

The Cloak

newsletter Feb.— Apr. 2014

Dynamic Grace in Motion

By the Rev'd Shirley Smith Graham

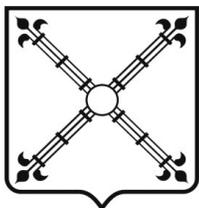


In my previous career as a project manager, the joke was that my job was like the old vaudeville act where the person spins a series of plates on poles and must visit each plate to give it a further spin so that none of the plates fall off its stick. The secret to success, whether managing projects or spinning plates, is to keep all the important elements in motion. One could say this is a true phenomenon in nature, but it is also an observation about how God seems to work through the Church.

A congregation cannot focus on just one ministry. A congregation does not flourish on good preaching alone. A congregation doesn't thrive on compassionate pastoral care alone, or friendly members alone, or generous self-giving outreach alone. Focus on each individual's growth is essential, but focus on self-development distorts a church unless the self-development is also tied to service to others. Study becomes academic without being paired with worship. All these elements -- worship, outreach, prayer, faith formation, pastoral care, resource management -- when engaged together lead to a growing, lively church, full of people who are following in the footsteps of Jesus.

Of course, this means keeping all the plates spinning. The Holy Spirit is very good at keeping all the plates spinning, helping a church stay gospel-oriented and flexible enough to adapt itself to people's circumstances on the ground. But this also means that we never "crack the code" of how church best works. We never find the perfect worship schedule for all time, the ideal commission structure, or the dream approach for funding ministries. As soon as we find "perfect," we stop "spinning", or changing and responding to the Spirit, and when we stop responding to the Spirit, we die.

While it is true that change can be fatiguing, motion is needed to keep moving: God's will is to keep the plates spinning. So the next time you see us updating something at the church, or revising a program or developing a new ministry, rejoice that the plates are still spinning. If you don't know everything that's going on, or if you need to be introduced to someone you don't know, rejoice that the plates are still spinning. If the financial needs of the congregation increase, rejoice that we are finding new ways to touch people with Christ's love and invite them into the service of God's kingdom. The timeless ministry of Christ remains effective while the church is willing to adapt to the eras of particular times and cultures in which the church finds itself.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

1333 Jamestown Road , Williamsburg, VA 23185-3335

(757) 229-1111 fax (757) 229-1797 www.stmartinswmbg.org office@stmartinswmbg.org

Worship Services Saturdays at 5pm, Sundays at 8, 9:15, 11 am, & Wednesdays at noon.

St. Martin's
Vestry
2014



BARBARA WATSON
SENIOR WARDEN



RENE deJAGER
JUNIOR WARDEN



RON MONARK
TREASURER



NELLIE WILLIAMS
REGISTER



CINDY ALBERT



FRANK CARUSO



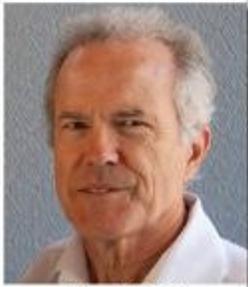
CLIFF DICKEY



DAVID DRY



DAVE HOLTGRIEVE



TED LYMAN



BEV OLSEN



SHEILA GLENNON-SANDLING



BOB SAUNDERS



CATHERINE WHITE

Please Join Us for News -- Not Your Father's Annual Meeting

When a congregation is focused on doing wonderful things for Christ and Christ's people, it's exciting to get together and hear what's about to happen. While many churches have an annual meeting that focuses on the past, we now rely on our communications through The Cloak, The Threads, The Sunday Announcements, Twitter and Facebook as well as our members' active engagement in ministry to find out what *has been* happening. What is far more strategic is getting the congregation coordinated to achieve what we *plan* to do. Join the vestry on **Sunday, February 9, from 10 - 11 a.m.** to find out what dreams they discerned for our ministries together for the next three years and to give your feedback. Take part in the conversation. We are not fully ourselves unless everyone is there. The treasurer will make a summary presentation of the church's financial posture. Children's activities will happen concurrently so that Sunday School teachers can attend the meeting. See you on the 9th.

The clergy and vestry would like to thank all of the members of St. Martin's family for their support that made 2013 a financial success, as well as another major step forward on our spiritual journeys. Thank you to those who pledged, as pledges exceeded budget by \$9,000. Thank you to those who made our non-pledge contributions also exceed the amount budgeted for that income line item. Thank you to the staff and lay leadership, who with great effort kept our expenses under budget. We look forward to an exciting year in 2014, and please send your pledge in if you have not done so already. Your support will ensure that we plan appropriately and continue to expand our parish programs.

-- Ron Monark, Treasurer

*Grateful, Glad
& Giving*



From the Assistant Rector

As most of you know, my family has faced something that no one wants to face, but it is something that many of you have. Maggie, my wife and the most wonderful person I have and will ever know, was diagnosed with breast cancer on the eve of Christmas Eve. She then endured what many of our parishioners have, a double mastectomy, on the eve of New Year's Eve.

After the confusion, anger, and sadness that follows any event such as this I preached a rather rambling sermon to let you all know what had happened in our family. There is a very simple reason that I did this. The first reason is a little self serving- we clergy can get incredibly upset when we find out about catastrophic events after the fact. So, knowing this and with the incredibly wise counsel of the wisest priest I have ever met (Shirley, your Rector), I decided to let you know what was happening with our family in the most open forum that I could imagine. That forum was, and is, the pulpit at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. I did this with incredible trepidation. The pulpit is, in my mind, to speak about the Gospel and Jesus Christ.

After the rambling sermon, I realized that my words were indeed not about Maggie, me, Liam or Finn, but about the good news of family and the openness of family. I realized this because upon later reflection I came to understand that the sermon was not about us, but about the hard bumps in the road that we all lift each other up from.

I must admit that I only realized this after the sermon was over.

This was because at the end of the services, I received the love and support of a parish that made me know that our relationship was not a one way street. Our relationship is not one in which I support you and received no support in return- but one of family that love and support each other. In other words, y'all love us as we love you.

In other words, y'all have all taught us more than any three years of seminary could. We are eternally grateful for a lesson that will form our family for the rest of our days.

