

# THE QUILL & INK



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

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

October, 2012

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## Newsletter Credits

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## Proposition 34

It is not my custom to enter into the political rhetoric. There seems to be more than enough of it right now. But when an issue like the death penalty is part of the political scene, as it is here in California then I feel compelled to comment. I recognize all will not agree with me. I respect your right to dissent and will happily listen and talk with you if you wish. While it is a political issue, part of our election agenda on November 6, Proposition 34 is also a moral and theological issue.

The use of capital punishment is sometimes justified Biblically with the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) dictum “an eye for and eye.” But the greater premise of faith is “restorative justice,” which seeks healing and wholeness, not state-sponsored violence and vengeance. I confess to having been profoundly influenced by the work of Sr. Helen Prejean, the author of Dead Man Walking, the powerful story of Louisiana death row inmate Elmo Patrick Sonnier. Prejean came to know Sonnier as a spiritual adviser in the months leading up to his execution in the electric-chair, an event she

witnessed. Subsequently, Sr. Helen has become a strong voice for the abolishment of capital punishment throughout the country. She has witnessed other executions and been present not only to the death row inmates, but to the families of their victims of their violence, which led her to found “Survive” an organization devoted to ministry with victim’s families.

Sr. Helen speaks of her abhorrence to the violence



of the perpetrators. She said: “I abhor the murder Patrick Sonnier committed, but I also abhor the murder committed by the State of Louisiana.”

Since the restoration of the death penalty in California, 140 death row inmates have been found to be conclusively innocent. This makes all of us complicit in legalized murder. Moreover, the victims’ friends and families have no assurance that the real perpetrator is not walking about

free. There can be no justice and no healing while this remains a possibility.

Proposition 34 will change all death sentences, those already on death row and any new capital cases, into life sentences without the possibility of parole. The perpetrators will never walk the streets again. There is no compassionate leave, no reduction, no time off for good behavior. This is a life sentence. Period. Victims will not have to return to court to plead to keep the perpetrators in prison. Society will not have to endure the cost of appeals because there will be none.

Since 1958, the Episcopal Church has routinely voiced its opposition to the death penalty. All of the Bishops in California, including our own, have issued a joint letter in support of Prop. 34. To borrow the words of the California Council of Churches: “These are steps in a mature and just society. This is restorative justice at work. Life without the possibility of parole ends all of our cost and the moral uncertainties. It is the essential step to a criminal justice system that works for everyone.” I urge you to prayerfully consider voting yes on Prop 34. **Mark+**

## ***The Belfry Ministry Update By Pastor Jocelynn Hughes***

The fall has arrived, the students are back, Davis is hopping with activity! We are so busy at The Belfry kicking off another year of campus ministry with the students, and supporting our LEVN volunteers as they continue to acclimate to Northern California and the people they are here to serve. It's all wonderful, Spirit-filled ministry, and we're excited to be here with these amazing young adults!

I don't believe I've introduced you yet to our new Program Director, Holly Wilson. She began working with me on July 1<sup>st</sup> and is with us part time this year. Holly has a Bachelors in religion and philosophy from Cal Lutheran and just completed her Masters of Theological Studies at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley in May. She will be responsible for the administrative aspects of LEVN and the campus ministry, and will assist me in supervising the LEVN volunteers. Please help welcome her to Davis and The Belfry!

And, thank you to everyone who supported our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament and dinner honoring retired Belfry Pastor Don Ranstrom! We'll have fundraising results and pictures on our website and in future articles. We appreciate all the volunteers who come together every year to make this event a success, and everyone who attends, making it a fun-filled day. Thanks so much!

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## ***Outreach Commission Reviews Grant Requests***

The Outreach Commission met for three hours on September 9th to review Outreach Grant application requests and allocate the available funds to twenty-nine programs and organizations. The majority of our grant money comes from the Matthew 25 line item in the St. Martin's operating budget. Additional funds come from a couple of trust accounts that were designated by the donors for outreach and from the Outreach Committee Funds, where any undesignated donations to Outreach are saved. Additionally, in its generosity and commitment to providing for those who have less than ourselves, St. Martin's has historically given away its Special Offerings at Easter and Christmas. Some of our grant recipients will be designated as recipients of these Special Offerings.

