



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

Where God can be found, and God can find you

The Quill & Ink

February, 2012

Believing or Following

For the last month we have been singing a form of the “Creed” at both 9 and 11 AM worship. I like singing the creed, it softens it. The Nicene Creed is one of the elements of Sunday worship which is prescribed by the rubrics. Rubrics are those parts of the Book of Common Prayer in italics, directing how the liturgy is to be conducted. For the most part, the “rubrics” are permissive instructions, “*You may sing a song of praise,*” as opposed to, “*You will sing a song of praise.*” The instructions regarding the creed say, “*On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing.*” That is not permissive. The intent of saying the Creed is having the community make a statement of faith in response to hearing the word. The difficulty with this approach is discerning the difference between “faith” and “belief.”

Harvey Cox in his book *The Future of Faith* asserts that the Christian church has spent nearly 1,500 years promoting the belief in things about Jesus, rather than having a real experience of Jesus. As author Brian McLaren has put it, “the Creed jumps from Jesus’s birth to his death without a word about his ministry, what he taught, how he lived, whom he hung out with is of the greatest importance and yet the creeds say nothing about those things.”

Funny, Jesus only says “believe in me” in one place in the Gospels. In John 14 he says, “Believe in God, believe also in me.” He is not saying “believe these things about me.” A more accurate translation of that passage would be “trust in God, trust in me too.” Believing things about Jesus doesn’t necessarily lead to behaving differently.

Jesus says over and over again in the Gospels “Follow me!” Literally, he calls Andrew, James, Simon and John to follow him, to become disciples, students. He calls Matthew to leave his lucrative tax collecting business and follow him. He calls the rich young man to sell everything and follow him. Time and again he calls people to leave whatever is distracting them, whatever idols they worship, whatever is causing them to miss the mark, and to follow him on the path back to God.

Again in John 14 Jesus says, “I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me.” All too often that passage has been used to make Jesus into an “exclusivist,” the only way to God. Jesus was not an exclusivist, rather he was an inclusivist. He wanted everyone to find their way home. I like *The Message* translation of that passage: “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to

the Father apart from me.” If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. What he taught, how he lived, whom he hung out with. If you want to find your way to God follow Jesus. Don’t just believe things about him, act like him.

The next time you say the creed, say it with the intent of following the one whom you are saying you believe in, not just believe things about.

Mark+

From Across the Hall

This past week I was able to attend a workshop on campus given by Dr. Peter Ravin, the Director Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. Many people consider the MBG to be the premier public garden in the United States, if not the world. Dr. Ravin is a thoughtful, amusing gentleman with vast experience in horticulture and the way gardens reflect and affect human culture. He is acting as an advisor for The Gateways Project, currently underway on the UCD campus.

One of his main points was that in the Central Valley of California, we have largely destroyed what he calls "the Central Valley vernacular." He is referring to the vast expanses of grassland, riparian woodlands and oaks that were the native plant inhabitants of the Central Valley. Along with their disappearance, many of the animals, insects and birds native to this region have also been destroyed. This has come about primarily because of the widespread conversion of grasslands for agricultural purposes and suburban sprawl with the accompanying use of synthetic fertilizers, deep plowing of soils and the introduction of non-native species. Irrigation has enabled agriculture to thrive and has made our part of California one of the richest areas on earth in terms of food production. Deep wells tapping into the vast aquifer on which our region floats have resulted in soil subsidence and changes in the soil chemistry in many regions. In other words, the ecology of our region has been changed, perhaps irreparably, by the very characteristics that make it a desirable place to live and to grow things.

This is not a harangue on the evils of the degradation of a unique ecosystem. After all, I'm a product of the very system of intense agriculture that has been one factor in the creation of the current situation. But Dr. Ravin's comments have reminded me of something that is never far from the back of my mind - the responsibility I have as a Christian for the wise use of the earth and the environment. Theologians have, in the past few years, begun to think and write about something they call "Ecotheology." They are asking the difficult questions about what we as individual Christians and as a Church should be about in this regard. Many of the changes the earth has undergone are, in all likelihood, irreversible. Climate change is a scientific fact, regardless of the rantings of the some who choose to turn their backs on the obvious reality.

