

THE STAR

07

Lent at St. Martin's

During Lent, we seek the Lord
in reflection and prayer.

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

Lent, a Season of Renewal

Join us as we prepare to celebrate the coming resurrection.

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE STAR

The Star is an official publication of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

OUR MISSION

To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.

PLEASE NOTE

All events are subject to change. Please reach out to contact listed on event for specific questions.

CHURCH OFFICES

717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Individual department hours vary.)

RECEPTION DESK HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHURCH VIEWING HOURS

Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
(except when services occur)

PHONE NUMBERS

Office	713-621-3040
Activity Center	713-621-8625
Café St. Martin's	713-985-3847
Event Reservations	713-985-3844
Finance	713-985-3803
Pastoral Care	713-985-3817

For pastoral emergencies after hours and on weekends, please call 713-621-3040 and then press 2 to reach the priest on call.

Prayer Requests	713-830-4124
Preschool	713-621-2944
The Hope and Healing Center & Institute	713-871-1004
Docent Guild Tours	713-985-3817
Visitor Information	713-985-3834

Additional phone numbers and email addresses are at:
www.smec.org > Who We Are > Staff

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WORSHIP OFFERINGS

WEEKDAY DAILY OFFICE in CHRIST CHAPEL

Morning Prayer — 8:30 a.m. • Evening Prayer — 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS in CHRIST CHAPEL

Traditional Services — 7 a.m. and noon

SUNDAYS in THE CHURCH

Traditional Services — 8, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.

SUNDAYS in PARISH LIFE CENTER

Family Service — 9:15 a.m.

Riverway Contemporary Service — 11:15 a.m.



Jesus Prays at Gethsemane

This pane — part of stained-glass Window 35, “Christ’s Teaching on Prayer” — depicts Jesus kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane, overwhelmed with sorrow, as He prays to His Father. In this moment of agony and deep anguish, Christ’s prayer reveals His steadfast obedience to God’s will.

“And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.’” (Mark 14:35-36 KJV)

Find Window 35 on the west side (right side) of The Church. It is the second window from the back.

ON THE COVER:

In preparation for the Paschal feast, Christians begin a 40-day season of penitence and fasting to prepare for Easter. Join St. Martin’s during this time of self-reflection, repentance, prayer and fasting and draw closer to God.

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What will you choose to reflect on during the season of Lent this year? This sacred time invites Church members to slow down, turn inward and deepen their faith through meaningful practices such as worship services, Bible studies and prayer.

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20 Our Annual Outreach Sunday

This annual tradition brings Parishioners of all ages together on one Sunday to work on multiple projects through activities that benefit the agencies and organizations we serve.



25 Celebrating Advent and Christmas

Evergreen wreaths, garlands and twinkling lights throughout our beautiful worship spaces provided a perfect backdrop to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

A Holy Invitation to Lent



“Lent” is a strange word.

For Christians, Lent is a word that carries with it dour connotations of penance and self-denial. Lent is that time when we impose clear and often uncomfortable limits on our own thoughts and actions. We give special care and attention to the disposition of our hearts and minds. We forgo simple pleasures and forsake — to the extent that we are able — persistent sins. If the borders of our spiritual lives are ordinarily a little vague and fuzzy, Lent is the season for tightening our expectations and narrowing our focus. All of this can make Lent feel like a hard season, a dark season, a cramped and self-contained season.

But did you know that the word “Lent” actually shares the same root as the word “lengthening”? Lent did not originally carry any connection with the difficult, soul-searching, sober work of repentance as we prepare for Easter. Rather, it simply acknowledged that in the springtime in northern Europe, the days are getting longer. The light is growing, hour by hour, day by day, little by little. The whole natural world around us is lengthening – stretching into the new growth and new life that follows the dark, dormant days of winter.

Of course, the contrast between a cold, dark, dead-looking winter and a bright, verdant, fruitful spring is not quite as dramatic here in Texas as it is in, say, England. But we, too, are noticing the lengthening of days, the receding threat of ice storms and the promise of warm weather ahead. And in our life together at St. Martin’s, Lent is a time of increasing activity and busy-ness after the relatively quiet season after the Epiphany. So Lent is indeed for us a time of stretching and expansion, even if the very things we are stretching into are strictures, disciplines and a more intense and intentional focus on our relationship with the Lord.

Thus, there is, at the heart of Lent, a wonderful paradox. This hard, narrow season contracts our focus onto Christ Jesus and in so doing, it simultaneously broadens our concern, care and love for others. This limiting season of self-discipline actually allows us to expand our spiritual lives beyond what we previously thought possible. This dark, penitential season of self-reflection and self-sacrifice ultimately draws us into that bright country where all self-regard will be joyfully set aside in the presence of the One who is our light, our joy and our hope.

This limiting season of self-discipline actually allows us to expand our spiritual lives beyond what we previously thought possible.

Come join your brothers and sisters of St. Martin’s Parish as together we strive, by the grace of God, to keep a holy Lent. Come and turn inward, to examine your heart, your mind and your soul and find that through this hard work the Lord will turn your focus outward again, to seek and serve Christ in others. Come fast and pray with us in this somber time, so that at the end of 40 days we may greet with joy the news of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Come and let God’s compassion, God’s faithfulness and God’s loving kindness broaden and lengthen your heart in this holy season of Lent.



The Rev. Dane E. Boston
Rector, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church

Crowded Table: A Lesson for the Church



I believe the song “Crowded Table” by the Highwomen should be an anthem for the 21st-century Church.

It starts: “You can hold my hand/When you need to let go/I can be your mountain/When you’re feeling valley-low/I can be your streetlight/Showing you the way home/You can hold my hand/When you need to let go.”

Isn’t that what the Church is supposed to do? Isn’t that what Jesus has done for us? “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me.” (Psalm 23:4) The Church can embody the loving care of our Good Shepherd by being there when people need us most and then pointing them to their true home (who is Christ Himself).

The song continues: “If we want a garden/We’re gonna have to sow the seed/Plant a little happiness/Let the roots run deep/If it’s love that we give/Then it’s love that we reap/If we want a garden/We’re gonna have to sow the seed.”

As the Church, we are called to “go and make disciples.” (Matthew 28:19) We sow the seeds of faith through evangelism and discipleship. If we want this garden to grow not only numerically but also in Christian maturity, then we must take the role of discipleship seriously.

For a healthy garden, we must be willing to sow the seeds of the Gospel in our lives. The Good News isn’t just for those outside our Church walls, but also for the faithful who come weekly. For a garden to flourish, it must be tended, cared for and occasionally pruned. What does our garden look like and where do our hearts need a little tending?

The best part of the song is the chorus: “I want a house with a crowded table/And a place by the fire for everyone/Let us take on the world while we’re young and able/And bring us back together when the day is done.”

The Church’s mission is to transform people’s lives in the power of the Spirit and that transformation begins around the Table.

Like a big family meal, we desire a crowded table around our Altar where people are nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ and then sent out into our community to be the Body of Christ. The Church’s mission is to transform people’s lives in the power of the Spirit and that transformation begins around the Table. At this family table, there is room for everyone because we believe everyone needs to experience God’s transforming love and forgiveness. Something happens to us in the breaking of bread.

This song reminds us that the Church — at its most elemental form — is a community of believers who are called to fling wide our doors to the world. Hospitality is evangelism. Believing and belonging go hand in hand.

As the last stanza says, “The door is always open/Your picture’s on my wall/Everyone’s a little broken/And everyone belongs/Yeah, everyone belongs.” I pray everyone feels that way when they walk through our doors. You are home and so now, it’s time to help set the table for others.



The Rev. R. Wesley Arning

Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries

rwarning@smec.org



Adult Christian Education

At St. Martin's, we offer a wide variety of groups and classes to help you grow in faith and be grounded in God's amazing grace as we seek to follow Jesus as His disciples. We encourage you to pray about where God may be leading you. Don't hesitate to reach out to learn more.

Unless otherwise noted, for information about Adult Christian Education and the classes listed, please contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or 713-830-4110.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christian Education Sunday School classes will not be held on Feb. 1 due to the rescheduled Annual Parish Meeting, on Feb. 8 due to Outreach Sunday, March 29 due to Palm Sunday and April 5 due to Easter.



8+
Sundays · 8:55-9:25 a.m.
Chapel Reception Hall

This 30-minute class is a Clergy-led coffee-and-discussion following the

8 a.m. worship service. Each class focuses on a lectionary reading for the day. All are welcome to drop in.

THEOLOGY *for* LIFE

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE

Led by St. Martin's Clergy and guests

Sundays · 10:15-11 a.m.
Bagby Parish Hall

THE HUMBLE KING:

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

Sundays through Feb. 15

Continuing with the story of the Bible we began last fall with Genesis, during Epiphany, we'll focus each week on key aspects of the life and teachings of Jesus. The King of the kingdom of God finally arrives in Israel — what does He show us about what life together in God's kingdom is like? How does it help us better understand His atoning work on the Cross, which we'll study together in Lent?

