

THE PARISH POST

This then is to watch;

To be detached from what is present, and

To live in what is unseen;

To live in the thought of Christ as he came once,

And as he will come again;

To desire his second coming, from our affectionate

And grateful remembrance of his first.

John Henry Newman

Dear Friends,

During the Advent season I usually find myself feeling like a hypocrite. While I am good at preaching to others on the need to slow up and spend more time in prayer and Bible study, I seldom feel that I take my own advice. Like many of you, I get easily caught up in a long list of various holiday duties and tasks. Detachment from the present hectic pace of human life seems not only unrealistic, but also faithless to Christ's call to serve others.

To me, Newman's suggestion that we should be detached from what is going on around us seems like a cop out. What was he thinking? How can any of us avoid the pain and suffering that comes from living in our present world? Isn't "*living in what is unseen*" simply a new form of human denial? Isn't it just a denial of the fear that we are alone and there is nowhere in our times of despair that we can turn for consolation and solace?

Of course, Newman knew something about loss. He turned his back on a promising academic and ecclesiastical career in the Church of England to become a Roman Catholic when most folks thought that being a member of that church was a form of high treason. So maybe Newman's understanding of Advent goes a bit deeper than pretending that human pain don't exist, or at least thinking that Advent is some kind pie in the sky wish fulfillment.

I believe that to desire our Lord's second coming is to desire our own end. It is the end of what we know of this world and the start a new life in God's kingdom. John the Baptist told his listeners *that the kingdom of heaven* had come near. This is the same message we announce to the

Advent

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Saint
Martin *in the*
60 Fields
1951-2011 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*To Follow Christ and
Lead Others to Him.*

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The Parish Post

December 2011



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Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Wells Newell Graham,
Senior Assistant to the Rector
The Reverend Noel C. Burtenshaw,
Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care
The Reverend Charles B. Fulghum,
Priest Associate
The Reverend Dr. James E. Hamner,
Headmaster of St. Martin's School
The Reverend Edith W. Woodling,
Deacon and Chaplain to St. Martin's School

Staff

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Organist and Choir Director
Melinda Mischik,
Director of Children's Education
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Youth Ministry Coordinator
Jacki Kirsch
Secretary to the Rector and Registrar
Susan Breunig,
Business Manager
Tara Fardellone,
Administrator of Communications

The Vestry

Senior Warden: Bruce Hall
Junior Warden: John Burton
Karen Boor, Jake Duffy, Chad Duncan,
Kathy Evenson, Suzanne Ford, Randy Hughes,
Lisa McFarlin, Sid Oakley, Tim Peek,
Sally Perez, Sandy Rose, Becky Short,
and Ann Martin Vitti.

Editor

Mary Floyd

Deadlines for Upcoming Editions of *The Parish Post*

Do you have announcements, editorials, or photographs to submit for *The Parish Post*? Please send them to Tara at tfardellone@stmartins.org

UPCOMING DEADLINES

January Issue Dec. 7
February Issue Jan. 11

world in the Advent Season.

The *affectionate remembrance of the first coming* reminds us that our Lord and Savior entered a world much like ours, full of violence, and desolation. Jesus was born in a stable because he was homeless. The incarnation of Jesus' light in our world reminds Christians that God's creation is always struggling toward fulfillment.

The things we think are important, the false idols of our present age, will eventually pass away. Placing our hopes in this world will always result in disappointment. True hope for us starts when we have the courage to place our sorrows and pain at the base of that manger and admit that we are ready for God's kingdom to once again come into our broken lives and heal our weary souls. So, my friends, be watchful and *live in the thought of Christ as he once came*, and will one day come again.

In Christ,

Fr. John

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS - Nov. 27, 4:00 P.M. (PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE)

When all about us the world is hustling and bustling and partying, we invite you to take some time to contemplate the coming of Christ. November 27th is the Sunday following 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 p.m. 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 p.m., complete with candles and singing (no sermon, just Advent readings, beautiful Advent music, and Holy Eucharist, with option to depart early for those with little ones)

For more information contact Melinda Mischik at
404-228-0754.