So what can we do? We have taken significant steps in making our remodeled buildings more energy efficient with double-paned glass, increased levels of insulation, and the use of LED lighting fixtures. But what about our landscape? What about the fact that most of our property is covered in grass which must be watered and mowed and "greened" by the use of synthetic fertilizers? Might we be able to use landscaping to demonstrate to the community and to ourselves that caring for the earth is a part of our Christian commitment as a parish family? In the Genesis stories of creation, God pronounced all of creation "good." Might we become co-operators with God in keeping things that way?

Ernie+

Senior Warden Update

As the 2012 Annual Meeting approaches and your Vestry composition and leadership change, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to **ALL** of you for your support, encouragement and hard work during this past year. Having served as your Senior Warden during a time of such progress and change has indeed been a privilege. Among numerous highlights, the completion of our campus renovation, our enhanced commitment to St. Martin's youth and hospitality, the very successful Craft Fair, Ernie's ordination and our MANY Outreach activities stand out. Through it all we are sustained by the beauty and power of our liturgy and music. During this year, you have been called upon over and over to give of your time, talent and resources, and you have responded so generously to every request. It is an honor to be a part of such a strong faith community led by our deeply committed clergy and staff. Thanks again,
Jerry

The Belfry Ministry Update – Thank You

By Pastor Jocelynn Hughes

Winter Quarter continues to be a busy time in the life of the Belfry. The Worship, Bible Study, and Spirituality groups are back in full swing! As always, we are looking forward to our annual Mardi Gras pancake dinner and Ash Wednesday services to bring us into the holy season of Lent.

The Belfry Board has also been hard at work visioning and planning for this year. Please mark your calendars now for two exciting events coming up in 2012.

- April 29, 2012 5-7 p.m: **Belfry Wine Tasting Extravaganza**, Monticello Bistro 630 G Street, Davis. Sample and compare wines from Yolo County and Europe. Tasting led by wine expert Michael Chandler. Music provided by the Camellia Symphony Orchestra. All proceeds will benefit The Belfry. Tickets will go on sale soon! Reserve them now by calling 530-756-1550.
- Saturday, September 29th: **3rd Annual Birdies for the Belfry Golf Tournament**. Shotgun start at 1:00 pm, dinner and silent auction at 6:30 pm.

There continue to be opportunities in each congregation to serve on the Belfry board. If you are interested in joining this important, dynamic ministry, please speak with your pastor, your current board members, or me. Thank you for all the ways you support the Belfry!

An Article from the ENS News Service Quoted Victoria Shao

An Episcopal News Service article by Sharon Sheridan highlights the work of young adults in the Episcopal Service Corps. More than 150 young adults intern through ESC programs across the US. ESC sites provide young people with experience working in service, living in community, and time for discernment. Victoria Shao, who was a St. Martin's regular in 2010, serves as an ESC volunteer in New Jersey. From the article:

“Victoria Shao sees a direct connection between the service work she’s doing through Newark ACTS, a Diocese of Newark-sponsored program in its second year of accepting interns, and the work she hopes to pursue in the future. Shao works at the Holley Center, a residential facility for 65 emotionally disturbed children in Hackensack, New Jersey. She helps the children with schoolwork as well as plays with them. ‘In the near future,’ she said, ‘my supervisor would like me to put on a simple skit or play with some of the kids and teach them basic acting skills. I look forward to that challenge. I have only been there for less than two months, and the kids that I work with regularly have really taken to me,’ she said. ‘Likewise, I have connected with them. In the future, I plan to enter this line of work with foster children, so getting some real experience and such positive feedback is invaluable... With my work here I feel like God is clarifying my call to work with this population.’”

For the full story, see <http://tinyurl.com/6qdwbg5>

Outreach Commission Update

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” - Martin Luther King

I began writing this newsletter article on January 16 - Martin Luther King Day. I am pleased and proud to be able to respond to the above question on behalf of St. Martin’s. There has been consistent and caring support of Outreach projects from this congregation. The people of St. Martin’s were particularly generous in “doing for others” this past holiday season.

Thanksgiving Baskets

St. Martin’s parishioners provided Thanksgiving Baskets for 51 needy families this past November. Each food basket included enough food for a hearty Thanksgiving meal and a gift certificate to be used for perishable items. You were so generous in your contributions to the annual Thanksgiving basket project that the Outreach Commission was able to give the surplus funds to several worthy organizations to help “feed the hungry” who come through their doors: Meals on Wheels, Broderick Christian Center in West Sacramento, UC Davis Food Pantry, Coffee for the Interfaith Winter Rotating Shelter and the Yolo County Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Center. Each year at Thanksgiving, your generosity puts smiles on the faces of many people who otherwise could not afford a family Thanksgiving meal.