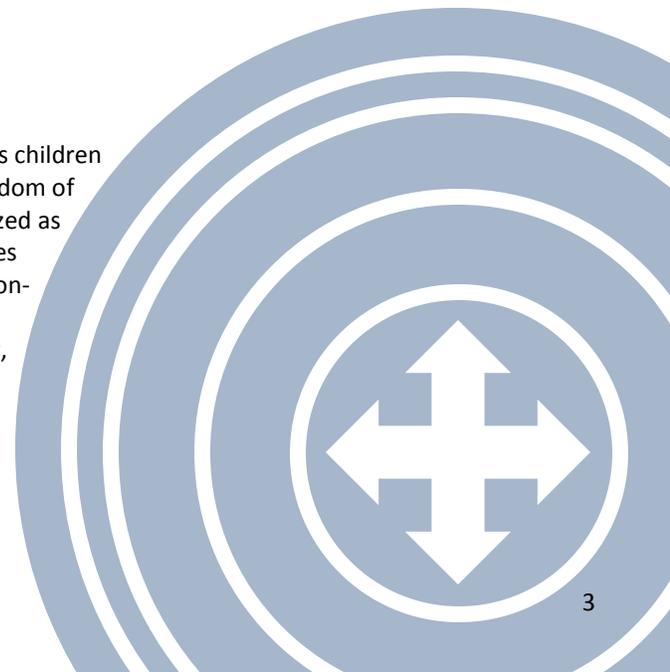
So, that being said, we would like to thank the Community of Saint Martin's Episcopal Church for all of the prayers, the food, the cards, the flowers, the offers of logistical help, and simple love that all of you have shared. Most of all we would like to thank you for the lesson of family and ministry.

We would also like to thank the staff and vestry for giving an ordained zombie a wide berth during this time- along with a lot of love, care, and understanding. Know that we all love you and are grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community. You have made me realize that the sign on the pulpit is not just a slogan, but "we would see Jesus" is something that is real and alive at this place- because we have definitely seen the face and compassion of Christ in all of you.

God Bless you all and Thank You,
Fr. Clay, Maggie, Liam, and Finn

For Those Seeking Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The sacrament also bonds the people of the Church to those being baptized as a community. For those who are considering this important step for themselves or their children, St Martin's Episcopal Church would like to offer these traditional dates as possibilities. The dates are The Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 19th at 6pm), The Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday, April 27th), or Pentecost (Sunday, June 8th). All dates, with the exception of the Easter Vigil, will offer either the 9:15 am or the 11 am service as a possibility. Contact Fr. Clay with any questions or requests for other dates at clay@stmartinswmbg.org or (757) 229-1111.





LENT at St. Martin's

Sign-up for Lenten Devotion
Writing on Sunday, Feb. 2,
2014 after each service
so Booklets can be made
available on Shrove Tuesday
(Tues. 3/4/14)

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**
on Tues. March 4th, 5 to 7pm

Ash Wednesday
Eucharist & Imposition
of Ashes on March 5
at 7am, Noon and 7pm

Book Study
on "Cultivating Wholeness"
by Margaret Kornfield
on Wednesdays 4/2, 4/9, 4/23 &
4/30 from 2-3:30pm, led by Liz
Thomas, Hospital Chaplain

**Saturday Evening
Eucharist**
at 5pm on 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29,

Holy Week & Easter



Apr. 13- Palm Sunday

Eucharist at 8am, 9:15am & 11am



Apr. 15- Tuesday in Holy Week

Tenebrae Prayer Service at 7pm



**Apr. 16 -Wednesday in
Holy Week**

Noon Eucharist and Healing at 12:pm



Apr. 17-Maundy Thursday

Eucharist & Altar Stripping at 7pm



Apr. 18- Good Friday

Self-guided Stations of the Cross from Noon to 3pm

Good Friday Prayer Service at 7pm



Apr. 19- Holy Saturday

Walk the Labyrinth - from 11am to 7pm

Holy Saturday Prayer Service— 10am

Great Easter Vigil at 6pm



Apr. 20- Easter Sunday

Easter Celebratory Eucharist at 8am, 9:15am and 11am

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15am on church grounds

Butterfly Release at 10:30am on church grounds

YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Martin's Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Schedule of Events

1/19/14	Ice Skating @ Hampton Roads IcePlex (Sun. 1-4:30pm)	3/23/14	Family Feud w/George Roesch (Sun. 4-6pm) @ MH
1/26/14	Make "Food-to-go" bags for Winter Shelter folks & unload s helter trailer (11am-Noon) @ MH	3/30/14	Lazer Tag (Sun time TBA) @ WISC
2/02/14	Super Bowl Party (Sun. time TBA @ Ambler's home)	4/06/14	No EYC (Spring Break)
2/09/14	Valentines to Veterans (Sun. 2-5pm)@ Hampton Vet Hosp	4/13/14	No EYC (Palm Sunday)
2/15/14	Movie Nite (Sat. 6-9pm) Dr. Who with Rite-13 @ MH	4/18/14	Good Friday Labyrinth (all day) @ MH
2/21/14	Family Fun Night (Fri. 5-8pm) @ Moes	4/19/14	Easter Vigil
2/23/14	Game Night (Sun. 4-6pm) @ MH	4/20/14	No EYC (Easter Day)
3/02/14	Make Our Own Bible Movie (Sun. time TBA) @ Beyond Bricks	4/26-27/14	Camping (Sat-Sun time TBA @ 1st Landing State Park, VA Beach)
3/09/14	Make Anglican Prayer Beads (Sun 4-6pm) @ MH	5/02/14	Go Ape (Fri. time TBA) @ Freedom Park
3/16/14	Heritage Humane Animal Shelter (Sun time TBA) @ Animal Shelter	5/04/14	Make Mother's & Father's day gifts (Sun. 4-6pm) @ MH
		5/11/14	No EYC (Mothers' Day)
		5/18/14	Frisby Golf & Geo Caching (Sun time TBA) @ County Park
		5/25/14	No EYC (Memorial Day Weekend)



March 9, 2014
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
one hour (from 2am to 3am)

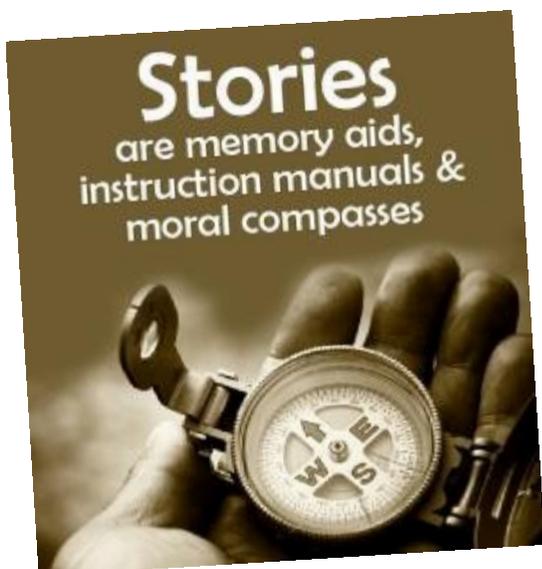
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 2014, from 5 to 7:00pm
in Miles Hall

\$6 /adult — \$4 /child under 12 — \$20/max/family

Pancakes, Sausage, Apples, Masks, Trinkets, Games, Prizes and Jazz
Ticket Sales will begin after each service on February 16
and the following two Sundays.