Schedule of Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: Saturday, Dec. 24

3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Christmas Pageant

5:30 p.m. Christmas Concert

6:00 p.m. Festive Christmas Mass with Orchestra

8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Lessons & Carols
with Handbells

10:30 p.m. Christmas Concert

11:00 p.m. The Solemn Mass of Christ at Midnight

Christmas Day: Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.

ST. MARTIN'S COAT MINISTRY

As you make your way through our building this holiday season, watch for the coat rack and consider leaving a clean coat you no longer need.

Just as our patron saint gave half of his cloak away, we offer these garments in the name of Jesus Christ.

Please bring an extra clean coat for those who need one and if you need a coat please take one.



HEARD IN THE PARISH

By Rev. Noel C. Burtenshaw

One day last month, I went to Barnes & Noble to pick up a book. As I stood in line, a bunch of Christmas cards caught my eye. "Christmas," I thought, "not yet." But there they were and I could not resist taking an early peek.

I am a small bit fussy about words at Christmas. "Peace and Joy" just won't do it for me any more. I am particularly allergic to the word "Joy." It's because I once had a boss (a cleric) who constantly opened his talks with the words, "It gives me great joy." It irked me because I knew the poor man never had a moment's joy in his entire life.

So, "Peace and Joy" on a card won't do. I found what I wanted in a nicely colored card, drawn with happy children which read inside, "Wishing you a holiday full of tiny miracles – Merry Christmas." Perfect. I took it. Now, hopefully, I will be able to find it when the great season begins.

It's the "tiny miracles" we want. Otherwise, the season belongs to the TV ads, the department stores and the credit cards. We want it to belong to us. Say it with music, a flow of cards, or a church performance where the Spirit of the Feast is shared.

The grandest Christmas card of all is the Christmas Pageant. It is always imperfect, but we glow as the representation takes place and the grace of the feast unfolds. No matter whose child is up front, each presents the wish perfectly to us. It's only a tiny miracle, but every year we are glad that St. Martin's sends that Christmas card to us. I hope you get to see it.

Last year, I hit on the perfect tiny miracle for Sue. On Christmas morning, she got a gigantic red box beautifully wrapped in the most lovely, festive paper. With eyes of wonder, she opened the box. Inside, a mountain of green and red paper covered a tiny package. This eventually had to be opened. What was it?

Inside, she found a recently taken picture of our little granddaughter with Sue and me, taken at a Christmas mall scene. The cost was little; the gift was priceless; the surprise was perfect. It was a tiny miracle, splendid for Christmas morning.

Tiny miracles at this season turn into enormous, eternal, everlasting gifts as we come to know the Word of the Divine God made man.

PARISH PROFILES: AMANDA THRASHER

by Melinda Mischik

Amanda and Grady Thrasher have been fixtures here for many years. They are rather quiet, but, as you will read below, they have had a firm and steady hand in much of the good work that has been accomplished at St. Martin's. They also have the best "volunteer" story I have ever heard.

Melinda Mischik: Amanda, please tell me some basic facts about your family. How long have you been here? How did you come to join St. Martin's? Did you already have any family or friends who belonged here?

Amanda Thrasher: January 1995 Grady and I were engaged and living in Macon and Athens, respectfully (no pun intended). I was a wandering Methodist/Baptist-sort of a religious mutt. Grady had been raised as an Easter/Christmas Episcopalian. His aunt and uncle and dear friends, John and Ann Burton were parishioners at St. Martin's and asked if we'd like to join them on a Sunday. They mentioned it would also be a beautiful place to be married as well. We were sold immediately. I was overcome with the beauty of an Episcopal service--the ritual, music, the cadence and confidence of Father Remer's voice. We made fast friends with Doug, started our pre-marital counseling, became members, and were married in September with St. Martin in the Fields being the backdrop of our fairy tale wedding.

MM: You have held many volunteer jobs. Could you share which ones have meant the most to you?

AT: Since Grady and I had no children until 2000, we were drawn to many couples who were in the same boat. We made some dear friends and helped start a young couples/no kids group. It was a great springboard to getting connected with one another

and the church. There have been many groups and areas of the church we've been involved in and supported. They include: Vestry and Finance, Ushers, The Bazaar, Stewardship, Kanuga, Vacation Bible School, Emmaus House, and the Santa Shop.

