

# THE QUILL & INK



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

*Where God can be found, and God can find you*

December, 2012

## Inside this issue:

Beloved in Christ	1
The Belfry Ministry Update	2
Outreach Commission	2
Christmas Week Schedule	3
St. Martin's Holiday Craft Fair and Sale	3
Sandwiches for the Cold Weather Shelter	3
Evening Prayer in Advent: Holy Waiting	4
Lawns and Less of Them	4

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## **BELOVED IN CHRIST**

Soren Kiekegaard tells the following parable about the risk and enormity of God's gift: Once upon a time there was a king who was very rich. His power and preeminence were known throughout the world. Yet something was missing in his life: a woman to join him as wife and queen. Without such a partner, the palace was empty and desolate.

One day, while riding through the streets of a small village, he saw a beautiful peasant girl. She was so lovely she immediately won the king's heart. He desired her more than anything else in the world.

Every day he would ride by her house hoping for a chance to glimpse her in passing. He pondered how he might win her love. He thought, "I will draw up a royal decree and require her to be brought before me---then I shall make her queen of my land!"

But as he considered this action, he realized that she was a subject, and would therefore *have to* obey him. Under those

terms, he could never be certain that he had truly won her love.

Then he said to himself: "I shall call on her in person. I will dress in my royal robes, wear my priceless crown my best rings---bear my silver sword---I will overwhelm her with my majesty and position and sweep her off her feet so that she will *want* to become my bride.



But again, he realized that he would always wonder whether she had married him for the wealth and power he could bestow on her.

So he had another plan: he decided to shed his royal robes, dress as a peasant, and go to town in a carriage, where he would be let off secretly. He would enter the village and become one of the peasants. He would work

with them, live with them, suffer along with their daily toils.

This entering in to the very life of the village brought about the results he desired. He was truly admired by his love, won her as his wife, and made her queen of the land.

Of course this is our story as well. God the King came down in Christ and wrote us into the story. And

the tangible sign among us is the Babe cradled in a manger, wrapped in cloths and surrounded by animals, a child of poverty who came bearing gifts beyond the stars. Each year at this time we are asked once again to welcome this lowly child into our lives and to be trans-

formed by this tiny insignificant being into heirs to the Kingdom we all inherit.

Come to the cradle this season. Come as a shepherd in your poverty. Come in your richness like the kings. Come seeking understanding, come to kneel silently and worship the beauty of holiness.

Blessings of the season

## ***THE BELFRY MINISTRY UPDATE—By Pastor Jocelynn Hughes***

Advent blessings to everyone! The quarter is winding down and finals are nearly upon us. We had a wonderful November, as we took our LEVN volunteers to Diocesan Convention and the students participated in the Interfaith Progressive Dinner. We also celebrated the baptism of one of our students! It is so amazing to watch the students learn about Jesus and seek to become part of the body of Christ. We'll have our annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols during the last week of classes. And then, God willing, I will go on maternity leave to welcome my new daughter into the world. I will likely be on leave until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board has called Fr. John Mangels to provide pastoral care for the students and volunteers part time during Winter Quarter. Between him, Holly, Alicia, Natasha and our wonderful Board members, the ministry will be in good hands while I am taking care of our newborn.

Episcopal Service Corps has opened the application for the 2013-2014 program year, so if you know of any young adults aged 21-30 who would like to do a year of service while living in an intentional Christian community, please recommend them to ESC! [LVC is accepting applications now as well.] This also means we are now interviewing new applicants for LEVN for next year. We are also starting to line up our placement sites. So if you are connected with a non-profit agency in the community that might like to have a LEVN volunteer next year, please let Holly (our Program Director) know.

Save the date! Our 2013 St. Augustine Lecture will be given by Dr. Rosemary Radford Ruether, one of the foremost feminist theologians in the world. She will speak on the topic of ecofeminism and religion. This is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. Location and time are TBA, but please mark your calendars!

2012 has been a great year at the Belfry. We are grateful for all the ways you support our ministry:

### ***OUTREACH COMMISSION***

On behalf of the Outreach Commission, I want to wish you all a joyous Christmas Season! I also want to thank you for your generosity to Outreach projects and opportunities throughout the year, including our annual Thanksgiving Basket project (at right), linens for Davis Cesar Chavez Plaza, coffee and sandwiches for winter shelters, contributions to rebuild the Cathedral in Haiti, and continued gifts of time and treasure to the Davis Community Meals hosted three times a week at St. Martin's.