Proceeds benefit the J2A 2016 Pilgrimage



Story Sundays:

February 16—Jesus calls His Disciples

3G—How calling is a vocation beyond a job

March 23 — Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

3G — Healing beyond Medical School

April 27 — Doubting Thomas

3G — Forgiveness: The Power to be at Peace

May 25 — The Road to Emmaus

3G — Why Christians Feed People



Vacation Bible School '14

Offered by all Three Episcopal Churches in area- Hosted by Bruton Parish Church

First Full Week of August (8/4—8/8) **Put the dates on your calendar NOW**

Sometime in the next three months there will be a meeting to plan the curriculum
and anyone who is interested in helping with this phase is welcome to join in.

Call (229-1111) or Text (645-8891) or email Ann Meyer (ann@stmartinswmbg.org) to volunteer

Stay tuned for the date and time of the curriculum planning meeting.

Story Sunday



Super Bowl Chili

Rite 13 will be selling Super Bowl Chili on Sunday, February 2nd before and after the services. A limited amount will be made and sold first come, first serve. There will be regular and vegetarian chili available. \$8.50 a quart. You may order ahead by sending an email to cwjordan_2@msn.com by Thursday, January 30th indicating how many quarts and whether you want vegetarian or regular chili.



Stop Action Lego Story

On the first Sunday in March (3/02/14) our EYC youth are going to Beyond Bricks for 3 hours to make characters and sets out of legos and video and produce a short YouTube film of a Bible story of their choice. They will be using the legos, cameras and computers at Beyond Bricks to accomplish this. If you want to see what a stop action lego story looks like, view the prodigal son which is on faithformation.stmartinswmbg.org under "Just for Kids" and then "Stories that Teach Us."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP with ANNUAL COUNCIL FEBRUARY 7-8, 2013

Would you like to volunteer to serve as a Host/Hostess during the Diocesan Annual Council at the Williamsburg Lodge? We surely could use your assistance. Please contact Lora Price (229-1111) or office@smartinswmbg.org.

Outreach Update

Saint Martin's strives to be one of the limbs of the Body of Christ in this world and I am very happy to say that this is evident through our many efforts in outreach!

In the last fiscal year, you as parishioners have-

- Donated over 500 bags of groceries to FISH at a value of roughly \$16,000
- Prepared and served over 475 meals at the Grove Christian Outreach Center and delivered donated groceries on a weekly basis.
- Fed over 225 meals to homeless persons in Newport News in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church.
- Distributed approximately \$55,000 in financial assistance to international, national, and local individuals and organizations (operating and restricted funds combined), excluding our contribution to the Diocese of Southern Virginia, which was an additional \$48,000
- Volunteers lend their talents to organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Avalon, FISH, Walk the Talk Prison Ministries, The Community Resource Center, and the Community of Faith Mission.
- The parish has sent a mission trip to Minot, North Dakota to volunteer over 300 hours to aid residents devastated by flooding.
- Members continue the tradition of our annual Christmas gift drive for the kids of James River Elementary School and providing thanksgiving meals to the precariously housed and homeless of the Williamsburg area
- Parishioners worked over 596 volunteer hours by staffing the Winter Shelter homeless shelter program in conjunction with the Community of Faith Mission.

We are growing in our efforts and continue to strive towards the goal that is emblazoned on our pulpit- **"That we would see Jesus"**



Social Services
5249 Olde Towne Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-259-3100
jamescitycountyva.gov

December 20, 2013

To The Reverend Graham & The Reverend Riley:

Your generosity is uplifting. Thank you so much for your donation of \$1,000 towards our Emergency Needs Fund. Our staff will make sure these funds are used to provide such things as food, clothing, shelter, etc to families or individuals in need.

We are so grateful to you for your continued support in helping our clients in need. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Diana F. Hutchens, Community Services Manager/
Director of Social Services



November 21, 2013

Dear Friends at St. Martin's Episcopal Church,

On behalf of our learners, I want to thank you for your generous support of Literacy for Life. Your gift of \$425 makes it possible for nearly 500 adults in our area to make life-changing breakthroughs as they strive toward independence and new opportunities. Because of you, our learners are finding better jobs, receiving their GEDs, actively participating in their children's schools, and becoming more involved in our community.

I encourage your members to come see your gift in action. If any of your congregation or staff would like to take a tour and learn more about our program, please call me personally at 221-3326. It would be an honor to show you how your donation is making a difference.

Sincerely,

Joan B. Peterson
Executive Director

2014

CALENDARS & CARDS RECYCLING PROJECT

By Stephanie King

In the fall of 2009, Ann Meyer and I were looking for a way to do something constructive with the calendars that filled the mailboxes of the Bruton and St. Martin's parishioners, rather than putting them on the curb with the newspaper & magazines to be recycled. I asked a friend, whose uncle was at Envoy Williamsburg, if she thought the residents and staff might be able to use some wall calendars and she immediately said yes! She gave me the name of the Activities Director and we were off and running. Just before Thanksgiving Ann & I delivered several hundred 2010 wall calendars, Christmas cards and even wall hangings to brighten the rooms of the 130 residents and the staff at Envoy.

The next fall the calendars and Christmas cards came pouring in. So we added Avalon, Grove Christian Outreach, and Olde Towne Medical Center. We also learned that Erase the Need could use the pads of paper and pens and that Grove could use all occasion cards all year. Each year the numbers collected and distributed increased.

This year, thanks to the Activities Department at Williamsburg Landing, residents were able to drop off calendars and cards. With three groups of people "recycling" together the response was overwhelming! We were able to distribute calendars and cards to four more organizations.

The organizations are: Avalon, Child Development Resources (CDR), Envoy Williamsburg, Erase the Need, Family Preservation Services, Inc. in Hampton, Grove Christian Outreach, Olde Towne Medical Center, Sanders Retirement Village in Gloucester and Woodhaven at Williamsburg Landing.

The totals are: 1045 calendars and 3414 cards, of which 2121 were Christmas cards. 390 of the Christmas cards came in the week before Christmas. Those will be delivered to the Liz Moore Military Team next September as they begin collecting cards to send the troops overseas, so that they can send them to family and friends back home.



November 18, 2013

Dear Rev. Smith Graham:

On behalf of Avalon: A Center for Women and Children, I want to thank you for your most recent contribution in the amount of \$1,000 on 11/18/2013. Your gift will make it possible for us to serve more than 500 women and children in the greater Williamsburg area who are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness this year.

These are just a few of the programs that Avalon provides in our community.

- 24-Hour Helpline
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Children's Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Counseling and support groups

You are helping to make a difference in the lives of others and, like our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, you are assisting in making our community a safer and healthier one. Thank you again for your support.