For me, I think the most meaningful experience has been the years I spent heading up our Parish Retreat at Kanuga. Kanuga is such a beautiful setting for reflecting, praying, laughing, running, reading, happy hour--you name it. The idea of connecting with not only your own family and friends, but your parish family as well, is always a great idea, but making it happen is a challenge. It's a challenge to find the time, the energy, and the means to do it. I think getting to help my own family and parish family make those dreams a reality is more than worthwhile.

MM: One of my favorite stories involves you sitting in church one day receiving some interesting news from Father Remer. It is now an urban legend. Can you retell that story for us?

AT: Here goes--I will never forget the day.

It was a *COLD* January morning, and Grady was ushering and standing in back of church with Father Remer waiting to process down the aisle. Father Remer asked Grady if we'd had a nice holiday and would he and I "consider" being Bazaar Chairs for the Nov. Bazaar. Like a good husband, Grady responded, "Amanda is the boss. I will have to discuss it with her." If you know us, you know we always sit on the front row on the left hand side of the church. When it came time



for the announcements, Father Remer said he was so excited that an energetic young couple had already volunteered for the November Bazaar. I pinched my neighbor and said under my breath-- "God bless them. That is the worst job in the world. Who in their right mind would volunteer for that in January? They must be new!" Father Remer then looked down at me on that first pew and asked me to stand as he announced, "Grady Thrasher, with Amanda's blessing, has agreed to be our next Bazaar Chairman." I can't believe we are still friends.

MM: Please share how we, as a church, have supported you and your family over the years and in what area do you think we could do a better job?

How has St. Martin's supported my family? This is a tough question. Relationships and positive connections have always been important us. When Grady and I became members, we quickly made the church the center of our community. We chose to live, work, play, and pray all within a two-

mile radius of the church.

In 16 years we physically moved one time--closer. The relationships within our church community are a part of our daily lives. Most of our friends and many of our colleagues are church members or parents at the school. These relationships have made me a better wife, mother, and friend. Dozens of comforting words of wisdom I have collected from the clergy are on scratch pieces of paper in my pocketbook and bedside table. So, to answer this question—YOU (anyone reading this article) has supported my family and I thank you.

And, Amanda, we thank you. We especially thank you honoring Father Remer's wishes on that cold day many years ago, and for continuing to support the church especially with the Santa Shop.

PET THERAPY PROGRAM GRADUATES

by Ingrid Siegert

Three years ago, we started our animal ministry at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and since that time it has grown into a very active program in our church. We continue to maintain a prayer list for animals that is kept on our website and is read aloud during Children's Chapel. Cats and dogs are primarily on the list, although we have prayed for rabbits, polar bears, and elephants. The prayer list has reached a global community. Prayer requests have come from Canada and England.

We have sponsored various events during the last three years, including two Pet First Aid classes for cats and dogs, and we have hosted rescue groups, including Greyhound Rescue and Jack Russell Rescue. Our annual Blessing of the Animals, which has been a tradition at St. Martin's for many years, continues to grow in popularity.

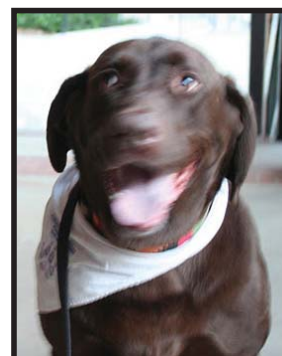
St. Martin's had a Pet Therapy program many years ago, and our animal ministry restored it. Pet Therapy, or the therapeutic use of pets, began in the 1970s, and is a rapidly growing field. Taking dogs into hospitals and nursing homes has many benefits. It diminishes emotional and physical pain, reduces boredom and anxiety, and makes people happy! Victoria Hastie coordinates our therapy program.

All of the dogs that visit nursing homes from our parish are required to pass the American Kennel Club's "Canine Good Citizen" test. Good Citizen classes are held in our church for the dogs, and our recent class had five graduates. Cooper, Radar, Tucker, Seamus and Pepper will soon be joining Murphy and Wyatt in our Pet Therapy program. Our dogs currently visit Brighton Gardens, Plantation South and Wesley Woods.