Of the 33 programs/organizations that the Commission invited to apply for Outreach Grants, all but four submitted applications. Most of these applicants are local, but a few are national or international. This year, we invited five new programs to apply for Outreach Grants. These were programs identified by parishioners who have a personal connection or particular interest in the organization. We will be able to provide funds to all of the 29 programs who submitted applications. Unfortunately, in most cases, we regret not being able to fund the full amount requested. We have limited money and many of these programs are facing state and federal cuts and increasing needs in the clients they serve. So we are thoughtful and discerning when distributing grant money. In addition to giving grants to outside organizations and programs, Outreach provides the source of funding for our clergy's discretionary accounts.

Outreach Grant applicants meet the criteria of Matthew 25, our biblical calling as Christians to "do for the least of these," and grants are awarded to organizations and programs that embody the spirit 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.*"

At our September 30th meeting, we will review our recommendations before submitting them to the Vestry for final approval. Besides working on the grant process, we are also gearing up for our annual Thanksgiving Basket drive when St. Martin's will gather and distribute baskets of food to over 50 needy families in Davis and Dixon. You will be hearing more about this over the next few weeks.

Blessings to you all!  
Renee Crevelli-Gross  
Outreach Commission Co-Chair

## Parishioner Profile: A Quiet Evangelist

*(This is the first part of what we hope will be a periodic series highlighting members of our parish. If you know of someone within our St. Martin's family with an interesting story to share, please tell Mike Hannon.)*

By Michael Lewis

Evangelism is not a word central to most mainstream religions. It may uncomfortably evoke a revivalist tent on the prairie, Burt Lancaster raving as Elmer Gantry, or the mendacity of blow-dried televangelists. Perhaps that's why Dr. Jeanne George demurred when told that her obvious joy in her faith, her delight in her church, and her advice to those seeking a home in a community of faith, seemed Evangelical. "Well," she corrected herself, "perhaps I'm a quiet evangelist!"

Jeanne has been an Episcopalian since her earliest days, guided by her grandmother in New York. Jeanne returned to her faith and to St. Martin's in 1988. She followed her own advice in meeting a new community: she attended three times, fully participated, and delayed judgment. She found St. Martin's was the place for her to renew her Episcopal roots and to introduce her son to faith and to the Bible. Jeanne sees the Bible not only as a guide to faith but also an essential document of Western literature.

Though Jeanne is a scientist, she retired recently as Professor of Clinical Pathology from the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, she knows that miracles happen all the time, though they are not necessarily permanent. She delights in the language of the Nicene Creed, not so much perhaps as a statement of belief, but as the incredible story of our Christian Faith. Jeanne regrets very much that we mumble the Creed by rote on Sundays. She thinks it should be spoken with conviction, out loud, declaratively, with drama, as an actor might upon the stage.

No one part of the liturgy drives Jeanne's joy in attending services at St. Martin's, it is the whole package of music, worship, devotion, prayer, and teaching. But she describes the Eucharist as a key moment of intimate calm, when she can let go, have a full sensory experience with an intense engagement in that mystical moment. It's special to her that our community gathers around the altar, all facing each other, to take the body and blood of Our Lord. She appreciated deeply the support and healing prayers of the St. Martin's community during a personal health crisis some years ago. Jeanne finds the Tuesday healing service a deeply rewarding experience.

While Jeanne has the same image of the historical Jesus that most Christians have, she has none of God or of heaven or of life after death. "I don't worry. It's not important because that is not why I live my Faith." If asked to preach a sermon, Jeanne might choose Micah: "What God requires of us: justice and mercy and to walk humbly with God," or Corinthians 13 on love "If...I have not love I am as sounding brass, a clanging cymbal" or, true to the heart of Jesus' teaching, Jeanne would turn to the Sermon on the Mount.

Jeanne does not preach sermons but lives them. She is an Eucharistic Minister, a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, a Healing Minister, and she serves as Clerk of the Vestry. More broadly, Jeanne serves on the Board of the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California that supports parishes with legacy stewardship. She is also the Financial Secretary for the Belfry.

Jeanne is a Quiet Evangelist.







# Integrity<sup>USA</sup> P3

PROUD  
PARISH  
PARTNER

Working for the full inclusion  
of all the baptized in all the  
sacraments.



## ***St. Martin's Holiday Craft Fair and Sale***

The crafty crafters will continue to meet from 10 a.m. until noon, in rooms 6 & 7 on October 5, 12, 19, 26, and November 2, 9. Come by and help with projects, get help with yours, price items for the sale, or just come to visit. Questions? Call Carol Boyer (756-0241).



## ***Annual Stewardship Get-Together***

Sunday, October 7th, 5-7  
p.m. at St. Martin's. Please  
RSVP to Jan in the church  
office by October 1st.

