



Worship  
St. Martin in the Fields  
Episcopal Church

Community  
Faith building  
Outreach

# The Mission

March, 2009 Volume 4, Issue 3

## Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

Lent is an odd time in the church.

Over the years, so many of us have struggled with Lenten images and self-imposed actions. Which, I believe, drives us from a greater participation in our faith journey just when we should be celebrating. Yes, celebrating! Just the other day, someone even admitted to, in the past, having stayed home for the forty days of Lent, only to return on Easter morning. To a point, who could blame them? You see, we surround ourselves with dark images, dark songs, bleak readings, and then we withhold some of the things we love so much—candy, cakes, potato chips, meat, movies, and reading the blogs (well, that actually is a good thing), when we should be adding to our lives, just as Jesus added to our lives.

With this in mind, I am encouraged by the First Sunday of Lent readings. I believe they set a great tone for our faith journey. If you recall, the Old Testament reading was about God setting his bow, his Rainbow, in the sky as a sign of God’s covenant with us. Moreover, the Gospel was where Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan, and then went about spreading the Good News—the Kingdom of God has come near.

I really enjoyed the message, and the connection those messages brought to me on my journey. I haven’t been able to stop thinking about the connection between the two—God’s Rainbow is now seen where we live—in the street—not just up in the heavens, as before.

Of course, I remember what a wise old sage once told me, “when is a sermon finally finished?,” “Tuesday, after the Sunday in which it was given” was the answer. This past Sunday’s sermon was one of those

sermons, at least for me, one that I cannot shake loose, especially this Lent.

Wait, you were not there? Let me briefly recap: God placed the bow—God’s wrath—in the sky as a sign of his covenant, that never again will the earth be destroyed by flood, in spite of our unfaithfulness and sin which still remained.



One day a Vacation Bible School teacher was asking the students where would they find the Rainbow, after reading them the story of Noah and the Ark. One little girl said, “Out in the street.” The teacher realized after a while she was not saying she could see the Rainbow in the sky, while out in the street, but actually **in the street**—in the oil on the water, in the gutter.

The Gospel reading reminds us that when Jesus came up out of the water at this baptism, the sky was ripped asunder, and that the Kingdom of Heaven had come near—that God, in the humanity of Jesus Christ now walks on the face of the earth, not just in heaven. Moreover—Thanks be to God—we find God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, here with us; where we live and die; where we work and struggle; where we laugh and where we cry; even in the gutter. The Kingdom of God has come near, and has never left!

Is that not Goods News? Is that not cause to celebrate?

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## “Sea Of Galilee” 1st topic of Video Tour of the Holy Land

Come to Wednesday Night at St. Martin Mar. 4 to kick off the Lenten series of video explorations of the Holy Land.

6 p.m. Eucharist

6:30 p.m. soup & bread supper  
video & discussion

Discover facts and ideas about Galilee and Jesus’ teachings in that region.

*Vestry Highlights, Feb. 3, 2009,*

*Sharon Armstrong, Clerk, pro tem*

The meeting opened at 7:05 PM by Fr. Jim with a reading on instant results. A gospel reading from Mark connected the theme. We do not always see the results of our works. We need to sow the seeds for our future.

**Financial Report:** The budget is on target. January plate was strong. There is \$3500 in savings. If pledge income for February and March are steady we should be stable. The loose or non designated or non pledged money going into the plate on the first Sunday of each month is for the rector's discretionary fund.

**Reports on Children's Ministry:** Sue Richards reported that Children's ministry is consists of three groups. Sunday School, Age 3 years to Grade3; Children's Chapel and Nursery. Sunday School at 9 AM usually only has four children. Children's Chapel at the 10:15 AM service fluctuates from 8 to 16 children. Nursery at the 10:15 service has from 1 to 3 children. Landy is often the only adult. When this happens she cannot provide nursery care as there must be two adults at all times. When that happens she goes to Children's Chapel

The challenge is there are not enough volunteers and all of the various groups need more help. These concerns need to be addressed. The big question is how important is Sunday School to the parents. An advisory board to evaluate Sunday School could be formed. A full Children's Ministry report will be posted on the bulletin board. There was more discussion on how to make Sunday School a success and of greater value to the parish. Possible ideas included a temporary Advisory Board to look at the whole plan from a new perspective and asking families with children what they would like to see.

**Middle and High School Christian Ed:** Kristi Koltiska reported that there are from four to eight middle school and high school youth on a Sunday. The middle school group is getting stronger. The high school group averages 2 to 3 each Sunday. It seems to be more successful to keep the two age groups separate. There is growing support for CORE. Contacts are going out to parents to see if they are ready to get involved with the high school. Having one person there consistently every Sunday would be very beneficial. The issue of dividing the Community Life Building room for Christian Ed.

