



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN

REFLECTIONS

A Season of Welcome, Growth, and Community

AUG 2026 • ISSUE 4

CAMPUS VISIONING

Enters a New Phase

BUILDING A HOUSE OF WELCOME

A Stewardship
Blueprint

WELCOME, REV. MAGGIE!

Our New Curate Begins
Her Ministry

NEW WAYS TO GATHER

Taizé • Pizza Church • Yoga

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE SUMMIT

A conversation across
California's dioceses

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Did you wonder what was on the cover? It's a photo of the altar candles decorated with animal origami (including insects!) for our Earth Day service, held on April 26, 2026. A special thank you to Carole Hom, who made these and the white cranes for the Easter Season. Keep a look out for their return when the Season of Creation begins on September 1st.

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



Dear Ones,

What a fun and busy summer we have had! In this issue of Reflections you will see many signs of new life, from monthly Taizé and Pizza Church services to the welcoming of our curate, Rev. Maggie.

We have also been busy with a lot of behind-the-scenes work. Our stewardship committee is up and running, under the direction of Vestry member Carole Hom. Conversations about fall programs for children, youth, and adults have been robust. Our Vestry had a Mutual Ministry Review led by the Rev. Stephen Hassett, Missioner for Congregational Vitality in for the Diocese.

Additionally, as you have likely already heard, the Vestry approved engaging architect Eric Doud to work with us to create conceptual designs as we continue with the campus visioning process that began nearly two years ago (to read more about the process see page 4 of this issue of *Reflections!*). The Executive Committee met with Eric Doud in person and was delighted by the insight, wisdom, and experience he brings to the table.

The next steps in this process will be ably led by Jessie Ann Owens and others on the Architect Advisory Team, including Bob Holm, Neil Willits, and the Rev. Ernie Lewis. Further staff support will come from Gabe Avila and myself, as needed.

When I met with the Architect Advisory Team for their initial gathering, I emphasized how providential the timing of this process is. We are two years away from the 75th anniversary of St. Martin's; our first worship service was celebrated on September 20, 1953. What a perfect time to be envisioning the future of this remarkable parish!

To that end, I hope you will join me on Sunday, September 20, for the kickoff of our program year. We'll have one service, at 10 o'clock, followed by brunch and an all-parish conversation. We want to hear from you about where you think God is leading us and how we can live more deeply into our mission, as we continue to become a people rooted in faith, growing in hope, and reaching out in love.

**BLESSINGS,
PAMELA+**

Campus Visioning

Enters a New Phase

Over the past two years, St. Martin's has been exploring how our campus can better support our ministries, strengthen welcome and hospitality, and improve climate resiliency and sustainability. That work has included a professional building inspection, an energy audit, a campus SWOT analysis, and extensive discernment by parish leaders, staff, ministry leaders, and community partners.



This summer marked an important transition from gathering information to exploring possibilities. Following the recommendation of the Architect Selection Team, the Vestry approved engaging architect Eric Doud to guide St. Martin's through the development of conceptual designs. Eric worked on previous updates to St. Martin's campus, which resulted in the construction of the narthex and adjacent overhang.

The newly formed Architect Advisory Team has now begun its work with Eric. Over the coming months, the team will help create opportunities for the congregation to share ideas and perspectives as conceptual designs begin to take shape.

The first of these opportunities will be Sunday, September 20. Following a single 10am worship service and brunch, the parish will gather for an all-parish conversation about St. Martin's future. As we approach our 75th anniversary, we want to hear what matters to you about our ministries, our campus, and the ways our spaces can support St. Martin's in the years ahead.

Conceptual design is just that: an opportunity to explore and visualize possibilities. This process does not commit St. Martin's to a construction project or capital campaign.

TO SEE THE CAMPUS
VISIONING PAGE



<https://churchofstmartin.org/visioning>

With more than two years of work already behind us, it can be difficult to see how all the pieces fit together. Our new *St. Martin's at 75: Campus Visioning and Planning* webpage brings them together in one place.

Scan the QR code to explore a timeline of major milestones, review reports and documents that have informed the process, and follow new developments as they happen. The page will continue to grow as the visioning process moves forward.

BUILDING A HOUSE OF WELCOME

A STEWARDSHIP BLUEPRINT



Stewardship is about more than making a financial commitment. It is one of the ways we sustain the life we share at St. Martin's: our worship, our ministries, our care for one another and our neighbors, and our commitment to being a welcoming community.

