

# THE QUILL & INK



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

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To submit an item to the newsletter, please email it to [newsletter@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:newsletter@churchofstmartin.org) or contact the parish administrator Jan Sanders at (530) 756-0444. The deadline is usually the 20th of the previous month.

### **Newsletter Credits**

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September, 2017

## ***VESTRY ANNOUNCES STATEMENT OF COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS***

On the 27th of August, the 2017 Vestry announced "A Statement of Commitments and Actions" to the people of St. Martin's, inviting all to discern how we should respond as a Christian community to events happening around us. Since the 2017 Vestry embarked on its duties, events outside our campus, in Davis and beyond, increasingly involved the targeting of marginalized and vulnerable groups. They challenged our sense of justice and compelled us to ask "What are we, as a Christian Community, to do?"

This statement is the culmination of efforts to answer that question that began early in this Vestry's tenure. Discussions during the search for a new rector also provided a continued opportunity to reflect on our own community identity and call, and came to be recognized as a "Second Call" by Bishop Beisner during that process. The statement has sought to be faithful to the aspirations revealed in the Parish Profile, which asks that we "do justice" and that we strive "to be more than we have been."

The statement sets out a series of commitments that we, as a faithful people in a welcoming church, believe will allow us to live in our mission statement ("...reaching out to welcome, heal, nurture, and serve"), our baptismal covenant ("to strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being"), and Bishop Curry's call to the Episcopal Jesus Movement ("To go into the world and help to be agents and instruments of God's reconciliation").

All parishioners have been invited to consider, over the next several weeks and beyond, how they might contribute their gifts to our communal effort to live these ideals. The lay ministry groups have also been called upon to consider how they might act to implement this statement and to encourage wider participation by our members.

A series of conversations with the Vestry are planned for this fall to allow parishioners to ask questions and share their views on the statement. Individual Vestry members are also always available for informal discussion during the coffee hour. Additional opportunities for involvement and discernment are expected to be offered by the various commissions and ministries.

\* \* \* \* \*

*(the Statement of Commitments and Actions is on the next page)*

### Statement of Commitments and Actions

We at St. Martin's are a faithful people intent on living the words of our baptismal covenant and the Jesus Movement.

All are welcome at our church. Whether you are questioning, doubtful; whatever your tradition; or wherever your journey of faith has taken you, you are welcome. Whether rich, poor, young, old, or in between, by yourself, or with a family, we welcome and will support you.

All genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, traditions, and languages spoken are welcome at St. Martin's and we will defend and love you.

We strive to care for God's creation, growing our local eco ministries.

We strive to support all those who seek our help.

We strive to support and advocate for the marginalized and immigrant communities.

We strive to support our youth, young children, students, un-partnered, families, elderly, and those who feel ignored and alone.

We strive for our actions to follow our words, and for our advocacy to give life to our ministry. We say and will do all these things in the name of the one who walked among us. Amen.

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### ***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS NEWS***

by Janet Lane, Jr. Warden

Buildings and Grounds has been very busy all summer. We want to share what we've been doing and would love your vision, ideas, perspectives and participation in our ministry.

We had a fun, productive and joyful Garden and Work Day on August 5th. We pruned, weeded, groomed, and laid mulch. We couldn't have done it without the help of Boy Scout Troops 466 and 139 (who meet at St. Martin's).

The fence around the childcare area (bordering the parking lot) is being replaced with a wrought iron metal fence similar to the one around the labyrinth and columbarium. We chose this type for its durability, but it will also give us a uniform type of fencing on our grounds and will look more open and inviting than our current wood fence. We still have work to do to make the children's outdoor play area more inviting and fun for kids. Help us envision what we might eventually do there.

St. Martin's has 65 trees on our grounds (wow!) including redwood (43 of them), crabapple, incense cedar, hackberry, Catalina cherry, zelcova, Chinese pistache, Italian cypress, and oak. We had a tree specialist inspect our redwood trees in August. The good news is that they are doing much, much better than they were two years ago when 18 trees were suffering from fairly serious drought stress. The improved irrigation we've added, plus the rain they've had this past year, made them happy. Still, eight trees need a little pruning to remove areas of possible redwood canker (suspected to be *Botryosphaeria dothedia*, which spreads and eventually kills the trees if it isn't removed). A couple other trees need pruning of large, low-hanging limbs. We will aim to get this work done before the middle of fall.

This past July marks three years since we resealed our labyrinth. Since it needs to be resealed every three years to preserve the quality and bright maroon color of the granitite (pulverized granite) that makes up the outline to the labyrinth path, we will be having it resealed in September or October so that everyone can continue to enjoy its beauty and walk its path.

Most important, St. Martin's new, all-electric heat and air conditioning units for the sanctuary are on order and scheduled for installation the week of September 11th. These energy-efficient units (24.5 SEER) will reduce our natural gas use, lower our carbon footprint, and stop use of the underground ducts beneath the church (which had water in them last winter). We will also reclaim open space where the large (now defunct) outdoor HVAC equipment sits near the columbarium. *(cont'd.)*

There are many ways to become involved in our Sacred Grounds (the new name for the ministry group focused on buildings-and-grounds-related matters). Consider coming to a Buildings and Grounds or Landscape Committee meeting (see service leaflets for meeting announcements), participating in a parish gardening day, or just expressing interest to me, Carren+, Mike Rushton (Sacred Grounds Ministry Chair), Deborah Drechsler (Landscape Committee Chair), or Jan in the church office. Or you can help us by praying for us and for this ministry. If you have any questions, concerns or input, I would love to talk with you ([jrlane@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrlane@ucdavis.edu); 530-219-0607).

