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ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Join us this Sunday for Lent I

The First Sunday in Lent marks the Church's intentional entry into the forty-day season of repentance, reflection, and preparation for Easter. Lent I is rooted in scripture, prayer, and self-examination and offers a meaningful beginning — a step into the wilderness with Christ, trusting that resurrection lies ahead.

Join us to pray the Great Litany, an ancient prayer to remind us of our reliance on God and begin our penitential season. And don't forget to pick up your Lenten Devotional or [click here to download an electronic copy](#).

We look forward to walking this holy season together.

Stargazing & S'mores

Tomorrow, Friday, February 20, 7:00-9:00 PM, Parking Lot (As of today, the forecast is calling for clear skies tomorrow night. If that changes, the cloud date will be Feb 22).



Bill Burton and Charles Twardy will be at St. Anne's with their telescopes again to guide us on a tour of the night sky on Friday, February 20 at 7:00 PM! In case of clouds, we'll meet on Feb. 22.

Highlights will include a waxing crescent moon, Jupiter, the Orion Nebula, and other glories of the late winter sky!

Be sure to **bring a camping chair!** So that we know how many people will be there, [please click here to sign up to attend](#). It's sure to be a fun time in fellowship with your St. Anne's family.

Lenten Group Dinners

Sign up by tomorrow, February 20, [here](#)

Christians in the early church gathered in homes around meals to share fellowship and the faith. Lent is a perfect time to get to know your church family - so come break bread with your St. Anne's friends! We are organizing small group dinners (families welcome) at parishioners' homes from mid February through late March.

Whether you'd like to host a dinner or just attend and enjoy, [sign up by the February 20 deadline here](#). Questions? Contact [Eve Angerosa](#) or [Cat Tucker](#).

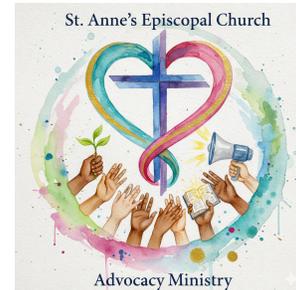


Advocacy Ministry Meeting

This Sunday, February 22, 11:30 AM, Library

Join us for our first meeting as we collectively envision and forge our next steps for the new Advocacy Ministry at St. Anne's!

If you feel called to lean into your baptismal covenant, to "strive for justice and peace in all people and respect the dignity of every human being," then you've come to the right place. Let's talk about the focus of our ministry and brainstorm how we can maximize our impact together in faith and community. No need to RSVP...just come!

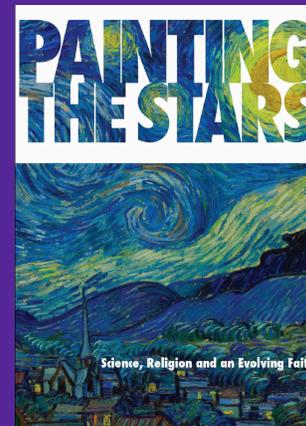


Adult Formation: Painting the Stars

*Series begins this Sunday, February 22, 4:00-5:30, Library
(See other dates below)*

Are science and religion really in conflict? Can we remain faithful Christians while embracing the truths of modern science?

Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith invites us into this rich and timely conversation. Featuring a compelling video dialogue with more than a dozen leading theologians and progressive thinkers, this series explores the dynamic relationship between scientific discovery and Christian faith — and celebrates the deep communion between them.



Through thoughtful teaching and engaging discussion, we will consider how faith and science together can expand our understanding of God, creation, and our place within it. Mark your calendars:

- Sunday, February 22, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday, March 8, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday, March 22, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday, April 12, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday, April 26, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, including a potluck dinner

A participant handbook accompanies this curriculum and will enrich your experience. You can [download it by clicking here](#). You will need this password to access it: **sm9843pts**

If you are able, please read the Introduction and Lesson 1 — *Toward Healing the Rift* — in preparation for our first gathering this Sunday, February 22.

We hope you'll join [Mtr. Kara](#) and [Suzi Jones](#) for this exciting, thoughtful, and faith-expanding series!

Cool Blue Bags: Youth Group Food Drive

Now through March 1 until 3:00 PM



You are invited to participate in a food drive hosted by the St. Anne's Youth Group to benefit our Food Pantry! Take a reusable bag from the Narthex on Sunday, fill it up with our Pantry's most needed food items (see below), and drop off your bag outside the Sunday School youth room Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 PM.

You are also welcome to bring your items to church with you in any bag. Our food pantry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of families we are serving this year, and we are especially focused on items most needed for children and families. As always, anything you can donate is needed and greatly appreciated.

Following are Pantry's most needed items. You can [click here for a printable list](#) for convenience.

- Chef Boyardee Microwavable Bowls, 7.5 ounces, any variety
- Single-serve cereal boxes or cereal cups, approx. 1.05 ounces, any variety
- Shelf stable milk (8 ounces) or any variety of juice boxes or pouches
- Hygiene items including any variety of bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and toilet paper. Multipacks welcome.
- Cleaning products including toilet bowl cleaner, bathroom cleaner, dish soap, and disinfecting wipes

Praying with African American Spirituals

Sunday, March 1, 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.

In this session, happening March 1 at 4:00 PM, and led by Mtr Anne Cooper and Chris Cameron, we will talk about "Lead Me, Guide Me," a gospel hymn from the 1950's. We will engage this song using the practice of Audio Divina.

Finger Labyrinth Workshop

Friday, March 13, 4-6 PM, Room 6

On March 13 from 6-8, you and your family are invited to join us for a Finger Labyrinth Making Workshop designed for all ages and stages of life. Whether you come on your own, with a friend, or as part of a family, there will be options for everyone—simple, hands-on designs for children and beginners, as well as more detailed and intricate patterns for those who'd like a deeper creative challenge.



