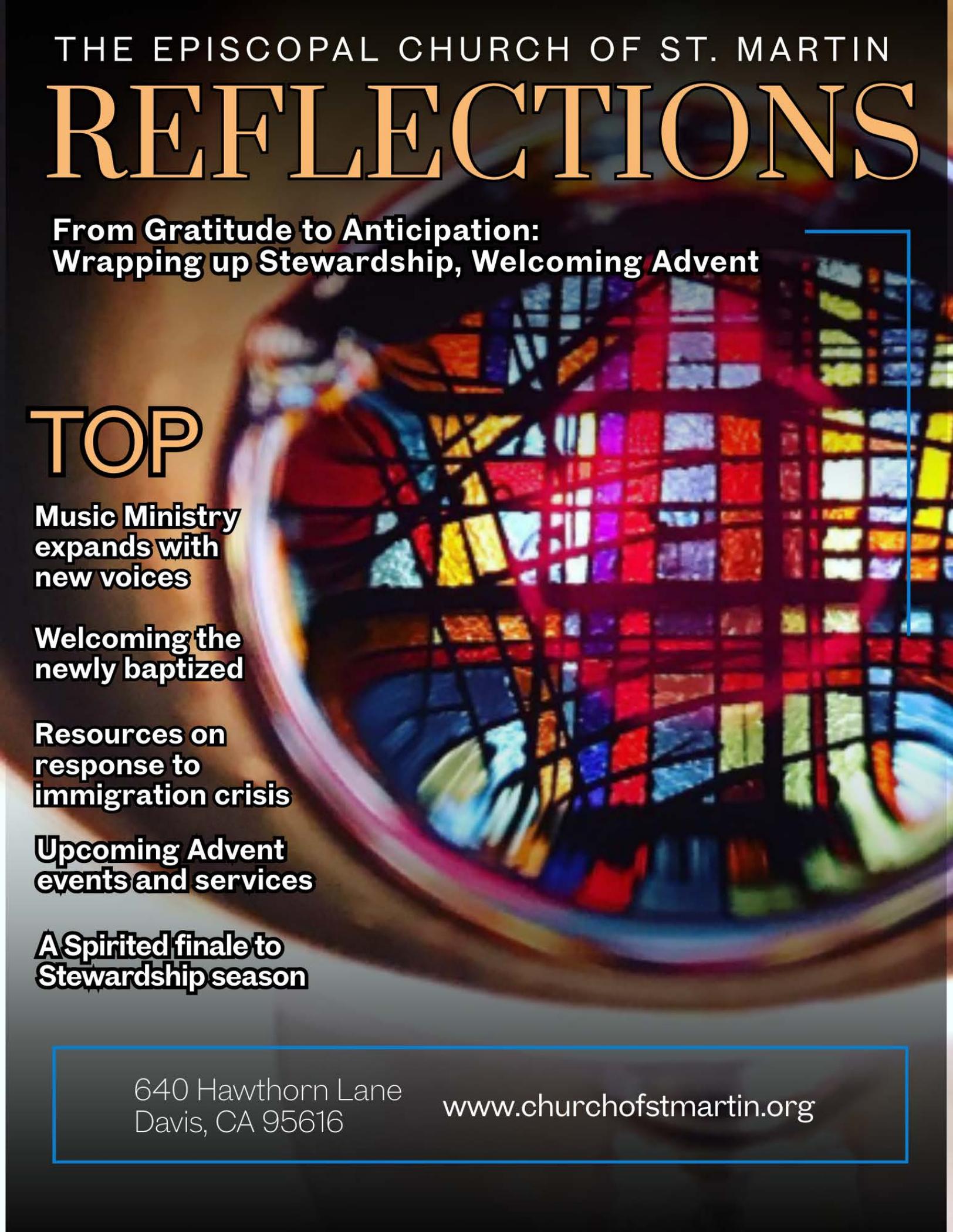


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

REFLECTIONS



**From Gratitude to Anticipation:
Wrapping up Stewardship, Welcoming Advent**

TOP

**Music Ministry
expands with
new voices**

**Welcoming the
newly baptized**

**Resources on
response to
immigration crisis**

**Upcoming Advent
events and services**

**A Spirited finale to
Stewardship season**

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RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Welcome to our first issue of Reflections! We decided to kick off this new endeavor at the beginning of the church year, a time to remember that God is always doing something new. Of course, this is also the end of the calendar year, so a bit of looking back is appropriate, too.