Blankets for the Cold Weather Shelter and Meals Clients

St. Martin’s prayer shawl ministry received a large amount of blue fleece, more than they could use. They generously made 50 single-bed sized fleece blankets, 25 of which went to DCM’s Cold Weather Shelter, and 25 of which were given out at a Thursday night meal in December.

Christmas Offering

Historically, St. Martins has given away the special offering made at Christmas. The Outreach Commission had previously agreed that the Christmas special offering this year would be divided between Davis Community Meals and Dixon Family Services. We had agreed to contribute a pre-determined minimum amount to each of these organizations. If the Christmas special offering was not enough to cover those amounts, we would have to come up with the additional money from our Outreach Committee Fund. Once again, you exceeded what we had hoped for! Not only was enough money collected to meet our minimum promise to DCM and Dixon Family Services, we were able to give each organization MORE than we had hoped because of your generosity!

Christmas Outreach Project for Yolo Crisis Nursery

This Christmas, the Outreach Commission organized a clothing and supply drive for the Yolo Crisis Nursery. St. Martin’s ended up donating a carload of items to the Yolo Crisis Nursery including:

- 626 disposable diapers
- 45 pair of socks
- 31 clothing items
- 11 blankets
- 15 sippy cups and bottles
- 10 bibs and washcloths
- 9 pacifiers and teething rings
- 5 stuffed animals
- 5 pairs of shoes
- Check for \$100
- baby toiletry pack
- 1 fluffy lamb hat

(You could ALMOST sing this to the “Twelve Days of Christmas”!)

Sandwiches for the Cold Weather Shelter

St. Martin's parishioners generously provided sandwiches, pizza, beverages, and simple hot meals for 10 clients and three volunteer staff over the weeks of Dec. 12 - 18 and Jan. 2 - 8. Over 25 individuals/families participated. Thank you so much!

Thank you to every one of you who contributed to our holiday outreach opportunities at St. Martin's. Big or small, all gestures of giving are so important. The content of this article shows SOME of what we are doing at St. Martin's "for others."

Renee Crevelli-Gross
Outreach Commission Co-Chair



March, 2012

Worship Schedule

Dear St. Martin's Worshipping Community,

Recently I have had conversations with the staff, vestry and some members of the parish regarding the structure, timing and staffing of our Sunday morning worship services. We presently have three services: 7:45 a.m., Rite I without music; 9:00 a.m. Rite II with Contemporary Choir and Let's All Celebrate Together (children centered worship) on the first Sunday of each month; 11:00 a.m. Rite II with Choir and traditional Anglican music. We have this variety of worship today to offer varying music preferences. These conversations explored the possibility of changing the service times, structure and music offerings. The primary consideration was changing from two sung services to one and maintaining the 7:45 said service. This change would not only affect the service time but also the music offerings. I also considered other possibilities for worship service times and styles, including mid-week, Saturday evening, or Sunday evening.

There were good arguments in support of the change, such as simplifying Sunday morning children's and adult education timing and offerings; relieving some of the stress on our music ministry staff and volunteers; relieving other volunteer ministry: i.e., Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes, ushers, and hospitality volunteers. But after listening carefully to both sides and prayerful consideration I have decided not to make a change at this time. We will continue to provide two sung services except during the summer when we will continue the custom of combining the 9 and 11 for one service at 10 AM.

To maintain this schedule some adjustments will need to be made, particularly in the staff and volunteer schedules. I will be working on these adjustments in the weeks ahead with the goal of completing them before our change to the summer service schedule on June 10th. I will continue to listen and assess how best to serve the worship needs of St. Martin's in the months ahead. With the changing dynamic of parish life we must regularly consider how best to use the ministry resources and respond to God's call to faithful service in all areas of the community's life.

Mark+

Senior Warden's Note

This is a brief note to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I've been a member of St. Martin's since 1968 and this is my 11th term on Vestry. I've served as Senior Warden for Bill Burrill, Barry Beisner, and most recently Mark appointed me Senior Warden in January. If you haven't met me, please introduce yourself and let me know your interests and concerns at St. Martin's.

