



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

January, 2012

Where God can be found, and God can find you



The Quill & Ink

New Year Resolutions

There are various opinions about the value of New Year Resolutions. Some would say they are just another opportunity for disappointing failure. Others promote their value in making a new start of things. There is truth in both positions. I must admit that I waffle a bit when it comes to making them. Some years it seems like a good idea, and others not so much.

This year I have succumbed, mostly because I have rediscovered something from Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat entitled *Spiritual Literate New Year's Resolutions*. There are 10 I would like to share. It is my intent to endeavor to keep them as part of my spiritual practice in the coming year. Perhaps you may find in them food for your journey as well:

- I will live in the present moment. I will not obsess about the past or worry about the future.
- I will cultivate the art of making connections. I will pay attention to how my life is intimately related to all life on the planet.
- I will be thankful for all the blessings in my life. I will spell out my days with a grammar of gratitude.
- I will practice hospitality in a world where too often strangers are feared, enemies are hated, and the "other" is shunned. I will welcome guests and alien ideas with graciousness.
- I will seek liberty and justice for all. I will work for a free and fair world.
- I will add to the planet's fund of good will by practicing little acts of kindness, brief words of encouragement, and manifold expressions of courtesy.
- I will cultivate the skill of deep listening. I will remember that all things want to be heard as do the many voices inside of me.
- I will practice reverence for life by seeing the sacred in, with, and under all things of the world.

- I will give up trying to hide, deny, or escaped from my imperfections. I will listen to what my shadow side has to say to me.

- I will be willing to learn from the spiritual teachers all around me, however unlikely or unlike me they may be.

To these ten I will add one more. I will forgive myself when I fall short, for indeed I will. I know that the God who created me loves me and forgives me even when I fail but I won't allow failure to deter me from continuing to try.

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!

Mark+



Gail Gong Photography

Living the Questions Adult Forum

Join us for a six-week adult spiritual formation class on Sunday mornings called *Saving Jesus*, which will be facilitated by Alex Leach and Helen Campbell. The class will explore the historical context around Jesus and modern day scholarly theological thinking. Ideally this will help clarify who Jesus really was and who we are called to be as modern Christians. The class is designed to challenge and deepen people's connection and beliefs about Jesus and the divine. Come join us at 10:15 AM on January 8th for our first class. Sign up by e-mailing the church: info@churchofstmartin.org or by calling [530-756-0444](tel:530-756-0444).



Celebration of Abraham

All are invited to attend the ninth annual Celebration of Abraham from 3 to 5 p.m., Sunday, January 29, at the St. James Catholic Church Community Center, 1275 B St., Davis.

The free interfaith event seeks to bring together people who believe in the god of Abraham and see Abraham as their spiritual father. At the gathering, representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths will express their views on this year's theme, "Where there is hope...."

Participants will then break bread together at round tables and share their ideas with their neighbors. The goal is to further a sense of community, not to convert anyone to a particular religious point of view. Participants respect each other's faith and perspective.



The Belfry Ministry Update

By Pastor Jocelynn Hughes

Happy New Year! We have many exciting things in store for Winter Quarter at the Belfry. We are excited to be joining with the Newman Center and CA House on January 24th for our 2nd annual Christian Unity Week service. This will be held at 7 pm and all are welcome! We are also looking forward to participating in the Celebration of Abraham service. These kinds of programs are particularly crucial at a time when there is so much anxiety on campus over tuition increases, etc. This is a time for all people of faith to come together to pray and seek solutions to the injustices we face.

Also, plans for our new LEVN program continue to come together. We are currently seeking donations of a gently used gas oven/microwave for the apartment. And, if you or someone you know might be interested in donating a vehicle during the coming year, please let me know!

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of The Belfry!

