

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin
ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF January 7, 2024

This Week

“First Sunday” Service and Pop-Up Choir at 10am

This Sunday, January 7, at 10am is a “First Sunday” service. First Sunday services are a little shorter than usual and designed with all ages in mind. We also have a Pop-Up Choir on First Sunday, meaning anyone who wishes can come up to sing the anthem with the choir. If you’d like to sing, it is helpful if you come to a rehearsal at 9:30am on Sunday to practice the anthem.

Nursery Open on Sundays

Our nursery is open on Sundays for infants through age 5 from 9:30 to 11:30am. Children of all ages are also always welcome in church.

New Sacred Ground Circle—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 in the narthex** or talk to co-facilitators Carole Hom or Kimo Kimokeo.

Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 8:30am

Join Rev. Pamela and others for Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 8:30am in the narthex. The service is about 25-minutes long and is a great way to begin your day. All are welcome. Next Morning Prayer: January 10 at 8:30am.

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.

Next Week

Godly Play Returns January 14

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

Other Announcements and Updates

Upgrades and Repairs to the Ceiling Stained-Glass Window

You may have noticed signs of maintenance work being done on the ceiling stained-glass window in the church. For a full update on the background along with the repairs and upgrades being done on the window, see [HERE](#) We also have a few hard copies of this update in the narthex.

Update from the Treasurer

There will be more details when we have final numbers for 2023, and a more detailed account in my Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting, but for now I wanted to let you know that there was a significant surplus in 2023 for three main reasons: the federal Employee Retention Tax Credit, the savings on the diocesan apportionment from the Creative Staffing program and a generous bequest from a parishioner. A portion of this surplus can be used for the capital expenses we face in 2024 for the stained-glass repair and restoration. We are extremely fortunate that this one-time surplus in the 2023 budget comes just when we needed it. We are also grateful to parishioners who not only fulfilled their 2023 pledges but also committed to an increase for 2024. Your support makes all the difference in the world. –Jessie Ann Owens, Treasurer

A Gift from Vestry to the Parish

Christian icons are a traditional form of art that date back at least to the 5th Century and continue to this day. The word *icon* is the Greek word for *image*. The image of St. Martin that's currently displayed in the narthex is an example of a contemporary icon, produced by a company based in Wisconsin but making use of talented artists all across the country as well as abroad. Vestry clerk Anthony Amato suggested the idea of purchasing an icon of St. Martin as a slightly belated 70th anniversary gift to the parish. It was purchased using donations from current members of the Vestry and will serve to remind us that while we've made it to our 70th *birthday*, the inspiration and memory of Martin of Tours has been around for the 1626 years since his death in the year 397. –Neil Willits, Co-Sr. Warden

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

The Christmas Special Offering raised \$5,268. These donations went 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. Questions? Speak to a Vestry member or contact the church office. **Deadline for nominations: January 7**

Seeking Diocesan Convention Delegates for 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 January 28; Annual Reports Due January 12

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.

Grace Garden Fundraiser - January 21

Grace Garden invites you to a fundraiser at The Veterans Memorial Center on Sunday, January 21 at 7pm. The event will feature Rumi's Caravan performing mystical poems of Rumi, Hafez, Rilke, and others with musical accompaniment by Michael Grasso and Friends. Suggested donation is \$20. Grace Garden is an all-volunteer garden raising organic fruits and vegetables for people experiencing food insecurity. For more information or to donate, see

<https://sites.google.com/site/gracegardendavis>.

Opportunities for Service

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. **Sign up for a date and food item in the narthex starting on January 7,** email the church office (info@churchofstmartin.org), or talk to Janet Lane. 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 in April

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](#).

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 10 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