Most sincerely,

FREE

INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION & ELECTRONIC FILING

By IRS-Certified VITA Volunteer Tax Preparers

FAST REFUNDS -  - **direct deposit**

Five Williamsburg-Area Locations—Open Feb 1-Apr 15

<p>MONDAYs – 2 - 6 pm ☆☆ open FEB 3, 10, 17, 24 ONLY ☆☆ James River Community Center 8901 Pocahontas Trail (Hwy 60-E) Sponsor: James City County</p>	<p>TUESDAYs – 2 - 6 pm and THURSDAYs – 2 - 6 pm CW's Bruton Heights School Ed Ctr 301 First Street – Room 204 Sponsor: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation</p>
<p>MONDAYs – 3:30 - 7 pm Toano Middle School 7817 Richmond Rd – Cafeteria Use Outside Entrance Closed Feb 17 (School Closed for holiday) Sponsor: WJCC Public Schools</p>	<p>MONDAYs – 2 - 6 pm ☆☆ open FEB 3 & 10 ONLY ☆☆ WEDNESDAYs – 2 - 6 pm ☆☆ open ALL TAX SEASON ☆☆ James City County Rec Center 5301 Longhill Rd – Room C Sponsor: James City County</p>
<p>SATURDAYs – 9:30 am-1 pm Quarterpath Rec Center 202 Quarterpath Road Sponsor: City of Williamsburg Parks & Rec</p>	<p>QUESTIONS? Tel: 757-220-7029 Option 3 (leave message) Email: VITAwbg@cox.net</p>

BRING

- Gov't picture ID (Driver's lic.)
- Social Security Cards
- Income W-2s/1099s
- Receipts for deductions
- Bank account info (check)
- 2012 Federal & State Returns

Giving Tree

Dear Parish Family,

One of the things that I have always appreciated and loved about St. Martins is our desire to reach out to others. Once again you all have been extraordinarily generous in your response to the needs and wishes of the children from the Giving Tree.

From my perspective, this years' efforts came together beautifully. It has been a joy to work with Lora, Sandy and that mischievous elf (Pickett) to make this a successful program. And for Florence, Len and Blanche and 120 + of you who gave of their time and resources to this project, I thank you.

I am grateful to be part of this loving and giving community.

Helen Miles

NEW Caregiver Support Group for MEN

Caregiver Support Group for MEN (sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association)

3rd Wednesday of each month, beginning Feb 2014 11:15am-12:30pm

(Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug20, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17)

At Williamsburg United Methodist Church 500 Jamestown Road, Room #206

Complimentary care is available for your loved one at Respite Care of WUMC during the meeting; however, pre-registration is required. Please inform Charlie Martino, group facilitator, at 757 564-0098 cmartino444@aol.com or Carolyn Yowell, Respite Director, at 229-1771 ext. 354, cyowell@williamsburgumc.org if your loved one will be attending Respite Care during the Support Group Meeting. Respite Care staffing during these meetings is funded by a grant from the Williamsburg Community Foundation.



Senior Pastoral Care

By Martha Caruso

One of the founding principles I love about Saint Martin's is our outreach and conviction that we are all part of the body of Christ. Our pulpit bears the words "We would see Jesus". Our priests bid us to evangelize by example, so that others may know that we are Christians by our outward signs of love and compassion.

So what do we do when our hearts are willing; yet our hands, feet and stamina have become unable to comply with our mission, when we become the recipient of Saint Martin's care, instead of the doer of good that we have always been? What is our ministry as we age?

Faith, prayer, and humility are the basis of our work for Christ. These are powers that bolster any faith community. A daily prayer for Saint Martin's and the work we have been given to do, is a way of blessing and safeguarding our outreach workers. Praying for the sick, brings loving healing. Making a daily safety call to an elderly friend brings an assurance of connectedness and caring. The work of Christ is quiet and without media fanfare or political affiliation.

As we age, humility may take a different slant. Being care- receivers, is also a gift to give back to the parish that so wants to help others. This being said, it is often very difficult to ask for continuing help, without feeling like a burden. After all, everyone has very busy lives and very little extra time, and people have a hard time saying no to a person in need. So all too often, we don't ask and struggle on the best we can.

How difficult it must have been for the disciples to let Jesus wash their feet and minister to them. In ancient times it would have been considered rude to not offer a traveler off the dusty roads a basin to wash his feet, and respite from the journey. Today it might be considered rude to not honor and care for our elders and give them respite on the journey. But to accept someone's offer, to see your calloused, twisted feet, or other age-related ailments, is truly taking faith, prayer and receiving, to a state of true humility. It is here that the grace of God appears. Jesus loves us and works through us at all stages of our lives. "Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you as my disciples: by your love for one another" (see John 13, 34-35). Jesus knew it was hard to receive, but He knew that we were connected as the body of Christ, caring and receiving each other's care.

Saint Martin's Senior Pastoral care is working with Faith in Action to help people examine what needs they may have and providing information to help people age safely in their homes, with some added supports. Information is also available for support groups for care-givers, by calling either Saint Martin's or Faith in Action.

Faith in Action: 258-5890

free service; volunteers who are living out their faith calling
Transportation to Dr. appointments, shopping, hair appointment etc. (48 hours notice)
Companionship, light housework, daily safety call or medication reminder.

Prescriptions Home

Delivery:

Williamsburg Drug Company 229-1041
Professional Pharmacy of Williamsburg 229-3560

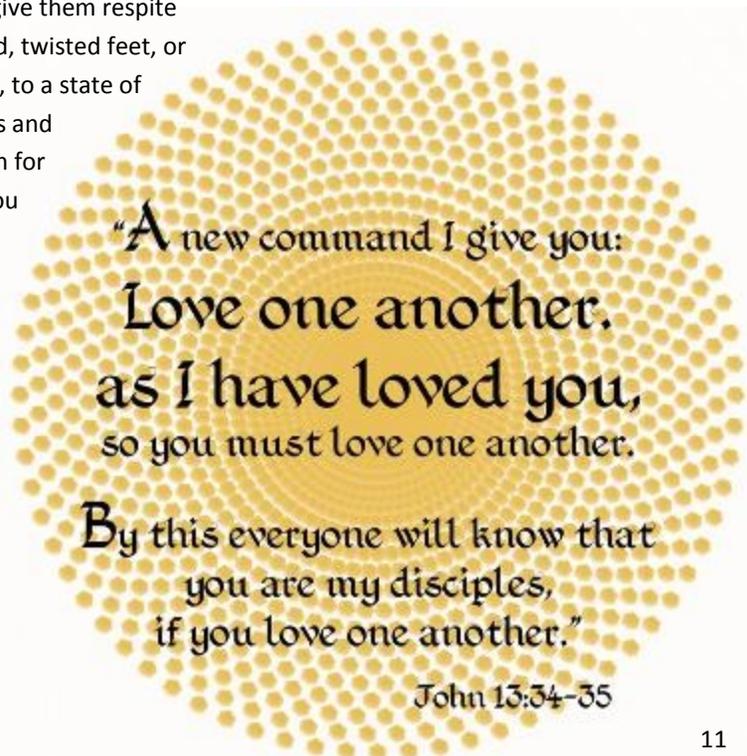
On-line Resources for deciding about care for self or a loved one

www.CaregiversLibrary.org

www.SeniorNavigator.org

<http://www.padrn.org> (Local Peninsula Aging and Disability Resource Network)

If anyone is interested in volunteering to make a daily safety call, provide transportation, picking up groceries, or visits please contact the office at 229-1111.