"The Transfiguration"



Sunday, Feb. 15

Led by the Rev.
Jim Jackson

Lent Sundays: THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE CROSS

Sundays, Feb. 22-March 22

In the service for Good Friday, we say together a prayer attributed to St. Francis: "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." During Lent, we'll move from our walk through the life and teachings of Jesus to focus on the passion, cross, and atoning death of Jesus, which Paul says the world sees as "foolishness" (1 Cor. 1:23).

Join us for this six-week series paired together with our Wednesday Lenten suppers as we reflect on the central saving mystery of our faith.



GUEST SPEAKERS

FEB. 22:

With the Rev.
Dane Boston

MARCH 1: With the Rev. Dr.
Wesley Hill

MARCH 8: With the Rt. Rev. Dr.
George Sumner

MARCH 15: With the Very Rev.
Timothy Jones

MARCH 22: With Dr. Kristen
Deede Johnson

WORLD UPSIDE DOWN: Living the Resurrection

Sundays, April 12-May 17

After the cross and the resurrection of Jesus, now what? As we keep following the story of the Bible, we'll talk about the birth of the Church in the book of Acts, the Gospel of grace in the letters of Paul, the shape of the Christian life and, finally, the Bible's conclusion with the book of Revelation. And we'll recap what we've learned this year about the whole story of the Bible, as a single story with the Gospel of our risen Lord and Savior at its heart.



THEOLOGY for LIFE

GUEST SPEAKER BIOS

The Rev. Dr. Wesley Hill

Theological Professor at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan



Dr. Hill is the author of several published works, including “Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality” and “Paul and the Trinity: Persons, Relations, and the Pauline Letters.”

The Rt. Rev. George Sumner, Ph.D.

Former Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas



Rev. Sumner was ordained in Tanzania in 1981, he served in cross-cultural ministry in Navajoland, led parishes in New England, and from 1999-2015 was

Principal of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. He is the author or co-author of several books, including “The Claims of Other Religions.”

The Very Rev. Timothy Jones

The former dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia, S.C.



Rev. Jones is the author of several books. Most recently, he published “Fully Beloved: Meeting God in our Heartaches and Hopes” and in 2005, of “The Art of Prayer: A Simple Guide to Conversation with God.” Lord Carey, the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury stated, “Here at last is a book on prayer that transcends traditions. Timothy Jones has given us a book that is deep, yet accessible; serious, yet with wonderful flashes of humor and insight. This is a book for spiritual pygmies who long to be giants—in short, a book for all of us.”

Dr. Kristen Deede Johnson

Principal of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Ontario



Dr. Johnson is the 11th Principal of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, and Helliwell Professor of Theology, Ministry and Culture.

Prior to her arrival, she was Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

ADULT CONFIRMATION:

Anglicanism 101

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

Sundays • 10:15-11 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

Join the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden, Associate for Christian Education, for an eight-week exploration of our Christian faith as embraced by the Episcopal Church and the Anglican tradition. This class is designed for adults seeking Confirmation in our Church, but everyone who'd like a refresher is welcome!

For more information and to register, contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or call 713-830-4110.

Class Schedule:

FEB. 15:	The Nicene Creed: God the Father
FEB. 22:	The Nicene Creed: God the Son
MARCH 1:	The Nicene Creed: God the Holy Spirit, and Holy Scripture
MARCH 8:	The Book of Common Prayer and Sacraments
MARCH 15:	The Church
MARCH 22:	History of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church
MARCH 29:	Holy Baptism and Confirmation
APRIL 5:	No confirmation class due to Easter
APRIL 12:	The Anglican Communion

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER HOUR

Sundays, Feb. 8 and March 15 • 10:15-11 a.m.
Levenson Pastoral Care Center, Bride's Parlor

Sixteenth-century monk, St. John of the Cross, is often attributed as saying, “God’s first language is silence.” Come and gather with those who are trying to listen and learn God’s language through a time of silent prayer, sharing and community.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Sharron L. Cox at scox@smec.org or 713-830-4131.



CONFIRMATION SERVICE

With the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas

Saturday, April 18 • 11 a.m. • The Church



OSL HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

*First Wednesday of the Month
Feb. 5 and March 4 • 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center*



On the first Wednesday of most months, St. Martin's Chapter of the Order of St. Luke hosts an hour-long prayer service and time of prayer ministry focused on healing and wholeness for anyone in need. This service is open to all facing illness, life crises, fear, loneliness, or feelings of emptiness. After the service, prayer ministers are available for anyone seeking personal prayer time.

For more information, please contact Valerie Rivera at vriviera@smec.org or call 713-985-3817.



SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 8 • 9 a.m. • The Church

St. Martin's recognizes Scouts and leaders during this special worship service. Scouts and Scoutmasters from Church-sponsored Scout Troop 354 and Cub Scout Pack 354 attend and participate in this service as flag bearers, lay readers and oblationers.

Please contact Barbara Piana at bpiana@smec.org or call 713-830-4116.



TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, Feb. 15 • 5 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Join us this Epiphany to reflect and hear from the Lord through the contemplative sounds of Taizé Prayer. This service offers a quiet and meditative time of sung prayer, reading of Scripture, listening and reflection.

For more information, please contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at relhakam@smec.org or 713-830-4146.



HOLY SATURDAY BAPTISM

Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.

Christ Chapel

Holy Saturday is considered a particularly appropriate time in the Episcopal Church to undergo the sacramental rite of full initiation, by water and the Holy Spirit, into membership in the Church.

For more information about Holy Baptism, contact Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org.



UTO LENT 2026 PRACTICE GRATITUDE AND CHANGE THE WORLD

UTO Boxes and offering envelopes will be available beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Envelopes may be found in The Church and Christ Chapel pews; coin collection boxes will be available in The Church Narthex and distributed at Family Table and Riverway services. Boxes will be collected on Easter morning, April 5.

Founded in 1883, the United Thank Offering is a ministry of The Episcopal Church that invites individuals to cultivate a daily spiritual practice of gratitude by giving thanks to God and making offerings in a UTO Blue Box. One hundred percent of the collected funds support ministries throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.





LENTEN QUIET DAY OF PRAYER



The Three "Rs" of Lent

Sponsored by St. Martin's Chapter of the Order of St. Luke

Saturday, Feb. 21 • 9 a.m.-noon
Parish Life Center

An old adage describing the fundamentals of learning was "Reading, (W)riting and (A)rithmetic." Those three "Rs" were foundational in the schooling of children for many generations.

The season of Lent has its own three "Rs" of behaviors or practices that are fundamental for Christians of all ages – Reflection, Repentance and Reconciliation. Too often, we focus on one of these fundamentals at the expense of others. If we seek the restoration for which we hope and pray during these 40 days of Lent, we should focus on all three basic steps toward the renewal of life in Christ.

St. Martin's Clergy will supply meditations on these three "Rs" of Lent. Time will be allocated after each presentation for quiet prayer and reflection. The Quiet Day will end with Noonday Prayer.

For more information, please contact the Rev. Sharron L. Cox at scox@smec.org or 713-830-4131.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, Feb. 18

The first day of Lent is a special day of Holy Obligation that begins a 40-day observance during which Christians worldwide acknowledge their failings, faults and sins. In these somber services, Clergy members impose ashes on the forehead, making the mark of the cross.

Childcare will be available for children 3 and under at the noon service.

View the Wednesday Evening Adult Lenten Series at www.smec.org/lenten-series.

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • The Church

FAMILY SERVICE

Imposition of Ashes
5:30 p.m. • Crosswalk Garden



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25
5-5:30 p.m. • The Church

HOLY WEEK

Monday, March 30, Tuesday, March 31
and Thursday, April 2 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
The Church

Parishioners and guests may make their own pilgrimage along the Via Dolorosa, or "Way of Sorrows," during Lent 2026. The Stations of the Cross depict the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus, and the devotion commemorates them.

For more information, contact Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org.

SHROVE TUESDAY PARISH DINNER

Tuesday, Feb. 17 • 5-7:30 p.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

Buy tickets at www.smec.org/shrovetuesday

All Parishioners are invited to attend this family gathering that includes a traditional pancake dinner along with red beans and rice, live entertainment, children's activities and more. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids, and \$20 per family (parents with children aged 15 and under).

For more information, contact Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org.



PALM CROSS WORKSHOP

Friday, March 27 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m. • Student Life Center

Join members of the Altar Guild as they make palm crosses to distribute on Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion. This annual tradition is a fun and meaningful time of fellowship and service. Please bring scissors.

