

KEEPING CONNECTED GROWING OUR FAITH



Annual Meeting of
St. Martin's-in-the-Field
Episcopal Church

JUNE 6, 2021



Annual Meeting Agenda

June 6, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with limited in-person attendance, and livestreamed online.

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| Call to Order and Opening Prayer | Reverend Matthew Hanisian, <i>Rector</i> |
| Approval of the June 14, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes | Reverend Matthew |
| Voting Procedures | Susan Shingledecker, <i>Senior Warden</i> |
| <i>(Nominees must have given permission prior to being nominated. Nominees must be members of St. Martin's. Members are all those who are 16+ years of age, attend church regularly, and are known to the treasurer. Confirmation is not a requirement for nomination, per TEC Canon Law).</i> | |
| Acclamation of Vestry Nominees | All Members of St. Martin's-in-the-Field Episcopal Church |
| Rector's Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members | Reverend Matthew |
| Report from the Treasurer and Finance Committee | Sally Burton, <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Report from Senior Warden | Susan Shingledecker |
| Report from Junior Warden | Jason Copeland |
| Rector's Report | Reverend Matthew |
| Closing Prayer | Reverend Matthew |

Senior Warden's Report

By: Susan Shingledecker

What a year! I must start with expressing my gratitude for so many amazing individuals who went above and beyond in a year full of so much change and challenge. I will start with Matthew, Nathan and John our clergy and Kathleen our Seminarian. I appreciate their leadership and energy, their willingness to try new things and their resilience to try, and try again. Going into the pandemic I was worried about the toll this human crisis could place on our clergy and they have repeatedly shown they are up to any challenge that comes their way. I also want to thank the staff of the church and especially the school. Amid unprecedented disruption our staff found creative ways to keep us connected and to innovate how we gather. The fact that our school was in-person and with a larger enrollment is truly miraculous and I know that the entire school team poured everything they had into making this work. At church we welcomed new staff, and transformed not only how we worship and where we worship but also our worship space itself. I am grateful for the St. Martin's staff. And I see that we will come out of this challenging year stronger than we started.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Vestry with our 4 outgoing Vestry members: Chris, John, Marie and Steve. I have enjoyed learning from each of them and for all of

their contributions. Chris spearheaded bringing mental health first aid training to St. Martin's. John brought his love of EfM to the Vestry. Marie represented the music ministries very well. And Steve was an incredible liaison to the School Board of Trustees in a very important time. I am also grateful for the many other volunteer leaders at St. Martin's and especially want to highlight those on the Outreach Committee who found creative ways to "be the hands and feet of Christ" in this time. Thank you also to our worship leaders whose presence allows us to return to in-person worship safely.

This year had many ups and downs. A year ago, I doubt most of us had a clear idea of what was ahead. I would love to share some of our high points with you.

- Sunday school supplies delivered to individual homes
- Sunday School and youth participation up
- Holiday sharing at Thanksgiving and Christmas to a record number of families
- Advent-in-a-Box (locust cookies)
- Christmas Eve (even with a pageant!)
- Epiphany blessing of doors

Senior Warden's Report continued on Page 10.

Rector's Report

By: The Reverend Matthew Hanisian

"O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them..." -Collect for the Second Sunday after Pentecost

Dear St. Martin's Parish Family,

What an incredible year we have had together, and, with the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, what an incredible next year awaits us. So much of what we have held as "normal" in how our church operates and functions—on every level—has been altered. Some of those alterations have been painful, some have been life-giving; some have been long overdue, while others have been spontaneous. All of them have happened through God's inspiration and guidance as we have continued to listen for new ways to make church happen.

St. Martin's has navigated our common life together in this year of pandemic by focusing on two main priorities: keeping connected and growing our faith. Throughout history these priorities have sustained the church in times of war, famine, persecution, disease, and even pandemic. So perhaps it was only natural that they have driven practically everything we have undertaken, and were the priorities against which we weighed our actions as a congregation. Through our work and dedication to listen to the call of the Holy Spirit, and listen closely to the needs of our parish family, we found that we did not simply survive through this time of pandemic, but that St. Martin's has thrived.

Keeping our community connected continues as one of the two essential elements of surviving this time of physical separation. Over the course of this past year, there have been dozens and dozens of ways in which we have reached out to our parish, and offered ways for us to "be together" even when we were not able to be physically together. Some of these new ways of keeping connected required us to create whole new ministries; at other times we modified existing ministries and ways of gathering to keep what was familiar, which is especially important in unfamiliar times.

Some of these new ways included virtual hymn sings, book studies, calls from vestry members checking in on families, online coffee hours, times for fellowship with online trivia and game nights, weekly calls to our most senior parishioners from the Eucharistic Visitor team, and weekly video updates as restrictions and changes happened almost daily at the start of the year...we have become masters of all things Zoom. These new connections helped those who participated feel more connected even when some of our St. Martin's traditions were put on hold. We continued with our standard communications of the weekly parish E-Pistle email and Sunday bulletin announcements; we even continued to send out weekly birthday and anniversary cards to everyone on our large church mailing list.