Our Vestry retreat at St. Dorothy's was very successful and inspiring. As a group, we emerged more cohesive and ready for action. Each year has its challenges and opportunities and one of the major areas of focus this year will be our Christian education and youth programs. You will be hearing a great deal more about these in the coming months. I thank all of you for your gifts of time, talent and resources and I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

-Pierre Neu

PARISH CLEANUP - MARCH 17-18

Everyone is invited to participate in the semi-annual St. Martin Parish Cleanup on the third weekend in March. While most of our facilities have been renovated, updated and look very good, there are always things that need to be done. We are asking for volunteers to come to the church and put in a couple of hours of work on Saturday, March 17th at 9:00 a.m. and /or Sunday, March 18th 2:00 p.m. to freshen our facilities prior to the Easter celebration.

At this time, we know that we have trees, bushes, etc. that need to be trimmed. Also, a general pick-up is required for branches, trash, etc. that may be anywhere on the grounds including the parking lot. Weeding is also required in some areas, particularly where we no longer have lawns. Some windows in several of the buildings need cleaning. If there are any other items that may need work please let the office or John Reeves know.

LET'S KEEP THE CHURCH AND THE CHURCH GROUNDS LOOKING GREAT!!!!

The Belfry Ministry Update

By Pastor Jocelynn Hughes

Great news! As 2012 began, we braced ourselves for a huge cut in funding from the Sierra Pacific Synod. We recently received word that the Synod Council voted to restore funding to 2011 levels for 2012. So, we have a one-year reprieve. However the line item for campus ministry grants from the ELCA Churchwide office in Chicago is scheduled to go to zero for 2013, which would mean approximately a \$25,000 loss to the Belfry for next year, and the foreseeable future. Churchwide envisions that Synods will pick up the funding of campus ministry. However, many Synods don't have a plan for doing so.

We got another timely piece of good news with this information: our LEVN program has been accepted to be an Episcopal Service Corps program! So we are now in full gear, lining up placement sites, interviewing prospective volunteers, and preparing to welcome them to Davis in September. We will need to fully furnish the duplex with beds, living room furniture, dishes, pots and pans, etc. We are still hoping for a donation of a new oven and built-in microwave. But as you move toward spring cleaning, if you have gently used items that would help us furnish the apartment that you'd like to donate, please let me know! Please note: we may not be able to take the donation until the summer due to lack of storage.

The Belfry students are excited to attend the annual “Prov” conference, which will be held in Honolulu April 13-15. The conference will be free, but airfare is a considerable expense. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student to attend this conference, please let me know.

Wishing you a Holy Lent! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Outreach Commission Update

This month, I thought I’d share with you some of the responses of gratitude we have received from organizations and programs to which we recently awarded Outreach Grants. Outreach Grants are made each year to local, national, and international organizations whose work reflects the teachings of Matthew 25: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Thank you very much for your generous gift to Davis Community Meals. Friends like you in the community make it possible for DCM to offer food, shelter and assistance to the homeless and needy in our community. With your continued support, we can provide additional services so that the homeless and hungry in our community may ultimately work towards improving their lives.”
Davis Community Meals

“On behalf of the Yolo Community Care Continuum, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. Because of your contribution, we will be able to continue to provide the highest quality, community based services for those with mental illness. . . this year we will serve over 500 individuals with mental health needs . . . This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you.”
Yolo Community Care Continuum

“We are honored and humbled to have been chosen as the recipient of your Special Easter Offering. [We] are dedicated to reaching out to our many senior neighbors who are hungry and alone. . . With your help we will bring them comfort, joy, food and smiles this year.”
Elderly Nutrition Program

“St. Martin’s warm generosity towards our newborns is a beautiful example of love in action. Please accept our sincere thank you.”
Communicare Health Centers

“Please convey our profound gratitude to all the members of St. Martin’s . . . for the trust you have once again placed in us to be good stewards of your funds. As you know the economy makes raising funds especially challenging while the needs continue to grow. Many of the women who are part of the community at Centro Santa Catalina tell us how difficult it is just to keep food on the table and pay the water and electricity bills. Anything more counts as luxury for these families. We assure you that we will put your money to good use in support of our programs for women and children. We also promise you our prayers that God will shower all of you with grace and blessings.”
Centro Santa Catalina
Juarez, Mexico

“Your gift tells me that you know that the poor in the developing world are not victims of poverty and hunger - they are striving every day to lift themselves out of poverty. . . Through your gift, you stand with us in believing that the poor of the world deserve a lasting solution, not one that requires endless subsidies or diminishes their dignity.”