For more information and if arriving after 1 p.m., please contact Susan Peterson at apetersoniii@comcast.net or call 713-899-7676.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Celebrating the Sunday of the Passion

- Palm Sunday, March 29 -

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

8 a.m. • (spoken only) • The Church

9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. • Holy Eucharist • The Church

Join us as we start Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday with the Passion reading.

FAMILY TABLE SERVICES

8:30 and 9:45 a.m. • Holy Eucharist • Parish Life Center

Palm Sunday services begin on the basketball court just outside the Student Life Center. As we remember Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, we will process together to the Parish Life Center singing, "Hosanna!" as the service begins. The service includes special music and readings led by the Young Singers.

RIVERWAY CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11:15 a.m. • Holy Eucharist • Parish Life Center

Join the Riverway community and recall Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. The service will begin just outside the main entry doors to the Parish Life Center.

Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 1

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

7 a.m. and noon • Holy Eucharist
Christ Chapel

Stay after the noon service for the
Sacrament of Healing (Holy Unction).



TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE WITH EUCHARIST

6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Set aside time for silence and the Eucharist during Holy Week as we prepare our hearts for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Taizé Prayer with Eucharist will replace St. Martin's regular Wednesday evening Eucharist during Holy Week.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 • 7 p.m. • The Church

Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Stripping of the Altar and Holy Eucharist with the Parish Choir. The worship service will conclude outdoors near the Wayside Chapel and Great Cross.

Good Friday

Friday, April 3

TRADITIONAL SERVICES

Noon and 6 p.m. • The Church

The noon service will be livestreamed.

Liturgy for Good Friday with Sermon and Parish Choir.



FAMILY TABLE SERVICE

Noon • Parish Life Center

This worship service is specifically designed for families and children.



RIVERWAY KEEPING THE KALENDAR – Contemporary Worship

6 p.m. • Parish Life Center

Join the Riverway Community for a distinct service around the Cross, featuring the liturgy for Good Friday, sermon and special music.



The Sunday of the Resurrection

– Easter Sunday, April 5 –

EASTER DAY SERVICES

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Hosted by St. Martin's Vestry

8-11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

The current and past Vestry of St. Martin's sponsors a complimentary Easter breakfast.



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES

7, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. • The Church

The 11:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed.

Holy Eucharist; festive music by the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Organ, brass and timpani.

FAMILY TABLE SERVICE

8:30 and 9:45 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Join us for a family-friendly worship service with Holy Eucharist.

RIVERWAY CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

This worship service for students, families and adults features the Holy Eucharist and beautiful music.

CHILDCARE

Childcare will be provided for six-week-olds through 3-year-olds in the Children's Life Center during all Easter services.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

With the Rev. Dane Boston

Tuesdays · Noon-1 p.m. · Student Life Center

In this lectionary-based Bible study, our Rector leads Parishioners through the appointed Bible readings for each upcoming Sunday. Take home something from God's Word to chew on all week long before Sunday worship!

Contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or 713-830-4110.

GLOBAL PRAYER GROUP

Mondays · 1:30-2:30 p.m. · Children's Life Center and via Zoom

Meet to pray for our troubled world and to support those who are spreading hope through the Gospel message.

For information, contact Janie Putman at janieputman@mac.com or 713-516-5849.

MORNING PRAYER GROUP

*Wednesdays · 8-8:30 a.m.
Activity Center Game Room*

Meet to pray for our Church, the Clergy and Parishioners as well as our city and country. Join us for the 7 a.m. Eucharist and breakfast if your schedule allows.

For information, contact Janie Putman at janieputman@mac.com or 713-516-5849.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP

*Mondays, Feb. 2, 15, March 2, 16
April 8 (Wednesday) and 20
3-5 p.m. · Hope and Healing Center
& Institute, Room 103*

This support group offers participants a way to share and learn from each other's experiences in coping with challenges while caring for someone dealing with Alzheimer's.



THE GATHERING

*Fourth Monday of the month
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bagby Parish Hall*



Boots, Bolos and Big Smiles

Feb. 23 with Bill Parish

You're Some "Bunny" Special

March 23 with Jane Vandiver

Friends in Bloom

April 27 with Robert Greaney

The Gathering is dedicated to using its resources and time to support Church members and others in our community who are experiencing memory loss. This program offers a safe, nurturing environment filled with creative, stimulating activities for care partners, giving their caregivers a much-needed break from daily responsibilities. The Gathering is a program of CarePartners and is hosted by St. Martin's.

For more information about The Gathering or Alzheimer's Caregivers' Support Group, contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or kattellepsen@me.com.

ST. MARTIN'S 20s & 30s DINNER & BIBLE STUDY

*Wednesdays through May 13 · 7-9 p.m.
Activity Center through Feb. 11; meetings
resume in Children's Life Center on Feb. 16*

Fellowship opportunities for young professionals.

**20s
&
30s**

Join our young adults' small group focused on building deep, meaningful relationships through regular Scripture study and fellowship. Meeting weekly on campus over a meal, this group divides its time into fellowship, study and prayer. Anyone may join the group at any time and be on the lookout for Saturday social opportunities throughout the spring.

For more information and to subscribe to the group's weekly newsletter, contact the Rev. R. Wesley Arning at rwarning@smec.org or 713-621-3040.



DEEP ROOTS: GOOD BOOKS AND GOOD CONVERSATION

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

"A Learned Discourse on Justification in Modern English," by Richard Hooker

*Thursday, March 26
6:15-7:45 p.m. · Student Life Center,
Living Room*

Richard Hooker is arguably the most influential and representative theologian in our Anglican tradition; yet, he is little read by most Episcopalians today. This short book from 1631 is his classic treatment of the doctrine of justification or how we are declared righteous by faith in Christ, which Martin Luther called "the article by which the church stands or falls." Free versions of this text are available online, but we recommend the new edition in modern English published by the Davenant Institute and available in St. Martin's Gift Shoppe.

Contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or 713-830-4110.



FAITH IN LITERATURE

Are you looking for a faith-based book club?

The Faith in Literature day and evening groups explore, discuss and make relevant connections between faith and works of fiction, past and present.

Day Group

Second Wednesday of the month

1-2:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center, Room 132 and via Zoom

Schedule:

Feb. 11 – “My Life in France” by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme

March 11 – “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” by J. D. Vance



Evening Group

Third Tuesday of the month

7-8:30 p.m. • Children's Life Center, Room 109 and via Zoom

Evening Group Book List:

Feb. 17 – “The Badly Behaved Bible” by Nick Page

March 17 – “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt

Contact the Rev. Hylden at jhylden@smec.org or call 713-830-4106 for more details.

Family Nights

FAMILY NIGHTS

Wednesdays, Feb. 4 and 11

4:30-5:30 p.m. • Dinner • Activity Center

Bring the whole family for food, fun and Christian formation.

- Elementary kids meet from 6-7 p.m. in Children's Life Center for Kids J.A.M.
- Middle and high school students meet at 5:30 p.m. for games and at 6 p.m. for Life Groups in Student Life Center.
- Adults meet in Parish Life Center for Just For Small Groups Bible study.

To register for dinner, view the menu and for more details, visit www.smec.org/family-nights.

For more information, please contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or 713-830-4110.



OSL HEALING MINISTRY STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays, Feb. 11, 25, March 11, 18 and 25

April 8, 15, 22 and 29 • 4:30-6 p.m.

Children's Life Center, Pod

Become healing disciples of Jesus.

Learn and grow in the practice of prayer for healing. St. Martin's OSL Chapter hosts the Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness on the first Wednesday of most months. On other Wednesdays, Parishioners meet to pray and study Scripture or a book on healing. For information about the International Order of St. Luke (OSL), visit www.osltoday.org.

For more information, please contact Valerie Rivera at vriviera@smec.org or call 713-985-3817.



SAINTLY STITCHERS

Mondays • 10 a.m.-noon

Activity Center, Upper Hall East

Bringing Sainly devotion through the love of needlecraft.

The men and women of Sainly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with beautiful needlepoint pew kneelers, the prie-dieu cushion for the Patron's Chapel and acolyte pew kneelers. Sponsor a kneeler or join the group to stitch, whether you are an expert or a novice.

For information, contact Cyndy Gubbs at cgubbs@smec.org or 713-985-3804.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesdays • 9-11 a.m.

Activity Center, Family Room

Knit and crochet for love, hope and healing. Participants in this caring ministry knit and crochet God's love, care and warmth into shawls that are blessed before they are donated to those in need. Beginner and experienced knitters and crocheters make prayer shawls, washcloths, pocket-sized prayer shawls, baby blankets and scarves.

For information, contact Cyndy Gubbs at cgubbs@smec.org or 713-985-3804.