St. Martin's/ St. Stephen ELCA Community Health Forum

On April 5th, 2014 St. at 10 am,

Saint Martin's will host a Forum focusing on how we navigate our world as the hands and hearts of Christ in this world in the light of the special wellness challenges that face us in the Greater Williamsburg area and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Marco Grimaldo, Executive Director of the Virginia Interfaith Center on Public Policy based Richmond, VA be our keynote speaker speaking on

“Individual and Collective Responses to Our Community”

focusing on how we respond in faith based ways to the very real issues that face our community. The forum then will focus on two important health related issues mental health and aging.

The first issue addressed will focus on mental health issues in our community and the options, public and private, that are available for us as Christians to help, be informed, and be a welcoming, safe, and open place for all of God's people.

The second focus will deal with the challenges of aging in our churches and surrounding communities. The forum will focus on how we as Christians can strive to nurture connections with seniors in our churches and community.

The forums will feature group presentations and facilitated small group sessions featuring local professionals involved in these issues. Lunch will be served during the event.

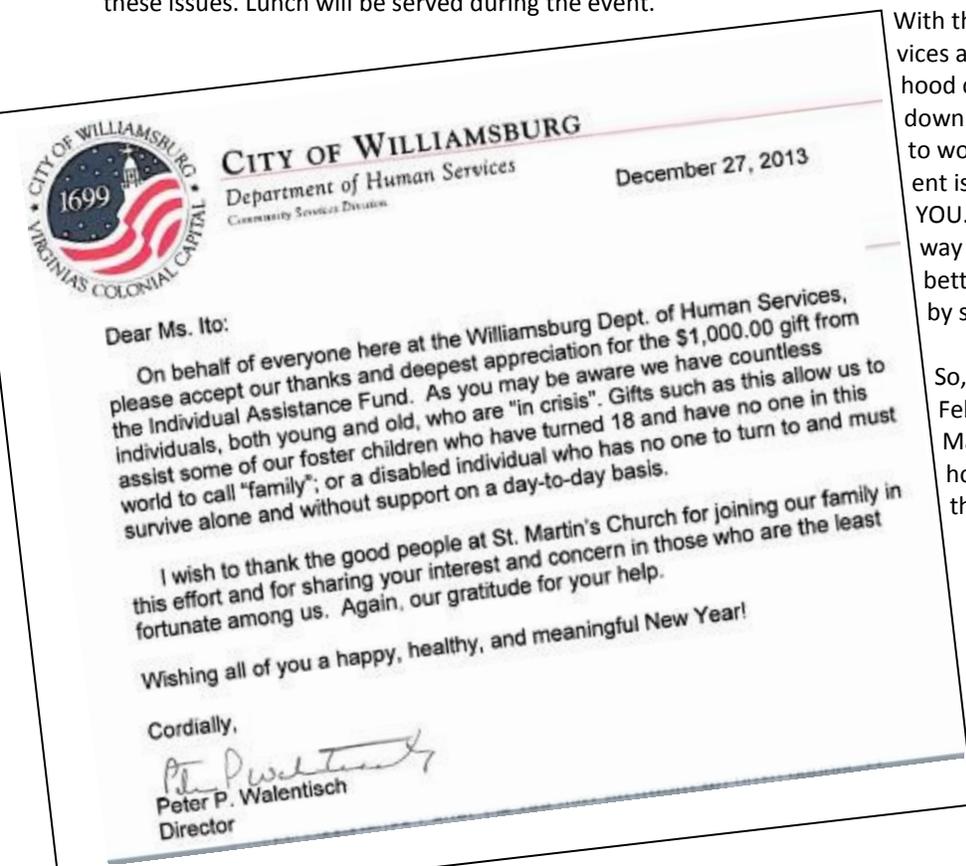


The Outreach Commission is excited to announce that our church will begin an exciting new project in February of this year.

On the last Wednesday of every month, St. Martin's will open the doors of our church to welcome those in need in for a hot meal. The difference in this project and a standard meal service is that we will all break bread together as a congregation and a community. We have seen the relationships that have been made and testified to in our congregation members who have participated in the Community of Faith Mission Winter Shelters, so we thought- why only once a year?

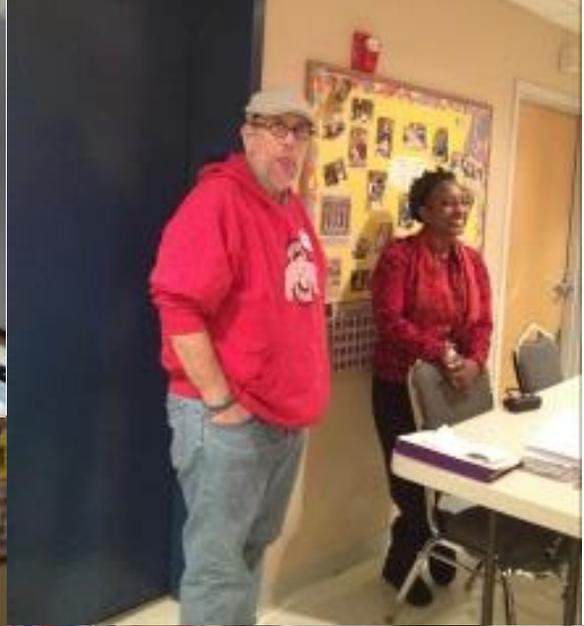
With this in mind, we will reach out the local social services agencies, the neighborhood schools, and neighborhood churches to invite people to simply come by and sit down to a potluck meal at Saint Martin's. For this project to work, there is one essential ingredient. That ingredient is not a spice or a dish —the most important thing is YOU. This is simply because building relationships is the way we live into our call as Christians and there is no better way to build relationships in a community than by sharing meals!

So, bring a side dish, drink, or dessert to Miles Hall on February 26th at 6pm; an entree, side, dessert on March 26th, or April 30th at 6pm and reach out in hospitality to those in need- and be prepared to see the face of Christ in each other!





WE ARE HERE TO SERVE



Hosting the Community of Faith Winter Shelter



Growing, Together and Supporting Each Other

By the Rev'd Shirley Smith Graham

We can grow and support each other by meeting together regularly in a small group setting.

It's no accident that Jesus found the model of 12 friends gathered together to be an effective way of helping them grow and enabling them to touch others. Twelve people meeting together is a small enough group for everyone to get to share, ask their questions and make bonds of friendship with each other. It's also big enough to prevent any one person from feeling too self-conscious.

