



Weekly Welcome

Nov. 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
Please note that this Sunday, November 27, there is **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**. The only class that will meet is Rev. Edith Woodling's Advent Sunday School Series (see below).

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
The Reverend Edith W. Woodling will lead a four-week Advent series during the Sunday School hour, starting this Sunday and continuing through December 18. The group will focus on contemplative/centering prayer, *lectio divina*, and other spiritual practices which will lead the group to quiet contemplation and group discussion. These practices aid the spiritual journey in enabling the seeker to discover God in silence, quietness, and spiritual dialogue with others, and are especially appropriate to use during Advent as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
NOV. 27, 4:00 P.M.

While we're all busy during the holidays, we invite you to take some time to contemplate the coming of Christ. November 27 is the Sunday after Thanksgiving and it is also the beginning of Advent. It is the season when, as Christians, we are called to slow down and prepare our hearts and minds to relive the event that changed the world forever, and prepare for when Christ comes again. Our purpose is not to add to your busy schedule but to encourage you to stop and take a deep breath and begin this sacred season truly prepared to lead your family and yourself toward the light of Christmas.

The event begins at 4:00 pm and includes:

- Cider, hot chocolate and donuts
- Advent candles and wreaths to assemble here or kits to take home
- Complimentary advent calendars and devotionals.
- Children's story time and Advent lesson in Music and Movement with Father Graham

- Service begins at 5:30 pm with candles, singing, and the Holy Eucharist (no sermon, just Advent readings/music and the choice to leave early for those with children)

For more information contact Melinda Mischik at 404-228-0754. **Please bring greens and clippings from your yard with you to the Advent Fair for wreath-making.**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Okay we have been in our Stewardship Campaign for eight weeks now, and our results are modestly successful. We have 214 pledges amounting to \$528,000. This means to date we will have to shut down church operations at the end of July. I wonder if we will make the news like the Washington 'Super Committee'. I certainly hope not, but that is not up to your Stewardship Committee. We cannot make our budget. Only our congregation can make that happen. The question is will we do it. Please take funding of the church we love seriously, and please know that your pledge is important to our community wellbeing.

MARIST SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 1:00PM

Brief school presentations will begin at 1:00pm and 2:30pm. Come to meet students, teachers, and coaches while learning about our academic, spiritual, and extracurricular programs. Marist School is an Independent Catholic School of the Marist Fathers and Brothers that enrolls boys and girls of all faiths for grades seven through twelve. **For more information please visit our website at www.marist.com/openhouse.**

YOUTH: CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD PARTY
DEC. 4

On Dec. 4 from 11:15am-12:45 p.m, we'll be having the Christmas All Around the World party for all 6th-9th graders, Rite 13 and J2A in the Music & Movement room. It includes lunch, festivities and a White Elephant Exchange- please bring a wrapped silly gift for the exchange. Grab something from your attic or basement- the tackier, wackier and sillier, the better! Wrap it and bring it. Cannot wait to see each of you there!

TOUR OF YOUR CHURCH SAVE THE DATE

DEC. 4, 10:10AM

Put the date on your calendar now for the last **TOUR OF YOUR CHURCH for 2011**. Our incomparable tour guide, Steve Hurlbutt, will conduct a tour of the church facilities **during the Sunday School hour, 10:10 am - 11 am, on Sunday, Dec. 4**. Please meet in the lobby of Gable Hall to begin the tour. Learn interesting historical facts and tales!

GIFT CARD SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

One of our church's most important outreach projects is the Santa Shop (see details below). While we are usually blessed with lots of toys each year, we always need gift cards for older kids. This year we expect to provide 250 children and young people with Christmas gifts. This coming month, as you begin your shopping, please pick up an extra gift card for our Santa Shop. **(Please note: we prefer gift cards from Wal-Mart because the families will get the best value for their dollars at this store)**. We will be collecting them on Sunday, December 4th. We also accept cash or check donations in the office for this effort. Thanks for your support.