Each participant will leave with a handmade finger labyrinth to use throughout the remainder of Lent as part of a personal prayer or contemplative practice. We'll also share resources on the history of labyrinths and offer practical guidance on how to incorporate finger labyrinths into prayer, reflection, and quiet meditation.

No experience is needed—just come curious!

Lenten Cantata: A Musical Meditation

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary

Come join us for a sensory lenten worship experience unlike any other! Several of St. Anne's own musicians, Rob Hamilton, Laurie Corkey, and Section Leads Nicolette Polifonte and Katherine Schram, will be joined by a small chamber ensemble including Reed Trevelyan and members of the Interchangeable String Quartet to perform a "*Lenten Cantata: A Musical Meditation*."



This cantata is set exclusively to Bach's music and includes selections from cantata 21, cantata BWV 156 and solo cantata BWV 82.

We will have worship stations throughout the sanctuary to help experience Lent through scent, through art, through lectio divina and more! Together we will lament, we will hold vigil with Jesus, ask for healing, and walk with him during this sacred time.

Participants will arrive and depart in silence to encourage contemplation, reflection, and prayerfulness. If you have any questions, please [reach out to Katherine Schram](#).

Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Labyrinth Walk at St. Anne's

Friday, April 3, following the Noon Good Friday Service

On Good Friday, April 3, we will be walking in the way of Jesus by following the path of the labyrinth using Stations of the Cross.



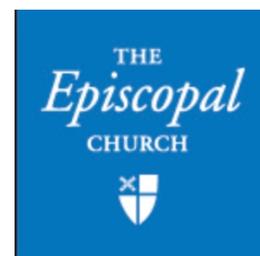
Led by Rev. Linda Calkins, somewhat retired clergy in the Diocese of Virginia, she has written a Stations of the Cross using artwork and new wording.

We will gather in the library following the Noon Good Friday worship to walk the labyrinth. The library will be quiet and dark with candles; the labyrinth is one used at St. Anne's previously but this time with a specific focus.

Please join with others honoring the via dolorosa as we make our way to the cross, then leave in silence, remembering this most holy day in the death of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday Letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

[Click here to read the letter](#) from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe.



2026 Vacation Bible School: [Registration](#) is Open!

From Monday, June 22, 2026 to Friday, June 26, 2026 (9:00 am to 12:15 pm daily) St. Anne's will host its annual Vacation Bible School. The theme this year is ***Illumination Station--Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is!*** [Click here to sign up your child.](#)

If you have any questions, please [email Anna Mary Coburn](#) or call her at 703-795-6283.



Looking for VBS Volunteers

We are also looking for adult and Jr. Counselor volunteers! Come and make a difference in the lives of our St. Anne's children. If interested, please complete the form below.

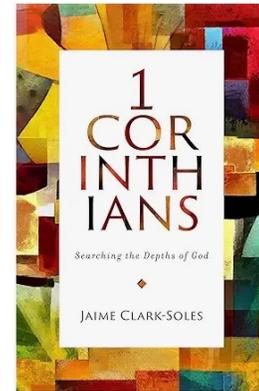
- [VBS Junior Counselors Volunteer Form](#) (rising 7th grader-12 grade) Get your school service hours at VBS!
- [Adult Volunteer Form](#)

Monday Morning Bible Study

Mondays, 10:30-12:00 via Zoom

The Monday Morning Bible Study group is using *1 Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God* by Jaime Clark-Soles. The book is about the first-century church and the teachings of Paul, covering topics such as church history, spiritual gifts, death, afterlife, human sexuality, and community living.

Class format is a brief dvd presentation by the author followed by class discussion. We meet via ZOOM 10:30-noon on Mondays and new participants are always welcome! [Contact Jane Smith to join and for the zoom information.](#) All are welcome!



The Closet Volunteer Schedule

St. Anne's was assigned six days to volunteer at The Closet starting last Fall. Three of the dates have already happened. The next three are:

- This Tuesday, February 24
- Wednesday, March 18
- Thursday, April 9



To everyone who gives their time at The Closet—please know how deeply you are appreciated. Your contributions make a tremendous impact in our community!

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please [reach out to Rita Smith.](#)

Shrine Mont is Coming - Save the Date for our Parish-Wide Retreat!

October 2-4, 2026



SAVE THE DATE!

We're so excited to be heading back to Shrine Mont for our Parish Retreat this year! Join us for a weekend of rest and renewal filled with fellowship, music, worship, learning, and time in the beauty of God's creation. The St. Anne's Shrine Mont Parish Retreat will take place October 2-4, 2026.

Nestled in the town of Orkney Springs, Virginia, Shrine Mont is a retreat and conference center owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. Located at the foot of Great North Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley and bordering the George Washington National Forest, it offers a peaceful setting perfect for reflection and community.

LOOKING FOR A PLANNING TEAM!

We're currently looking for enthusiastic members to join our planning team! Do you enjoy organizing, leading crafts, planning games, or helping create meaningful experiences? We'd love for you to be part of making this special weekend happen! Please [send Sheri an email](#) to let her know you're interested in the planning committee and we'll be back in touch.

Seen Around St. Anne's...



The cast of Mini Musicals on the Move brought the magic of *Mary Poppins* to life on Sunday in support of the St. Anne's Food Pantry! A heartfelt thank you to Mini Musicals on the Move for the incredibly fun performance!



The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a stack-tacular night of syrup, smiles, and seconds!



Eggs in prep for today's Pantry Day. Nourishing our community, one carton at a time.

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)

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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