

**The Episcopal Church of St. Martin**  
**EXTENDED ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

***Gratitude and Generosity—Stewardship and Special Offerings***

**A Message from the Vestry**

The Vestry of the Episcopal Church of St. Martin, as duly elected leaders of the congregation, have turned in their 2023 pledges, as have the clergy staff. As our fall stewardship campaign comes to a close, we encourage all members of the parish likewise to decide on their best estimate of financial support to the parish in 2023 and make their pledge.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the 103 individuals and families who have already given us their pledge for 2023. **If you haven't pledged yet, you can still do so** by filling out a pledge card and mailing or bringing it to the church office, by putting it in the plate at church on Sunday, or by writing to our confidential stewardship e-mail ([stewardship@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:stewardship@churchofstmartin.org)). Your pledge helps us plan as accurately as possible for next year's budget and ministries. For questions about stewardship and pledging, feel free to reach out to a Vestry member. Thank you and God bless you!

**Thanksgiving Project Thanks**

Thanks to your generosity, the 2022 Christine Blanchard Annual Thanksgiving Project has been a great success! We received \$8,192. This amount is allowing us to serve over 70 families with \$100 grocery gift cards, with the remainder applied to gift cards in smaller amounts for undocumented UC Davis students in need. The Social Justice and Outreach Committee thanks you for your generous gifts. May you enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving.

**Accepting Christmas Flower Donations**

The Flower Guild will be arranging greens, poinsettias, and other beautiful flowers to make the church festive for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward the Christmas flowers in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one, please send us a check written to The Church of St. Martin with memo line "Christmas Flowers" **by December 15**, or you can give online using the green GIVE button on our website (select "Christmas Flowers" from the menu). Be sure to send us the names of who you are giving in memory of or thanksgiving for and we will list them in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins.

***Happening This Sunday—The First Sunday of Advent***

**Godly Play This Sunday, November 27 with Advent Wreath Making**

Children in Godly Play will have an opportunity to make Advent Wreaths!. We will do this during class time and then bring our creations into church to be blessed. Parents, please drop off your children by 10:00 and they will be brought back to church in time for Communion. Materials will be provided and we will plan for one wreath per family. **All parishioners are welcome to bring their own wreaths to church to be blessed at the end of the service.**

**Journeying the Way of Love: Advent Formation Opportunity beginning on November 27**

All are welcome to join us on Sunday, November 27, after the 10:00am service to learn about our upcoming class on Journeying the Way of Love in Advent. We'll spend an hour together getting

acquainted with the curriculum and learning about the seven spiritual practices in the Way of Love. Come to this first gathering as a stand-alone session and then decide if you want to participate in the four Wednesday night sessions that will follow. Either way, go home with a special Advent calendar! You can take a look at the Advent curriculum we will be using here:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love/>.

### ***More Advent Offerings***

#### **Living Well in Advent—Three Tuesdays at 10am on Zoom**

Join us for Living Well Through Advent, a Living Compass offering. This year the Advent theme is simplicity. We'll explore and reflect on scripture while considering how it affects our hearts, souls, strength, and minds. Anyone interested can drop in on three Tuesdays during Advent, **Nov. 29, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20, on Zoom from 10am to 11:30am.** (Note no meeting on Dec. 6). Advent Living Compass booklets can be picked up in the Narthex of the church on Sunday or from the church office on weekdays. The booklets provide daily readings and reflections; even if you can't join us, feel free to take one. For the meeting Zoom link, email Gabe at [communications@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:communications@churchofstmartin.org) or contact the church office.

#### **Next Spirituality in Nature Gathering on Saturday, December 10, from 10am to 12noon**

A recent nationwide survey of American spiritual and religious practices confirmed what most of us already know: people connect with the Holy when they spend time in nature. We are holding monthly Spirituality in Nature Gatherings (known as SINGs!) at various locations in the area, where we can learn from the earth and from one another. Generally, these will take place on the second Saturday of each month. In November we were at Forbes Ranch, planting trees, picking fruit, and learning about gratitude. This month we'll be here at St. Martin's, exploring the theme of incarnation and taking a prayer walk. Look for announcements on future Nature Gatherings. For questions, contact Rev. Pamela, Alessa Johns, Rev. Debbie Hawkins, Stan Forbes, Jim Schaal, or the church office.