Times of isolation and separation have historically brought about new ways to practice one's faith and bring one's faith life more to the forefront of our lives. St. Martin's deepened our faith through new ways of worshiping together, reading and studying God's Holy Word together, praying together daily, and learning with and from one another. We made it possible for our parish family to worship at home on Sundays using new technologies, a new camera system, and a whole new ministry to enable it all. What started with a staff member's iPhone and a tripod in the center aisle has blossomed into a new suite of A/V equipment and software that allows us to worship on three different online platforms simultaneously. While many churches in our diocese chose to record their services during the week and simply press "Play" on Sunday morning, we have worshiped together every week, online, in real time, from the beginning. While many churches across the diocese gave up on things like adult education, fellowship, and outreach, St. Martin's found new ways to stay connected, grow our faith and give to our community. While many Sunday School and Youth programs simply stopped meeting in churches across the diocese, we not only maintained our dynamic youth and children's programs we've welcomed new families all year.

Indeed, we have welcomed a number of new families this year, many are local, but some worship with us every Sunday from all over the country. Whether online or in person, we need to renew our commitment to welcome and the open arms of hospitality for which our parish is known. As more new individuals, couples and families come to St. Martin's, we should make them feel welcome in whatever way we can—this is not solely the job of the Greeters or Ushers or clergy, it is the Christian obligation that all of us welcome the stranger among us.

One of the most remarkable things about this past year—and perhaps the biggest blessing of this past year—is how our St. Martin's church staff, and a whole host of parishioner volunteers, gave their God-given skills, talents and gifts to make all of these wonderful ministries, worship services, and social events happen.

Our staff has supported the ministry and mission of our parish in so many new and exciting ways this past year. The modus operandi of the entire team has been to be flexible, nimble and creative as we have learned how to do the work of the church remotely. This year we welcomed two new

Rector's Report continued on Page 11.

Associate Rector and School Chaplain's Report

By: The Reverend Nathan Erdman

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."
~ Philippians 4:4

This past year has certainly been a time when these words from St. Paul have really been put to the test. What do you mean rejoice Paul? There's been a global pandemic! And, yet it bears mentioning that St. Paul wrote these words from prison. Paul is the expert in Christian living during hard times, and St. Paul says rejoice. Now, that doesn't mean Paul's saying, "Yay! Prison's great!" Rather, Paul is saying, this is awful, but I rejoice that the Lord is with me to help me through this difficult time.

I give such thanks and joy that the Lord has been with us through this year of pandemic, to help us at St. Martin's through such a difficult time. I give thanks that Christ Jesus walks with all in our community who have faced illness and loss. I rejoice that none of us has to face hard times alone. The Lord is with us.

And, I rejoice that the Lord working in us, has given us occasions for rejoicing. I rejoice that our children's and youth ministry continued with robust participation throughout 2020-21. I rejoice that we have been able to share online, and even some in-person worship together, with many baptisms and confirmations! I rejoice that our online adult education offerings during the Lent

and Easter seasons were a source of inspiration and connection for so many. And, I rejoice that our school has grown leaps and bounds, and that we can continue to offer both education and spiritual formation to so many young people in our community.

Thank God, the Lord has been with us and walked with us over the past year. Even during this difficult year, it has very much been my joy to serve with you as Associate Rector and Chaplain at St. Martin's. I love what I do! Thank you so much to all of you who have supported my ministry in this place and to all who have been champions for our children, youth, and school. And, a big thank you to Matthew+. I cannot imagine there being a better rector for an associate to work with. I rejoice at the ways the Lord has worked through Matthew+ to shepherd us all through this time of pandemic with both strong leadership and a pastor's heart.

Finally, I give thanks and rejoice in the Risen Christ!

Thank you, Lord Jesus for all the ways that you have walked with us at St. Martin's this year. For giving comfort and light in the darkness, and for inspiring us to spread your good news of love and hope to the world. Surround us with your love in the coming year, lead us to serve and worship you with joy, and help us to rejoice in you always. Amen.

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

By: Holly Watson, Registrar

The 2020 Annual Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday June 14th 2020.

Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting were provided in the annual report. A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes. The motion was passed and 2019 meeting minutes were accepted.

Vestry Election

- Livestream service. All voting done by livestream links.
- Motion made and seconded for fill-in vestry members Sam Burdette and Katie Collier. Motion passed.
- Reverend Matthew called for any additional nominees. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed.
- A motion was made to elect candidates by a vote

of acclamation. Motion was passed and the four vestry candidates were elected; Susan Shingledecker, Darin Parkison, Jeff Dickerson, Meg Stott.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry

- Reverend Matthew thanked outgoing vestry members Andy Taylor, Tim George, Kip Senholzi and Susan Shingledecker.

Report of the Treasurer

Tony Deasey, *treasurer*

- Written report found in Annual report.

Reports from Wardens/Commission/Committees

- Written reports may be found in the Annual Report.

Closing Prayer

- Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Music Ministries

By: Dr. HyeSung Hwang, Director of Music Ministries

Due to the Pandemic, we had to implement quite a few changes in our music program, yet we gave our best efforts to continuously provide music. One of the most effective and successful changes we made was switching to a virtual choir format. This format enabled our choir members to remain connected to each other and allowed us to maintain our skills. In addition, by sharing our music online, we were able to expand our viewership and perhaps reach audiences that were new to our St. Martin's community.



In the meantime, the dedicated handbell choir continuously provided music in person. Members picked up their bells and practiced on their own until the dress rehearsal which happened right before the Sunday 10:30 a.m. live-streamed service. Our gathering was limited, but it was a valuable chance to maintain our teamwork and create beautiful music.

Organizing our music library had been a long-term goal of our music ministries and with the help of our choir members and volunteers, we were able to complete this important project. We have about 200 pieces of handbell

music in our library and these works are now sorted alphabetically and the catalogue is up to date.