BLANKET LADIES

*Wednesdays • 10-11:00 a.m.
Activity Center, Family Room*

Can you help make blankets to bring relief to those who need comfort?

Come join this ministry. No sewing experience is needed and there are opportunities for everyone. The group makes approximately 4,000 blankets annually for newborns and infants cared for at Ben Taub Hospital. This ministry is looking for volunteers to iron or sew hems, even if it is only a few times a year. Drop-ins are welcome and volunteers can take the materials home to make the blankets!

For information, contact Cyndy Gubbs at cgubbs@smec.org or 713-985-3804.



On Jan. 21, Jennifer Buck with Harris Health accepted 608 handmade flannel baby blankets for newborns at Ben Taub and LBJ hospitals, created by the members of St. Martin's Blanket Ladies ministry. Shown are Jennifer Buck with Blanket Ladies' members Suzy Toole and Michael McMahon. More sewers are always needed for this important ministry!



DOCENT GUILD

Trained volunteers serve as tour guides, providing information about The Church's Gothic architecture, stained-glass windows and the details and symbolism throughout the worship spaces. Tours are available for Parish members (groups and individuals), schools and local community organizations.

The Church Tours

First Sunday of the month*

Following the 11:15 a.m. service, the Docent Guild offers a tour of The Church. All interested Parishioners and guests meet in the Narthex.

Wednesdays • 11 a.m.-noon

The Church will be open to visitors through a formal tour. Special tours of the Church Windows, Christ Chapel and a Campus tour of the Gardens are available on request.

The Garden Tour

Wednesday, April 29 • 10 a.m.

*There will be no tours on Feb. 18 and April 1 due to Ash Wednesday and Holy Week.

To schedule a group tour, contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact Tracee Tindol at ttindol@smec.org or 713-985-3811.

ST. CLARE'S NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

*Wednesdays • Noon-3 p.m.
Activity Center, Upper Hall East*

Transform your expression of God's love, one stitch at a time.

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild creates beautiful needlepoint items to sell and raise funds for outreach and Church projects. The Guild welcomes stitchers of any skill level and teaches needlepoint from basic stitches to detailed and advanced work.

For more information, contact Cyndy Gubbs at cgubbs@smec.org or 713-985-3804 or call 713-985-3825 or stclaresguild@smec.org.



GREETERS GUILD

Welcome Parishioners and visitors on Sundays.

This ministry comprises Parishioners who greet worshipers before and after the 9 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. Stationed at the east and west Narthex doors and in the Narthex, greeters welcome everyone who enters The Church.

To volunteer, contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnson@smec.org or 713-985-3834.

LYDIA'S GUILD

Volunteers Needed to Straighten the Pews!

Volunteers are needed to help straighten and organize the pew racks in The Church and Christ Chapel. Interested?

Please contact Barbara Piana at 713-830-4116 or bpiana@smec.org.

PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

The Women's Ministry provides a vibrant and nurturing environment for women to gather, fostering meaningful connections and opportunities for spiritual enrichment. Open to individuals from every background, our ministry invites you to embark on a journey of faith, personal growth and fellowship. If you're eager to explore your spirituality and find a supportive community that uplifts one another, you will find a welcoming space here!



The Order of The Daughters of The King® (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service and Evangelism. All women who are members of the Episcopal Church may join the Chapter. Visitors are always welcome.

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING®

St. Barnabas Chapter Celebrating 140 years of Prayer, Service and Evangelism

*First Saturday of the Month**
10 a.m. • Children's Life Center

Feb. 7

The group will be discussing Tish Harrison Warren's "Prayer in the Night." Harrison is a priest and author, and this book is "an exploration of the real struggles of ordinary life, framed around a prayer of Compline."

March 7

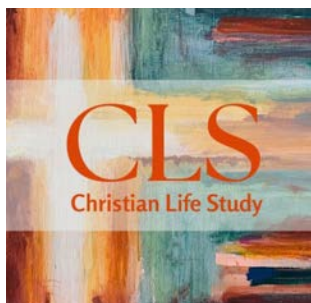
We will carpool from St. Martin's East parking lot to The Women's Home, one of our Outreach partners, for a fun game and brunch. We will provide food, bingo and prizes.

April 11

(second Saturday due to Easter holiday)

The group will make "blessing bags" for the Outreach partner, The Landing. The Landing serves women, men and children in Houston who have experienced the sex trade. Their hope is to share the love of Christ and help survivors find safety, empowerment and freedom.

For further details, please contact Tracee Tindol at ttindol@smec.org or 713-985-3822.



CHRISTIAN LIFE STUDY

Discover the power of a praying community.

Are you:

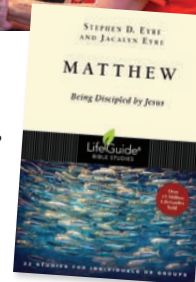
- Wanting to know more about God?
- Seeking a closer walk with Jesus?
- Searching for a joy the world cannot give?

Join this women's Bible study to deepen your relationship with God through the study of His word. This faithful community of Christian women began 30 years ago and includes more than 400 women of all ages and denominations.

Classes meet weekly from September through April and you are welcome to join at any time.



CLS will study
"Matthew: Being Discipled by Jesus"
by Stephen D. Eyre
and Jacalyn Eyre



DAY CLASS

Thursdays • 9:30-11:15 a.m., in person
and via Zoom • Parish Life Center

EVENING CLASS

Tuesdays • 6:30-8 p.m., in person
and via Zoom • Children's Life Center

For both day and evening classes, please register at www.clsbiblestudy.com.

Contact Liz Gallien at 713-830-4139 or lgallien@smec.org for more information.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Women of Purpose.
United in Faith.

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. Martin's brings women together for **fellowship, service, and outreach**—all while sharing the love of Christ. In partnership with Clergy, Staff, and dedicated volunteers, the ECW Board hosts inspiring programs with guest speakers, organizes seasonal events for children, and creates meaningful opportunities for women to connect and grow in faith.

Come be part of a vibrant, welcoming community. We'd love to have you with us!



ECW SPRING LUNCHEON

"THE MAKING OF AN ARTIST" WITH BRENDA BOGART

Tuesday, Feb. 10 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m. • Bagby Parish Hall • \$40/person

Registration closes Feb. 2: www.smec.org/ecw-events • Chairs: Alicia Kimmel and Kate Walters

Brenda Bogart creates bold, conversation-starting collage work, inspired by iconic figures and figurative collages of animals and wildlife. A visit to her airy studio readily reveals her inspiration. It is filled with a fascinating collection of centuries-old handwritten letters, colorful handmade papers from around the world, and various eclectic items collected during her travels.

A native Texan and former interior designer, she holds a degree in Interior Design from Texas Christian University and has studied painting and drawing at Southern Methodist University. This seventh-generation Texan's work is held in major corporate collections nationwide and reflects her commitment to creativity, generosity and community.

She is the author of "What to Give up for Lent that's not Chocolate" and "The Art of Advent."



Bogart



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARTIN'S PRESENTS

SPRING LUNCHEON

The Making of an Artist

From Inspiration to Creation

FEATURING BRENDA BOGART

TUESDAY, FEB. 10

11 A.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL

\$40/person | Chairs: Alicia Kimmel and Kate Walters



To register and learn more about Brenda Bogart, visit

smec.org/ecw-events



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Contact: Valerie Rivera • 713-985-3817 • vriviera@smec.org

PROGRAMS FOR MEN



The Men of St. Martin's welcomes all men of the Parish. Guests and visitors are always encouraged to join us for our weekly Bible study, outreach ministry and social events. This is a great opportunity to deepen your faith and connect with fellow Parishioners. No reservations are necessary.

Contact Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org for more details.



DADS' BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, through May 14
8-9 a.m. • Welcome Center

All Dads are Welcome!

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study. This men's group is for those who want to begin their day seeking ways to connect their life to the Gospel. We are currently studying the Book of Acts. No registration is necessary to attend the discussions led by the Rev. R. Wesley Arning and Parishioner Ryan Presley.

For more information or to join their GroupMe, contact the Rev. R. Wesley Arning at rwarning@smec.org or 346-335-8680.



MEN OF ST. MARTIN'S Bible Study

Thursday mornings • 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall
Café St. Martin's offers breakfast beginning at 6:45 a.m.

Join us Thursday mornings as the Rev. Alex Graham III leads this thought-provoking journey through the first book of the Bible.

GENESIS: Foundations of Faith

This spring, we continue our in-depth study of the Book of Genesis. As a book of origins, Genesis is foundational for the rest of the Biblical story. From it, we gain a better understanding of life's most important issues: what it means to be human, how we account for evil, how we should think about creation, humanity's purpose and vocation and God's redemptive plan for the world. These questions, and more, are addressed in the Bible's first book.