### ***Happening Soon!***

#### **Our Seminarian Betsy's Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate - December 3**

Our seminarian Betsy McElroy will be ordained as a transitional deacon on December 3. The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot will ordain Betsy at 2:00pm at St. Paul's Cathedral in Des Moines, Iowa. The event will be live-streamed and is posted on the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa's webpage: (<https://www.iowaepiscopal.org/>) with the link for live-streaming. Because there will be many attending virtually, Betsy has an online guest book and invites you to add your name. Even if she cannot see you, she will know you were there with her. The guestbook can be found here: <https://forms.gle/GPpk6i5Kn6wZ5RjDA>. We all congratulate Betsy and pray for her as she begins this new stage in ministry. *Blessings on your journey, Betsy!*

#### **Our Nursery is Reopening—Beginning Sunday, December 4**

We are excited to invite parents to bring infants through age 5 to our fully-equipped nursery (Classroom 2) on Sundays anytime between 9:30am and 11:30am. Starting December 4, our nursery care staff will welcome you and answer any questions you may have. If you'd like to come take a

look at the nursery anytime, let us know and we'd be happy to show it to you. Feel free also to talk to Rev. Pamela if you have questions about the nursery—and don't worry, children of all ages are always welcome in church, too!

**Next Sunday, December 4, is a "First Sunday"—Join us for a less formal, interactive service!**

On the first Sunday of every month, we experiment with a more informal worship style, including different music and other interactive elements that are "child friendly"—and "adult friendly," too! On December 4 we'll hear the Godly Play story of Advent, bless our new Nativity scene, and wonder and sing together about our journey to Bethlehem. The nursery will be open, the children's rug will be ready to welcome your wee ones, and the Family Choir (meaning EVERYBODY who wants to join in!) will gather at 9:30 to learn an easy anthem. We hope to see you there! Questions? Just ask Rev. Pamela for more information.

**Reader Session on Sunday, December 11**

After the 10am service on December 11 (11:30am), Charlie Bamforth will lead a discussion in the sanctuary on the reading of lessons and intercessions. **All current readers are asked to attend, if possible**, and those who would like to know more about this important ministry are also encouraged to attend. We are so grateful for our roster of readers and hope this will be a welcome and enriching experience for all!

**Registration Open for Sacramento Racial Reconciliation Workshop—January 21**

The next racial reconciliation one-day workshop, "I Will, With God's Help: Journey Toward Racial Healing and Justice," will be held at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Registration is now open and is limited to 30 participants. This one-day in-person workshop was specially developed for the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California by the Commission for Intercultural Ministries. Renew your Baptismal Covenant as we learn about forms of historic and contemporary racism and how to engage in ministry with sensitivity and respect for all. Register: <https://forms.gle/tAa9a3Wmij2e3PsL9>

***Save the Dates for December Special Services***

***Blue Christmas, Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm:*** A service specially designed for those who might be experiencing grief or may not feel joyful during this Christmas season.

***Greening of the Church, Saturday, December 17 at 1:00pm:*** Join us as we put up lights, wreaths, garlands, candles and other festive decorations in the church for Christmas. We have everything needed. Many hands make light work.

***Advent Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 18 at 4:00pm:*** We join the Sanctuary Choir in singing songs of Advent and reading lessons.

***Las Posadas, Sunday, December 18 at 5:00pm:*** A traditional Latin American service commemorating the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem looking for shelter and a place for Jesus to be born. We will walk around the church grounds going door-to-door and end with a celebration and caroling in the Parish Hall.

***Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24***

**3:00pm Children's Service:** A brief interactive service for families with young children (or, yes, those who are young at heart!). In person only.

**7:00pm and 10:00pm:** Festive Choral Eucharist with Christmas Carols.  
In person and online.

***Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am***

Contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols. Only one service this day.

***New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 8:00am and 10:00am***

We will have our two Sunday services with coffee hour following. (8:00am in person only. 10:00am in person and online.)

***Getting Involved, Making a Difference in our Community***

**Vestry Nominations**

The Nominations Committee of the Vestry is accepting nominations for the 2023 Vestry. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the three or four Vestry members whose terms are ending. "Diverse" in this context means a balance with respect to age, gender and race/ethnicity, as well as a mix of those new to St. Martin's and longtime parishioners. We also seek members with interest in different areas of ministry. Serving on Vestry gives you a role in ensuring that St. Martin's does its best to care for the parish, the larger church, and the community.

If you wish to nominate yourself or another parishioner, please use the form [HERE](#). We also have hard copies available in the narthex and the church office. Please return any hard copies to the church office. **We request your nominations no later than December 12.** For questions or additional information, you can speak to a member of the Vestry Nominating Committee (Julie Knudsen, Ann Liu, Beth Capell, Maria Acuna-Feldman) or Co-Sr. Warden Neil Willits.

**Who Should Receive our Christmas Plate Offering? Help us decide!**

St. Martin's tradition is to give away our Christmas plate offering to an organization that serves those in need. A parishioner committee recommends to Vestry an organization to receive our Christmas plate offering. "Christmas Plate" offerings are special donations by parishioners intended to bring an added boost of financial support to an organization serving individuals and/or families in great need.

We invite parishioners to nominate a recipient organization for 2022. Nonprofit organizations that serve the most needy among us are our highest priority. We are targeting organizations that directly serve individuals and families that are dealing with food insecurity, housing insecurity, mental health issues, and other such needs. While we generally fund organizations in our community or diocese, there is no geographic restriction.

If you would like to nominate an organization, please email the church office and provide the following: a) Name of the organization; b) Key contact/s (e.g., executive director) including contact information, website, flyer or other information); c) In no more than one paragraph, your rationale for nominating this organization for committee consideration. **We need your recommendation no later than December 11.** If you have questions about the Christmas Plate offering, please contact

Co-Sr. Warden Kimo Kimokeo or the church office to put you in touch. Thank you so much for your consideration and generosity.

### **Come See Us at Farmers' Market on Most Saturdays**

The St. Martin's booth at the Farmers' Market is up and running. We are there two or three Saturdays a month, from about 8:30am to 1pm, depending on weather and volunteer availability. We'll be there next on Saturday, December 3. So far, we have talked to quite a few people interested in St. Martin's ministries. Come see us! Thanks to Tim Williams and the Invite, Welcome, Connect group for getting this ministry off the ground. And if you want to volunteer, contact Tim or the church office.

### **Other Important Updates**

#### **Save the Dates for "Revive," February 24 - 25 and throughout Lent 2023!**

"Revive," a small-group discipleship program to help individuals grow in confidence as spiritual leaders, have the chance to be re-energized with new ideas, and learn about yourself and the God we serve, was rescheduled from Fall and will be offered starting late February. The program begins with a retreat on February 24 - 25, which will be held either at St. Martin's or nearby (no long drives or expensive overnight accommodations necessary!). After the retreat, the program meets on Wednesday evenings for six consecutive weeks. We ask for people to commit to all six weeks, at the end of which you will have a chance to discern whether or not to continue with another six-week module. For now, we'd just like you to know about the dates and format. We'll provide sign-up information soon. If you have questions, please reach out to Rev. Pamela. She'd love to talk with you about it!

#### **We Need Your Help with Coffee Hour Hospitality!!**

Do you enjoy coffee, snacks and fellowship during coffee hour after the 10am service? Could you help host coffee hour once every month or two? You can sign up on SignUp Genius for the date(s) you wish to host: <https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/hospitality>

Tables will always be put up for you in advance. We have 3 different sign-up slots for volunteers a) Make coffee and put items out on the coffee and snack tables starting at 9 or 9:15am; b) Bring snacks; c) Clean up after coffee hour (starting about 11:45am). Let's continue to have a great coffee hour, with everyone's help!

#### **Readers, Ushers, EMs, Crucifers**

We need an array of liturgical ministers every Sunday for worship at both the 8am and 10am services. We have a sign-up system for volunteers that allows you to pick the days and ministries in which you would like to volunteer. Here is the link:

<https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/worshipsignup>

### **Staying Connected with Each Other**

#### **Encouraging All to Wear Name Tags**

Now that we have returned to church in person in larger numbers and since many joined us during the pandemic lock-down, we hope all will wear name tags so that we can learn each other's names.

If you need a name tag (new or replacement), just put your name on the list on the welcome table at church. Your new name tag will be available the following Sunday. In the meantime, we have stick-on name tags at the welcome table.

### **Rector's Office Hours - Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00pm**

Rev. Pamela holds office hours most weeks on Wednesday, 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the church library.

**Her next office hours will be the week after Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 29.** If you would like to meet with Pamela at a different time, just email her or contact the church office ([info@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:info@churchofstmartin.org)) to set something up.

### **Parish Prayer List Requests**

Do you have a prayer request? Please know that people you have placed on the Parish Prayer List are being prayed for. Please see the information on our website about how to make a prayer request (i.e., to have someone put on our written prayer list). You will also find other useful information, such as how long we keep people on the prayer list. [HERE](#) is the link (scroll down to the section that says "Do you have a prayer request?").

### **Prayer Requests, Celebrations and Milestones for Sunday Services**

If you would like to submit a prayer request, celebration or milestone to be read during Sunday services, please send it to Rev. Pamela at [pamela@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:pamela@churchofstmartin.org) by 6:00 pm on Friday.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

**Social Justice and Outreach:** Tuesday, November 29, at 7:00pm

**Choir Practice:** Thursday, November 30 at 7:00pm (in the church)

**Invite, Welcome, Connect:** Thursday, December 1 at 7:00pm

**Buildings and Grounds:** Friday, December 2 at 4:00pm

**Worship Committee:** Tuesday, December 6 at 5:00pm

**Ministry Council:** Thursday, December 8 at 10:00am (church library)

**Caring Ministries:** Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00pm

**Vestry:** Monday, December 19 at 7:00pm

Meetings are on Zoom unless otherwise noted; for a link, please contact [communications@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:communications@churchofstmartin.org). If you wish to schedule a meeting on the calendar, contact the church office [info@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:info@churchofstmartin.org).

### **Regular Church Office Hours**

We are open in person Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. You can also reach the office by calling us at 530-756-0444 or sending an email to [info@churchofstmartin.org](mailto:info@churchofstmartin.org).