Freedom from Hunger

Renee Crevelli-Gross
Outreach Commission Co-Chair

Evening Prayer Weekdays During Lent

Monday – Friday 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Are you interested in additional time for prayer and meditation during Lent? Evening Prayer will be offered at St. Martin's on Mondays through Fridays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The half-hour service will be lay led with parts taken from the Book of Common Prayer with intervals of quiet interspersed. The atmosphere will be meditative. On Wednesdays, clergy will be present and Eucharist will be offered.

Our goal in offering these additional services during Lent is to add in time for prayer and contemplation rather than pursue a practice of deprivation. If you would like to officiate or read during Evening Prayer, or if you have any questions about the services, please contact Janet Lane (jrlane@ucdavis.edu) or Laurie Glover (lvglover@ucdavis.edu). We hope you will consider joining us on weekdays during the six weeks between Feb. 23 and April 8. You are welcome to come once in a while or regularly.

Church Survey

Every so often we have done a form to ask people to volunteer to do all the things around St Martin that need doing. (Remember in previous years we have done this as part of our worship service?) This year we are trying the format of a web-based survey powered by SurveyMonkey. Please participate!

To do this, click on <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BFDLNSQ> and follow the directions. We estimate it will take about 15 minutes of your time. The survey can be completed by everyone in your household who wishes to contribute their gifts of time and talent to St. Martin's.

The advantage of a web-based survey is that it automatically collates all of the responses. Once we have the information, we will forward it to all the commission and committee chairs who will be in touch with you. **Please complete the survey by April 1st** (yes, April Fool's Day—a day to remember).

For those who wish to complete the survey by hand, hard copies will be available at the back of the church starting February 26th for five Sundays.

I thank you, and all those coordinators of things who rely on us as volunteers thank you also. And, thanks to Carole Hom for all her work in getting this survey together!

Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network Holds Fundraiser at St. Martin's

The Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network (YIIN) invites you to its Spring Benefit Dinner on Saturday, March 24 beginning at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. The evening will feature an Indian dinner prepared by Mary Philip, dancing by Folklorico Latino de Woodland, and music by Zapato Viejo. The evening will also feature a raffle of merchandise and gift certificates from local businesses.

Originally founded at St. Martin's, YIIN is an interfaith group whose mission is to serve and advocate for immigrants in Yolo County. YIIN offers a variety of programs and services, including youth activities and ESL classes at Yolo County migrant housing centers for farm worker families, a visitation program

for the youth in detention at Juvenile Hall, and an emergency fund for immigrants who are not able to pay the application fees for certain immigration actions they are entitled to.

Tickets for the benefit dinner are \$25 (suggested donation) and can be purchased from Alison Pease, Janet Lane, or Lynn Zender at church or by calling Rick Gonzales (758-2331). Raffle tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10 and can be purchased at the event.

TYGMOS* Retreat Starts with Bishop's Breakfast

Our youth group spent the first weekend of January at Camp Noel Porter on a pre-confirmation retreat. The weekend began with a breakfast for youth, families, godparents and confirmation sponsors and our special guest the Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, bishop of Northern California. Bishop Beisner spoke about the four orders of ministry in the Episcopal Church: laypersons, bishops, priests and deacons. He also shared his own experience of deciding to make a mature affirmation of the baptismal covenant. TYGMOS leaders Lisa Leigh and Robert Lynch organized a weekend filled with games, s'mores, and a workshop on spiritual gifts. We also joined St Nicholas church at Camp Noel Porter for Eucharist on the First Sunday of Epiphany, and enjoyed Vicar Jenni Liem's interactive sermon. Thank you to Pauline Bekebrede, Brian Gallay, Carole Hom, Susan Kauzlarich, Tom Leigh, Laurie Lovely, Linda Matthew, Kristen Nichols, and Neil Willits, who contributed time, talent and treasure to help us have this wonderful experience.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Soon it will be time for our annual gift of BIBLES to all 5th graders in our parish. We will also include any 6th graders who did not receive a Bible last year. If you have a 5th or 6th grader who is not registered in Church School, please contact Lisa Leigh at lhalko@comcast.net or 753-9621 to make sure your child is included.

Editor's Note: Apologies for the belated, text-only combined February/March newsletter. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, I will be unable to include Gail Gong's and Nathan Hallon's beautiful photos in the newsletter for the foreseeable future. They can still be viewed on the church web site <http://churchofstmartin.org/>.
—Elizabeth Sagehorn