The Pandemic forced us to be creative and try new things. Virtual hymn singing sessions during the Easter season were educational and informative for both the participants and for me. These meetings also gave us an opportunity to socialize with each other which was much needed at that time.

We made some changes regarding the music station. The organ and the choir will be up in the balcony in the fall. We are in the final processing stage to decide how to arrange the choir seating and the handbell choir tables, but we are excited about the new start from the new location.

Finance Report

By: Sally Burton, Treasurer

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The challenges of the pandemic and stoppage of in-person worship did not negatively impact our church finances in 2020. While Other Giving (loose plate, seasonal offerings, rental income) was lower (\$61,000) than 2019, over 80 percent of 2020 pledgers met or exceeded their pledge commitments, resulting in pledge income of \$734,130 and providing 2.5 percent more in pledge income than 2019. However, Outreach and other commission income dropped 25 percent in 2020 to \$14,406.

Operating expenses were down by 3.5 percent to \$695,675 largely due to reduced administrative costs. Commission expenses totaled \$95,000 with increases in Outreach and Youth programs to ensure church commitments were met. We ended 2020 with a surplus of \$33,145. The Vestry voted to apply this surplus to help close the budget deficit projected for 2021, along with a portion of the CARES PPP loan-turned-grant funds of \$28,862. The balance of the grant was applied to the Thacker Maintenance Reserve account. If there is a surplus at the end of 2021, it will be applied to the Thacker Maintenance Reserve account

up to at least \$28,862.

I am astounded and deeply grateful to all members and guests of our parish family for the generosity they demonstrate to keep our church and its mission going strong during these difficult times. Financial activity for the first quarter of 2021 is in line with projections. I encourage parishioners to keep current with their pledges this summer by remembering that the church monthly operating expenses do not take a summer break.

Over 40 pledging households participate in the monthly automatic ACH payment withdrawal of their monthly pledge amount, an easy, secure way to ensure your pledge is paid on time every month. You can sign up for this service any time by emailing Jory Bender at Treasurer@stmartinsinthe.org.

Our church has minimal reserves to cover deferred maintenance items and welcomes contributions to the Thacker Maintenance Reserve. While cash is always welcome, stock donations may provide tax benefits that are worth exploring. If you have treasure to spare, consider sharing it – and your heart – with your church family.

St. Martin's Episcopal School Report

By: Jamey Hein, Head of School

St. Martin's Episcopal School, in this most unique and challenging of years, has experienced many triumphs each centered on a mission of fostering Confidence, Compassion, and Character in children. While the majority of this region's independent schools chose a different path toward re-opening their campuses in fall 2021, St. Martin's worked diligently and tactfully to gain approval as a small school to open its doors for 5-day in-person learning and remained as such for the duration of the year. Teachers entered this year with openness of heart and mind toward making learning continuity the paramount goal along with compassion and care for our community. The School's families joined in that commitment, and through trusting partnership, we have successfully made this a most uplifting year.



- Enrollment increased from 161 students in 2019-20 to 227 students in the current year with several public school and former SMES families choosing to enroll their children for in-person school. Enrollment in 2021-22 is currently at 284 representing a 45% increase from this same time one year ago. In addition to operating in-person, the School also galvanized bold new efforts around marketing through its new website, admissions video, and social media presence.
- Teachers contributed remarkably to the overall educational mission. In Math, students replicated the number pi; in Science, students performed dissections and continued participation in the Oyster Restoration Program; in History, students competed for the first time in the National History Day Project; and in English, Mustang speakers continued their high placement in the Oratorical Contest. In Lower School, the Global Fair was replicated as a virtual experience grounding each grade in a rich interdisciplinary unit.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work manifested throughout the School led by a faculty-chaired committee. Curriculum audits continued ensuring student exposure to diverse voices. For the first time ever, St. Martin's sent a group of middle school students to a National Student Diversity Conference.
- While some traditions and routines looked a bit different, we made sure to foster spiritual development

and community through weekly Chapel (now back to in-person) and division-wide Mustang Rally's. Field trips have also been thriving with recent sojourns to the Annapolis Maritime Museum, Terrapin Adventures, and Washington DC. And we even saw the return of our Cardboard Boat Challenge, this time held in the Severn River!

- The Mustang Fund has seen steady momentum since its launch in the fall

with improved participation from current families. In April and thanks in part to a dynamic crew of volunteers, the first-ever Mustangs and Meatballs event grossed \$63,000 for St. Martin's, with \$23,000 earmarked for new technology. Additionally, tremendous stewardship of donors toward the Charting Our Future Campaign occurred with the completion of interior named spaces and a large donor plaque listing benefactors to the building project. In February, the School honored major donors through its Gratitude Gatherings and virtual tours.

- In preparation for 2021-22 and to absorb the larger enrollment, the Preschool space will go through a complete renovation this summer. 11 new members will join the staff next year, including newly created positions such as a Technology Coordinator and Learning Specialist. The School has also successfully increased the racial and gender diversity of the staff as well those individuals with prior experience in Episcopal educational settings. Finally, and importantly, we have made steady improvements to staff salaries increasing our median to compare with small schools within the AIMS network.

St. Martin's Episcopal School has evolved in meaningful ways: its mission has become clearer; its Episcopal identity has grown deeper; its academic and enrichment program has become more diverse and current. Fiscally and philanthropically, St. Martin's has seen measurable success with the completion of an inaugural building campaign and the current pay-down of debt and return of a healthy Board-restricted reserves. Physically, by September 2021, 100% of the School's facilities will have seen some sort of renovation and/or modernization. Let's work together to ensure the School – St. Martin's largest and oldest ministry – remains on a vital future trajectory so it can continue to foster students of Confidence, Character, and Compassion.