Seamus (pronounced Shay-mus) will be visiting nursing homes, but also has a legal "career." Nedra Wick likes to take Seamus to work with her in family law practice. His energy is particularly helpful in breaking the ice when interviewing children, and with helping to relieve anxiety in emotionally charged situations.

If you would like to become involved in our animal ministry, visit us at www.stmartins.org/pets or email us at petministry@stmartins.org

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (Graduates pictured from top to bottom: Cooper, Pepper, Radar, Seamus, and Tucker)



YES TO YOUTH!: CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Genesis 1:27

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

One of my favorite questions to ask youth is what is their image of God? If they close their eyes and think of God, what do they see? I asked some youth of this parish this very question and wanted to share just a few of their amazing answers:

*A rainbow
A big beautiful tree with many limbs and roots
An old man with a white beard
Sunlight
Different faces depending on what I need*

I continually find youth to be wise beyond their years when it comes to God and I really listen when they speak. After hearing their images, I wondered, since we are created in God's image, who are we? Are we a rainbow for someone after a storm? Are we a tree that supports another when they are weary? Are we the wise man when a friend needs

counsel? Are we a ray of sunlight for someone on a dark day? Or are we all this and more, depending on what others need from us?



"The Disciples"

By Ann Weems from her book *Kneeling in Jerusalem*.

*Hurting, they came to him.
Healed, they followed him.
Grateful, they gave to him
what they had and what they were.
Blessed, they became a blessing
and went out to all the world
in his name.
Those who are hurt
and healed
grateful
and blessed
still move among us
in his name.*

God's Peace,

Kimberly Sheridan

ST. NICHOLAS ECUMENICAL SERVICE: TUES., DEC. 6, 6 P.M.

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you... - Isaiah 66:13a

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.

Pastoral Emergency Telephone Numbers

Main Church Phone Number: 404.261.4292

Father John McCard
Office: (404) 228-0750
Home: (770) 457-6776
Cell: (404) 408-8241

Father W. Newell Graham
Office: (404) 228-0790
Home: (678) 377.8732
Cell: (678) 232.9310

Father Noel Burtenshaw
Office: 404.228.0758
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Ingrid Siegert
(404) 228-0753

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(404) 228-0754

Jacki Kirsch
(404) 228-0752

Tara Fardellone
(404) 228-0777

Susan Breunig
(404) 228-0756

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

by Mary Floyd

I had the privilege of receiving the Eucharist from Fr. Graham in the company of my fellow Stephen Ministers in a quiet, evening service for us. We (the Stephen Ministry and Fr. Graham) have decided to do this occasionally to rebuild our faith and reconnect with the One who has called us to His service.

Fr. Graham was particularly eloquent during this quiet, small service. In explaining to us what the Eucharist is all about (because sometimes we all forget the true meaning) the point was brought home to me in a very special way.

Standing there, holding the chalice and remembering Christ's words of encouragement to us as he faced his ultimate trial, I was brought closer to the understanding of Christ's life.

What is seemingly commonplace for

most of us, as Christians receiving the Eucharist, is truly a plethora of miracles. From the moment of Jesus' birth to the present can be summed up pretty neatly by anthropologists, archaeologists and technological advances. There is a scientific time line that can be followed – there are computers and electronic devices that tell us dates of events that once were utterly mysterious to us, and there are scientific answers to questions long asked by Christians needing concrete 'evidence' of Jesus. We are dazzled by facts and figures, scientific devices and anyone who has published a book on the subject of Jesus' life and times. We tend to believe what we are told when we should believe what we experience.

There is no shortage of Christmas greetings but I'm willing to bet few run around singing 'Happy Birthday, Jesus.' We should. We should

take into account His birth as the joyous occasion it was and is...along with His life as our Savior. It is this full and rich life that should be pure celebration...not just His birth but his "each and every day" life. We need to come back to the basics of our Eucharistic Rite as a celebration of Jesus' full mettle and His ability to translate to the generations following Him the love and glory God has in store for us all.