### ***FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM OUR INTRIM RECTOR***

St. Martin's, you are a very special congregation! It's been a great blessing to serve alongside you in this past year. Transformation is at the very heart of the Christian mystery, and this parish has lived that mystery with gusto, during this time of leadership transition.

The Sunday after the presidential election was my first at the Church of St. Martin. The assigned texts for the day included Isaiah 65:17 "For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth..." and Luke 21:6, "...the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another..." For most of us, one text resonated more the other, but they're both the Word of God. All of our Scriptures remind us that we aren't the first people of God to face divisions and challenges, but we are called together to live as the one Body of Christ.

Transformation and unity have been our mission for this interim between rectors. The Parish Profile Committee worked hard to create a document that would express St. Martin's unique identity, and then we spent four Sundays listening to each other talk about what is most sacred to us at St. Martin's. Our four all-parish conversations required a cast of thousands to organize: you loaned us your card tables, prepared snacks, and spoke from the heart. In the process, the new Willits' Hershey Kiss randomization process was born, and it lives on!

Once we knew what was most important at St. Martin's, it was easy to see that our next step was to strengthen our support for those sacred aspects of your community life; that is how the Ministry Council developed. We grouped the many vibrant ministries of St. Martin's into teams or families, and we gave each team a "point person" or Commission Chair. Many thanks to Jim Schaal, Selinda Shontz, Adam Russ, Mike Rushton, and Carole Hom for saying "yes" to that call.

While the Ministry Council was taking shape, the Applicant Review Committee was reviewing resumes, doing preliminary interviews, and traveling to visit the top candidates in their natural habitats, finally handing over the names of finalists to the 2017 Vestry. In just two weeks, the Vestry entertained each finalist for two days, worshiping together, discussing every aspect of their lives and ours, and finally meeting with Bishop Beisner and calling St. Martin's next rector.

Senior Warden, Heather Baugh announced to the congregation that The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan would be St. Martin's next rector on the same day we'd planned an All Parish Meeting to discuss continuing the summer practice of just two services into the program year. As you know, St. Martin's has been discussing that change for years, and The Rev. Mark Allen had compiled quite a file of comments, survey responses, and notes from conversations he'd had about the possibility of making this change. I received letters from active congregants advocating for the change, and I watched worship ministry

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leaders and Jan Sanders, our Administrator, struggling to find all of the liturgical ministers we needed to support three services each week. After many discussions with staff, clergy, and parishioners, it was clear that this is a necessary change, and so we began in July to plan our new fall worship schedule.

If I had any doubts, they were put to rest when the Ministry Council had its second meeting in August. It's because of the Ministry Council that we have a series of learning opportunities for all ages planned for the coming year, and about a century's worth of ideas for future classes! It's because of the Ministry Council that we will have a continuous time of fellowship "coffee hour" from 8:30-10:15 every Sunday.

St. Martin's has been doing good work since it first met in the Varsity Theater. There's nothing new about St. Martin's doing good work. What is emerging now is a structure to support collaboration among St. Martin's many vibrant ministries. St. Martin's was doing just fine before I arrived, but I believe that the structure of the Ministry Council, and its collaborative process, along with healthy boundaries, will make it much easier for Pamela to put down roots at St. Martin's.

As a community, we have mourned significant losses this year, we have also celebrated great joys. We have baptized new Christians, we have buried some of our dearest kin, and we have taken big steps in the ministry transition process. I am leaving you now, at the beginning of the most important stage of your transition. Now is the time to welcome your new rector, to settle in with her. You've had a lot of practice at trying new things – and now you know you're very good at it!

I will be taking some time off over the next few weeks, to re-create and to discern where God is calling me to serve next. I could not be more grateful for sojourning with you, or more hopeful for your future. God-speed on your journey!

Carren+



### ***KEVIN BRIGGS TALKS ABOUT PATHWAYS PROGRAM***

On a recent Sunday, one of St. Martin's rising college freshman, Kevin Briggs, spoke about his experience in the Pathways and the Lift Every Voice program. As one of Pathways young adult leaders, Kevin spoke about this transformative experience (and his surprise at counting so many Episcopal clergy among his Facebook friends!). Upholding the theme "Reconciling with the Earth and Each Other," this past summer the Pathways group explored the stories of oppression, struggle, and healing in the Yosemite and Central valleys.

Several congregants have participated in these summer trips and found them inspiring and educational. If you would like more information about past trips or next year's plans, please contact Myles Clarke at [myles.b.clarke@gmail.com](mailto:myles.b.clarke@gmail.com).

### ***NEW SCHEDULE AND RECTOR***

Please join us as we say farewell and a heartfelt thank you to our interim rector The Rev. Carren Sheldon on her last Sunday at St. Martin's, September 10th.

Additionally, that day will be the first of our new fall schedule. After our summer "break" we will continue to have two Sunday services, albeit at slightly different times. Starting on September 10th, Sunday services will take place at 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. only. They will be connected by an extended coffee hour (8:30-10:15am) and Christian Formation (9-10am) that will include: nursery care for infants and toddlers, Godly Play for children K-5th grade, children's choir, and adult classes on the creeds and scriptures of the day.

The following week, on Sunday, September 17th, we will joyfully welcome our new rector The Rev. Dr. Pamela Dolan and her family, at our new service times of 7:45 and 10:30. (Though we're thinking of starting Daylight Savings Time early on that weekend, as well, just to make things extra exciting.)