In the Fall of 2013, with the vestry's encouragement, I launched St. Martin's Home Fellowship Groups. In the next few months, we will grow from two groups to five groups, and more will be developed as people express the desire to be involved in a group. Each group meets weekly for an initial period of weeks to get to know each other. Then the group decides on an ongoing schedule that will work for their members. At each session, the group follows the format of opening prayer, check-in, study / sharing, prayer requests, closing prayer and refreshments.

Each group consists of a host and a facilitator who have been in one of my training groups and learned how to support a healthy group. I will periodically visit the group as a way of keeping pastoral contact. My hope is that, eventually, we will have a Home Fellowship Group in every area of our community to support the growth and pastoral care of members beyond what happens on Sunday morning. In addition, I would want groups to feel free to invite their neighbors so that even those who do not worship at St. Martin's may benefit.

What Home Fellowship Group is

- Individuals who are willing to grow individually and together
- People who yearn for an assurance of Christ's caring for them in their daily lives
- Folks who let others share appropriately, without cross-talk, advice-giving or judgment.
- A balance of prayer, personal sharing and Christian study (often the Bible but sometimes a devotional or contemporary Christian thinker).
- A non-threatening environment
- Coordinated and resourced by Rev'd Shirley
- Initially, groups will meet weekly for six weeks, and then members can decide whether to continue. You may move between groups.
- Each group has a host, facilitator, and a point of contact.
- Each group has 8-12 people to enable a good group dynamic and an opportunity for all to share.

What Home Fellowship Group is not

- A self-help group
- A counseling or therapy session
- A Bible study (only), even though study is a component of every session
- A mentoring group

What do I do if I'm interested in a Home Fellowship Group?

- Look at the list of groups and find one that meets on a day/time that works for your schedule.
- Call or email the point of contact for the group and find out if there's room in the group.
- If there is room, go! If there's not, try another group.
- If you can't find a group that still has openings, contact Rev'd Shirley so that she can know of growth needs.

As of Winter 2014, the following Home Fellowship Groups are in operation:

- **Group A, John Tyler Hwy.** Meets Thursdays, 7 –8:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 6.
Point of Contact: Sue Ducibella, 259-9965, ducibes@gmail.com. — *This group is full!*
- **Group B, Ford's Colony.** Meets Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m., beginning Mar. 2.
Point of Contact: Roger Hoopengardner, 903-4246, roghoop@aol.com.
- **Group C, York County.** Meets Sundays, starting Feb. 9.
Point of Contact: Alice-Marie Schwenkler, 220- 2560, amschwenkler@gmail.com.
- **Group D, New Town.** Meets Wednesdays, beginning Mar.19.
Point of Contact: Len Scharf, 345-6401, lrscharf34@yahoo.com
- **Group E, Kingsmill/City of Williamsburg.** Meets Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., starting on Feb. 6.
Point of Contact: Gayle Mapp, 784-5984, gaylej1960@yahoo.com

Vestry Report November 2013

ST. MARTIN'S FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER, 2013

December provided a very strong finish as it has in the last two years, enabling us to finish the year with revenues substantially ahead of expenses. The statements below are probably confusing. I apologize, but the problem stems from the budget containing \$22,800 in revenue from "From Restricted Funds", which was never needed, and has distorted revenue and Net Total for the entire year. The key to understanding 2013 is actual cash income and actual cash expenses, summarized in the underlined statement in NET/NET below.

REVENUES

Revenues were over budget for the month by \$47,054 (\$48,954 if you disregard the From Restricted Funds budget of \$1,900 per month, which we did not touch all year). As a result, the annual revenues were \$16,864 over the published budget. HOWEVER, actual revenues were over the real budgeted income (without the From Restricted Funds entry) for the year by \$39,666. For the year, Pledges were over budget by \$9,044 and Non-Pledge Contributions were over by \$31,877.

EXPENSES

Expenses were over budget by \$5,419 for the month as we caught up on some last minute expenditures. YTD expenses were under budget by \$3,390.

NET/NET

For the year, 2013, St. Martin's had real income of \$717,158 and real expenses of \$699,292...leaving us with a surplus of \$17,866. On the I&E statement, you will see a surplus of \$20,254, which is larger than the stated surplus of \$17,866, because, even with the anticipated addition of \$22,800 From Restricted Funds, the budget anticipated that we would have negative cash flow of \$2,388.

PREPARING FOR 2014

In the last vestry meeting, the vestry approved the 2014 expense budget and postponed action on the budgeted income until we had more data and more analyses. We are accumulating that information and expect to deliver actionable information prior to the February meeting.

A quick review of the activities of the Vestry reveal several important themes.

St. Martin's, as is the case with other mainline Protestant churches, is undergoing a significant transformation in its membership and lay leadership. Sadly, the World War II Generation, the Silent Generation (those born in the 1930s and early 1940s) and some "Baby Boomers" (1946 to mid-1960s) are rapidly moving on to their ultimate rewards and will no longer be with us on earth. Our ministers have presided over twenty funerals this year. As a result, the current active membership must match the courage, compassion and commitment of earlier generations. This will obviously require a willingness to lead and contribute.

Fortunately, as evident by the five new volunteers for the Vestry, our members are responding to the challenges for leadership. At the same time, we need to thank Geoff Wade for his superb leadership as Senior Warden this year, who along with the thoughtful and constructive contributions of Bill Hoover, Nancy Pierce and Bar-bette Spaeth, will be completing their three year terms on the Vestry.

St. Martin's as of this date is also meeting the monetary challenge needed to sustain our missions. National studies show that it takes five new members to equal the contributions of one older member who has passed from the scene. Fortunately, this does not appear to be the case at St. Martin's. With the skillful leadership of Ron Monarch, as Treasurer, we have a good picture of the actual expenditures for next year and can budget accordingly.

Of course, ordinary and exceptional expenditures are always with us. Our Junior Warden, Rene de Jager, along with Cliff Dickey who is also on the Vestry and many others, have, as all members will undoubtedly notice, done a virtual transformation of our buildings and grounds with minimum expenditures.

The original DNA of St. Martin's is its commitment to outreach. Based on the truism that any organization needs to respond to new challenges to flourish, the Outreach Commission has announced four major activities and goals for 2014. (a) The continuation of the Winter Shelter Program at the church for the week of January 26-February 2. (b.) A Parish/Neighborhood potluck dinner pilot program starting in February. (c.) A program of forums with guest speakers known as the Parish Practical Theology Forums on a number of issues such as aging, mental health, pollution and violence. (d.) Last but certainly not least, St. Martin's will continue its financial support for community service organizations.

Can not close without expressing the greatest admiration for the fifteen years of tremendous service of David Benedict in the numerous missions for the well being of this community.