A seemingly out of place article for the Christmas Season, but if we celebrate only Jesus' birth during this time of year we might be missing the point...we might miss out on His life; a life that should be celebrated each and every day by those of us who wish Him a Happy Birthday.

Merry Christ Mass.

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GIFT CARD SUNDAY (SUNDAY, DEC. 4) AND SANTA SHOP

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 p.m. The 3rd graders will be collecting gifts during morning carpool the week of Dec. 5-9. The 3rd graders will all have various jobs throughout the week: making posters advertising the Santa Shop, visiting all of the classrooms throughout the school speaking about their efforts and asking for donations, setting up the shop on Sat., Dec. 10, assisting shoppers, making and serving lunch to shoppers, clean up, and spreading 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.



NINE QUESTIONS EVERY PARISHIONER SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

When we experience a tragedy, crisis, hardship or difficulty in our lives, we often turn to our Clergy for support. They walk with us through those tough first hours, days and weeks. And, since we are a community, one or more of these events will inevitably be visited upon our fellow parishioners, pulling Clergy in their direction. Our Priests are still there for us, but they are human and have a finite number of hours to provide care to each of us individually.

That is why, in 1999, Father Derwent Suthers was instrumental in bringing Stephen Ministry to St. Martin's. He realized that some issues need more frequent, targeted support for a longer period of time. Our Clergy do an excellent job of responding to a crisis and are able to check in with us on a periodic basis, but it is physically impossible for them to offer each one of us the level of attention that may be needed when we are facing some of life's most difficult issues. In those cases, *Clergy will often recommend Stephen Ministry—NOT because they are passing us on to someone else, but rather because they CARE.*

Our clergy needs to be able to respond to us when we need them and Stephen Ministry affords them the time and flexibility to do that. With our Stephen Ministers currently supplying 40-50 hours a month of caregiving, it is easy to see that our Clergy simply does not have those extra hours.

But we are fortunate here at St. Martin's. Our Stephen Ministers work in partnership with our Clergy to provide the kind of comprehensive and long-term care our Priests wish they had time to offer each one of us. *So if a member of our staff or leadership recommends Stephen Ministry to you, please know it is because they care about you and want to offer you the BEST level of Christian caring that we possibly can—for as long as you may need it.*

So that our parish is completely familiar and comfortable with recommending and receiving care from Stephen Ministry, we are beginning a new series:

"9 Questions Every Parishioner Should Be Able to Answer About Stephen Ministry"

The first 3 questions are addressed below:

1. What do Stephen Ministers do? Stephen Ministers typically meet with those receiving care (Care Receivers), once a week for about an hour. We are not there to "fix" problems. We are there to CARE, to listen to you or just to BE with you and walk the path together. We are more than a friend, but are not counselors. We are trained, Christian Care Givers and are dedicated to being there for you, without judgment or expectations.

We know that working through challenging issues is a process and we

encourage you to go at your pace. We will help you connect with God's love and presence and can offer additional resources if needed. *Stephen Ministers care about what happens in your life; they stand ready to help shoulder your burdens.* One of the most important aspects of our Caregiving is that, for the time we spend together, we are totally focused on what you need. *How many other people in your life can do that?*

2. What is it like to receive care from a Stephen Minister? Receiving care from a Stephen Minister has been described as *"drinking a cool cup of water after a long, hot day."* Our Care Receivers tell us that family and friends are often dealing with their own responses to a crisis so it is sometimes difficult for them to focus on anyone else. And, over time, they go back to their own lives, leaving the one most directly effected, alone.

Stephen Ministers are regular visitors—they are God's "hands, feet, eyes and ears," demonstrating the Body of Christ at work in the lives of hurting people.

Stephen Ministers have been called *"Angels, God-Sends, Heroes, Champions"* and *"Knights in shining armor."* We are frequently told how much help we have been and even that we are loved. *These accolades come from people who were relative strangers before we began our Stephen Ministry relationship.*

We remind our Care Receivers that

they are important to us, to God, and to St. Martin's. Some are resistant at first, or even skeptical. But our patient, regular visits are a consistent reminder that our words do not ring hollow and this helps our Care Receivers to trust, to talk and to begin healing. We bring a bit of St. Martin's and God's love to those within our community who are hurting, those who may not be able to attend church and those who have lost their connection with God or the church.