This fall, our stewardship theme, Building a House of Welcome, invites us to consider what that welcome looks like in the life of St. Martin's. Throughout the season, Sunday worship and special gatherings will explore the many ways we build that house together.

We'll begin October 4 with the Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of St. Francis. On October 11, Rev. Portia Hopkins will join us for Belfry Sunday as we reflect on what it takes to create a house of welcome. The following week, we'll turn our attention to environmental stewardship and our responsibility to care for creation.

The season concludes November 8 with the second annual Great St. Martin's Bake-Off, a joyful chance to gather in community. (Interested in entering a food item? Contact the office!)

As we celebrate, learn, and reflect together, we invite everyone to consider the part they play in building St. Martin's house of welcome.

HEARING WORSHIP MORE CLEARLY

St. Martin's recently upgraded our assisted listening system to make worship easier to hear and more accessible.

Our new system offers additional body-pack receivers with headphones or a neck loop, similar to our current system. It also adds a newer technology called Auracast. For people with Auracast-enabled hearing aids, sound from our sanctuary system can be sent directly to their hearing aids, allowing them to hear the service clearly with almost no delay.



Because Auracast is relatively new, not all hearing aids are able to use it yet. However, it is becoming increasingly common in newer hearing aids and other listening devices.

Church staff and volunteers are learning the new system and can help you determine whether your hearing aids are compatible and get you started.

If you have difficulty hearing during worship, please ask us about the system. We are happy to help find the listening option that works best for you.

WELCOMING

REV. MAGGIE RUTHERFORD



Rev. Maggie, Bishop Megan, Rev. Pamela, Rev. Margaret, and others at Rev. Maggie's ordination at Trinity Cathedral

On July 18, Maggie was ordained to the transitional diaconate at Trinity Cathedral, marking the beginning of her ministry as St. Martin's and St. Luke's Galt's joint curate. This innovative partnership allows the two congregations to share a curate while supporting Maggie's formation for ordained ministry.

After spending her first weekend with Rev. Pamela serving at St. Luke's, Maggie joined us on July 26, when parishioners gathered after worship to celebrate and officially welcome her to St. Martin's. We are delighted to have Maggie with us and look forward to the many ways we will learn, worship, and serve together in the years ahead.



Left to right: Rev. Maggie and her fiancé, Christopher, at the welcome party; Rev. Maggie's reading the gospel at St. Martin's; Rev. Maggie and Rev. Pamela at St. Luke's Galt



A SPECIAL THANK TO OUR SECTION LEADERS!



Left to right: Gavin, Daniel, Samuel, and Zoe, our wonderful section leaders!

Last September, St. Martin's launched a pilot program to strengthen our choir by adding four section leaders, one for each vocal part. Thanks to the generosity of donors who funded the program, Zoe, Gavin, Daniel, and Samuel spent the year supporting our choir members with musical leadership, encouragement, and individual guidance.

As the program's first year came to a close in May, we celebrated the many ways these gifted musicians enriched our worship together. While Daniel has moved on to pursue his education, we're delighted that Gavin, Samuel, and Zoe will return this fall. We hope to find a new Alto section leader soon!

Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who made this program possible: our generous donors, our wonderful section leaders, Music Director Jeffrey Jubenville, Choir Director Dr. Suzanne Jubenville, and every choir member who helped make this first year such a success.

YOGA BY THE REDWOODS



This summer, St. Martin's partnered with local instructor Julia Seebach to launch Yoga by the Redwoods, a mindfulness-focused gentle flow yoga class held on our campus. The response has been encouraging, and we're excited that classes will continue this fall as we expand to every Thursday from 5-6pm starting in September.

Open to youth and adults of all experience levels, Yoga by the Redwoods offers an opportunity to slow down, connect with others, and enjoy the peaceful setting beneath the redwood trees in front of Room 6/7. Classes are free to attend (optional donations go toward supporting St. Martin's environmental action programs). We hope you'll invite a friend, join us, and experience another way our campus is serving both our parish and the wider community.

Upcoming classes: Aug 20 & 27
For more information, see the flyer at the link below:
<https://stmartinsdavis.tiny.us/yoga>

New Ways to Gather

TAIZÉ AND PIZZA CHURCH



Left: Two photos of Taizé. Right: Pizza Church exploring the Parable of the Sower



This summer, St. Martin's introduced two new opportunities for worship, each offering a different way to deepen our faith and build community.