Worship Ministries Report

By: Wamahdri Williams, Commissioner

Worship at St. Martin's through the end of 2020 and into 2021 has been an important part of our response to the pandemic. We continue to worship in a virtual environment and in a restricted in-person environment.

Our 8:00 a.m. service continues to be in-person and allows us to share space and to be physically present with our St. Martin's community every Sunday. Our 10:30 a.m. virtual worship has gone from a fledgling enterprise to being a key part of our encounters with God and with each other.

We are on the verge of returning to in-person worship closer to our pre-pandemic services. To do this, we need volunteers for the many roles necessary to support our regular services such as: Eucharist Ministers and Servers; Acolytes; Ushers; Lectors; Healing Prayer ministers; A/V technicians and Altar, Flower and Wedding Guilds among others. Please go to our St. Martin's webpage and sign-up to help us get to our new normal. Please help us to continue being Christ's face in the world. During our response to COVID-19, our ability to physically worship together had been constrained. As we prepare for more in-person worship, we look forward to again being of service as we worship together.

St. Martin's Ushers, often the initial face of St. Martin's to the newcomer and always a reminder of our role of welcoming all to worship, will be there to help us safely navigate this return to more in-person worship. Our Lectors bring

our scripture to life with their reading of the lessons and prayers of the people. Lectors are particularly important in helping us experience the reality of the bible narrative and our resulting traditions and rituals. Though our clergy are wonderfully leading us in our lessons and prayers of the people during this period of virtual and restricted in-person worship, our transition back to more in-person worship will bring back the work of our Lectors.



Altar Guild - Kay Nelson, Chair
This team is responsible for preparing the Altar for all worship services, including weddings, funerals and special services. The Altar guild team also cares for the Priests' vestments, silver, linens,

candles, hymn board and ordering supplies such as wine and wafers. We also prepare home communion kits for the Eucharist Visitors.

During COVID-19, at least 2 members each week have been available to help the clergy with the online services. This was mainly for refilling the candles. As restrictions eased we now prepare the altar for communion for one clergy member and wafers for 40 to 80. The Diocese has approved Baptisms, so we are slowly getting back to "normal".

Our goal is to have 12 members on the Guild; we are short two members at this point. It is a privilege and an honor to

Worship continued on Page 13.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

By: Charlie and Debbie Fitzgerald, Co-Commissioners

We have assembled a very core team to really launch the Invite, Welcome, Connect program at St. Martins. Susan Shingledecker, Matt Czarny, Samantha Burdette along with Debbie, Hillary Golden, Reverend Matthew (for team spirit and support) and I are in the process of dividing a list of 30 potential new members for what we hope will be the return to full in person worship this fall. The interested persons have either reached out from our School, have attended the 8:00 a.m. in person service or have been participating in our 10:30 a.m. virtual service.

We are actively seeking 2-3 volunteers to help us and together we will begin a program to contact these interested persons and families to answer questions about who we are and see if they share a particular passion that connects to one of our many church outreach and inward serving programs. Please volunteer today and together we will make Invite, Welcome, Connect a reality at St. Martins. Contact Charlie Fitzgerald, charliefitz76@gmail.com or Debbie Fitzgerald, deborahfitz@gmail.com.

Outreach and Mission

By: Larry Sells, Commissioner

The Outreach Commission, along with the St. Martin's church have provided their time, treasure and talent and have been able to provide resources to enable Outreach to serve God's people in these trying times in our "backyard" and around the globe.

Here are some examples of us serving God's people in need:

Winter Relief: has operated as a seasonal Emergency Temporary Shelter since 1992. Hosted at different Anne Arundel County religious facilities each week from late October through April, the shelter is a safe and comfortable refuge for those experiencing homelessness throughout the coldest months of the year. Each year St. Martin's has provided shelter, services, meals and spiritual guidance to the guests assigned to us by Arundel House of Hope (AHOH).

In 2020 COVID caused the world to shut down. St. Martin's stepped up in a big way. When the Health Department and AHOH asked if St. Martin's would continue to provide for the homeless by extending our hospitality for an additional week until housing could be secured, St. Martin's was able to provide a safe space for those experiencing homelessness during the start of the state shut down. Due to COVID restrictions this year St. Martin's couldn't offer hands on help. Instead Outreach gave \$6,800, typically spent during our Winter Shelter hosting week, to AHOH for COVID Relief. Additionally, we are already planning

for next year's Winter Shelter which will be March 14-21, 2022. If you would like to get involved it's never too early to sign up, contact Kathy Berge today at helpingotherstowin@gmail.com.



SPAN (Serving People across Neighborhoods): St. Martin's supports this as an outreach mission through volunteers, monetary and food donations, participation in their fundraisers, and as a member of the Board of Directors. SPAN is a food pantry and emergency services provider that has been helping families and individuals in Severna Park,

Millersville, Arnold, and Broadneck since 1990 with emergency situations such as hunger, utility turn-offs, court-ordered evictions and prescription/medical needs. SPAN also serves the following secondary areas: Crofton, Crownsville, Odenton, Gambrills, Pasadena, Glen Burnie, Linthicum and Severn. This year has been a difficult year for many and SPAN has been one of the few emergency assistance organizations in our area to remain open in full capacity during COVID.