Hopefully, this has been informative without being verbose.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church Vestry Report for December

Submitted by Barbette Spaeth on Dec. 16, 2014

The November Minutes of the Vestry were approved.

The Treasurer reported that for income for November we were under budget, like last year. Non-pledge contributions were a bit low. Expenses were over budget, but not excessively. Overall, we will wind up the year under budget. He also reviewed Version 5 of the expense budget for next year, which is very firm. Final approval of the revenue side of the budget will be next February. The average pledge is down \$300. There are a good number of new pledges, but we are losing some people at the highest level of pledging. The vestry voted to approve Version 5 of the expense budget.

The vestry voted to approve the clergy housing allowance resolutions.

The Rector's report included the following highlights:

- Helped to organize the election of new vestry members along with Nominating Committee and communicated with the new vestry members.
- Senior pastoral care ministries continued with help of Martha Caruso
- Successfully completed training of home fellowship groups.
- Clay and Outreach Commission are preparing for homeless shelter; our time is last week of January.
- Clay also looking at new procedure for administering individual assistance.
- Registering delegates for Council at beginning of Feb.
- Greening of church now in process; list being made of details of process
- Bulletins being readied for Christmas liturgies

The Senior Warden's report included the following highlights:

- Vestry retreat is at the end of January. All current and new members are encouraged to attend.
- Thanked everyone for service on vestry, esp. Renee and Ron
- Geoff thanked by vestry for his leadership
- The Senior Warden's report included the following highlights:

The Junior Warden's report included the following highlights:

- Wood siding on the side of the Zig-Zag Building has been replaced in time for Christmas.
- Termite treatment planned around sanctuary when weather is warmer
- Check to be cut for contractor before end of year
- Starting in January, there needs to be one volunteer per month to work with the Junior Warden; volunteers sought from vestry
- Air conditioning compressor needs replacing, hopefully before end of year. Additional quote to be sought

The committee reports included the following highlights:

Memorial Garden (Shirley)

Memorial garden committal site complete and beautiful. Kudos to Cliff and Renee. Expenses were covered out of reserves and will be paid back.

Need to map area discussed

Nominating Committee Report (Shirley)- Nothing to report. All sponsored leaders are being deployed

Grateful, Glad and Giving Report (Shirley) Program continuing with Shirley and Ginger in charge.

Finance Committee Report (David, Bill)

- Description of church investments. Review of decision to move some money into short term investment bond fund; will be reviewed quarterly.
- Discussion about concerns re pledging: smaller amounts on average than last year
- Recommendation to vestry: contact individuals who made pledges last year who did not this year for 2014.
- Rector to review list for pastoral concerns.
- Announcement should be made to parish on how many parishioners had pledged and at what level.
- Need to incentivize people to give more money per person.
- Causes? Shrinking availability of discretionary dollars and aging of population? Try to identify source of problem. Identify bands of pledging and average pledge per band

Endowment Fund Committee (Shirley)

- Need to build up corpus
- Has healthy outreach plan and special programs
- No spending until reaches \$100,000.

Outreach Commission (Clay)

- Outreach commission asked to put together list of topics: includes the following: gun violence, clean water and air, aging, mental health
- Monthly parish dinners open to homeless
- Shelter week is Jan. 27
- Can sign up on kiosk in narthex
- Training planned
- Can invite friends and neighbors to come
- Granting decisions to be made soon
- Send out lump sums

The Senior and Junior Wardens were elected for 2014:

Senior: Barbara Watson

Junior: Renee to continue

Terms of service on the vestry

Conventional 3 yr.

One person to hold for 2 yr.

Important Dates for Future

Vestry retreat, Jan. 24-26, 2014, 2209 Richmond Hill Retreat Center, E. Grace St. Richmond, VA

Diocesan Annual Council, Feb. 7-8, Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA – Council Delegates: Ginger Ambler, Betsy Finch, Ted Lyman, Miles Ruby

Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-thers; you are wor-thy of praise;

Members of St. Martin's Choir



Ch-ru-bim; we will praise

& Members of

St. Martin's

Bell Choir

be - hol

glo - ry to you.



Spi - rit; we will praise you and high-ly e-xalt you for e - ver.

January Birthdays

Mike Faubert	1
Susan Goodin	2
Lucas Henderson	2
JoAnne Meador-Wolfe	2
Bob Winfree	3
Tom Luckam	7
Margaret Yates	8
Edward Riley	9
Keely Flynn	11
Lynn Gaunt	11
Bobby Jankovic	11
Amelia Poole	11
Emma McNeil	12
Joby Mills	12
Joe Poole	13
John Stokes	14
Carol Vipavetz	14
Courtney Williams	14
Joanne Elston	15
Ethan Kavanagh	15
Isabella Roesch	15
Sandy Hale	16
Karen Florimonte	17
Matthew Link	17
Douglas Lockwood	17
Mia Fields	19
Howard Glenn	19
Miles Riley	19
Earl Rosser	19
Madeline Sipe	19
Whitney Smart	19
Michael Terrien	21
Pretlow Pacheco	22
Edith Brennan	24
Cliff Dickey	24
Peggy DuPont	24
Mollie Robbins	24
Mary Lynch	26
Jim Cheves	27
Kathy Urbonya	27
Lucinda Dudley	28
Ryan Hudgins	28
Mary Mulcahy	28
Paul Yates	28
Dodie Lowman	29
Gary Osborn	30
Edith Remick	30
Jennifer Rodriguez	30
Meghan Wilson	30
Gracy Arruda	31
Lisa Your	31

February Birthdays

Nathaniel Elliott	1
Jim Ramage	1
Walter Barter	2
Anson Butler	2
Michael Milligan	2
Gina Clayton	3
Anne Kelly	4
Linda Lockwood	4
Lee Rathbun	4
Patricia Barton	5
Mills Armbruster	6
Georgia Brummer	6
Stephen Howard	6
Charlotte McNeil	6
Gene Allender	8
Mary Iles	8
Ted Lynch	8
Jack Edwards	9
Kirk Flynn	9
Ireland Brummer	10
Aiden Butler	10
Amelia Butler	10
Reilly Flynn	10
Anna Wolf	12
Meredith Poole	14
Helen Smith	14
Mona Starman	14
Katie Green	15
Sarah Yatzeck	15
Branko Jaworski	16
Briana Jaworski	16
Olivia Deaver	17
Emily Stefanick	17
Dana Castle	18
Abbey Potter	18
Paul Stough	18
Betty Tyrrell	19
Allyn Potts	20
Eli Smith	22
Roger Hoopengardner	23
Ann Armstrong	24
Becky Garrison	25
Lynn Hoover	25
Carol Rideout	25
Emma Hagaman	26
Robert Cumming	27
Mary Enright	27
Kate Galke	28
Becky Molloy	28
Patrick Kavanagh	29
Ramon Rodriguez	29