On the second Sunday evening of the month, parishioners are invited to experience Taizé Worship at 6:30pm in the church. These peaceful services emphasize prayer through simple, meditative music, silence, and reflection. Whether you are seeking quiet prayer or a chance to reset before beginning a busy week, Taizé offers a welcoming space to be still in God's presence.

We also launched our first Pizza Church, an informal, intergenerational worship service held outdoors on the patio in front of Room 6/7. The evening included interactive worship, Holy Eucharist, and plenty of time for fellowship over pizza. Following the service, children planted flowers and created origami while folks lingered in conversation. The enthusiastic response and strong attendance made for a joyful beginning, and we look forward to future Pizza Church gatherings. Pizza Church are held on fourth Sundays at 5pm.

Whether through contemplative prayer or shared conversation around a meal, these new offerings remind us that there are many ways to gather to build community.



CELEBRATING PRIDE TOGETHER!



June was a joyful month at St. Martin's as we celebrated Pride both in the community and on our own campus. Parishioners volunteered at our Pride booth, welcoming visitors throughout the festival, while Rev. Debbie partnered with the Davis Progressive Youth Coalition to help children participate in a Pride scavenger hunt.



Back at St. Martin's, our Pride Eucharist included special prayers celebrating God's welcome for all. After worship, parishioners transformed our campus with colorful sidewalk chalk messages and painted a rainbow crosswalk in our parking lot. One chalk message captured the spirit of the day: "To walk on these grounds is to find Acceptance and Love." We hope everyone who visits St. Martin's experiences exactly that.

Top to bottom: Rev. Pamela, Gabe Avila, and children painting the crosswalks at St. Martin's; Pierre and DeSay at Davis Pride; chalk message at St. Martin's; DeSay and Rev. Debbie at Davis Pride; Bob staffing St. Martin's booth at Davis Pride



FROM PARISH TO PUBLIC LEGACY

BY CAROLE HOM

In the 73 years since its founding, St. Martin's parishioners have contributed to the city, UC Davis, the region, and beyond. Several of these pillars of the community have been recognized by physical pillars named in their honor. Can you match the person with their description?



Mel Ramey



Christine Blanchard



Stan Forbes



Celeste Turner Wright



Jean Henderson



Shipley Walters



Yvonne Marsh



Richard Blanchard



Jerry Hulbert



Dona Brandon

- a) This person served as UC Davis' University Librarian and played a key role in developing the campus libraries. Three spaces affiliated with libraries honor this person, including the library at St. Martin's.
- b) St. Martin's music room is named after this first organist and choir director at St. Martin's.
- c) Before retiring in 2004, this UC Davis assistant vice chancellor and current member of St. Martin's touched the lives of thousands of students annually. UC Davis undergraduates can live in an apartment complex named after this person.
- d) This former public servant, businessman, farmer, and current Vestry member led the 2010 California Redistricting Commission and "received an award from Harvard University for public engagement in governance. You can find this person's name on street signs in a Davis neighborhood.
- e) This person was a faculty member and administrator in the UC Davis College of Engineering and assistant track coach. Part of the UC Davis Student Community Center, a library and conference center, and a student scholarship honor this parishioner.
- f) A plaque and set of shoe prints embedded in concrete on a walkway at Holmes Middle School leading up to the school counseling offices is dedicated to this person for their many years of stellar service counseling students, parents, teachers and school officials. St. Martin's weekly food collection is also named after this person.
- g) This local historian is author of several books including "A History of St. Martin's", former member of the Vestry and choir, and contributor to many other ministries. A Yolo County archive building was renamed in this person's honor.
- h) In the words of a former chancellor, "Few faculty colleagues have so fully expressed the history, the values, and the hopes of UC Davis" as this poet and long-serving department chair. The theater in the UC Davis Arts District is named after this parishioner.
- i) This parishioner is a master costumer, member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a Davis performing arts center is named in this person's honor.
- j) One of the founding members of St. Martin's, this person led many Davis organizations dedicated to public well-being and was named Davis' "Citizen of the Year" in 1970. A street in a Davis neighborhood bears their surname and so does our yearly Thanksgiving Project.

Are there others connected to St. Martin's that we should know about? Let us know.

OLDER, WISER, LAITY: STEEPED IN FELLOWSHIP

Our recent OWL (Older, Wiser, Laity) Tea was another wonderful afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and delicious treats. Guests gathered around beautifully decorated tables to enjoy conversation and a delightful assortment of tea-time favorites, all thoughtfully prepared by a dedicated team of volunteers.

