



Worship
St. Martin in the Fields
Episcopal Church

Community
Faith building
Outreach

The Mission

October, 2009 Volume 4, Issue 10

Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

I look out the window on a cool, blustery fall day and I see beauty. I see the green grass and the green leaves, the few remaining flowers hanging on from warmer summer days, and I remember what a lovely summer it has been. I know it has been good.

I look out the window and I see those few leaves that are already turning yellow and falling to the thick carpet of grass, and I know there is change coming, there is a change of seasons in the air. I know in the life cycle of our world fall means a time of change, and a time of planning, and I know that is good, too.

I look out the window and see areas where bulbs for spring will soon be planted into the rich and fertile soil bringing spring flowers and joy to our sight. The earth will respond to our love and care for the gift of beauty God gives to us through God's creation, and through our relationship and participation in that creation. And, that gives me hope.



I have always loved fall. It is a time in which I see a more complete view of the lifecycle in nature—beginning, middle and end, but with a new cycle always in the process of forming. God has so magnificently created this cycle of life, and graciously allows us to join in with nature's beauty through our relationships with God. Moreover, we can work with nature to help foster and create this beauty, but it requires active participation and planning, a living into that relationship.

Our life within our own families, and with our church family, is much similar to our relationship with

God and nature. We can sit back and watch as life unfolds around us, and be content—there is beauty to behold. Or, we can join in and be an active participant in these relationships, with our extended families and with God, and the beauty becomes unlimited. Moreover, that beauty becomes part of our own creative being, a part of us, and is a gift from God.



God calls us all to a life of mission—participating in life at one level or another. Jesus is very clear throughout the Gospels, and yet we some times misunderstand what mission means. Certainly, it can mean to go forth and make disciples of all people. It can mean feeding the hungry, clothing the poor and naked, or welcoming the stranger. Those examples are clear and understandable. But, not all of us are able and gifted to do those missions. So then, what are we to do?

Just as in living within the cycle of nature, not all of us can trim trees, or mow the grass. And digging in the dirt to plant bulbs is a physical or creative challenge for some of us. I do not think God wants or requires for all of us to do the physical acts required by our joining in with nature's cycle, but longs for all of us to see and enjoy the beauty of nature, to be a part of the beauty by being a part of that relationship with God. And, that is good.



When we participate in a relationship of any kind, without planning and consideration for the future, the relationship can languish and fail. Our active participation in our relationship with nature can lead to an overgrown and wilted beauty, if we fail to plan. Our relationship with God is vulnerable, as well. If we fail to plan, if we fail to prepare, and if we fail to use the gifts for mission—whether our mission is to work or to worship God, as each are called—we may lose the magnificent beauty we hold, and behold, in our relationships with God, and with each other. (Continued on pg. 2)

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(Connecting... cont. from page 1)

As fall unfolds over the next few weeks, I would like for each of us to consider to what mission God is calling us. Do you feel a call to come every Sunday and worship God within the joy and beauty of our time together in worship? Do you feel God calling you to participate actively in the worship services, as a reader, an usher, part of the Altar Guild, or as a singer? Do you sense God telling you to be a pastoral link with those absent from our table? Perhaps God is urging you to greet new visitors and share the joy of your church family. There are many ways of living into God's call, and remember the most important one of all is living into our relationship with God.



We will be having a Ministries Fair in November in which representatives of all the different "missions" will be available to answer questions, to help you see if that is where God may be leading you. There will be an opportunity to bring up any new mission or ministry, if it does not already exist.

Additionally, this is the time of year where we examine our planned gifts of Time, Talent or Treasure for the

up coming year. This year, I would like for each of us to consider our gift as not what it does for the church—how it keeps the doors open, the lights on, the staff paid, all of which are important items. Instead, as you reflect on your planned gifts, ask yourself how these gifts might enable you to live into your mission for the church, and more importantly live into your relationship with Jesus. If your mission is to worship God on a Sunday morning at St. Martin in the Fields, then the doors do need to be open. If your mission is to feed the hungry, then we need to help you live into that mission, as part of St. Martin's family. Our planned gift, our pledge, is our promise back to God of what we will do to carry out our mission—the love and work of God in our lives.