Class Schedule:

FEB. 5:	Guest Speaker, Dr. Collin Cornell <i>Dr. Collin Cornell is Professor of Bible and Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary.</i>	FEB. 26:	Joseph's Slavery, God's Promises: Part 1 (Genesis 36-37) with the Rev. Dane Boston
FEB. 12:	From Jacob to Israel: Part 1 (Genesis 32-33) with the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden	MARCH 5:	Joseph's Slavery, God's Promises: Part 2 (Genesis 38-39) with the Rev. Alex Graham
FEB. 19:	From Jacob to Israel: Part 2 (Genesis 34-34) with the Rev. Gregory Cross	MARCH 12:	No Meeting due to Spring Break
		MARCH 19:	Joseph's Slavery, God's Promises: Part 3 (Genesis 40-41) with the Rev. Alex Graham
		MARCH 26:	Joseph's Reconciliation: Part 1 (Genesis 42-43) with the Rev. Alex Graham
		APRIL 2:	No Meeting due to Holy Week

For additional information about the Men of St. Martin's Bible study program and other events, contact Juli Browning at 713-985-3845 or jbrowning@smec.org.

kids' meals

SERVE WITH PURPOSE:

Help Feed Houston's Hungry Children

Tuesdays, Feb. 24 and March 24 • 5 p.m.
Parish Life Center Kitchen



Join the Men of St. Martin's for a hands-on service opportunity as we partner with Kids' Meals to prepare nutritious lunches for children in need across Houston. This is a simple but powerful way to make a real difference in a child's day — and no reservation is needed. Just bring a hat or head covering and a heart ready to serve.

Please contact Tracee Tindol at 713-985-3811 or ttindol@smec.org for further details.

On Sept. 30, 2025, Kids' Meals ExxonMobil Campus held a grand opening of the new facility in Spring Branch. The new headquarters provides more room for volunteer opportunities: 8790 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, Texas 77080.

For more information about Kids' Meals, visit www.kidsmealshouston.org.

SERVE AS AN USHER AT THE TRADITIONAL, FAMILY TABLE AND RIVERWAY SERVICES

The ministry of ushers plays an important role at St. Martin's. Ushers are responsible for making visitors feel welcome and ensuring that all aspects of our worship and funeral services proceed smoothly. Ushers serve on rotating teams, according to their schedules and service time preferences. We encourage older teens and young adults to participate and training is provided for all volunteers.

Contact Barbara Piana at 713-830-4116 or via email at bpiana@smec.org for more information.

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST. MARTIN'S: SCRIPTURE, PRAYER AND SACRED MUSIC

Choral Evensong is a cherished tradition of the Anglican Church, offering an evening service of prayer, Scripture and choral music. At the day's end, it creates a sacred pause where words and music weave together to lift the heart and stir the soul. Whether you seek peace, inspiration or simply the beauty of music in worship, you are warmly invited to experience this deeply moving tradition.

JOINT CHOIR EVENSONG SERVICE with St. Francis Episcopal Church

Sunday, March 1 · 5 p.m. · St. Francis Episcopal Church · 345 Piney Point Rd.

St. Martin's Parish Choir will join with the choir of St. Francis for a special Choral Evensong. Experience the beauty of two congregations coming together in sacred music, prayer and Scripture. All St. Martin's Parishioners are invited to this special evening of worship.



Premiere of Two Original Works

Composed for Dr. David Henning and the Parish Choir

Sunday, April 26 · 4 p.m. · The Church

O Come, Let Us Sing (2025)

Commissioned by St. Martin's Episcopal Church in honor of David Henning's tenure as Music Director, "O Come, Let Us Sing" is a jubilant setting of Psalm 95, a text that has long served as a call to worship. This piece captures the psalmist's invitation to rejoice in God's presence, unfolding in long, lyrical vocal lines that express both reverence and exuberance. The organ plays a vital role, offering moments of reflection and exultation.

Originally conceived to be performed on Oct. 26, 2025 alongside the program for Mendelssohn's "Elijah," "O Come, Let Us Sing" draws inspiration from that same spirit of grandeur and drama while offering its own distinctive voice. At its heart, this composition is both a celebration of worship and a tribute to David Henning's enduring impact on the musical life of St. Martin's Episcopal Church.



Daniel Knaggs is an internationally acclaimed composer whose works span opera and large-scale orchestral pieces, chamber and choral music and have been performed worldwide. His music is published by leading houses including Edition Peters, Hal Leonard, GIA, and E. C. Schirmer. He has received major international awards in Germany, Italy, and the United States, including commissions from the Puccini Chamber Oper Festival, among others. Knaggs holds a doctorate from Rice University and degrees from Bowling Green State University and the University of Michigan. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Cor Mundi, a Houston-based organization dedicated to sacred music.

I Will Give You Rest (2025)

Commissioned by St. Martin's Episcopal Church in honor of David Henning's tenure as Music Director, "I Will Give You Rest" is a meditative organ prelude inspired by the words of Christ in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This piece serves as an invitation to stillness and peace.

The music gently unfolds, inviting quiet reflection. Woven into its fabric are quotations from Daniel Knaggs's choral work, "Come Unto Me," commissioned by Jesus College, Cambridge, United Kingdom, for their choristers. These echoes of the choral setting lend an additional layer of meaning, connecting the prelude to a broader musical and spiritual journey. Through its flowing lines and contemplative harmonies, "I Will Give You Rest" offers a moment of solace, much like the words that inspired it — an expression of divine compassion and an invitation to trust.

STUDENT MINISTRIES



FOR ALL STUDENTS

At St. Martin's Student Ministries, we're on a mission to ignite the hearts of middle school and high school students with the life-changing grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our Sunday morning classes, Bible studies, retreats and mission trips are designed to inspire and empower young minds.

Want to dive in and learn more? Reach out to Student Ministries at students@smec.org or more information.



SPRING HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL

Friday, March 20
6-9 p.m. • Off Campus

All students in Grades 9-12 are invited to join us for a fun evening social.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, March 22

SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

Sundays • 10:15-11 a.m. • Student Life Center, Living Room

Join us for donuts and a discussion about this week's Scripture lesson. We will not meet on Feb. 8 due to Outreach Sunday, March 8 due to Spring Break, March 29 due to Palm Sunday and April 5 due to Easter.

Contact Student Ministries at students@smec.org for details.



LIFEgroups

WEEKLY LIFE GROUPS

Wednesdays • 6-8 p.m. • Student Life Center

Join us each Wednesday evening for dinner, games and small group Bible study. Friends are always welcome! You can bring your own Bible and we provide everything else. Please bring \$5 to offset the cost of dinner. The building is open from 4 p.m. so students can bring in homework or just hang out before we begin.

Contact Student Ministries at students@smec.org for more details.



STUDENT CONFIRMATION

Sundays, Feb. 22-March 1, March 15-29
12:30-2 p.m. • Student Life Center

Students registered for Confirmation will meet with Clergy for five weeks to prepare for Confirmation on Saturday, April 18. This class provides students the opportunity to learn about and think through the Christian message in a more intentional manner than ever before.



JUNIOR HIGH DIOCESAN RETREAT

April 24-26 • Camp Allen • Navasota, Texas
Register at www.sme.org/students.

Students in Grades 6-8, along with Student Ministries staff, will join with middle school/junior high students from across the Diocese of Texas for a weekend of fun, food, fellowship and time with God and one another. We will meet at St. Martin's on Friday evening and travel together to camp.

Contact Student Ministries at students@smec.org for more details.



ST. MARTIN'S YOUTH CHOIR *Sundays • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center*

Make A Joyful Noise Through Music!

Middle and high school students interested in worship through music are invited to join the St. Martin's Youth Choir. No experience is necessary! We perform at the Traditional Service in The Church twice each semester, and we also mentor the Young Singers in their music-making. Be a part of our community!

Contact Carole Nelson at cnelson@smec.org or call (346)335-8677 for details.



CHRISTMAS CRASH FESTIVITIES — On Dec. 14, the Student Life Center resonated with laughter and jubilant spirits as middle and high school students took part in the annual Christmas Crash Celebration. Participants enjoyed an evening filled with games, contests, dinner and prizes.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



At St. Martin's, we believe that children are not simply the future of the church, but children are the church! We take Jesus's teaching to "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them." (Matthew 19:14). Our Children's Ministry team, led by Rozlyn Cline and Ursella Rylander, partners with dedicated parents and Sunday School teachers to offer age-appropriate Bible curriculum that fosters spiritual growth and nourishment.

Volunteers Needed

Parents! There are many ways you can connect with our children. To volunteer your time and talent to the Children's Ministry, visit www.smec.org/children.

For more information about Children's Ministry, contact Rozlyn Cline at 713-985-3816 or rmcline@smec.org.