The response was so enthusiastic that registrations exceeded our available seating, but thanks to the creativity and hospitality of our volunteer crew, we were able to welcome everyone who wanted to attend.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who planned, baked, decorated, served, and helped make this special gathering possible. Your generosity and hospitality created a memorable afternoon for all.



IMMIGRATION JUSTICE GATHERING

Janet Lane from St. Martin's, Davis; Shireen Miles, from Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento; and Stewart Saunders from St. Mary's, Napa represented the Diocese of Northern California at the "All California Dioceses Immigration Coalition/Folk School Gathering." The gathering took place in July at ECCO (Episcopal Conference Center at Oakhurst), a lovely space near the south entrance of Yosemite National Park. Sponsored by the Diocese of San Joaquin and their immigration commission SJRAISE (San Joaquin Refugee and Immigrant Support & Empowerment), the 3-day event was attended by clergy and lay representatives of five out of the six Episcopal dioceses in California.

We have seen the rights and dignity of many of our immigrant neighbors taken away. At the retreat, we learned about creative strategies for peaceful, strategic non-cooperation that can be useful in the face of these injustices. Our love for each other, our vision for a better world, and our commitment to generosity, all borne out of the Gospel, can inspire us as we lovingly take individual and collective action "to form a more perfect union."

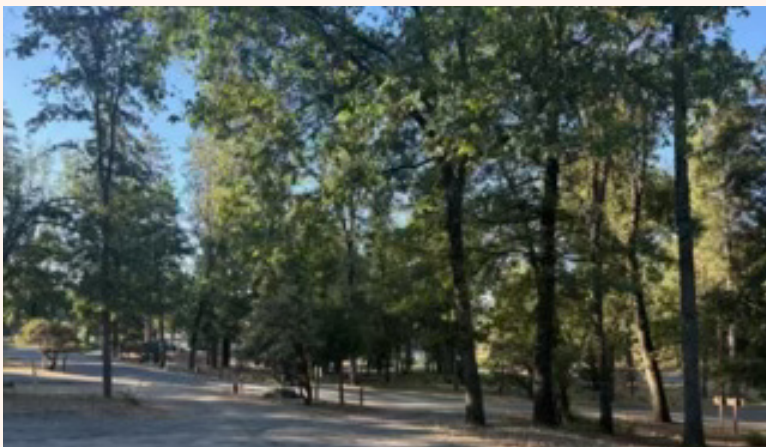


At the retreat, we also heard about the inspiring ministry of many in SJRAISE to detainees in the four immigration detention centers located in the Diocese of San Joaquin, including visitations and helping detainees obtain legal advice. There is much work to be done, and not enough people to do it. Sprinkled throughout our time together, we also socialized and learned about the practices of singing, dancing, and self-care as forms of resistance.

At the retreat, we made invaluable connections with others interested in immigration justice work and came away more motivated than ever to continue working to make our cities, counties, states, and country welcoming to immigrants and to all, as Jesus would have us do. If you would like to become involved, contact Janet or Shireen or anyone on the Diocesan Migrant Support Network.

For more information:

<https://www.norcalepiscopal.org/site/migrant-support-network/>





LITURGICAL COLORS

BY DESAY JUDD

Color is a vibrant part of creation. It brings life, breath, and beauty to our world and to our worship. Throughout the centuries the use of colors in the church was primarily in the clothing, later becoming vestments, worn by the priest. Eventually colors were incorporated in the worship linens and other furnishings.

In the early church, white was always worn in the style of traditional Roman civil clothing. As Roman clothing changed, the church continued the use of traditional Roman dress. By the 9th century the idea of vestments in two colors was written about in the *Ordo of St. Amand* (c. 800). White was used in most cases, while black was used during Advent, Lent, and the Feast of the Purification. Some churches used other colors, such as red for Pentecost and Christmas and blue for epiphany, but these were regional and not codified.

By the 12th century, Pope Innocent III wrote in his *De Sacro Altaris Mysterio* an expansion on liturgical colors and codified most of the current liturgical colors we see today, except violet. Black was used more often in penitential rites including Advent and Lent.

Pope Paul III and the Council of Trent introduced violet as the standard color for Advent and Lent in the thirteenth century. The color rose was also added for both Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent). In Latin, both the terms 'Gaudete' and 'Laetare' are variations of "to rejoice". Gaudete refers to an exuberant and outward expression of joy while Laetare refers to a quieter, more inward-focused anticipatory joy.