About Santa Shop

In a joint effort with our St. Martin's parish St. Martin's School 3rd Grade is sponsoring the Santa Shop this Christmas season as their service learning project. It is an opportunity for those less fortunate in our community to come and shop for their children with gifts donated by SMES students and parents, as well as parishioners of SMEC. **The Santa Shop will be open Sunday Dec. 11 from 2-4. The 3rd graders will be collecting gifts during morning carpool the week of Dec. 5-9.** The 3rd graders will make posters advertising the Santa Shop, visit all of the classrooms throughout the school speaking about their efforts and asking for donations, set up the shop on Sat. Dec. 10, assisting shoppers, make and serve lunch to shoppers, clean up, and spread good cheer! Please support our parish efforts to bring a happier Christmas to those less fortunate by donating new unwrapped toys and **Wal-Mart** gift cards. There will be a Christmas tree in the church lobby at the start of Advent. Feel free to grab a card off the tree for a gift suggestion or bring in **Wal-Mart** gift cards. Jacki Kirsch in the church office will be collecting the gift cards.

ST. NICHOLAS ECUMENICAL SERVICE

TUES., DEC. 6, 6:00 P.M.

The festive celebrations of the Advent and Christmas seasons can be difficult when we are dealing with the loss of someone we love. This candlelight service with special prayers and music will focus on remembering family, spouses and other loved ones who have died. If you or someone you love is dealing with grief and loss in this holiday season please plan to attend this ecumenical service of hope. Also, if you are unable to attend but would like to have someone included on our prayer list please contact the church office at 404-228-0752.

Y.A.C. CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN

DEC. 9, 7:00PM

Starting Dec. 9 at 7pm until Dec. 10 at 10:30am, all of the 10th and 12th graders for the Y.A.C. are invited to join the Christmas Lock-In in Gable Hall. There will be music, games, painting, talking and more. Our hosts will be Kimberly Sheridan, Maryann Lozano, and Bill Petritz. We will gather on Friday for pizza and end with breakfast on Saturday. In between, we will be having fun, being with each other and being with God. Please bring your sleeping bags, a pillow, instruments you play, and a photo of you as a child at Christmas. Wear the craziest, most outrageous Christmas sweater or shirt that you can find or make yourself! Prizes will be given. Bring a friend! Can't wait to see you there!!! **Please RSVP to Kimberly at ksheridan@stmartins.org**

PAIRS AND SPARES

SAT., DEC. 10, 6:15PM

The Pairs and Spares social group will have their **annual Christmas Banquet Celebration on Saturday, December 10**. Social hour with an assortment of "Episcopal" beverages and appetizers begins at 6:15pm. A delicious dinner prepared and served by Dave Fricano will be offered at 7:00pm. Ingrid Siegert, Denise Dimsdale, and Rebecca Shipley will entertain us with a variety of Christmas music—both sacred and traditional. Included will be some sing-along pop tunes. **Reservations are absolutely necessary.** Your phone callers will contact you with further information. **In the interim, if you have questions, please phone Louise Kiley at 770-234-9176 or Joy Simms at 770-457-4986.**

TREATS FROM THE HEART BAKE SALE

SUN., DEC. 11, 8:45AM

The J2A is holding a Bake Sale on Sunday December 11th from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. Stop by before church, after church or during church. There

will be delectable treats for all –all donations are welcome! All donations go to the J2A 2013 Pilgrimage fund.

JOIN THE CHOIR! WE NEED YOU!

You don't want me to sing! I'm too busy! I travel too much! I want to sit with my family! I have children! I can't read music! My grade school teacher told me that I can't sing! These are some of the responses that I get when I ask someone to join the choir. Now I have some questions for you. What would Christmas Eve be like without music? How about Easter? What would your life be like if we didn't have music at all? Do you know what it feels like to work hard on something, and have it turn out well, and feel really good about yourself? Do you know what it feels like to have someone say to you ..."I have been depressed lately, but the music I heard today made me feel better?"

For every reason you can think of for not joining the choir, I can come up with the solution. Our Chancel Choir needs singers. Our Chancel Choir needs YOU! For more information, contact Ingrid Siegert at 404.228.0753 or isiegert@stmartins.org.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

Monday, November 28

3:45 p.m. Prayer Shawl
7:00 p.m. Pet Ministry

Tuesday, November 29

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, November 30

10:00 a.m. Public Service of Healing
3:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Choir
4:15 p.m. St. Cecilia Choir
7:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursday, December 1

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Clergy Group
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. EFM
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous
7:30 p.m. Choir Chow