Backpack Buddies Program: with the help of volunteers and St. Martin's funding, was able to persist through COVID-19. We moved completely to a home delivery model when schools closed, continuing to serve children and families, right where they are. Established relationships

Outreach and Mission continued on Page 12.

Junior Warden's Report

By: Jason Copeland

During the past year, the St. Martin's campus experienced both many challenges and many improvements. Notable challenges included failures with the Sanctuary and Narthex HVAC systems and a thorough understanding how they are designed. The effects of high humidity in the Sanctuary caused an extreme failure in the 30-year old parkay floor. Due to COVID and lack of church services, it was an excellent time to upgrade the floor, the pews, and re-orient the organ and baptismal font.



Additionally, the school removed and landscaped the outdoor eating space and added sun shades. The school also modified the playground after the addition of the upper school was complete. Entering the new year, the campus projects include a lower pre-school interior redesign, a sound system upgrade to the sanctuary, and likely upgrades to the Narthex and Music Room HVAC systems. Heck Hall front stairs need to be rebuilt and ongoing landscaping improvements will be planned.

Youth Ministry

By: Jeff Dickerson, Vestry Liaison

Then Jesus came to them and said "Go therefore and make disciples" ~ Mathew 28:19.

Our St. Martin's Youth Ministry is truly dedicated to carrying out this great commission that Jesus bestowed upon us all. Our youth leaders, through their love and commitment, and by teaching and sharing knowledge of the Word with our youth, by standing alongside our youth, encouraging our youth in times of doubt, lifting our youth up in prayer, and by sharing with the youth experiences from their personal faith journeys, are 'making disciples,' indeed. Look around St. Martin's and you will see youth full of compassion and purpose. These tweens, teens and emerging young adults are taking charge of their lives, participating in multitudes of school and non-school events, as well as, church youth and intergenerational events and ministries, and, even more amazing, encouraging others in our community and church to become involved in causes they are passionate about. Our St. Martin's youth are, without a doubt, spreading Christ's love throughout our church, our community and our world. About 45 youth participate in some part of our Youth Ministry between Christian Education on Sunday mornings, as well as other church and diocesan activities. On Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:00 a.m., youth gathered online via Zoom together with their class: Rite-13 (Grades 6-8), J2A (Grades 9-10), YAC (Grades 11-12), and Seniors (Grade 12). The Youth Ministry is led by Rev. Nathan and supported by ten youth leaders.



- The Rite 13 class, led by teachers Tim George and Karen Sabins was formed in the fall consisting of 6th and 8th graders. This class will stay together all the way through graduation. This was their second year of the 2-year Rite 13 program and, normally, the 13 year olds in this group would have participated in the Rite-13 Liturgy and Celebration this spring. However, due to COVID-19, this celebration has been postponed. The entire Rite 13 class will participate as candidates in the August 2021 Rite 13 Liturgy and Celebration.

- The J2A, led by Roy Wallace, Jane O'Donnell and Kate Clevon are completed their second year with an in-depth focus on self, society and spirituality. Normally, now is the time when the J2A youth would go on their pilgrimage in 2021. However, due to COVID-19, the groups pilgrimage to Italy has been postponed until July 2022. To help fund their pilgrimage, J2A youth and their parents, have planned and participated in multiple fund-raising events this year, including gift card sales, wreaths and greens sales and trivia night.

- YAC (Young Adults in the Church) was comprised of 10th and 11th graders this year. On May 2, twenty YAC youth were confirmed. A big thank you to our leaders and mentors: Dave Eagleson, Dan Sturgeon, Hilary Sayers, Anne Minor Kurtz, Rachel Erdman, Charlie Fitzgerald, Andy Gatanas, Katie Glover, Susie Hill, David Mallery, Sarah Parkison and Andy Taylor.

Children's Ministries

By: Sam Burdette, Vestry Liaison

While some programs at St. Martin's had to pause or scale back due the COVID pandemic, Children's Ministries have been going gangbusters. Sunday School continued weekly on Zoom for the entire 2020-2021 program year. Reverend Nathan adapted the *Whirl* curriculum from *Sparkhouse* so that children and teachers could meet online. *Whirl* is Bible-centered and based on the lectionary with fun video stories, check it out at www.wearesparkhouse.org.

Many thanks to our amazing and dedicated virtual teachers: Nicole Copeland, Susie Hill, and Sarah Parkison, and to our cheerful and stealthy supply delivery team,

Dawn Major and Patti Zielinski, who kept kids ready with all the tools they needed to participate.

For the seasons of Advent and Lent, virtual versions of St. Martin's popular intergenerational evening programs drew many participants together for learning, fun, and fellowship. Holy Week kits and special Easter bags helped to keep our children engaged as well. We have been blessed with several new families joining us for both Sunday School and our special events. We look forward to continuing to grow our ministry over the next year in whatever forms needed. All are invited!

Adult Spiritual Formation

In response to the call to remain connected and continue to grow our faith, clergy and commission leaders coordinated different classes and groups virtually.

Shepherd Group – Susan Griesmyer

After working through our growing pains with the new technology nearly all 14 members meet on Zoom each Thursday at 4:30 p.m., from September 2020 to now. During this year of reduced socialization, Shepherd's was instrumental in helping parishioners feel connected and supported. We met to read and study the lectionary passages, to share and laugh, and to pray for our needs and the needs of others. We were also delighted to add an additional member to our group which is open to all adult parishioners. We look forward to the opportunity to meet in person in September.