Together with God's help, we will be with you--to help you with whatever you have to face. *With Stephen Ministry, you never have to walk a difficult journey alone.*

3. Do Stephen Ministers maintain confidentiality?
Absolutely! Confidentiality is the cornerstone of the work we do and the pledge we take before being commissioned. Stephen Ministers are trained and committed to maintaining the integrity of the program and protecting the confidentiality of our Care Receivers.

We hope this helps you to better understand the Stephen Ministry Program and feel more comfortable recommending or receiving care when you just need a listening friend or if life deals you a crushing blow that you can't handle alone ... we are here for you. Here's a look at the remaining questions we will answer in the coming months:

JANUARY 2012

4. *How does Stephen Ministry benefit our congregation?*
5. *How do you know whether a person would benefit from having a Stephen Minister?*
6. *If someone would like to receive Stephen Ministry, whom should he or she tell, and what will happen?*

FEBRUARY 2012

7. *What qualifications would I need to be a Stephen Minister?*
8. *If I want to be a Stephen Minister or find out more, with whom should I speak?*
9. *What's involved in becoming a Stephen Minister?*

If you or someone you know could benefit from having a trained, caring Christian share a painful burden, please speak to a member of our Clergy, any Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister.

At St. Martin's--You do not have to walk this journey alone!

Your Stephen Ministers are trained to follow Paul's instruction to "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2). We are here to CARE, to LISTEN, and to help CARRY part of the burdens of those around us.

Active Stephen Leaders

Kathy Evenson
 Susan Hamilton (also active SM)
 Nancy Runion (also active SM)
 Deborah Thompson (also active SM)
 Bill Monk

Active Stephen Ministers

Pam Beaubian Gay Jolley
 Phyz Lemmon Andy Moore
 Cheryl Ponder Herb Thompson
 Mary Floyd Jane Jenkins

A Special Introduction to our Online Forums

Melinda Mischik has written down her views on the use of spanking. If you are interested in reading this article and being able to respond electronically please go to www.stmartins.org/forums

PAIRS AND SPARES CHRISTMAS BANQUET - DEC. 10

Our annual Christmas Banquet will be on Saturday, December 10th, in Gable Hall. It will begin at 6:30 P.M. with a social time. There will be hors d'oeuvre and an assortment of beverages for your enjoyment. Dinner will be catered by Dave Fricano and will be served at 7 P.M. Ingrid Seigert, Denise Dimsdale and Rebecca Shipley will furnish the entertainment with a variety of Christmas music, sacred, carols, and traditional holiday pop tunes.

Your team captains will contact you with further details.

Any questions? Please call Louise Kiley at 770-234-9176 or the Simms at 770-457-4986 or the Pearsons at 404-255-2788.