Kristi also requested vestry approval for a dinner recognizing the Hunger Fast. The Hunger Banquet will raise funds for a mission trip in July to South Dakota. Banquet tickets would be \$5.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. The dinner will be on Friday on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will go on sale starting Sunday.

One adults is needed for every six or seven kids of the same gender on the mission trip. It was suggested that a meeting be held with all parents explaining the logisitics.

**Adult:child ratio policies:** Fr. Jim wanted to discuss St. Martin's policy on the ratio of adults to children at church.. Fr. Jim suggested the policy be changed so that if there are two adults but only one child the class would not have to be cancelled. It was noted that our church policy should not conflict with diocesan policy.

**Senior Warden Report:** Thor Nelson reported that the vestry has been invited by Canon Lou Blanchard to attend a vestry training workshop April 25 at Christ the King Church. The Vestry will decide next month. The Vestry would go as a group. The cost is \$15.00 per person.

**Rector Report:** A updated membership count was completed for the Parochial Report. There are 124 communicants in good standing (both adults and youth). 32 additional active members have not yet been transferred or received. Fr. Jim is working on getting the 32 officially received. The Parish Records have been "cleaned up" and these numbers have been verified. The average Sunday attendance reported is 90.

**Old Business:** The minutes from January's meeting were approved.

A meeting to discuss incorporating new members into the church will be started soon. This will be a new program to assist in acquainting visitors and new members with St. Martin's and introducing them to all that is offered. The web site has not yet been changed as of yet. There was a company change on the web site to reduce costs.

The parish council still needs to be organized. Bob Williams will report at the next vestry meeting on parish life. Comments on communication were addressed. Everything is posted but there is some question if anyone is reading it. Thor mentioned that things need to be repeated at least 3 times. The formation of the parish council would address this as there would be earlier planning of events.

Future Business: Parish council and workshop for vestry training.

Meeting ended with prayer by Fr. Jim at 9:05 PM.

**Bulletin Board**

**Christian Ed — ages K-adult**  
**Every Sunday, 9 a.m.**  
**Community Life Bldg., library**

St. Clare's  
 Supper  
 Tues., Mar. 24,  
 5-7 p.m.

**Wed. Night at St. Martin Resumes**  
**Wed., Mar. 4, 6 p.m.**

Please join the St. Martin community for a series of video/discussions on the Holy Land beginning Wed., Mar. 4, at 6 p.m. in the Community Life building. Each session includes a simple Eucharist followed by a soup and bread supper, then the video and discussion. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Jim

# Children and Youth Ministries

*Children*

*Sue Richardson*

## Children's Chat

Children's Ministry has had a wonderful Epiphany Season and will be moving into Lent with Rick Whipp taking the lead teaching role. The kids will be learning about the meaning of Lent, and the story of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, Children's Chapel will help the kids understand the passion of Christ by holding their own "palm parade" and completing activities about Holy Week.

\*\*\* The nursery continues to need volunteers. If you notice the sign up sheet on the door - it is empty!! Landy has been able to "wing it" by taking the little ones to Children's Chapel, however, this cannot last forever. Be aware, that if there are not two adults available to work in The nursery, and for some reason Landy cannot bring the children to Children's Chapel (due to age or behavior) then Nursery will be closed and the children returned to their parents.

Peace, Sue

## Connecting with the Rector... *(Cont. from page 1)*

For me, I will not look at the rest of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter in the same way this year. I will spend my time, this year, looking for Rainbows.

Care to join me?

God's Peace,  
Jim+

## Official Membership of St. Martin

Members reported, end of 2007: 181.

In 2008, St. Martin had 5 baptisms, 4 confirmations, 10 transfers into the parish, and 73 names moved to inactive status.

At the end of 2008, we reported 124 active, baptized members (in the parish registers) and 32 active people **NOT** in the registers. To date in 2009, St. Martin has recorded 11 transfers into the parish.

**Prayer Requests:** Please call the church (303-680-6376) or Fr. Jim (cell: 303-513-9175; home: 303-766-0205) if you are ill, going to be hospitalized, will be traveling, or want any other prayers. Email address for prayer list: prayer@st-martins.net or through the web site: www.st-martins.net.

*Adult Bible Study*

*Thor Nelson*

The Adult Bible Study group has been studying women in the Bible. The group meets during the Christian education hour, at 9 a.m., in the library. Any adult is welcome. The schedule of discussions is:

3/8 Deborah and Jael	3/22 Delilah
3/15 Jephthah's Daughter	3/29 Bathsheba

## Confirmation Class Underway

Confirmation class began on February 1 and participants are meeting every other Sunday afternoon. Father Jim joined the class Feb. 15 and, as part of the lesson "Resist, Repent and Return," led the class in the service of the Reconciliation of a Penitent from the Book of Common Prayer.

