Imagine!

We are in the season of Epiphany, or “manifestation”, when Jesus was made known outside of Israel first to the Magi and then to the rest of the world. It has traditionally been a season to focus on Mission, Outreach and Evangelism. One thing has become clearer to me over the past year as your Rector; we are at our best as we focus on our call to be a Church for others, loving our world with the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our theme for Epiphany is: Imagine! The World of Jesus Christ. It is drawn from an Advent devotion, from the Rev. David Scheider. In it he called for An Imaginative Advent Practice. Let’s claim it now as An Imaginative Epiphany Practice: “If Jesus were in charge, what would our personal lives and our society look like?”

Casting a Vision by answering a question

So, let’s wrestle with that question a bit by thinking of it this way: What would be different here at St. Martin’s by the Lake, and what would we see in our community, if we were a Church full of people who asked the question, “If Jesus were in charge, what would our personal lives and our society look like?”

The Rev. Richard Coleman, Executive Director of Hope Community Development Corporation in North Minneapolis, who has spoken in our Forums and will preach at St. Martin’s this season, has taken up that challenge and answered the question in this way, “I see hundreds and thousands of lives freed from poverty, neighborhoods blossoming with peace, divided groups connected in Jesus, and a sky over the Twin Cities scintillating with hope.”

What I see for me

This is visionary stuff, and can focus and direct our lives as individuals and as a community if we will allow it to happen. As I answer the question in my own life, I see my life continuing to be changed by Jesus Christ. I am of no value to you as a priest, to my wife as a husband, to my sons as a Dad and to my neighbours as a friend if I don’t allow Christ to be “in charge” or Lord of my life.

What I see for us

I see us continuing to offer the hospitality and welcome of Christ, to be a tolerant and inclusive community that welcomes all people, without exception, to a Church that comes together in Common Prayer, around a common altar, sharing a common cup. I also see each and every one of us, without exception, being invited into a deeper experience of God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. And I see us going out more as a community together, each of us without exception to do, as our Deacon Cindy Hillger reminds us each week as we depart: “Our worship is over, our service has begun, God sends us out into the world to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.”

I invite you to join me, our clergy and staff, Wardens, vestry and lay leaders in letting your imaginations run wild! What do you see God doing in your life, in our Church and in our community?

Holy Spirit, move in our lives, our Church and our community and give us a vision and help us to see of the world of Jesus Christ. Amen.
Guest Preacher
Rev. Richard Coleman is preaching on Jan. 25th
Many were moved by the Forum presentations led by the Rev. Richard Coleman, the Executive Director of Hope United Community Development Corporation in North Minneapolis, back in the fall of 2014. Rev. Coleman will be our guest preacher on Sunday, January 25th at both services.

St. Martin’s Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 1st at 9:30am over a lite brunch in the Sam Cook Room.

Farewell Monte: Even-song Celebration!
We will say farewell to our Organist, Choirmaster Monte Mason on the occasion of his retirement with a very special Eventsong, concert and Reception on Sunday, Feb. 8th at 4:00pm here at the Church. Special guests include Soprano Maria Jette, the Gregorian Singers and St. Martin’s own Choir. Please RSVP to the Church office, or respond to the e-vite.

EpiscoBuilders Build
Saturday, January 24
EpiscoBuilders will be holding their next ‘build’ Saturday, January 24 – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is build is located at 1746 Gettysburg Court, Golden Valley, 10-13 volunteers are needed for the day. Lunch is provided to volunteers. For more information or to volunteer your services, please contact Bruce Moulton mkbolandcp@aol.com

Imagine, the World of Jesus Christ Forums
Over the six weeks of Epiphany we will feature a number of our Faith in Action Mission partners, as well as other special guests.
Jan. 25th WeCAN Feb. 8th EpiscoBuilders Feb. 15th IOCP

Splash Zone Art Show!
Displayed during the annual meeting, Feb. 1, 2015
The kids have been busy working on various art projects using the theme of “Light”. They are working off the biblical quote from Isaiah: “Their lives will begin to glow in the darkness.” The children’s work is beautiful and filled with light. Please be sure to come to church Feb. 1st to admire their work.

Navigate Youth:
Really Big Lock-In is Coming!
Mark Your Calendars, and invite your friends. Our Really Big Lock In is back for 2015, starting at 7:00pm on March 6th and ending at 8:00am on March 7th. More details to follow.

Explore Membership
at St. Martin’s
We are thankful and grateful to God for the many seekers and guests who have begun to call St. Martin’s their home. We will hold a three part New Member’s Class over three Sundays. Beginning at 9:30am, the first session meets Sunday, January 25th, upstairs in the Great Room. The second session follows on Feb. 8th. The third session meets as part of the Adult Forum in the Sam Cook Room on Feb. 22nd. Please RSVP to the Church Office.

Feed My Starving
Children
SPLASH Zone would like to invite all of St. Martin’s parish family to join us on Saturday, February 21st from 9-11 as we go to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. This is a great event for all ages. Please reserve your spot with Martha Mason at martha-mason@stmartinsbylake.org or sign up today in the Sam Cook Room.

Help SPLASH Zone
We are now collecting birthday party items to prepare birthday bags for WeCAN as a part of our Lenten outreach program. Please bring all donations (candles, favors, plates, balloons, cake mix, frosting, party hats, etc.) to the office of Martha Mason, Coordinator for Children and Family Ministry by Sunday, February 22.

St. Martin’s by the Lake’s Mission
Because we believe the Gospel transforms, renew and changes lives, St. Martin’s By-the-Lake is a vibrant Christian community welcoming all to Worship our God, Grow our Faith and Love our World.

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