March Birthdays

William Houghland	1
Mary Cabell	3
Stephanie Castleman-Argue	3
MaryAnnChurch	3
Shannon Hunter	3
Ginger Dewhirst	4
Cameron Deaver	5
Christine Evans	5
Earnest Graham	5
Jordan Barton	6
Eleanor Hunter	6
Buzz Wincheski	6
Geoff Wade	7
Don Harris	8
Dave Holtgrieve	8
Elizabeth Stelljes	8
Eloise Levy	9
David Benedict	10
Isabel Florimonte	10
Braden Stelljes	10
Joe Davis	11
John Pouch	11
Kyra Cook	12
Dee Holmes	12
Susan Ripple	14
Elizabeth De Jager	16
Matthew De Jager	16
Michael DeJager	16

Deirdre Roesch	17
Jack Seftas	17
Makayla Starman	17
Chuck Gaunt	18
Theresa Smart	18
John Robbins	19
Ken Butler	20
Ruth Harris	20
Michael Luck	20
Maxwell Brantley	22
Ann Meyer	23
Gary Sandling	23
Julie Conlee	24
Satoshi Ito	25
Rem Yates	25
Matt Jordan	26
Alan Melton	26
Hunter Hagaman	27
Gabbie Jones	27
Norman Berge	28
Jessica Link	28
Susan Terrien	29
Ginger Ambler	30
Marcia Connor-Davis	30
Grace Dossin	30
Bill Hoover	30
Ellenor Reynolds	30
Fran Ennis	31
Jackie Etheridge	31

A Prayer for Birthdays

O God, our times are in your hand:

Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as *they* begin another year.

Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

April Birthdays

Nydia Holley	1	Jim Hay	15
Jeannine Schmidt	1	Betsy Luckam	15
Sandy Liebler	2	Jacob Sandling	15
Dani Jaworski	3	Gijergii Cici	16
Mark Patterson	3	Emma Stelljes	16
Eric Hecker	4	Casey Bennett	17
Sam Jones	4	Hazel Farkas	17
Lucy Chamberlain	5	Emily Pease	18
Don Ennis	5	Jacob Barton	19
Ted Lyman	5	Lois Stough	19
Nellie Williams	5	Lynn Dievendorf	20
David Link	6	Meda Humphreys	21
Louie Wincheski	6	Anne Arseneau	22
Pam Hawkes	8	Evelyn Berge	23
Torbet Lovelace	8	Sheryll Elston	23
Marie Obermann	8	Creig Humes	23
Ramon Rodriguez	8	Linda Osborn	23
Calhoun Armstrong	9	Amy Stelljes	23
Harry Haynsworth	9	Nancy Ward	23
Carole Lynch	9	Madison Damien	24
Helen Miles	9	Mark Florimonte	24
Max Ritz	9	Rachel Johnston	25
Alan Bennett	10	Carina Dolci	26
Betsy Finch	10	Steven Kauffman	28
Tim Harris	10		
Liza Potts	11		
Sandy Dunton	12		
Mary Kline	12		
Gus Strawn	12		
Harry Eiselen	14		
Jenny Hecker	14		
Gayle Mapp	14		



A Prayer for Wedding Anniversaries

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Anniversaries	Date	Month
Name		
Cailin and Tim Yates	10	Jan
Chris and Connie Harris	12	Jan
Keith and Sarah Nickerson	16	Jan
Alice-Marie and John Schwenkler	26	Jan
Betty and Larry Jackson	29	Jan
Jim and Sue Barton	17	Feb
Linda and Ken Butler	22	Feb
Celia and David Jolley	24	Feb
Beth and John Goomis	25	Feb
Joyce and Ralph Cobb	29	Feb
Barbara and Robert Watson	5	Mar
Cliff and Jean Dickey	6	Mar
Jodie and Matt Dolci	6	Mar
Alan and Elizabeth Melton	8	Mar
David and Joan Dry	11	Mar
Annemarie and Fritz Schreiber	12	Mar
Christa and Fritz Mueller	22	Mar
Dennis and Patty Ogorzaly	23	Mar
Gilbert and Sheryl Elston	24	Mar
Mark and Susan Goodin	24	Mar
Evelyn and Norman Berge	31	Mar
Don and Sarah Noble	2	Apr
John and Lisa Hewett	3	Apr
JoAnne Meador-Wolfe and Al Wolfe	5	Apr
Betty and John Herringshaw	10	Apr
John and Louise Lynch	15	Apr
Polly and Michael Foote	17	Apr
Carole and Robert Lynch	18	Apr
Gary and Susan Ripple	19	Apr
Julia and Willis McClure	22	Apr
David Feldman and Susan Lontkowski	23	Apr
Joe and Meredith Poole	23	Apr
Hanson and Hazel Farkas	27	Apr

St. Martin's Ministers- All Members

Rector: Shirley Smith Graham, 229-1111, ext. 104, rector@stmartinswmbg.org

Assistant Rector: Clay Riley 229-1111, ext. 102, clay@stmartinswmbg.org

Director of Christian Formation: Ann Meyer, ext. 103, 229-1111, ann@stmartinswmbg.org

Parish Administrator: Lora Price, 229-1111, ext. 100, office@stmartinswmbg.org

Spiritual Director: Dana Castle, 565-1233, dana@stmartinswmbg.org

Music Director: Phaedra McNorton, 229-1111, ext. 107, music@stmartinswmbg.org

Senior Warden: Barbara Watson, 565-0282, barbjcc@cox.net

Junior Warden: Rene de Jager, 229-3244, reneadanadejager@gmail.com

Register: Nellie Williams, 810-2299, nelliewilliams40@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ron Monark, 345-5525, treasurer@stmartinswmbg.org

Asst. Treasurer: Jean Dickey, 645-4552, djean34026@aol.com

Pledge Treasurer: Barbara Faubert, sheqlts@aol.com, 220-3623

Financial Manager: Vicki Hall, 229-9832, treasurer@stmartinswmbg.org

The Cloak: office@stmartinswmbg.org

Emergency Pastoral Care (24 hrs/day): 757-784-8881

TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS-Have you recently called the church office? Hopefully a real, live person was available to answer your call in spite of the fact that sometimes we receive more simultaneous calls than we have people to answer. If that's the case, you'll receive a recorded message. Please know you can leave a voice mail at any point by directly dialing your party's extension. For your convenience, here's the list—which is also repeated during the recorded message. We look forward to hearing from you!

Rev'd Shirley	104
Rev'd Clay	102
Finance Manager, Vicki Hall	105
Faith Formation, Ann	103
Pledge Treasurer, Barb	105
Parish Admin, Lora	100
Music Director, Phaedra	107

Visit St. Martin's Web site at

www.stmartinswmbg.org



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

1333 Jamestown Road

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