Class participants are L. and M. Hartung, B. Kern and Denise Merillat.

—Jo Cunningham, Lorna Mayfield ,

*Did you know that you can renew your Safeguarding God's Children certificate online? Contact Meg Stern at the Diocesan office 303-837-1173 or email her at mstern@coloradodiocese.org.*

## March Birthdays:

**Mar. 1:** Sue Richardson  
**Mar. 4:** Annabella Skinner  
**Mar. 4:** Jim Laginess  
**Mar. 7:** Bob Williams  
**Mar. 12:** Rebecca Shallanberger  
**Mar. 15:** John Cunningham  
**Mar. 17:** Rian Nelson  
**Mar. 17:** Jack Eldred  
**Mar. 18:** Ann Shallanberger  
**Mar. 18:** Ed Paprocki  
**Mar. 21:** Catharyn Baird  
**Mar. 22:** Marina Raab  
**Mar. 23:** Brandon Kern  
**Mar. 23:** Serah Onyeali  
**Mar. 23:** Heather Tung  
**Mar. 23:** Fabian Gilchrist  
**Mar. 28:** Nicole Skinner  
**Mar. 31:** Jayden Tillman  
**Mar. 31:** Sherry Blaser

*If your name/date is not listed or is not listed correctly, please call the church — 303-680-6376.*

**Church Leadership**

**Rector:** The Rev. Jim Gilchrist  
**Sr. Warden:** T. Nelson  
**Jr. Warden:** J. Shepard  
**Vestry:** J. Cunningham, S. Gilbert,  
 L. Mayfield, E. Paprocki, B. Raymond,  
 A. Shallenberger, Susan Shepard, B. Williams  
**Treasurer:** M. Shallenberger

**St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church**

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**March 2009 Ministry Schedule**  
 Please arrive 20 minutes prior to start of service

Date	Torch Bearer	Crucifer	Chalice Minister	Lector	Intercessor	Usher
<b>Mar. 1</b> 10:15 am	Jocelyn Whipp Eithan Phillipe	Lauren Hartung	Martha Libby Thor Nelson	Thor Nelson	Sharon Armstrong	Ann Shallenberger Alyssa Stidham
<b>Mar. 8</b> 10:15 am		Brandon Kern	Bryan Shallenberger John Shepard	Sharon Armstrong	Martha Libby	John Cunningham Jo Cunningham
<b>Mar. 15</b> 10:15 am	Sybil Keables Alexis Hartung	Michael Hartung	Mike Shallenberger Jo Cunningham	Judy Tice	Chuck Tice	Bill Eldred Kandice McKeon- Eldred
<b>Mar. 22</b> 10:15 am		Sarah Raymond	Sharon Armstrong Martha Libby	John Shepard	Mary Louise Gradwohl	John Shepard Sue Gilbert
<b>Mar. 29</b> 10:15 am	Mikayla Kern Justine Owens	Lauren Hartung	Chuck Tice Judy Tice	Chuck Tice	Missi Kern	Tom Keables Sharon Armstrong
<b>Apr. 5</b> 10:15 am		Richard Daniel	Randy Hoidahl Richard Daniel	Randy Hoidahl	Judy Tice	Ann Shallenberger Alyssa Stidham

Date	8:00 a.m. Server	Altar Guild	CCRV	Coffee Hour	Teller
<b>Mar. 1,</b> <b>2009</b>	Lee Mayfield	Susan Shepard	Tom Keables	Sue Gilbert	Jo Cunningham Ann Shallenberger
<b>Mar. 8</b>	Sharon Hoidahl	Judy Tice	Lorna Mayfield	Daniel family	Ann Shallenberger Susan Shepard
<b>Mar. 15</b>	Lorna Mayfield	Cynthia Obermeyer	Mary Louise Gradwohl	Helen Frazier	Susan Shepard Ed Paprocki
<b>Mar. 22</b>	Thor Nelson	Susan Shepard	Lou Surles	Marilyn Macdonald	Ed Paprocki Sue Gilbert
<b>Mar. 29</b>	Catharyn Baird	Judy Tice	Tom Keables	Barb Thomas	Sue Gilbert Lee Mayfield
<b>Apr. 5</b>	Lee Mayfield	Cynthia Obermeyer	Lorna Mayfield	Eldred/McKeon- Eldred family	Lee Mayfield Bruce Raymond

*If you are a server and know you will have a conflict in April, please notify M. Kern by Mar. 15 so she can accommodate your calendar. Once the schedule is published, you are responsible for finding your own substitute. Then please let the church office know who is serving in your place. Thank you.*