December 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 7:30a, Men's Bible Study 10:30a, Clergy Group 6:30p, EFM 7p, Gamblers Anonymous	2 8p, Narcotics Anonymous	3 8p, Song of Atlanta Show Chorus Practice 10:30p, Advent Quiet Day 4p, Ceilidh 5:30p, HE-Rite 1
4 GIFT CARD SUNDAY 7:45a, HE Rite I 9a, HE Rite II 10:30a, Christian Formation 11:15a, HE Rite II 12p, Daughters of the British Esquire Tea 3p, Dads' Teoop 5:30p, HE Rite I 5:30p, Boy Scouts	5 3-4:45p, Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p, Pet Ministry	6 9:30a, Staff Meeting 6p, St. Nicholas Service 7p, St. Martha's	7 10a, Healing Service 10:30a, St. Mary Magdalene's 7p, AA	8 7:30a, Men's Bible Study 10:30a, Women's Bible Study 10:30a, Clergy Group 12p, Brown Bag Theology 6:30p, EFM 7p, Gamblers' Anonymous 7p, Women's Bible Study	9 8p, Narcotics Anonymous	10 9:30a, DOK 4p, Pats and Spats 5:30p, HE Rite I
11 7:45a, HE Rite I 8a, Santa Shop 9a, HE Rite II, Jan Bake Sale 10:30a, Christian Formation 11a, Jr. DOK 11:15a, HE Rite II 5:30p, HE Rite I 5:30p, Boy Scouts	12 3-4:45p, Prayer Shawl Ministry	13 9:30a, Staff Meeting 10:30a, St. Elizabeth's 12:30p, ECW Meeting 7p, Stephen Ministry	14 9:30a, St. Margaret's 10a, Healing Service 7p, AA	15 7:30a, Men's Bible Study 10:30a, Clergy Group 11a, Caregivers Group 6p, Theology on Tap 6:30p, EFM 7p, Gamblers' Anonymous	16 8p, Narcotics Anonymous	17 1p, Elite Music Recital 5:30p, New Horizons Band 5:30p, HE Rite I
18 OUTREACH SUNDAY 7:45a, HE Rite I 9a, HE Rite II 10:30a, Christian Formation 11:15a, HE Rite II 12:30p, Service Planning Consultative Meeting 5:30p, HE Rite I 5:30p, Boy Scouts	19 3-4:45p, Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30p, Vestry Meeting	20 9:30a, Staff Meeting	21 9:30a, St. Monica's 10a, Public Service of Healing 10a, Parish Post Surfing 7p, AA	22 7:30a, Men's Bible Study 10:30a, Women's Bible Study 10:30a, Clergy Group 6:30p, EFM 7p, Gamblers Anonymous	23 GREENING OF THE CHURCH 8p, Narcotics Anonymous	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 1p, Elite Music Recital 5:30p, HE Rite II and Christmas Fagant 6p, Festive Christmas Mass with Orchestra 8p, HE Rite I with Lessons and Carols 11p, The Solemn Mass of Christ at Midnight
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10a, HE Rite II & Christmas Service CANCELED: Sacred Spaces, Christmas Formation, and the HE Rite I service	26 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED CANCELED: Prayer Shawl Ministry	27 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 7p, Stephen Ministry CANCELED: Staff Meeting	28 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 7p, AA	29 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 5p, AMES CANCELED: Men's Bible Study, and Clergy Group	30 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 8p, Narcotics Anonymous	31 5:30p, HE Rite I

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jessie Bailey Jere Street	8 Estelle Chambless Diane Fitzpatrick Marianne Fortuna	15 Ben Barber Mac Grass Dave Ryan Amy Tennihan	21 Elizabeth Florio Marybeth Haas Cheryl Ponder Claire Roberts Marion Smith Kathy Tuton	27 Sally Perez William Stamper
2 Carl Anderson Aaron Hale Ellen Marsau Ryan Simmons	Elaine Grizzle Ian Street Cindy Tarantino Tracy Williams	16 Jay Marshburn, Jr	22 Alison Barnett Clarence Greenfield Gregg Magruder Al Parker, Jr Amanda Phillips Ernst Ruder Thomas Story, IV	28 Jackie Beason Jean Hall Deane Price
3 Barbara Adler Bette Arnold Ormond Caldwell Judy Florence Nick Jeffers	10 Alice Moore Carrie Pinotti	17 Stacey Cooper Denise Dimsdale Glenn Reinhold Karen Vasquez	23 Ralph Haynes Streeter Nolan Leonard Young	29 Barbara Chubb Paige Gooding Caroline Granata Lisa Hardin Hannah McClure Carol Roberts Katherine Sherwood
4 David Delaney Marie Drake Dayne Shelton	11 Bryce Bancroft Joan Barton Martha Evans George Lindley, Jr. Vince Vitti Natalie Wilkes-Shaw	18 Anita Tancaitor Connor Trzecienski	24 Brittany Denton Andy Erickson Harry Howell Rick Lozano	30 Michaela Bush Doris Matthews Nell Moeling Audrey White Maggie White
5 David Duke Robert Massey Joy Pelly Ryan Vasquez	12 Holly Blake Noel Burtenshaw Mitzi Ladd Tori Lauterbach Spencer Short Vincent Strobel Deborah Thompson	19 Alexander Boor Grace Borcharding Sarah Jane Borcharding Bill Fisher Randy Hughes Madison Mischik Cille Ribaldo Mike Snyder	25 Linda Allender Art Dratz Michael Jeffers	31 Milt Fletcher Linda MacArthur Nancy Nichols John Gaffney Haun Henry, III Lane Roberts Caroline Sanderson-Morris
6 Bill Bazzel Angel Cuadrado Ed Kroell	13 Harriet Franken	20 Connor Ford James Hamner, IV Madeline Hiebel Margaret Kerlin Jenny Stanley Frances Wells	26 Clarence Greenfield, Jr Margaret Nichol Genevieve Petritz	
7 Jim Bedell Steve Bentley, II David Lauterbach Maggie Mixon Douglas Simms Allyson Smith	14 Kathryn Arvidson Michael Bieze Courtney Granata Lila Grass Ken Grizzle Don Hall Joe Schab, Jr			

