



The Cloak

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ISSUE

EPIPHANY

January 2016

Seasonal
News from
St. Martin's
by the Lake

The Cloak

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Recovery Sunday

Jan. 17th

Vestry Meeting

Jan. 19th

Annual Meeting & Brunch

Jan. 31st

Feed The Hungry

Feb. 7th

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 10th



Give & Go

It is always a good, right and a joyful thing to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the coming year. St. Martin's has grown over the past year drawing new families and members. We are, I believe, on the verge of even greater growth which will bring change to us and my role as well.

Rector's Role

Church's like ours are called *transitional* faith communities, between "pastoral" to "program" size. The Rector of a pastoral size Church—smaller than our current size-- knows all, runs all and is at all things. The Rector of a program size Church—larger than our current size-- however, envisions, develops, manages and coaches the resources God provides. In many ways, I see my role becoming more that of a coach, although a very active *player* coach.

Give

In many ways the Church is at its best when it simplifies its game. In hockey it's the *give and go* on the breakout play. This moves the team from being stuck in its own end with a simple pass. One player passes to another who passes it back, tape to tape, at full speed for the whole team to break out in transition and go on offence to achieve its goal. As your *player coach* let me give the first pass.

The best thing I can give is my gratitude to God for each of you. As I reflect back on 2015 I am particularly grateful for the creativity of our ministries, and the addition of our Organist and Choirmaster Kyle Black. I am also thankful for our additions through the

Staff

Rev. Dave Langille
Rector

Rev. David Mowers
Curate

Rev. Cindy Hillger
Deacon

Kyle Black
Organist/Choir Master

Holly Holmes
Parish Coordinator

David Rients
Facilities Manager

MerLynne Byrne
Youth & Family Ministries

Martha Mason
Children's Ministry

Gretchen Nord
SPLASH Arts Director

Nancy Stiller
Administrator

Vestry

Alison Humphrey
Sr Warden

Char Hovi
Jr Warden

Joann Anderson
Brad Butler

Cara Jones
Jami Silus

Rob Zaun
Jack Kuehn, Jr.

Treasurer
Karen DeLorenzo

Clerk

St. Martin's Annual Meeting Celebration!

The Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016 at 9:30am

over a lite brunch in the Sam Cook Room. Included in the business is consideration of an amendment to the Bylaws, the election of Church officers and the announcement of our Capital Campaign Committee.

The Cloak Epiphany Issue 2016





Annual Navigate Youth Epiphany Bonfire.

Youth & Family Reflections and Resolutions

As we move from 2015 to a new year in 2016, it is our nature to reflect on the past and create resolutions for the future. In the church our new year began with Advent waiting for the birth of Christ and now we seek the light of Christ in Epiphany. We can already see this light within our Children, Youth and Family Ministries. The joy and wonder of our faith is continually shown through our young people.

This year in our Children, Youth and Family Ministries we have many things to reflect upon:

We began the program year in September with fun and fellowship with our annual Welcome Sunday and Ministries Fair. These two events brought us together as a church community and provided new opportunities for many to get involved within our church.

In September, our NAVIGATE Youth program also began with a time and format change to include dinner each week. The new time has allowed us to share a meal and the stories of our lives. We continue to learn more about who we are in our faith.

September we started our newly formed Confirmation program. With a focus on Faith Formation for all ages on Sundays this class has great participation.

Faith formation for our youngest members is showing consistent growth with Martha Mason, Coordinator of Children and Family Min-

istries. With new all family events – leaf raking, Feed My Starving Children and Family Camp Nights our families are able to gather and connect.

Our SPLASH Zone Arts program continues to provide our parish with the stories of our faith. All of the Saints were celebrated during worship in November. Under the direction of Gretchen Nord, SPLASH Zone Artistic Director, our children and youth are able to share their gifts in new and creative ways.

We continue to make an impact on our surrounding community. Our youth participated in the Annual Sleepout for the Homeless on a cold November night raising over \$900.00 and awareness for this important issue.

And the whole worship community was challenged by our SPLASH Zone Arts Pageant when they were asked – What will **YOU** bring to Jesus?

A child will lead...and they are!

Our children, youth and family programming continues to be an entry point for new families. It is a connection point for young people to grow in their faith, serve the church and the community. And it is making Sunday mornings a fun, vibrant place for people of all ages, as we provide more intergenerational events here at St. Martin's.