Child Care Policy

Childcare is available in the Children's Life Center for six-week-old infants through 3-year-olds during the morning worship services from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Sunday and during certain special events.

For more information about the programs and to volunteer, email Rozlyn Cline at rmcline@smec.org or Ursella Rylander at urylander@smec.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL "ARMOR OF GOD"

Sundays • 10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center

Children's Sunday School is offered Sunday mornings at 10:15 in the Children's Life Center for children aged two through fifth grade. This year, we will continue our study of the "Armor of God." In Digging into epic teachings of the Bible, preschool and elementary students explore the enduring lessons of the Old and New Testaments. Kids will build a foundation that guides them in living God's way. Kids will discover that the Bible matters and is a loving letter from a God who understands them.

GAME NIGHT

Sunday, Feb. 22 • 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Off Campus

All 4th and 5th-graders are invited to come hang out with Student Ministry for Game Night.



PARENTS NIGHTS OUT

Saturday, Feb. 14 • 6-9 p.m.

Children's Life Center • \$5/child, \$20 max/family

Enjoy a night out while your children hang out with their Church friends! Kids will play games, watch a movie and work on Valentine's Day craft.

Register your six-week-old infants through 5th graders at www.smec.org/children.



YOUNG SINGERS

Sundays • 8:30-9 a.m. • Children's Life Center

Let your voice be heard!

Children entering first grade are invited to join the Young Singers, a fun way to grow closer to God while learning to lead worship through music. Each session includes a 15-minute prayer time to prepare for the Family Table service. No experience is necessary! We look forward to having you join us as we raise our voices in song to praise God's holy name.

To learn more, contact Carole Nelson at 346-335-8677 or cnelson@smec.org.



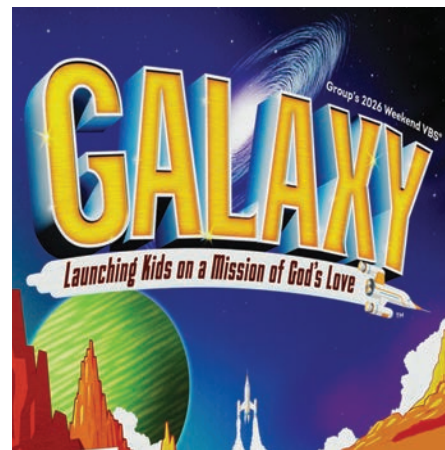
ECW CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4 • 10 a.m.

Parish Life Center • Free Admission

The adventures begin with a reading of the Easter story followed by an Easter Egg hunt, crafts and other fun activities for children 12 and under.

Please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org for more information.



VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

June 8-11 • 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ready to commence the countdown on the best days of summer? At Galaxy VBS, you'll send kids on a cosmic journey through faith, fun and unforgettable Bible Adventures.

Registration now open! Learn more at www.smec.org/vbs.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

How can you give your time, talent and treasure to people in our community, across Texas, the country and beyond? St. Martin's partners with more than 40 agencies in Houston and abroad.

For more information about volunteer opportunities in our Outreach and Mission work, please contact Tracee Tindol at 713-985-3811 or outreach@smec.org.



ALL NON-PROFIT GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 12 P.M. NOON, **WEDNESDAY, FEB 11**

Be In The Know!

Sign up to receive the monthly Outreach newsletter to stay up to date with all the volunteer opportunities Outreach has each month.

Email outreach@smec.org to get on the list!



OUTREACH SUNDAY

Sunday, Feb. 8 • 10-11 a.m. • Activity Center Gym and Children's Life Center

Come Serve, Create, and Make a Difference Together! Join us for the 16th Annual Outreach Sunday, a joyful morning where our Church family of all ages comes together to put faith into action. Whether you are young or young-at-heart, there's a meaningful and hands-on project for you. This is a wonderful way for St. Martin's Parishioners to work side-by-side assembling kits, creating care items and praying for those we serve.

Last year, more than 300 volunteers helped touch the lives of over 3,000 people through 15 of our partner organizations. This year, you can be part of that impact by joining in one of the many planned activities:

Bayou City Blessings in a Backpack

– Snack Packs

Kids Meals' – Snack Packs

The Beacon – Hygiene Kits

ECHOS – Child Care Kits

Lord of the Streets – Shower Kits

Senior Rides and More – Senior Goodie Bags

Small Steps Nurturing Center – Goodnight Kits

SEARCH'S House of Tiny Treasures

– Family Goodnight Kits

Undies for Everyone – Undies Packs

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Prayer Shawls

World Missions – Prayer Postcards

Africa New Life – Activity Kits

Sole Hope – Shoe-pattern Cutting





KIDS' MEALS – COMMUNITY Fun For The Whole Family!

Tuesdays, Feb. 3, March 3 and April 14
4 p.m. • Parish Life Center Kitchen

See how you can help fight hunger in Houston.

Bring the whole family and help us prepare sandwiches! Kids' Meals provides and distributes nutritious lunches to hungry children throughout Houston.

VOLUNTEER AT KIDS' MEALS IN SPRING BRANCH:

Kids' Meals has moved to a new location! Volunteer in their new building and see the exciting new opportunities to serve. Each week, Kids' Meals delivers more than 10,000 free healthy meals to children living in poverty. Lend a hand at 8790 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, 77080.

Visit www.kidsmealshouston.org to learn more.

DESSERT MINISTRY – CHURCH IN THE FIELD

Mondays, Feb. 9, March 9 and April 13

Outreach needs volunteers to provide desserts for meals brought to Church in the Field. Please sign up to bring homemade cookies or brownies and drop them off at St. Martin's reception desk.

Sign up at www.smec.org/church-in-the-field.



CHURCH IN THE FIELD

Tuesdays, Feb. 10, March 10 and April 14
6:30-9 p.m. • Meet in St. Martin's parking lot

For many who come and see Christ's work, it is a transformative experience. Parishioners and friends minister to those who are homeless near downtown Houston by serving a meal, as prayer partners and providing praise music for the monthly worship service. Volunteers aged 18 and older carpool to the service.



CCSC WORK DAY

Saturdays, Feb. 28, March 28 and April 25
9 a.m.-noon • Come and Go as needed
3434 Branard St., Houston, 77027

Volunteers Needed! Help organize and distribute food and clothing at the Christian Community Service Center. The center supports individuals and families in need and offers programs such as the back-to-school and Christmas assistance, job training and school vision screening.

To sign up, please email outreach@smec.org or contact Tracee Tindol at 713-985-3811.



AMAZING PLACE EASTER PARTY

Tuesday, March 3 • 10 a.m.
3735 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027

Celebrate the spring season with our friends at Amazing Place. The organization offers a safe, spiritual and nurturing program for older adults with mild to moderate Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia while providing respite, education and support for caregivers and families.

WORKFAITH

SERVE AT WORKFAITH CONNECTION:

Times and Dates Vary
4555 Dacoma St. or Virtual

WorkFaith's provides faith-based training and coaching to help individuals achieve long-term employment. Volunteers are needed in several roles, including mock interviewers, graduation celebration supporters and job application advisors.

For more information, contact Outreach at outreach@smec.org.

UNDIES FOR EVERYONE

VOLUNTEER AT UNDIES FOR EVERYONE

Times and Dates Vary
Second Saturdays and Third Thursdays

Join us for a two-hour shift in the Undies for Everyone warehouse to sort, pack, and label underwear that will be distributed nationwide. Sign up at: www.undiesforeveryone.volunteerhub.com.

Please contact Ellie Herder at eherder@undiesforeveryone.org or visit www.undiesforeveryone.org for more information.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT LORD OF THE STREETS

Make a difference in the lives of homeless individuals by volunteering with St. Martin's! Opportunities are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-noon, including meal preparation and distribution, mail distribution, organizing the clothing room, outdoor cleanup, and client service coordinator (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday).

Contact Thania Hernandez at 713-526-0311 (8 a.m.-noon) or thernandez@lordofthestreets.org for more information.



ST. MARTIN'S CELEBRATES WORLD MISSIONS

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" – Psalm 96:3

WORLD MISSIONS

at St. Martin's Episcopal Church

SOLE HOPE

SHOE CUTTING AT HOME PROJECT

APRIL 2026

Sign up Required: www.smec.org/sole-hope

Make a global impact from home!. During your Sole Hope shoe party, you'll cut and prepare fabric uppers from denim that Ugandan cobblers use to handcraft shoes for vulnerable children. Last year, St. Martin's volunteers cut out more than 350 shoe patterns! This hands-on project is kid-friendly and requires no special sewing or cobbler skills. All supplies are provided. Kits can be picked up on Wednesday at 10 a.m. from the Front Reception Desk and returned by the following Monday at 3 p.m.

For more information, email World Missions at worldmission@smec.org.



AMISTAD
The Friendship Mission

ZOOM WITH THE CHILDREN OF CASA SAN MARTIN!