Friday, December 2

8:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 3

10:00 a.m. Advent Quiet Day
4:00 p.m. Cotillion

5:30 p.m. HE Rite I Service

Sunday, December 4

Gift Card Sunday
7:45 a.m. HE Rite I Service
9:00 a.m. HE Rite II Service
10:10 a.m. Christian Formation
11:15 a.m. HE Rite II Service
11:15 a.m. Youth Christmas Party
12:00 p.m. Daughters of the British Empire Tea
2:00 p.m. Daisies Meeting
5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
5:30 p.m. HE Rite I Service

THE OTHER PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS BESIDE YOU

A Stephen Minister is a child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting. We are trained to provide emotional and spiritual care whenever needed, and all conversations are confidential. *Call a member of our Clergy to be referred. You are never alone.*

ECW RETREAT SAVE THE DATE

SAT., FEB. 18, 2012

What: One-day Winter Retreat in Gable Hall (Nursery Provided)
Speaker: Muriel Cash "Back to Basics"- Fundamentals of Christian Faith
Time: 9:30-3:30 Saturday February 18, 2012 **Cost:** \$15 per person.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

The Loose Offering on the Fourth Sunday of the month is designated for the Operating Fund. Gifts to an individual priest's discretionary fund are welcome at any time.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Font Flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Columbarium Flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Altar Candles are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for John Ryder Clarida's first birthday by his grandmother, Jeanette Clarida.

The Sanctuary Lights are given to the glory of God and by Rex & Joy Simms in honor of their first great-grandchild Jackson Benjamin Kruse Smithers.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Assisting in the Services

Saturday 11/26 at 5:30 p.m. Eucharistic Minister: Martha-Sue Blythe
Sunday 11/27 at 7:45 a.m. Eucharistic Minister: Ann McNeer
Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Ministers: Vince Vitti & Cheryl Josephson
Eucharistic Visitors: Cheryl Josephson & Nancy Martin
Verger: Ann McNeer **Intercessor:** Nancy Martin **Ushers:** Ben Jernigan (Team Captain), Chad Duncan, Mike Ford, Tony Perez, Sandy Rose and George Williamson **Acolytes:** Team Leader: Reid MacArthur, Large Cross: Jack Barton, Clergy Cross: Noah Duffy, Torch Bearers: Clementine McCard & Marin Shaw
Sunday at 11:15 a.m. Eucharistic Minister: Nick Wedgwood **Verger:** Suzanne Ford **Intercessor:** Allen Hamilton **Ushers:** Doug Nail (Team Captain); Steve Bentley, David Fenstermacher, Dale Owens, and Alec Steele **Acolytes:** Team Leader: Meghan Matthews, Large Cross: Michael Matthews, Clergy Cross: Alex Boor, Torch Bearers: Harrison Ray & Joe Regas

Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Advent Lessons & Carols Eucharistic Minister: Jim Reese & Maryann Lozano **Verger:** Ruth Anne Brumley
Wednesday 11/30 at 10:00 a.m. Michael Kelly

ST. MARTIN'S PRAYER LIST

If you would like to add or remove a prayer request, please contact Jacki Kirsch at 404.228.0752 or jkirsch@stmartins.org by noon on Wednesdays.

Do you know of someone who is unable to come to church? Short term or long term, our visiting Eucharistic Ministers are here to extend our church family reach. Please ask the individual(s) if they would like the Eucharist brought to them, and if they would--please call Jacki at the church office and she will assist with making arrangements with the Visiting Eucharistic Ministry team.

CURRENT LIST FOR PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(To be read during the service)

Sam Betor, Harry Burress, Ruth Hahn, Frank Mason, Judy McGinnis, Nancy Molitor, Marisa Shipley, Lydia Taggart

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

(For private prayers):

Phil Bush, Barbara Hendricks John McNeeley, Lauren Spruiell Nichols, Floyd Rush, Lynn Simonson, Mike Shipley, John Steffes, Sandra Walden and Art White.

SIGN UP FOR FLOWER DEDICATIONS!

If you would like to dedicate flowers in honor or memory of someone, or in honor of an occasion (such as an anniversary or birthday) please sign up on the boards in the back of the church above the left set of balcony stairs. For each week (with the exception of some penitential seasons), you may sign up for Altar Flowers (\$30), Font Flowers (\$20), Columbarium Flowers (\$15), Altar Candles (\$10), or Sanctuary Lights (\$10). Your dedication will appear in the bulletin insert and weekly Thursday e-mail. Please place a check made out to St. Martin's Church in the offering plate. Remember to put "Flower Dedication" in the memo line.



Saint Martin in the Fields Church St. Martin's Episcopal School

IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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