With all of this good news - What do we have to look forward to in 2016? We invite the church to continue to greet people of all ages in worship, coffee hour, or just when passing in the halls of St. Martin's.

We look forward to growth in our acolyte program. With more frequent trainings and fun events, our youth are serving on Sundays with renewed enthusiasm.

Our children and youth will keep sharing their gifts and talents with new projects from SPLASH Zone Arts.

Our children will explore their faith on Sunday mornings with dedicated leaders. Our Confirmation class will focus on their own gifts of ministry and begin mentorship programs this spring. Our youth will look forward to special events including Big Thrill Factory, overnights and Camp Crosswoods this summer.

And all of our children, youth and families will be able to experience the joy and renewal of faith that Epiphany brings through the light of Christ within each of us.

So let us shine in 2016, for with Christ all things are made new!

Peace in Christ, MerLynne Byrne
Interim Minister of Youth and Families

Anchor Here...

Worship Our God

The Light of Christ!

Epiphany is the season that focuses on the Light of Christ and mission of the Church: making Christ known, in word and deed, to our world. During Epiphany we highlight the multicultural reality of the Church, that the good news of God in Christ is known within virtually every nation, culture and language. We'll celebrate this reality with a few changes in our liturgy. In the Prayers of the People we will pray the Anglican Cycle of prayer, and offer prayers for St. Martin's mission partners. At the 10:30 service, we will also say a Eucharistic Prayer from the Global Anglican Communion. This year the Eucharistic Prayer comes from the Prayer Book of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

Grow our Faith

Bible Study For Rookies is Coming!

Have you ever tried to study the Bible, but felt like you didn't know enough to begin? Or maybe you felt like everyone in the room saw things that you didn't? Maybe you've just felt like the Bible goes over your head. Bible Study For Rookies is designed for you! Beginning Sunday, January 24, join us for a soup supper at 5:30 and a Bible Study beginning at 6:15. We'll spend eight weeks on Sunday nights looking at passages in the Gospel of John. Each week, we'll read the passage together, discuss questions that we have, hear about the background and context of the passage, and talk about how this passage makes a difference for our lives in the present. Feel free to come as much as you can – no need to be present for all eight weeks. No cost, but donations are gratefully accepted to cover the cost of the meal.

Call for Vestry Nominations

The Vestry serves as the governing body of the Church chaired by our Wardens and the Rector, Rev. Dave. The Rector is charged with the spiritual oversight of the congregation with primary responsibility for worship, ministries, and staffing while the Vestry is responsible to see that our ministries and facilities are resourced for a healthy and effective Church. Together Rector and Vestry serve God in the fulfilling our mission. The Nominating Committee, Vestry members whose terms will end after three years, will create a slate of candidates to be elected at our Annual Meeting in 2016. We will need to elect three new members to the Vestry for three year terms. Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve in one.

Love Our World

Feeding the Hungry One ton at a time!

Starting Feb. 7th, St. Martin's will launch an ambitious effort to collect 1 ton of food in 7 weeks as we take part in the Minnesota Food-share campaign. Each week one ministry team will be assigned items to donate in a friendly competition to see which team can collect the most food. If you're not part of a team, no problem--donations will be encouraged and accepted from all members of the congregation every Sunday through March 20th. You'll be hearing more about this effort in the coming weeks as we partner with local food shelves to bring food to those in need.

Be a Hero, Fight Hunger!



St. Martin's People

St. Martin's Navigate Youth

Just before the Annual Lighting of their Epiphany Bonfire a number of our youth were asked a few questions. Here are their answers:

Who are we?

We are some of the junior and senior high youth of St. Martin's. We are Emily, Blithe, Kira, Justin, Finley and Charlie.

Where do we live?

We live in Plymouth, Mound, Minnetonka Beach (just up the hill) and Independence, MN.

Why do we attend?

We come to youth group because it is FUN!! We get to see people and spend it with our friends. We get to make new friends. We get to play Sardines. And we eat together.

What we do outside of St Martin's?

Gymnastics, Kung Fu, Read, Play video games, Go to sleepovers, Basketball, Go to school, Go to movies, Destination Imagination, Go to Caribou, Hang out with friends, Lego League, Unified Special Olympics and Play Cello and Clarinet (two of us), and sing in Choir.

What is the best part of Youth Group?

It is exhilarating, amazing and awesome! We play great games and eat food together. We loved sleeping out for the homeless and we are looking forward to our LockIn and Camp Crosswoods.

...Your faith, your family, your values!