As you reflect on your mission and your participation, do not forget to notice the beauty of fall—God is putting on quite a show!

God's Peace,
Jim+

Stewardship

Bob Williams

Dear Friends,

Once again, we are approaching our annual Stewardship efforts. As many of you know the definition of Stewardship is: ... the responsible management of something entrusted to one's care... This includes Time, Talent and Treasure and is 24/7/365, all the time, not just in the fall. What we do today, creates tomorrow's outcomes and the future for the coming generations. We own nothing, it is all (our thoughts, our time and our resources) loaned to our safe and responsible care by God.

We have come from a "rocky" past, through our collective efforts we have become stable and are now moving forward. We need to continue this momentum for doing God's work. I ask each of you during the next few weeks to give additional focus and prayer regarding your personal ministry of Time, Talent and Treasure. Look into your hearts as you make these decisions with faith.

The Clergy, The Vestry, Staff and I thank each of you for your generous and energetic support in the past and look forward to a continuing, exciting and rewarding journey as we do God's work for now and the future.

Peace,

Bob Williams, Stewardship

Meet Mary Louise Gradwohl

Mary Louise Gradwohl grew up in Denver. She went to Wellesley College where she took four years of French, which, after graduation in 1947, landed her a job at the American Embassy in Paris as secretary in the office of the military attaché. She roomed with the chief librarian of the Sorbonne and his family. An acquaintance invited her to a party where she was persuaded to sing "How much in that Doggy in the Window." The man who accompanied her insisted on taking her home from the party. Pierre was a French Jew who escaped Nazi occupation in northern France by disguising himself as a gentile and moving to southern France. Mary Louise and Pierre were married in 1949, and lived in France for several decades.



Mary Louise and Pierre moved back to Denver in the late 1970s to stay with her mother until Pierre died in 1982. Mary Louise returns to France about once a year to visit her daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

(Continued on page 3)

Prayer requests: The email address for prayer requests has been changed to avoid excess spam. To make a prayer request, please call the church office 303-680-6376.

Faith Formation Ministries

Children's Chapel

Jay Skinner

When you see the children leave the church after they are blessed (at the beginning of the 10:15 a.m. service) and are heading to Children's Chapel, do you wonder what they do there? Well, wonder no longer — I would love to tell everyone what we do in children's chapel.

Children's Chapel is Children's Church and what that means is that the children are having a church service too, but it is at a child's level. During our service we light the candles, we have the Gospel reading, sermon, and follow up activities and all of this is done on the child's level. We also focus on the different parts of The Word part of the service, so the children understand why we do them.

If you would like to learn more about Children's chapel or would like to help, please contact me.

—Jay Skinner

Adult Bible Study

Thor Nelson

The Adult Bible Study this year is excited to be engaged in a study of the biblical roots of the Episcopal Catechism. The Catechism is included in the Prayer Book and is a thorough discussion of the foundational beliefs of our faith. Topics include Human Nature, God the Father, The Old Covenant, The 10 Commandments, Sin and Redemption, God the Son, The New Covenant, The Creeds, The Holy Spirit, The Holy Scriptures, The Church, The Ministry, Prayer and Worship, The Sacraments, Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist, The Other Sacraments, and the Christian Hope.

Every week we will study one of these topics in depth and explore the origins of these expressions of faith in different Biblical passages. Classes begun on Sept. 20 and will continue through May 30 next year (with breaks for Christmas and Easter). Adults of all ages are encouraged to come and participate. Classes are informal discussions and no advance preparation is required. Also, the classes are all independent so no worries if you happen to miss a week. If you have any questions, please contact Thor Nelson at tnelson@hollandhart.com or at Sunday services.

Adult Bible Study Schedule:

Sept. 20, 27: Human Nature
 Oct. 4, 11: God the Father
 Oct. 18, 25: The Old Covenant
 Nov. 1: The 10 Commandments
 Nov. 8, 15: Sin and Redemption
 Nov. 22, 29: God the Son
 Dec. 6, 13: The New Covenant
 Dec. 20: The Creeds
 Dec. 27, Jan. 3: Christmas Break

(Continued from page 2)

After Pierre died, Mary Louise moved from Denver to Aurora. She said she tried out both Episcopal churches in Aurora, decided she like St. Martin in the Fields the best and has been a regular member ever since. Within the St. Martin faith community, Mary Louise serves as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and intercessor.

