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



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## God as Divine Mother

*This Sunday, May 10*

Join us this Mother's Day as we celebrate the feminine nature of God. You're invited to a special service honoring God as our Divine Mother, along with the many women and female spiritual leaders who shape our lives and our tradition.

In both services, we will use feminine and gender-neutral language for God in place of the traditionally male-centered pronouns. This may feel new or unfamiliar, bringing joy to some and inviting reflection or challenge for others.

We recognize that Mother's Day carries a wide range of emotions. As we celebrate those who mother, we also hold space for the grief, loss, and longing that can accompany past, present, or hoped for experiences of motherhood.



## Youth Sunday Thank You

Thanks to everyone who made our annual Youth Sunday such a success, with a special thanks to all of our Youth Leaders: Nate, Jack, Anders, Catalina, Chloe, Andy, Anya, Maite, Lydia, Ian, Alex, Hannah, Bethany, Gretchen, and Beni, and our two youngest choristers, Helen and Grace.

Thanks also to all the parents and adult ministry mentors for their support of our youth both in this special event, and throughout the year.

Your time and effort were evident in every part of the morning, from the time people came through the door until they left with Java Junctions treats nourishing them on the way out. Congratulations to all, and thank you for a joyous and moving service!

If you missed the service, [click here](#) and prepare to be inspired!



Shrine Mont Early Bird Registration is due **THIS SUNDAY**. Note that we are nearing capacity and now have a limited number of rooms available. If you plan to register, please do it ASAP. We will start a wait list if needed and you will be notified if you end up on the wait list. Any questions about that, [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!](#)**

It's time to sign up for the best all-ages retreat ever!! 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?***

**On or Before May 10:** We are offering early bird pricing for families and for those willing to share a room (double occupancy):

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

- \$180 PER PERSON for DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ONLY (with roommate)
- \$250 PER PERSON for SINGLE OCCUPANCY (private room)

**Children:**

- 8 to 12 years: \$100 PER PERSON
- 4 to 7 years: \$50 PER PERSON
- Children 0 to 3 are always free

**EARLY BIRD FAMILY CAP:** No more than \$490 PER FAMILY

**After May 10:**

**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.

[Click here for the registration form.](#) Space is limited. If all spots are filled, we will start a wait list.

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

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## NEWS



### 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!**

### High School Seniors!

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



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

*Sunday, June 7, 4:00-7:00 PM*

[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 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.**

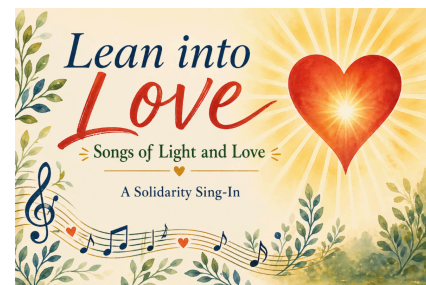


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## Lean into Love: Songs of Light and Love; A Solidarity Sing-In

*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.

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## Praying with African American Spirituals

*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.

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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*

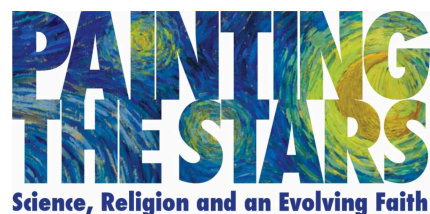
We're closing out Painting the Stars, our Living the Questions series, with a final gathering and potluck on May 24 (Pentecost weekend).

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 on Pentecost Sunday! [Please reach out to Mtr Jess](#) or the [Church Office](#) to be a part of this fun celebration.

## Critical Diaper Need

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.



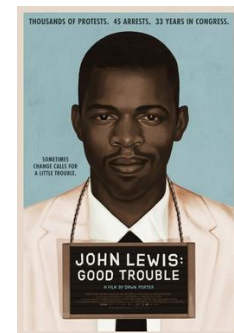
Many people generously bring diaper donations with them to church, while others choose to order online and have them shipped directly to us. In addition to full cases, we are especially grateful for smaller, soft packs of 20–30 diapers, which are very helpful for distribution.

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

## 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](#).

## 🔑 Key Kids Moment 🔑

Our Youth Sunday Children Welcomer, Hannah Fialcowitz, talked with our Sunday School students about the chapels they made, praying, the farmer whose seed didn't always grow, and how Jesus opens the doors of our hearts. As Hannah said, "When you open your heart to Jesus, good things will happen."



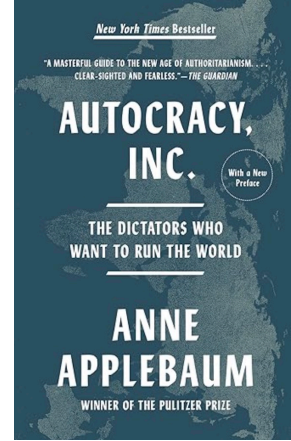
## St. Anne's Book Club

*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](#).

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## 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](#) 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.

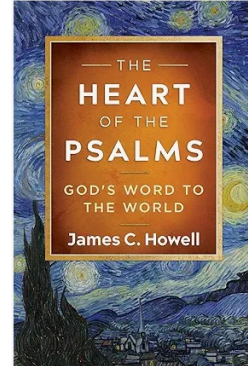
This trip is a wonderful opportunity to serve, grow, and build lasting friendships with fellow St. Anne's teens. Bonds formed during the week often continue throughout the year, as last summer's group so beautifully demonstrated. Clifton H. Poole will lead the trip, with Mtr. Kara serving as chaplain.

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## Monday Morning Bible Study

*Mondays through May 11, 10:30-Noon via Zoom*

The Monday Morning Bible Study is using *The Heart of the Psalms: God's Word to the World* by James C. Howell as our text. The author has chosen 6 psalms to explore in depth that he feels are representative of the different types of psalms found in the Bible.



The 6-week study will run through May 11 and newcomers are always welcome. [Contact Jane Smith](#) to be added to the mailing list.

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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...



St. Anne's youth serving after worship on Sunday.

Enjoy the blue-eyed grass in the sanctuary garden. The bees love to visit the flowers.

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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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