The Bible Workbench – Rev. John Price

Participates meet via Zoom Sunday mornings for weekly resources to study and reflect on the Scriptures to be read at the Sunday Eucharist. Using a curriculum from the St. Louis Ed Center we discern how these Scriptures from both the Hebrew Scriptures and those of the New Testament Christian community intersect, inform and direct our lives as the Community of Jesus in our time and daily live both as individuals and as members of the Body of Christ, our corporate identity. Lives are awakened, souls shaken and new wisdom learned each week as we shared our life journeys with each other.

The Chronological Bible Study – Cindy Neseth

We are currently in our fourth year of meeting. The



group began as a challenge to read the Bible in a year, and once we accomplished that we started to read the Bible chronologically. We meet once a week on Tuesday evenings with about 5 people showing up. We even were able to keep the study going during COVID by having members attend

virtually. Currently we are discussing what to study after we finish the Chronological Bible. As we continue to meet we hope to continue to grow in Biblical knowledge understanding and encourage others to join the journey with us.

Theological Book Discussion Groups – John Dirks

Rev. Nathan led two book discussions this past year: *Discussing Mere Christianity* and Easter Discussion Group: *Surprised by Hope*. The Lenten study of C.S. Lewis' classic *Mere Christianity* we looked at the life and work of C.S. Lewis and his introduction to Christian faith. Our Easter study of N.T. Wright's about the resurrection, *Surprised by Hope*, had us examining the meaning of Christ's resurrection, its centrality in the Christian faith, and what it means for life after death and the mission of the Church. Both discussion groups were intellectually engaging and spiritually exciting. Marilyn and I looked forward to sharing ideas with 20 participants every session, every week. We eagerly anticipate similar discussions in future.

Sustaining Practices: Balancing Your Life in a Time of Pandemic

Rev. Matthew taught this interactive online course which identified five key spiritual practices of the ancient church.

Adult Spiritual Formation continued on Page 14.

Senior Warden's Report continued from Page 5.

- Lent-in-a-Box and a shared dinner of soup and bread on Zoom
- Online Lent discussion groups and small group discussions
- New floor and A/V system as well as refurbished pews in the sanctuary
- Virtual Vestry retreat
- New Vestry meeting format with more time for discussion and discernment
- Holy Week services and stations of the cross outside

- Easter Sunrise service
- The return of in person worship and baptisms
- Online Mustangs and Meatballs and Trivia Nights

It is amazing to see what we can accomplish with the help of the Holy Spirit and incredible volunteers. I suspect some of these new ways of doing things will be cast aside when the world gets back to normal, but I fully suspect we may have some new traditions that are here to stay! Thank you to each and every one of you who has brought your time, treasure and talent to St. Martin's. I am excited to see what is ahead for us all.

Pastoral Care

By: John Dirks, Vestry Liaison

Pastoral Care has developed and changed over the past year to accommodate the challenges of the pandemic. The efforts of the church to host Zoom events and provide worship virtually has allowed us to remain “a part” of our Church rather than “apart” from it.

The Pastoral Care ministry provides spiritual, emotional and physical support to our parish family members. When a parishioner shares in the Eucharist when homebound or hospitalized; is provided a meal or transportation to the doctor; or enjoys one of our multitude of virtual services throughout the week, the parishioner will know that he or she is part of our parish family whatever the circumstances. If you need help or are called to be a helping person for your fellow parishioners, one of these ministries may be for you.

Eucharistic Visitors: A way for parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday worship to know that they are loved members of the Body of Christ at St. Martin's. In non-COVID

times, each Sunday a member of the Eucharistic Visitation team brings the body and blood of Christ to those members who are homebound or in hospital or in a care facility. Currently our Visitors serve many residents at Brightview and other locations. Additionally, we stay in touch with our parishioners with in-person visits, when allowed, and by phone to keep them connected to St. Martin's.

Helping Hands: Volunteers assist those in need by delivering meals and supplying rides to appointments. Any active parishioner who can drive is welcome to join us, especially if you have some extra time on your hands. In unusual times, like currently, they help parishioners in any way they can within the rules established by competent authority. Contact Lori Skalitzky, threesty@verizon.net.

Card Ministry: The church also keeps connected with those in our parish family by sending birthday and anniversary cards. For many this connection is especially welcome.

Rector's Report continued from Page 2.

staff members, Hilary Golden our new Parish Administrative Assistant and Jory Bender our Bookkeeper. Both come to us with a wealth of experience and new ideas that have already helped us work smarter and more efficiently. This year we also welcomed Kathleen Schotto, now a rising senior at Virginia Theological Seminary, as our second seminarian in my time at St. Martin's. Both Kathleen and Rev. Nathan have been valuable conversation partners as we have navigated the way forward this year, with prayer, grace and humor.

I would like to thank Rev. Nathan Erdman all his work both as our Associate Rector and as the Chaplain to our Episcopal School. Rev. Nathan has been the architect of how all of our children's and youth programs and the chapel services for our Episcopal School have seamlessly transitioned from in-person to online. Additionally, he has taught two popular book studies and was the mastermind behind Advent and Lent-in-a-Box. He has been a trusted colleague here at St. Martin's and has also served our diocese this year in a new capacity—on Diocesan Council

which functions very much like the Vestry for the diocese. I'm so thankful for his ministry and leadership here at St. Martin's and the enthusiasm and joy he brings to St. Martin's.