Tuesdays, March 17 and April 14 • 6 p.m. NEW TIME • Via Zoom

St. Martin's invites you to connect with the children and "mama" of Casa San Martin at the La Villa orphanage in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Our longtime mission partner, Amistad Mission, runs the orphanage. The children enjoy making new friends, singing, meeting pets and asking (and answering) fun questions. To join in the fun, email Outreach for the zoom link: outreach@smec.org.

For more information about Amistad Mission, check out their website: www.amistadmission.org.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSION TRIPS



El Salvador: March 7-12

Our Mission Trip Participants are in El Salvador this Spring Break! Pray for their trip to be safe and for all participants to be healthy as they spend the week being the hands and feet of Christ.

-Save The Date!-



**MISSION TRIP
TO RWANDA**
SEPTEMBER 2026

Join St. Martin's in September to visit our ministry partner, Africa New Life Ministries! See firsthand their Women's Development Program in Kigali, meet program participants and graduates and visit their main school campus in Kayanza. Additional activities may include exploring local communities, cultural sites, and even a safari.

Please contact Courtney Kearns at worldmission@smec.org for more information.



VOLUNTEER WITH VILLAGE SCHOOLS

Flexible Hours

Help make a difference for students in Tanzania! Collaborate remotely with the Village Schools team to improve and develop curriculum. Commit just a few hours a week based on your availability.

Contact worldmission@smec.org for more details.



BIRTHS

JUNE 17

Annabelle Elliott Franz
Daughter of Elizabeth and
Harry Franz

AUGUST 16

Mason Glenn Rocheleau
Son of Jordan Robinson Rocheleau
and Chris Rocheleau
Grandson of Debbie Brown Robinson

SEPTEMBER 4

Peter Warden Stephens
Son of Amy and Ben Stephens



BAPTISMS

AUGUST 16

Francis Linn Grant
Charlotte Ann Snelling

SEPTEMBER 13

Henry Albert Seydler
Elliott Kay Wessendorff
Witt Garrow Wessendorff

SEPTEMBER 21

Olivia Claire Hallenbeck

SEPTEMBER 27

Clara Rochelle Deiso
Carolyn Pryse Miller



NEW MEMBERS

Paul Anderson
Brittany Baker
Caroline Bay
Franklin Bay
Katie Bay
Lillian Bay
Tevis Bay
Thad Bay
Thomas Bay
Dave Boehm
Haley Boehm
Baker Cureton
Cameron Cureton
Laura Cureton
Payne Cureton
Wyatt Cureton
Mark Curry
Sarah Curry
Chris George
James George
Julia George
Kate George
Mary Katherine George
Alison Gilmore
Jay Goff
Tim Goff
Huntley Grichor
Stephanie Grichor
M'Lynn Jenkins-Moore
Mark Jensen
Mary Jensen
Lauren Johnson
Ricky Johnson

Bryan Kaus
Monica Kaus
David King
Kimmy King
Michele Koepke
Amanda Lathrom
Evan Lathrom
Graham Lathrom
Keith Lathrom
Courtney Ledbetter
Max Le Vay
Melissa Moore
Annabelle Newberry
Oliver Newberry
Lauren Ogilvie
Clare Petruzzello
Gage Petruzzello
Eli Quijano
Bill Sessions
Kim Sessions
Mary Ann Starks
Olivia Stevenson
Faye Tan
Filemon Tan III
Michelle Tan
Deborah Waheed
Kelly Waheed
Rob Waheed
John Watson
Katie Watson
Brent Westmoreland
Kelli Westmoreland



SYMPATHY

JULY 25

Sheldon Roy Erikson

JULY 29

William Chase Leyrer III

AUGUST 10

Frances "Ann" Sexton Thurmond

AUGUST 13

Anne McCullough Shallenberger

AUGUST 22

Mollie Ward Hill

AUGUST 24

Martha Jane Arnold Touchstone

AUGUST 25

Sara Leyr White

SEPTEMBER 2

Mark Thomas Gholson

SEPTEMBER 8

Eliza Lovett Randall

SEPTEMBER 9

Patricia Pinson Lind

SEPTEMBER 16

Frank Xavier Gruen, Jr.

SEPTEMBER 17

William Taylor Evans

A CALL TO PRAYERFUL COMMITMENT

As the 2026 Stewardship season began in January, Parishioners are invited to pray, reflect and make a pledge to ensure St. Martin's can continue to serve and respond to God's call in the year ahead.

Join us and commit to **Christ as YOUR Cornerstone** in and through St. Martin's in 2026.

Pray. Participate. Commit.

Pledge online and visit us at www.smec.org/give.





MERRY AND BRIGHT — The spirit of Christmas came alive as family and friends gathered during the Episcopal Church Women's annual Children's Christmas party on Dec. 6. Faces and hearts, young and old, lit up as they created crafts, played games, heard the Christmas story, and welcomed Santa himself. A train ride, inflatable, snowy fun, face painting and treats added to the holiday magic. We are thankful to the volunteers who helped make this joyful celebration of Jesus' Birthday a beloved holiday tradition.



CHRISTMAS CHEER AND COMMUNITY — The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's gathered to celebrate the holiday season with its annual Christmas Coffee on Dec. 8. Hosted by Parishioners Lisa and Bob Heston in their beautifully decorated home, the morning sparkled with festive attire, generous hearts and warm fellowship. Guests brought unwrapped gifts and gift cards to support the DePelchin Children's Center and Christian Community Service Center. Open to all women Parishioners, the event offered a joyful and meaningful start to the holiday season.

A Celebration of Christmas at St. Martin's

Parishioners, friends and guests came together in The Church and the Parish Life Center to celebrate the birth of our Lord with five Christmas Eve services and one service on Christmas Day. The Family Table service began at 9:15 a.m. on Dec. 24 in the Parish Life Center followed by another Family Table service at 11 a.m. in The Church featuring a live recounting of the Christmas Story. Parishioners filled the pews and balcony during the 11 a.m. service and the Traditional services at 1, 3:30, 6, and 8:30 p.m. These services featured joyful worship, including Holy Eucharist, hymns sung by the Parish Choir and congregation, and accompaniment by the *Gloria Dei* Organ, brass and timpani.

The Church and Parish Life Center glowed with thousands of white lights, wreaths, garlands and trees while red poinsettias adorned the chancel steps. Our Riverway service began at 1:30 p.m. with a sing-along of favorite Christmas carols and hymns, followed by the contemporary worship service at 2 p.m.







Proclaiming the Messiah: Songs, Scripture and Celebration

Parishioners filled The Church on Dec. 21 for a celebration of worship featuring the Parish Choir, accompanied by bells, brass, timpani, and the *Gloria Dei* Organ. The Traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols service recounted the prophecies and told the story of our Savior's birth through a moving blend of Scripture readings and music.

The Riverway Lessons and Carols service highlighted each ancient prophecy with a contemporary musical response by the Riverway band.

The Family Table Lessons and Carols featured anthems sung by our Young Singers and lessons read by our youth, offering families a joyful and participatory worship experience.



AND THAT'S A WRAP! — After the Family Table Lessons and Carols service, the Children's Ministry kept the holiday spirit alive with festive treats, a candy bar and a special Outreach project. Parents and young Parishioners filled shoeboxes with toiletries and sundry items, then wrapped them with Christmas paper. The completed shoeboxes were generously donated to the Houston International Seafarers Center, spreading holiday cheer to seafarers away from home.



ADULT CONFIRMATION — On Sunday, Nov. 16, the Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher, Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Texas, presided over our Confirmation Service. During the 9 a.m. Traditional Service, the Bishop confirmed 20 Parishioners were confirmed, received, and reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church.



A Fond Farewell to the Rev. Gill Keyworth

After nearly six years of faithful service to this Parish, the Rev. Gill Keyworth retired from her active involvement in Pastoral Care ministry. On Nov. 23, St. Martin's officially bid farewell to our Deacon with a reception to thank the Rev. Keyworth for her ministry, particularly with the Shepherd's Guild.

She served as the Deacon for four congregations, trained as a Stephen Ministry leader and taught numerous classes. Sixteen years ago, she began training for "Walking the Mourner's Path" and has since introduced the program to other churches. Ordained on Feb. 9, 2007, she and seven others comprised the first class of Deacon graduates from the Iona School for Ministry.

The Rev. Keyworth has been married to her husband, Rod, for 54 years. While St. Martin's is saddened by her retirement, they both continue to be active members of St. Martin's.



HONORING SERVICE — St. Martin's Fifth Rector, the Rev. Dane Boston, thanks the Rev. Gill Keyworth for her service to our Parish and the community while her husband, Rod, looks on.



Deacon Keyworth applies ashes to the forehead of a Parishioner in the shape of a cross during Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025.