Mary Louise loves to play bridge, read and play the piano. And to keep fluent in French, she meets weekly to speak French and watch movies with a French friend who escaped from Europe during World War II.



October Birthdays:

Oct. 3: Kelly Maagoon
 Oct. 4: Vincent Onyeali
 Oct. 4: Karla Ellis-Fox
 Oct. 8: Jason Merillat
 Oct. 8: Missi Kern
 Oct. 10: Stephen Juhl
 Oct. 12: Jane Owens
 Oct. 15: Larry Martin
 Oct. 16: Fern Keables
 Oct. 19: Jeremy Tung
 Oct. 21: Sarah Raymond
 Oct. 23: Julie Ann Skinner
 Oct. 26: Justin Jimmerson
 Oct. 28: Chris Shepard
 Oct. 30: Steve Whittington
 Oct. 30: Jacob Sterling
 Oct. 30: Shari Laginess

October Anniversaries

Oct. 14: John & Susan Shepard
 Oct. 15: Steve & Cathy Magoon
 Oct. 22: Bob Smith & Maryan Sneed
 Oct. 27: John & Amanda Sullivan

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: Thor Nelson
Jr. Warden: John Shepard
Vestry: Jo Cunningham, Sue Gilbert, Lee Mayfield, Ed Paprocki, Ann Shallanberger, Susan Shepard, Bob Williams
Treasurer: Mike Shallanberger
Clerk: Judy Steddom



St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church

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From the Episcopal Handbook.....



How to Join an Episcopal Church

Just show up.

OK, this may not be the only requirement, but it is, by far, the most important.

Many Episcopal parishes are somewhat intentionally vague about assigning membership. We don't want to be known as places where weekly attendance is taken, annual contributions are tabulated, and your membership is assigned only if you pass muster. We are much less concerned about counting the people who are in, than we are about leaving someone out.

You can consult your local parish for details (ask Fr. Jim), but most follow a variation on what's specified by the Episcopal Church's Constitution and Canons, which govern all parishes and dioceses: baptism in this or any other Christian church, confirmation or reception by a bishop of the Episcopal Church or of a church in communion with the Episcopal Church (expected of all adult members), attendance, reception of Holy Communion, and some sort of financial commitment. Of course, some people claim membership to our churches because a long-lost relative once attended, and this is fine by us. We believe the church should reflect the open and accepting

Bulletin Board

**Vestry Meeting Oct. 20
 (3rd Tues.) 7 p.m., library**

St. Clare's
 Supper
 Tues., Oct. 27,
 5:30 p.m.,
 St. P. /St. M.
 church

**Ministry Fair Coming
 in November
 Watch for more
 information**

arms of Jesus.

If one is baptized in a parish, he or she automatically becomes a member. If one is already a member of an Episcopal parish and moves to another, a Letter of Transfer is typically requested. However, the paperwork generally plays second fiddle to the importance of a particular faith community in one's life: is this particular church "home"? If so (and we hope it is), you're in.

And keep showing up!

From The Episcopal Handbook, Morehouse Publishing, 2008

2010 Entertainment Books

The 2010 Entertainment Books are now available—only \$30. Filled with lots of Two-for-One offers for fine dining and casual meals....Hotels at 50% off....Discounts on rental cars, ski tickets, dry cleaning, and merchandise. Each book has \$20 in savings at Safeway, too

Proceeds go to the Danny Shewey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund for all youth at St. Martins. Danny and his mother JoAnne were active members of St. Martins in the late 1990's. On Sept. 3, 1999, at the age of 13, he was walking home from school when he was hit and killed by a truck. He always had a smile on his face and loved to talk and joke and play sports. And he loved our Lord.....

See R. Hoidahl for your book or call c/o the church office.

A Child's View of Thunderstorms

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. Another and another flash of lightning followed quickly and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother's car drew up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her "What are you doing?" The child answered "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."