As we look to the year ahead, I am anxious for us to be together in church once again. Being able to worship from home has been wonderful for many, and trying for others. My prayer for St. Martin's is that when we come back fully to in-person worship we all will choose to make church our priority...to laugh together, to eat and sing together, and

receive the body and blood of our Savior together, every Sunday. My hope for St. Martin's is that we will renew our desire to worship together every week, only watching our worship online out of necessity, not out of convenience. The truth is we are diminished when any of us is absent, we are built up and sustained when each member of our family is present.

In the months to come we will gradually return to the kind of joyful worship we loved before the pandemic and we will do this in stages. For many this will take far too long to accomplish, but being safe for everyone out of love for one another is what we are called to do. In this next year there will be new opportunities for us to give of our time and talents volunteering to help make Sunday mornings full of learning, fellowship and worship. The months to come will see us reshape some of what Sunday looks and feels like as we enter into the post-pandemic time. We are not the St. Martin's we were 15 months ago, and some ministries may come to an end, others may change and develop. But at the center of all that we are and do will be our love of Jesus and our neighbor, because that focus of our parish has never changed or stopped.

I cannot wait to see what the coming months and this year hold for us all at St. Martin's. On the pages that follow you will see small snapshots of the many ways our parish has grown and changed and been responsive to the work of the Holy Spirit in and with us. I hope they fill you with as much joy and hope for the future as they have me.

Stewardship

Recognizing God's Abundance

The mission of the Stewardship Ministry is to help the people of St. Martin's grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to them.

This year the Stewardship committee will begin a journey towards making Stewardship a year-round activity for our parish, instead of something we just focus on during "pledge season." This change in our ministry will be transformational for the life of St. Martin's for generations to come. Some of the basic pillars of our year-round focus on Stewardship include:

- Continuing to focus on our primary goal, that first and foremost Stewardship is about making disciples of Christ
- God's Word must be present and incorporated into our Stewardship ministry

By: Tim George & Jamie Stott, Co-Commissioners

- Focus on the giver's need to give; not the church's need to receive
- Recognize that God is the owner of all that is, and the source of all the abilities and resources that allow us to live a more than comfortable life. With that in mind, there is no room left for us to imagine that we are the source of our good lives; God is.
- The steward is not the owner. The steward is always one that cares for that which belongs to the owner.
- Generosity is the natural consequence of abundance

The Stewardship Committee is looking for a few energetic and faithful folks to join us in this ministry and help us live into our mission. If you're interested in learning more about this transformational ministry or joining us in our work on the Stewardship Committee, please contact Jamie Stott, tjsreal@gmail.com or Tim George, tim@fourgeorges.com.

Outreach and Mission continued from Page 8.

with the counselors at Severn Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Severna Park Elementary, and Park Elementary school allowed us to make necessary changes and add families as the staff saw need. Feedback from the families was gratitude in this very tough year. Food for the program for the year came from old and new sources. Outreach funds were used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables and milk. Several deliveries this year were from a local restaurant supplier who re-invented themselves in the pandemic and delivered to our program. The Anne Arundel County Food and Resource Bank continued to be a blessing – open for contact-less pickup of pantry staples. As schools re-opened, Federal and State funding provided 3 meals a day at school for all students. We have been able to pick up the "extras" and use them to support our Backpack families.

Holiday Sharing: During the fall we helped over 175 people at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Christmas alone was 88 people, which the largest amount of people that we have ever helped.

Additionally, this year St. Martin's supported the community by helping to host two Red Cross blood drives.



Outreach at St. Martin's continues to directly support our partners in ministry, despite the challenges due to COVID-19 where hands-on ministry is problematic. During this time community support has been focused on food and shelter. We funded ministry totaling over \$29,000 this program year to the following organizations supporting those in the most need. St. Martin's Outreach ministry continues being

good stewards of our finances while maximizing our spread of Jesus' Good News into our community.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| SPAN | \$6,000 |
| YWCA | \$1,500 |
| Lighthouse | \$1,000 |
| Wellness House | \$1,500 |
| Hope for All | \$1,000 |
| Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) | \$1,000 |
| Orphan Grain Train (OGT) | \$1,500 |
| Baltimore Washington Med Foundation | \$1,000 |
| Arundel House of Hope | \$6,500 |
| St. Martin's Scholarship Fund | \$8,000 |
| Back Pack Buddies | \$400 |
| Joy of Life Foundation | \$520 |
| TOTAL | \$29,920 |

Hospitality and Parish Life

St. Martin's found many ways for our parish family to stay connected despite the restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

Special thanks to parishioner David Herron for attending many of our worship services and baptisms to take photographs of St. Martin's Parish life. These photos serve as more than a history of our parish, they keep us connected in our faith as we share worship and milestones together. This year saw the introduction of Advent-in-a-Box and



Lent-in-a Box. Parishioners received their boxes which included supplies for activities for all ages and then gathered together via Zoom to discuss and create together. This year parishioners also did Advent wreathes at home. Collecting their supplies at the church and assembling our wreathes together via Zoom.

Dr. HyeSung Hwang and members of St. Martin's brought music to our parish life with Virtual hymn sings and the virtual choir project.

Worship continued from Page 7.

serve the priests' and the congregation of St. Martin's-in-the-Field, we hope you will consider joining us.

Flower Guild - Sandi Blair, Chair

This past year has been as unusual for the guild as it has for everyone. In the past, we typically gather as a group of 10 or more to decorate for Easter and Christmas, but in 2020-21 we had to figure out how to do it with three members. Sundays in the past have often been a team of two, but we managed with just one member most Sundays. Because of the pandemic we've had to get creative with picking up flowers from the store and scheduling to decorate when the church is empty. We've done a good bit of pruning in the church garden.