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Holy Listening - Saturday, December 3

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Where: Church Parlor • Cost: \$10.00

Join us to observe a quiet and peace-filled day as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

Reserve a space and a lunch by e-mailing Edith Woodling at ewoodling@stmartinschool.org

UNEXPECTED GIFTS...

by Mary Floyd

I first met Jason Clay when I approached Mother Erickson in my quest to become a Stephen Minister. Mother Erickson was not holding classes that year and suggested, after reviewing my professional and volunteer resumes, that perhaps I might be of help to Jason Clay. That was almost three hysterically funny and greatly appreciated years ago.

I found another place to use my gifts under the auspices of *The Parish Post* and the generosity of Jason Clay, while I waited patiently for Stephen Ministry classes to resume. Jason imbued me with confidence – and at my stage of life that was extremely important. As an empty-nester and with some medical conditions that precluded my full time employment, Jason put me to work as the editor and a contributor to our *Parish Post*. Not only did he read my articles but was my second set of eyes on my pieces (an editor rarely edits his or her own work!). We had long talks about articles, syntax, definitions, etc., which are clearly where we both “live.” His understanding of protocol, liturgy and church doctrine are, in this humble writer’s opinion, unmatched by any other than clergy. He

has taught me much, and for that I am exceedingly grateful.

I found Jason to be a caring soul – one who is touched by the ordinary events in any parish in the USA. Each person who has come into contact with Jason knows his genuine concern and his abiding respect for them. There is no “item” too big or too small for him to help with. His humor is only one of his many attributes that will carry him forward into his new career, though I wish he would stay right here with us!

Jason, I wish you the best life has to offer and that you receive the same warmth you give to others. May God bless you on your newest journey and may you always remember the grateful congregation at St. Martin in the Fields.

May we all be unexpected gifts to those we encounter – just as Jason has been for all of us here at St. Martin’s.

A Merry Christmas to all.

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MANY THANKS FOR YOUR WELL WISHES

I have been stunned by the response of this parish to the news of my departure. I have appreciated your many e-mails, visits, and the baked goods you have given to me in celebration of my advancement. I will miss your smiling faces, your support and encouragement. Please pray for me and my service to Northside United Methodist Church.

I can already tell my replacement, Tara Fardellone, will be a wonderful addition to the staff. As I trained her, she asked all the right questions, and was often a few steps ahead of me. I am happy that I am leaving the role in such great hands.

Many blessings to you all,



-Jason



Jason Clay



Tara Fardellone, St. Martin's
Newest Employee

MEET TARA FARDELLONE, OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Hello everyone! My name is Tara Fardellone and I graduated from Cornell University with my Bachelors of Science degree in Meteorology in May. While in school, I fell in love with communications as well (but if you want weather forecasts, come see me!). I then met my fiancé and after we graduated, we moved here so that he could work at Coca Cola with Ann Burton.

Ann spoke so highly of St. Martin’s and so I jumped at the chance to work here. Everyone has been unbelievably welcoming and I look forward to helping the St. Martin’s community through my work. Please feel free to stop by and introduce yourselves to me as I look forward to meeting you all!



-Tara