HHCI's vision is a world in which mental health care is easily accessible by all. HHCI was founded in 2011 by members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church committed to being more intentional in their outreach to those encountering grief or loss, battling depression or addiction, or needing mental health resources. An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, HHCI offers comprehensive mental health resources serving the Greater Houston community and beyond.

For information, visit www.hhci.org or call 713-871-1004.

HHCI Marks 14 Years of Mental Health Awareness with Survivor Stories

On Oct. 9, 2025, the Hope and Healing Center & Institute celebrated its 14th Annual Chrysalis Luncheon — an event that has become a cornerstone for raising awareness, breaking stigma and honoring stories of recovery in our community.



From its beginnings in 2011, HHCI has been dedicated to transforming lives and restoring hope by providing free, faith-based mental health services, education, training, and research. Over the years, programs like the Hope Line, Gateway to Hope training and our outpatient clinic have touched thousands of lives, offering compassion and healing where it is needed most.



Each year, the Chrysalis Luncheon elevates powerful voices of survival and resilience.

Over the past three years, our keynote speakers have shared stories that were both vulnerable and deeply inspiring.

- **In 2023**, Houston Astros legend **Jeff Bagwell** opened up about his journey through addiction and recovery.
- **In 2024**, **Beth Moore**, New York Times bestselling author and founder of Living Proof Ministries, moved the audience with her powerful story of healing.
- **In 2025**, **Elizabeth Smart**, survivor and mental wellness advocate, reminded us of the strength to overcome after her abduction at just 14 years old.



These stories are more than moments of inspiration; they are proof of impact.

For more information, scan the QR code or contact Lauren Kimble, Director of Philanthropy at lkimble@hhci.org or call (713) 830-4141.

Remembering and Honoring Loved Ones and Friends

A gift to Saint Martin's Endowment is a wonderful way to remember or honor your loved ones. The funds of the Endowment may be designated as you wish, strictly for special needs within St. Martin's Episcopal Church, or for needs of those outside St. Martin's. Giving gifts to the Endowment in memory of loved ones who have died, in honor of someone, or for any other reason, is an excellent way to ensure that the heritage of St. Martin's will continue. Those honored and the families of those remembered will be notified of your gift.

Checks may be sent to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, Texas 77056, with an enclosed note indicating the names of those being honored or remembered. Please include your name, address, telephone number and information on others to be notified.

For more information, contact the Finance Office at 346-335-8656.

These gifts were received Aug. 12 through Sept. 26, 2025.

MEMORIALS

To the Altar Guild Fund in Memory of:

Patricia Pinson Lind
by Kim Gilbreath
Richard L. Gruen

To the Endowment Inreach Fund in Memory of:

Maureen Alfrey
by Kathy and Dan Ellwood
Michael Kenneth Kuhn
by Joan and David Dunlap
Patricia Pinson Lind
by Mary Lehr
Beth and Tim Mack
Louise Ratz
Thomas Wagner
Tobin Scott O'Donnell
by Vicki and Steve Smith
Floyd Ames Smith, Sr.
by Nancy and Taylor Cooksey
Gordon Family
Joseph Lotterhous
Becky and Doug Montague
Ellen and Sam Moreton
Alicia Neuhaus
Martha Jane Arnold Touchstone
by Jenny Elkins
Whitney Lopez

To the Endowment Outreach Fund in Memory of:

Henry Clay Dean
by Donna C. Dawson
Patricia Pinson Lind
by Gregory Pratas
Floyd Ames Smith, Sr.
by Julia Butler
Virginia and Fred Ezelle
Debbie and David Johnson
Elizabeth and Tommy Lyle
Sally Bell Rutherford

To the Endowment Unrestricted Fund in Memory of:

Maureen Alfrey
by Donna C. Dawson
Henry Clay Dean
by Lamar and Warren Hall
Susan and Antone Peterson
Mary Kathryn (Mary Kate) Jacobo
by Carol and George Dehan
Tobin Scott O'Donnell
by Cynthia Nelson
Martha Jane Arnold Touchstone
by American Airlines

To the Nan Williams Serenity Garden Fund in Memory of:

Nan Luckett Williams
by Elizabeth Williams

To the Order of St. Luke Fund in Memory of:

Mollie Ward Hill
by Mary Hale McLean
Ann Winters

To the Outreach Ministries Fund in Memory of:

Pinckney Franklin Steed, Jr.
by Donna C. Dawson
Laurie and Mike Moody
Camille and L.B. Newman
Carole F. Payne

HONORARIUMS

To the Built for the Ages Fund in Honor of:

The Rev. Martin J. Bastian
by Barbara Higgins

To the General Fund in Honor of:

The Adams Group
by Jim Chandler

Give at www.smec.org or
text "SMEC" to 73256



Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God

To give altar flowers, please visit www.bit.ly/smecalartflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at 713-830-4146 or relhakam@smec.org. Floral gifts also may be given to the Garden of the Holy Cross flower fund in memory or honor of a loved one.

SEPTEMBER 7

In thanksgiving for the Rev. Dane E. Boston and his family, Debby, Ella, Fritz, Ruthie and Myles

SEPTEMBER 14

In thanksgiving for the baptisms of Kate, Vivienne and William McKenna by Katherine and Craig McKenna

In thanksgiving for the marriage of their daughter, Kate Kruse, to Mitch Harris by Jennifer and Tom Kruse

SEPTEMBER 21

In thanksgiving for our wedding anniversary by Meredith and Dean Huffman

OCTOBER 5

On the occasion of their marriage by Alyssa Leigh Walters and Eric Richard Priest

In memory of Mary Gray Lester on the anniversary of her birthday by Linda and John Griffin, Laura and Jack Schuhmacher, and Allison and Philip Lorenzo

OCTOBER 12

On the occasion of their marriage by Hannah Lingen Cen and Hayden Richard Fox

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Robert Alexander Blasio by Katie and Andrew Blasio

In thanksgiving for the baptisms of Maddie and Morgan Brann by Ann and Harrison Brann

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Annabelle Elliott Franz by Elizabeth and Harry Franz

In memory of Christopher Clinton Fox on his 38th birthday by his parents, Stephanie and Clinton Fox

In memory of Bill Slover by Cindy Weatherly

In memory of Jim Weatherly by Cindy Weatherly

OCTOBER 19

On the occasion of their marriage by Casey Marie Padgett and Nicholas Bennett McAlister

In thanksgiving for Sadie Gwin on her 101st birthday by her loving family

In memory of William C. Miller by his family

In memory of her brother, David and her parents, Dorothy and Newell Starks by Mary Ann Starks

OCTOBER 26

On the occasion of their marriage by Norma Kate Langdon and Brandon Paul Greer

In thanksgiving for those who have completed their Communion instruction

In memory of Mary Kathryn Jacobe by Molly and Michael Furrow

In memory of Jon Lamkin by Lynn Lamkin

NOVEMBER 2

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Natalia Ayala by Carole Nelson

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Cullen Taggart Waterman by Kelly, Brittany, Sawyer and Mason Waterman

NOVEMBER 9

In thanksgiving for veterans and those who have given their lives in service to our country

In thanksgiving for the 75th birthday of Chief Tunde Afolabi by the Afolabi family

In memory of Earl Lester, Jr. by Linda and John Griffin, Laura and Jack Schuhmacher, and Allison and Philip Lorenzo

NOVEMBER 16

On the occasion of their marriage by Meagan Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy and Luis Francisco Alonzo

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Jeff Fisher

In thanksgiving for today's confirmands

In thanksgiving for Altar Guild Group VI by Cynthia Hall

NOVEMBER 23

On the occasion of their marriage by Brindley Elizabeth Mize and Thomas Custis Green

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Hannah Lee Arning by Megan and Wesley Arning

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Westley David Wright by his parents, Lauren and Brandon, and big sister, Rosalie

In thanksgiving for Griffin Grey Burt by her parents, Greyson and Prentiss Burt, and grandmother, Helen Burt

In memory of José Luis Bravo by Deborah Mayes Bravo

In memory of Mary Ellen Thanheiser Finnegan by Adele Thanheiser; Giggy and Dick Wynne; Will, Haley, Perry and August Thanheiser; Hall Thanheiser; and Ellen and Tim McCole

In memory of Helen Slover by Cindy S. Weatherly

NOVEMBER 30

In memory of Olive Horne Becker on the anniversary of her birthday by Linda Lester Griffin



Easter Flowers

HONOR LOVED ONES AT EASTER • ORDERS DUE MARCH 2

Remember and honor a loved one this Easter by ordering lilies to decorate The Church, Parish Life Center and the Gardens of the Holy Cross during this sacred season. All flower dedications received by 5 p.m. Monday, March 2, will be included in the worship booklet at all Easter services. