

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 31, 2023

This Week

One Service at 10am This Sunday, December 31 at 10am

We will have one service only this Sunday, December 31 at 10am. This service on the first Sunday after Christmas will be a contemporary Eucharist with Christmas Carols. It will be in-person and livestreamed.

We Welcome a Guest Organist on Sunday

Our guest organist this Sunday is Oliver Steissberg. He played on Christmas Eve (3pm) and on Christmas Day and will play again this Sunday. Oliver grew up attending St. Martin's and played for us for several weeks last summer. We are always glad to see Oliver back.

Prayer Trees in the Narthex

In the narthex, you may have noticed two prayer trees that have been there since just before Christmas. On a table next to the tree on your left as you walk into the narthex, you will find white circles on which you can write a prayer request or share a thanksgiving or memorial. You can hang your prayers on the tree using the attached blue ribbon.

Nursery Closed through December 31 – Will Reopen on January 7

Our nursery is open on Sundays for infants through age 5. It is closed for Christmas and New Year's Eve but will reopen on January 7. Children are also always welcome in church.

Next Week

Godly Play and First Sunday Services - for Children– in the New Year

Godly Play meets three times a month – the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays – during the 10am service. The first Sunday of the month is designated as a “First Sunday” intergenerational service. January 7 will be a “First Sunday” service and Godly Play begins in the new year on January 14.

Morning Prayer Continues on Wednesdays at 8:30am

Rev. Pamela led morning prayer on Wednesdays during Advent. This worship opportunity will continue in 2024 beginning on Wednesday, January 3 at 8:30am. Meet Rev. Pamela and others in the narthex to begin your day with this 25-minute service. All are welcome.

New Sacred Ground Circle at St. Martin's - Informational Meeting January 7

Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith, created by The Episcopal Church. St. Martin's new Sacred Ground circle will start meeting on January 21, 2024, with biweekly in-person sessions on Sunday afternoons through mid-June. The series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings. **Want to know more? Come to the information session on January 7 at 11:30am** or talk to co-facilitators Carole Hom or Kimo Kimokeo. To sign up for the class, contact the church office, info@churchofstmartin.org.

Other Announcements and Updates

Christmas Offering Goes to Episcopal Relief and Development – Hawai'i Relief Fund

The Christmas Special Offering raised \$5,168, which will go to Episcopal Relief and Development's Hawai'i Emergency Response Fund. Local ERD volunteers are connecting with diocesan leaders and local citizens to provide life-saving supplies and resources where they are needed most. Thank you for your generosity!

Nominate Yourself or Someone Else for Vestry

The Vestry is accepting nominations for the 2024 Vestry. 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. The Vestry seeks a diverse slate to replace the four members whose terms are ending. We hope for balance with respect to age, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as a mix of those new to St. Martin's and longtime parishioners. If you wish to nominate yourself or another parishioner, please e-mail the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org) and include as much of the following information in your nomination as possible: a) the name of the nominee, b) the nominee's preferred email and phone, and c) the ministries the nominee has been involved in (at St. Martin's or elsewhere). Note that if you are nominating someone other than yourself, please talk to them first and get their permission to nominate them. **We request your nominations no later than January 1.** Questions? Speak to a Vestry member or contact the church office.

Seeking Diocesan Convention Delegates from St. Martin's

At our annual meeting on January 28, we will be electing not only Vestry members but also lay delegates to Diocesan Convention. In 2024, the Convention will be online only. The dates are still tentative but are likely to be Saturday, October 12, 2024 (online) for the pre-Convention convocation and Saturday November 16 (online) for the one-day convention. If you wish to serve as one of our seven lay delegates to Diocesan Convention, please let the church office know of your interest.

St. Martin's Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, during 10am Service

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28 during the 10am service. Be there to help elect Vestry members and Diocesan Convention delegates. See the announcement above about how to nominate yourself or someone else for Vestry as well as how to let us know if you wish to serve as a lay Convention delegate. **Annual meeting reports are due to the church office by January 12.** If you are a ministry leader or chair of a committee, you should write a report.

Opportunities for Service

St. Martin's Birthday Card Team Seeking Additional Writers

Have you enjoyed receiving a birthday card from St. Martin's? Would you like to be part of the writing team? You would be provided with cards, postage stamps, and a list of names. You would write between 8 and 15 cards each month or every other month. If you'd like to help, please talk with Diane Bamforth or contact the church office. If you have not received a card and would like one, please reach out to the church office to update your birth date. We do not share the full birth date with the card writers, just the month.

Meals Needed for the Winter Shelter, January 28 - February 3

St. Martin's is joining a rotation of faith groups and other organizations in providing one week of dinners for the Winter Shelter, which is located downtown on city of Davis property and coordinated by Davis Community Meals and Housing. We have been assigned **the week of January 28 - February 3**. We are being asked to provide a main dish, side dish, salad, dessert, and optional to-go breakfast for 14 hungry individuals each night. We will have sign-ups in the narthex at both services beginning on January 7. You can also email the church office or talk to Janet Lane to sign up. The food can be home-cooked or purchased and needs to be delivered to the shelter at 512 5th Street (corner of 5th and D) between 6:00 and 6:15pm on the day you sign up for. Thanks for considering this opportunity to serve our neighbors in need during the winter.

News from the Diocese of Northern California - Fearless Faith Revival

On April 26 - 27, The Diocese of Northern California will be holding a Fearless Faith Revival. As explained by the diocese, an Episcopal revival is a series of gatherings that combine worship, teaching, faith-sharing, intensified prayer, and engagement with the mission of God — all for the sake of the spiritual renewal and transformation of people and of society. The Revival will take place at Trinity Cathedral downtown Sacramento and at St. John's in Roseville. It will consist of workshops, a festival with food trucks and fun activities, and a revival service with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the featured speaker. For more information, see the website [HERE](#). If you are willing to provide advance input, the diocese is asking us to fill out a survey to help them plan the Revival. Find the survey [HERE](#).

Meetings, Rector's Office Hours, and Church Office Hours

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Vestry: Monday, January 8 at 7pm in the church library

Worship Committee: Thursday, January 11 at 12:30pm in the church library

Buildings and Grounds: Friday, January 12 at 4pm on Zoom

Social Justice and Outreach: Monday, January 22 at 5:15 on Zoom

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 28 during 10am church service

Rev. Pamela's Office Hours

Rev. Pamela holds office hours on Wednesday afternoon. Her next office hours will be on Wednesday, January 3 from 4 – 5pm. If you would like to see or talk with Pamela at a different time, contact the church office or Pamela directly (pamela@churchofstmartin.org).

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 12pm. Stop by in person or contact the office by calling 530-756-0444 or sending an email to info@churchofstmartin.org

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.

For pastoral emergencies, call or e-mail the church office for instructions (530-756-0444).