

INTERNAL MINISTRIES

Fifth in a series of articles about Vestry Commissions at St. Martin's.

The Internal Ministries Commission is comprised of many parts.

Did you know that St. Martin's has an ***Accessibility Advocate***?

It's the newest addition to our ***Fellowship Committee***, which also includes: ***Baptism/Confirmation celebrations*** (chaired by Suzanne Hagedorn), the ***Dining Out*** groups (Lois Stough), ***Flower Delivery*** to members of the parish (Lois Gehman), coordinating ***Funeral Receptions*** (Pam Wright), ***Men's Fellowship*** (Vip Vipavetz), ***Newcomers*** welcome (Andrea October, Annabel Ebersole) and ***Special Occasions*** (Linda James).

Here are the guiding principles behind having an ***Accessibility Advocate***, as outlined by chair Leslie Cochrane:

The first is found in 1 Corinthians, chapters 12, 21 and 26, in which St. Paul writes, in part, "The eye cannot say to the hand 'I have no need of you,' nor can the hand say to the eye, 'I have no need of you.'" He also writes, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it."

In other words, this is a ministry by people with disabilities as well as ministry to people with disabilities. Cochrane adds that a major goal is making the church accessible before being asked to do so because people often ask but don't return to see the changes made because their first impression is that they aren't welcome.

As for some of the other committees, Allison LoCastro heads our ***Flower Delivery*** ministry. She coordinates with Martha Caruso and the pastoral care team regarding who receives flowers. Allison needs volunteers to pick up already-prepared bouquets after the 11 a.m. service and deliver them.

Dining Out chair, Lois Stough, said there are currently three groups: one weekday group, a Wednesday night group and a Sunday lunch group. She forms new groups when one gets too big (the Sunday group is at 17, she said, almost ready to divide.) Form your own group? There is an information sheet and sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Interested parishioners should contact Lois directly with

questions.

Pam Wright coordinates our **Funeral Reception** ministry. They did five receptions last year and they always welcome new team members. They are divided into four teams, each covering three months. There are also "floaters" who provide additional help when needed. Contact Pam for more info or to sign up.

Men's Fellowship meets every second Saturday at 8 a.m. in Miles Hall for breakfast, devotionals and, often, a short program. At the last meeting, the chaplain at Eastern State spoke about the numerous changes taking place there and how the men's fellowship group could help.

A second part of the Internal Ministries Commission is **Worship**, led by Linda James. This ministry includes **Acolytes**, the **Alter Guild**, the **Choir** and **Greeters** for each service. All of the above help enrich our worship services and keep things moving smoothly.

All committees are hungry for more participation. Please think prayerfully how you might help and contact the leader of a committee you are interested in. The Vestry Liaison is Meredith Poole mpoole@cwf.org