We hope that every issue will include some reflections on what we have been doing at St. Martin's, as well as a look ahead. So, in this issue, you'll see articles that give more detail and insight into events such as the Tule Lake pilgrimage and great pictures from October's pet blessing, as well as reminders about our many upcoming events, from the Bishop's Visit on December 7 all the way through to our Christmas Eve services.

The Advent and Christmas seasons can be a tender time for many of us, especially if we are grieving a loss. I hope that St. Martin's can be a source of support and comfort, not just in the worship services we offer but in the community we are creating together. I know our parish is that for me, and so much more. Thank you for being a part of it!

**BLESSINGS,
PAMELA+**



◀ Did you wonder what was on the cover? It's a photo of the stained glass window as reflected inside a cup on the altar.

03 REFLECTIONS

WELCOMING THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

On November 2, Julian and Leighton were baptized into our congregation. We are delighted to welcome them into the life of our church community. Their decision to step forward and claim this moment for themselves is a joyful

reminder that faith continues to grow and take root in every stage of life. Their father, David, said, "We are thankful to Pamela and everyone at St. Martin's for such a wonderful day. Leighton and Julian were a little nervous (especially about getting in the baptismal pool!), but the experience was truly transformative. Our thanks to everyone who made the day so special."



BISHOP VISITS DECEMBER 7

On December 7, Bishop Megan Traquair, bishop of the Diocese of Northern California, will visit St. Martin's! She will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and perform baptisms, confirmations, and receptions. Please note that there will be one service only at 9:30am that day.

If you, or someone in your family, are interested in being baptized, confirmed, or received, please contact Rev. Pamela.



RESOURCES

FROM THE MIGRANT SUPPORT NETWORK

Did you know that the Diocese has a Migrant Support Network, a committee of clergy and lay people who have been meeting regularly to provide information and resources to churches regarding immigration issues.

Earlier this year, the Network hosted online webinars on Immigration Basics and Knowing Your Rights (as individuals and as churches). The Network has recently launched a webpage designed to provide useful resources for



immigrants and refugees and for congregations (e.g., citizenship resources, safety precautions for churches, and what to do if ICE comes to your church).

The website also provides current news related to the Episcopal Church and immigration, and outlines the diocese's stance amid evolving immigration challenges.

The Network has subgroups working on areas of need, such as offering English as a Second Language classes at churches. The group is organized around representatives from each Deanery and is convened by The Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee from the Office of the Bishop. Rev. Pamela is the dean of our deanery, Wingfield, and Janet Lane is the point person on the Network for Wingfield.

See the Migrant Support Network webpage here:

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



“Dignity, not hate.”

At the Diocese of Northern California convention in Redding this month, the Migrant Support Network staffed an information table to provide resources, answer questions, and get attendees’ input on immigration issues facing their churches. Convention also passed Resolution R1-2025, Dignity, Not Hate, Not Mass Deportation, Not Silence, which reinforces the immigrant justice policy (Resolution CO31) adopted at the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2024.

Our diocesan resolution urges The Episcopal Church (TEC) to move forward on establishing a task force on Migration with Dignity and designating a Migration with Dignity Sunday during Epiphany, as already called for in the national church resolution. Our resolution encourages the Diocese of Northern California to participate in the launching of “Sacred Journeys,” or a similar formation program on migration. This program is already under development by TEC, and St. Martin’s has expressed interest in being part of the pilot.

We have red “Know Your Rights” cards in Spanish and English in the office and narthex. Designed by the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center \(ILRC\)](#), the cards serve as a quick reference, reminding people to stay silent, not consent to searches without a warrant, and to ask for a lawyer if detained.

We also have information on [NorCal Resist](#), a local organization that provides ICE and court watch trainings, letter-writing to ICE detainees, and assists in locating loved ones who have been detained. With a motto “Power, not Panic,” NorCal Resist puts out notices of ICE, Homeland Security, or California Border Control (CBC) sightings as soon as they can verify the information as accurate. To report an ICE/CBC action, send pictures and/or location to the NorCal Resist Rapid Response Line: (916) 382-0256.



**Migrant Support Network Table at
Diocesan Convention
in Redding, CA, November 7-8, 2025**



HOWL-LELUJAH! ST. MARTIN'S GOES TO THE DOGS (AND CATS, AND SNAILS...)



On Sunday, October 5, 2025, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with an outdoor service and blessing of the animals.

It was lovely to see so many faces, furry and otherwise! One of our visitors even brought her pet garden snails, Barry and Bee.



Because this service was held on the front lawn, people walking down Hawthorn Lane joined the service. One person noted that an individual in the apartment complex opened their window and joined in the service from the comfort of their kitchen.