We are reinventing our "wheel" and are open to doing more of that. We are seeking new members and would love to have you join us. The flower guild affords a great way to volunteer in a meaningful way without tying you to a tight schedule. Floral arrangements are usually done anytime between Thursday evening and Saturday evening. No previous experience necessary, we'll show you the ropes, contact Sandi Blair, muzzibl@yahoo.com.

A/V Ministry - Amber Kaltz, Chair

The St. Martin's-in-the-Field A/V (Audio/Visual) ministry was officially born in August 2020. Like many churches the need for broadcasting our Sunday worship services occurred at the start of the COVID Pandemic in March 2020, it was thought to be temporary. In fact, our first broadcast was using an iPhone propped on a stack of books and a secondary camera recording so we could later post

on YouTube. Once it was apparent that we would have a continued need for online worship we realized we would need better equipment and volunteers. A call was sent out for both financial donations for cameras and equipment, as well as, for volunteers to broadcast the service each Sunday.

In August we started training team members and had our new equipment set up by September. Since then, the ministry has grown to include 11 members, two PTZ cameras, a MacBook, audio receiver/transmitter, omnidirectional microphone, iPad, headphones, a desk and more. This ministry has been a new and exciting journey, especially as technology doesn't always cooperate.

The A/V team has learned much over the past 10 months including how to operate the PTZ cameras, set up the service to broadcast online, work in Facebook and Youtube to make comments and answer questions, and troubleshoot audio issues.

But wait, there's more. The A/V ministry also serves our Episcopal school (SMES) so that students can attend virtual chapel services. Additionally, the team serves in keeping us connected to our wider community by broadcasting memorial services, recording AGO organist performances and more.

We are blessed to have a team of dedicated parishioners who can be counted on to broadcast our service to ensure that our wider church family can worship with us every Sunday online. If you'd like to join this new innovated ministry please contact Amber Kaltz, akaltz@stmartinsinthefield.org.

Adult Spiritual Formation continued from Page 10.

About 20 households gathered on Zoom weekly during Lent. We engaged in the following spiritual practices: daily engagement with God's Holy Word, giving thanks at every meal for a unique set of three new blessings, practicing the Presence of God following the life of Brother Lawrence, Centering Prayer, and taking a daily walk with God. This class may be offered again next year based on the positive response from those who took the class.

Adult Confirmation and Reception Preparation

Five adults met for three weeks to cover all of the main topics in The Catechism—found in the Book of Common Prayer. Rev. Matthew taught the class via Zoom which was a great way for the group to meet due to the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. This portion of instruction was the start of a larger add-on series aimed at providing a solid introduction to both The Episcopal Church and St. Martin's which Rev. Matthew taught during the Great 50 Days of Easter.

Episcopal 101: Everything to Know and Love about our Church

This is the add-on class that is the continuation of the Adult Confirmation and Reception prep class that Rev. Matthew taught in April. This five-week class was especially helpful for new members and those who have been at St. Martin's in the last three years. The topics covered The Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, The Diocese of Maryland and St. Martin's—including history, governance, and polity. Other topics included a grounding in Anglican/Episcopal theology, an introduction to the Book of Common Prayer, The Hymnal 1982, and how to really read the Bible. Finally, some nuts-and-bolts topics about parish communication, how to get involved in our many ministries and how to give to the work of St. Martin's rounded out the series. This series will be offered again in the fall for all the new families who have begun to call St. Martin's home since the start of the pandemic.



Worship Service Schedule

Join us for our Livestream Worship Service Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Livestream worship services begin with a welcome and Prelude at 10:25 a.m. The opening hymn begins at our published service start time of 10:30 a.m.

Join us for limited in-person worship on Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

We will alternate weekly between Rite I and Rite II worship.

We will adhere to the Diocese of Maryland's guidelines for returning to limited in-person worship.

Visit our website for Livestream service links and how to sign up for in-person worship.

www.stmartinsinthefield.com/worship/

We'll Help You Keep Connected

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Matthew Hanisian, Rector

rector@stmartinsinthefield.org

The Reverend Nathan Erdman, Assoc. Rector & Chaplain

associate@stmartinsinthefield.org

The Reverend Dr. John Price, Priest Associate

Dr. HyeSung Hwang, Director of Music Ministries

music@stmartinsinthefield.org

Hilary Golden, Administrative Assistant

parishadmin@stmartinsinthefield.org

Amber Kaltz, Communications Coordinator

communications@stmartinsinthefield.org

Kathy Key, Bookkeeper

treasurer@stmartinsinthefield.org

Chris Mitzel, Facilities Manager

facilities@stmartinsinthefield.org

Reita Turro, Nursery Director

VESTRY OFFICERS

Susan Shingledecker, Senior Warden, *srwarden@stmartinsinthefield.org*

Jason Copeland, Junior Warden, *jrwarden@stmartinsinthefield.org*

Sally Burton, Treasurer

Holly Watson, Registrar

VESTRY MEMBERS

Class of 2021: John Dirks, Stephen Michelsen, Marie Tuccille, Chris Werth

Class of 2022: Jason Copeland, Sam Burdette, Katie Collier, Bill Thomas

Class of 2023: Susan Shingledecker, Darin Parkison, Jeff Dickerson, Meg Stott

375 Benfield Road, Severna Park, Maryland 21146 | (410) 647-6248 | smartinsintheField.org



St. Martin's
in-the-Field
Episcopal Church