from members of the St. Anne's congregation. We are incredibly grateful for these donations and have been able to provide food, diapers and other items to those we serve. In addition we have steadily expanded the number of choice items we provide to our neighbors and the outpouring of donations from the congregation have greatly assisted our efforts to give our neighbors more choice in what they receive from St. Anne's Food Pantry. Thank you also to our volunteers for the hard work they put in that makes this all possible. We are blessed with a group of very

dedicated and conscientious volunteers whose hard work, attention to detail and empathy allow all of this wonderful work to be accomplished.

DIAPERS:

The Diaper Team distributed packs of diapers to 51 customers, some of them picking up for another family as well as for themselves. We handed out 65 packets of diapers and one pack of wipes for each family. The demand was less than we had prepared for but we were very pleased that we could meet the needs of every customer. We are excited about the next pantry where we can offer some nice, lightly used baby clothes. We do need to restock but there are no gaping holes. Sizes 3 through 6 is always appreciated. Thank you!



Thank you to the Cochran Family

A heartfelt thank you to Anne and Bob Cochran, who recently organized a wonderfully successful food drive in their building to support our food pantry.

We're grateful to the entire Cochran family for their generosity—pictured here delivering the collected donations are Jennifer, John, Bob, and Anne.

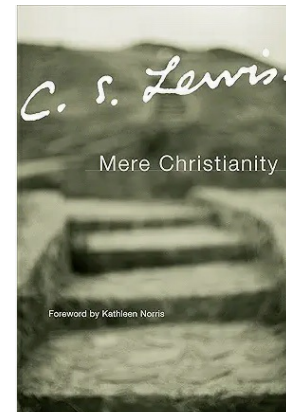
If you are interested in hosting a food drive of your own to benefit the pantry, please [reach out to Glen Corso](#).

St. Anne's Book Club

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.

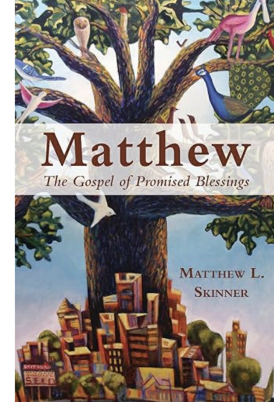
Monday Morning Book Club

Monday mornings via Zoom

The book club started a new book last Monday but it's not too late to join. The book is ***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.

There are 5 more weeks of discussion and then the entire 6 video comments by the author will be replayed. If you would like to participate or have questions, please [reach out to Jane Smith](#).



OAR Coat Ministry Thank You

A special thank you from the St. Anne's ministry which supports OAR: We greatly thank you for the new coats and used clean coats that have been donated since we started the coat drive in September. The coat drive runs into February and then starts again in the later part of 2026. You may donate anonymously but our Lord sees your great deed and we, as a team, can't thank you enough! When we drop off the coats to OAR they respond with sincere gratitude and delight.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING to you from your St. Anne's coat ministry team: Jackie 'Chip' Wooldridge, Bruce Edgerton, Gerald Cooper, Emily Besuden and Shon Cooper.

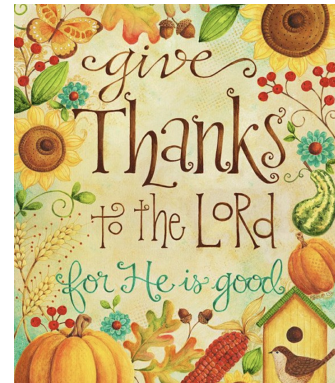
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Don't miss this year's Christmas Eve Pageant! Our children and youth began rehearsals on Sunday, and the production is already shaping up to be something truly special. A heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers, children, youth, and families whose time and enthusiasm make this wonderful tradition possible.



Office Closed Tomorrow and Friday

St. Anne's offices will be closed tomorrow and Friday, November 27 and 28, for Thanksgiving. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call the office and leave a message and someone will get back to you.



Seen Around St. Anne's...



Office Manager, Angie Gray, preparing Advent booklets for our children. How cute are they?!



Bernadette Capelle, Susan Schreiner and Clai Jorgensen sorting the many donations yesterday that St. Anne's has been blessed to receive over the past several days for the food pantry.

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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