What a lovely way to join together and celebrate all God's creatures, great and small.

Convention Buzz

Lynn Zender Receives Bishop's Cross at Diocesan Convention



Lynn Zender accepts award from Bishop Megan with Rev. Pamela and Deacon Margaret

Bishop Megan Traquair presented the Bishop's Cross at the Diocesan Convention banquet on November 6th. The Bishop shared the following details:

"Her involvement in the life of the Diocese is wide and varied. Never shy, she leads with strength, smarts, and skill. She has been a Eucharistic Minister, chaired capital and stewardship campaigns, and served on various Diocesan boards and commissions, including as President of the Diocesan Board of Directors, now known as the Board of Trustees. She has represented our Diocese at General Convention and as one of two representatives on the board of the California statewide Episcopal Public Policy Network.

In her professional life, she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and formerly the Deputy Director of The Effort, a nonprofit organization providing mental health and substance abuse treatment. She was also the clinical director at the Heritage Oaks Hospital. She served on the Vestry at St. Martin's, Davis, and at various times as Senior and Junior Warden. Most recently, she has served as the co-chair of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries, stepping aside this past year after seven years in this position. So, it is with profound admiration and gratitude that this Bishop's Cross will go to Lynn Zender. (Applause) So many people have been touched by what Lynn has done. And, I will have an opportunity to visit her...to give her the special engraved Bishop's Cross."

Bishop Megan, along with Rev. Pamela and Deacon Margaret, visited Lynn at her home last week to present the Bishop's Cross.

Congratulations, Lynn, on a well-deserved honor in recognition of your extraordinary service to St. Martin's and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California!

MEETINGS, MEALS, AND MORE

WEEKLY

AA MEETINGS

AA Young People's Group. 7pm, Fridays, Parish Hall

AA Davis Hope Group. Mondays 6:30pm, Tuesdays 6:45pm, Thursdays 6:45pm, Saturdays 12pm, Sundays 7pm. Room 6/7

BOY SCOUTS (PARISH HALL)

Troop 466: Monday, 7-9pm; Troop 139: Tuesday, 7-9pm

DAVIS COMMUNITY MEALS AND HOUSING

Hot meals: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:45pm, Saturday 11:30am. Parish hall.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Morning prayer: Short 20 min service, Wednesdays 9am, the Sanctuary

Centering prayer: Contemplative prayer session, Wednesdays 5pm, room 6/7.

Sunday worship: 8am (traditional) and 10am (contemporary), the Sanctuary.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Shawl Gathering: 1st Wednesday of the month, room 6/7.

Choir practice: Thursdays 7pm, the Sanctuary.

MEET WITH LEADERSHIP

Rector's Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4-5:15pm, the office.

Vestry Meetings: 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 7pm, room 6/7.





MUSIC PROGRAM EXPANDS

WITH NEW VOICES

This fall, St. Martin's launched a new Section Leader program, bringing four skilled singers—one soprano, alto, tenor, and bass—into our choir each week.

“ Section leaders enhance our Sanctuary Choir...”

Drawn from the strong area musical community, these singers serve not only as musical anchors but also as encouraging leaders within their sections. Their presence helps volunteer singers feel supported rather than exposed, offering confidence, steady pitch, and reliable guidance during rehearsals and worship. This program has already strengthened the quality of our sound and created a more vibrant musical foundation for future growth.

As choir member Elise shares, “New section leaders enhance our Sanctuary Choir in supporting worship with anthems and hymns.”

The goal of the Section Leader initiative is not only musical excellence but also expanded participation. Many singers feel hesitant to join a small ensemble, while others seek a choir that can offer a richer musical experience. Section leaders help us meet both needs, making the choir more welcoming and more rewarding for everyone.

The choir at St. Martin’s remains fully open to all volunteer singers, no audition required. Just **join us on Thursday evenings at 7pm**. If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of a warm, supportive musical community, we would love to welcome you.

LESSONS AND CAROLS!

Join us on December 14 at 4 p.m. for a candlelit Advent Lessons and Carols, an evening of Scripture, choral music, and reflective readings. This year’s service pairs the ancient Advent texts with music by Native American composers and words from Native American poets and philosophers—offered as lenses that illuminate and deepen our hearing of the biblical story. Music will include Wyandot’s Realm, Andrew Balfour’s powerful reclamation of the Huron Carol. All are welcome to this prayerful and spacious beginning to the Advent season.