Color changes are connected to the Church calendar and feast days. Currently, we are in 'ordinary time', whose accompanying color is green. The beginning of the liturgical year occurs in Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. During the season of Advent, violet is used, as it represents penitence and preparation. On the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, the color Pink or Rose is often used, as seen in the advent candle.

With feast days, such as All Saints Sunday on the first of November and Christ the King Sunday on the last Sunday before Advent, white and/or gold is the primary color used. White is also used for the season of Christmas, which lasts through Epiphany, January 6th. The Sundays after Epiphany return to green—a time of growth, hope, and new life.

The season of Lent brings us to a time of penitence and reflection, and so the color returns to violet. Starting on Palm Sunday, red is the chosen color, used throughout Holy Week although violet is also acceptable until Good Friday. Red represents both the fire of the Spirit and the blood of martyrdom. Black, the color of mourning, is used for Good Friday.

The great Easter Vigil begins the Easter season and is celebrated with the return to white and gold. These colors are continued throughout the following 40 days until Pentecost, on which day we wear red for the flames of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). The Sunday following Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, and for one last Sunday we wear white, before finishing out the year with the Ordinary time, bringing us back to now.

Additionally, orange has been the color of gun violence awareness, a color that hunters choose for safety since 2013. In Chicago of that year, a 15-year-old named Hadiya Pendleton was shot to death. Her friends rallied to have people wear Orange on her birthday in her honor. The first annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day was then created in 2015 by local and national gun violence prevention groups. St. Martin's also chooses to wear orange stoles at various times during the year when another major shooting occurs.

The use of liturgical colors is a way to help us keep in time with the rhythms of the year as well as with the traditions and history of the church. As we have progressed through the year, let us meditate and reflect on how these colors inform and shape our worship and our faith.

Upcoming Events

2ND SUN

TAIZÉ

On the second Sundays of the month, join Taizé worship, a short service that focuses on praying through song and silence.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

AUG 23

Rev. Pamela will bless backpacks, briefcases, and any other work/study items you wish to bring at all three of our services.

CREATION CARE CONFERENCE

SEP 25-27

Attendees will gather in Salt Lake City "to renew, repair, and restore our relationship to God's creation." Conference goals include equipping for climate action, empowering congregations, and working toward TEC goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Contact the office for more information.

4TH SUN

PIZZA CHURCH

On the fourth Sundays of the month, we welcome all ages to Pizza Church, an interactive worship experience followed by PIZZA!

USHER/ GREETER TRAINING

AUG 23

We ask all ushers to attend a meeting covering important topics including worship procedures, safety, and violence prevention.

RECOVERY RETREAT

SEP 26

Trinity Cathedral's Sobriety Support Ministry hosts a retreat focused on the joys of sobriety. Through prayer, music, story-sharing, and a 12-Step Eucharist, explore the transformative power of God's healing love. For people who are celebrating, curious about, or struggling with sobriety--and the people who love them. 9am-1pm. Free. Contact the office for more info.

THURSDAYS

YOGA

Starting in September, Yoga by the Redwoods will be held from 5-6pm either in or in front of room 6/7 depending on the weather.

FUNERAL LIVESTREAM FOR THE RT. REV. JERRY LAMB

AUG 27

The funeral service for the Rt. Rev. Jerry A. Lamb, former bishop of the Diocese of N. California, will be at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento on Thurs., Aug. 27 at 2pm. St. Martin's will also offer an opportunity to watch the service in a group at the church in Room 6/7.

RAINBOW SPIRITUAL RETREAT

SEP 26

Join Episcopalians who are part of the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community, their allies, and friends for an in-person spiritual retreat focused on Scripture, prayer, and fellowship. Will be held at St. Patrick's in Kenwood from 10am-3pm. Cost \$20. Contact the office for more information.



MEETINGS, MEALS, AND MORE

DAVIS COMMUNITY MEALS AND HOUSING

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

BOY SCOUTS (PARISH HALL)

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

Choir practice: Thursdays 7pm, the Sanctuary.

MEET WITH LEADERSHIP

Office Hours: Rev. Pamela Tues., 4-5:15pm, Rev. Maggie, Mon. 2-4pm.

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

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

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

Compline: A short prayer service offered on Zoom on weekdays

Taizé: 2nd Sundays at 6:30pm, service focused on music, silence, and reflection

Pizza Church: 4th Sundays at 5:30pm, family friendly Eucharist followed by pizza





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REFLECTIONS

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