As the year comes to a close, there are three additional Outreach opportunities that we hope you will feel called to support:

- Our special Christmas Outreach project this year involves collecting dental hygiene products for St. Matthew's Resource Center in Sacramento. St. Matthew's offers several programs for the needy including a Food Closet, a Clothes Closet, a Health Outreach ministry and a Parent Resource Center. St. Matthew's is in particular need of dental hygiene items at this time: toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss. Any size of toothpaste would be great, travel size or larger. There will be a basket in the narthex during the month of December if you would like to make a contribution of these items to the St. Matthew's Resource Center.
- We are collecting coats for the STEAC Christmas Coat Drive. If you have gently used adult or child sized coats that you no longer use, there will be a donation box in the narthex through December 9th.
- This year's Christmas special offering will be split between Davis Community Meals and Dixon Family Services. These are two local organizations that are on the front line in serving "the least of these" among us. We have a long history of working with and supporting these two very important human service programs. They are doing the work Jesus asked us to do - feeding the hungry. Thank you in advance for your consideration in making as generous a donation as possible to the Christmas Special offering.

Christmas Blessings,

Renee Crevelli-Gross, Outreach Commission Co-Chair





## CHRISTMAS WEEK SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 16th, 4:00 p.m.—Christmas Concert

The three choirs of St. Martin's will tell the story of the 1914 Christmas Truce that happened during the fighting of World War I. Reception afterward.

### Sunday, December 22nd, 10:00 a.m.—Greening of the Church

With nutcracker hot chocolate and cookies.

### Monday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m.—Children's Christmas pageant

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eucharist with jazz ensemble and St. Martin's Contemporary Choir

11:00 p.m.—Choral Eucharist with St. Martin's Choir and pipe organ

### Tuesday, December 25th, 10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist



## HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND SALE

Saturday, December 1st

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come prepared to do all your Christmas shopping!

## SANDWICHES FOR THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER: DEC 17 – 23, DEC 31 – JAN 6

During the holiday season, we have another opportunity to provide a vital service to those in need in our local area. St. Martin's will again be providing food for the evening meal for the clients of the Davis Community Meals (DCM) Cold Weather Shelter. We have been assigned the weeks of December 17-23 and December 31–January 6. We are looking for two volunteers per evening to provide 13 sandwiches each (or 26 sandwiches total if an individual/family would like to do them all). Friday is pizza night (Woodstock's is offering a 50% discount for the shelter) and Sunday is an option to provide a simple hot meal (or sandwiches). If you can provide food for any of these dates, please sign up with **Janet Lane** at church or contact her 219-0607 or [jrlane@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrlane@ucdavis.edu). The Cold Weather Shelter is open from November 12 – March 31 and will house ten clients and three volunteers each night.

## ***EVENING PRAYER IN ADVENT: HOLY WAITING***

Evening Prayer will be offered at St. Martin's on Wednesdays during Advent (Dec. 5, 12, 19) from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The 30-minute service, led by Laurie Glover and Janet Lane, will combine parts of Rite 1 Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer and elements of the evening of-fice held daily at The Bishop's Ranch, which Laurie has led for the past two summers. The atmosphere will be meditative and will consist of prayer and readings interspersed with intervals of quiet. Please join us on Wednesdays during this time of Holy Waiting.



## ***LAWNS AND LESS OF THEM***

*The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. – Psalm 24:1-2*

St. Martin's environmental stewardship committee, tentatively named "Caring for God's Creation," now has an email list, [stmartin-green@googlegroups.com](mailto:stmartin-green@googlegroups.com). You can sign yourself up by sending a message without subject or content to [stmartin-green+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:stmartin-green+subscribe@googlegroups.com).

The City of Davis recently approved a demonstration project to encourage conversion of lawns to low-water landscapes. The city is using approximately \$22,000 from Wildhorse environmental mitigation fees to award grants of up to \$1,000 at \$1 per square foot to property owners who remove turf grasses and replace them with landscaping that reduces water use. They will preferentially award grants to shovel-ready projects. All that's required is a brief narrative, with before and after photos. St. Martin's is working on its plans! For more information on how you can take advantage of this for your home, contact Jacques DeBra at the City of Davis.

Got questions? Join us at our next meeting, 12:30pm on 9 December, get on the mailing list, or check with a member of the St. Martin's Environmental Stewardship working group.

## **Did you know?**

In 2009, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved the Genesis Covenant, a resolution that stipulates that its congregations reduce their energy use by 50% within the next ten years. We're getting a good start on this by improving our insulation and switching to energy-efficient lights, composting scrap food (which reduces inputs of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere), and removing turf (which decreases the amount of energy used to get water from wells to the surface).