DANCING TOWARD CONNECTION WITH THE YOLO INTERFAITH QUEER ALLIANCE

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



On Wednesday, November 19, St. Martin's held a Transgender Day of Remembrance service. First observed in 1999 in the USA and now worldwide, this day honors the memory of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-nonconforming people lost to anti-transgender violence and discrimination.

The service included a litany honoring those lost in 2025, as well as prayers for a world where all may live safely and fully.



On Sunday, October 26, the Yolo Interfaith Queer Alliance met for its first social gathering, line dancing! This event was hosted by St. Martin's and held in our very own parish hall.

St. Martin's is one of a group of faith teams in Yolo county working together to form YIQA. YIQA works to support and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, in particular raising up the voices within our own communities.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

DEC 14

LESSONS AND CAROLS

At 4pm, join the St. Martin's Sanctuary Choir for an advent celebration of song and prayer.

DEC 21

LAS POSADAS

During our 10am worship service, we will recreate the Holy Family's journey to find a safe place for the birth of Christ.

DEC 21

BLUE CHRISTMAS

For some, the holidays are less jolly and more "blue." This contemplative service at 4pm offers support for those.



DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

At 3pm we will have a family friendly service with a pageant. At 7pm and 10pm, festive Holy Eucharist services with carols.

DEC 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

On Christmas Day, at 10am, we will have one service with carols.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Advent Soup Suppers: Wed., Dec. 3, 10 & 17 at 6pm, join local congregations at Davis Lutheran for dinner and a sung Holden Evening Prayer.

Living Well Through Advent Class: Mondays, Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2-3:30pm on Zoom, join Helen Campbell for living Well Through Advent, which focuses on practicing generosity. Booklets are in the narthex. Contact Helen or the office for the Zoom link.

Youth Pageant Performance: Dec. 13 at 11am & Dec. 14 at 12pm, Davis Progressive Youth Collective presents a kids' Christmas Nativity at Davis United Methodist Church, featuring several St. Martin's children; enjoy classic carols, cookies. Suggested \$5 donation.



← Interested in helping with the pageant? Reach out to the office for more information.



A SPIRITED END TO THE STEWARDSHIP SEASON

On October 26, St. Martin's closed out the stewardship season with a fiesta that coincided with our yearly Dia de los Muertos celebration. Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican tradition that honors loved ones who have passed away.

We welcomed UC Davis Mariachi for a musical backdrop to a fellowship lunch. Some parishioners even danced!

During this stewardship season, we also had a pancake breakfast and our very first (hopefully annual!) Great St. Martin's Breakfast Bake-off. Congratulations to our winners.

We also took photos for our updated photo directory. If you have not had your photo taken, you are welcome to send the office a photo to be used in the directory.

Thank you to everyone who pledged and if you haven't yet, it's not too late!

WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is a prayerful estimate of how you hope to support St. Martin's in the coming year. It's not a bill or a contract, just your best sense of what you can give.

Pledging helps our parish plan responsibly for worship, music, formation, outreach, and the ministries that shape our common life. Your pledge can be changed at any time if your circumstances shift.

Most of all, pledging is a way of saying that this community matters to you and that you want to help St. Martin's thrive.

For 2026, we hope to bring onboard a second paid clergy person to help with ministries and events.

To pledge, email stewardship@churchofstmartin.org.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO TULE LAKE

In 1942, the US government removed over 125,000 people of Japanese descent from the western US and incarcerated them without due process in concentration camps located in remote areas. One of the camps, the Tule Lake War Relocation Center, lies in our diocese and has unique significance as a maximum-security site operated under crowded and stressful conditions. However, relatively few people are aware of its historical significance.

“
I pray I will be a different person because of what I have learned.
”



Over the past year, our diocese created a multifaceted program to address this, with articles in a diocesan newsletter, a June 2025 workshop that included the Rev. Ernie Lewis as a speaker, and a September 2025 pilgrimage to the Tule Lake National Monument.

The pilgrimage included talks by National Park Service staff, and visits to a restored guard tower, barrack, restored jail, and ruins of a 10-seat latrine that served 125-150 people. For several, reading the names of the 332 prisoners who died at Tule Lake was a highlight. One St. Martin's parishioner wrote, "Reading the names of people who had died there... and having many of the names be family names of schoolmates, friends, and church community from the Santa Clara Valley was very powerful and moving...I was also deeply struck by the idea that all of these people were so far from home."

Our pilgrimage concluded with a service of lament and rededication to seek justice. Canon Julie Wakelee reacted, "I pray we become more engaged in telling these stories and in seeking justice and repair for those damaged down through generations by fear and hatred. I pray I will be a different person because of what I have learned."



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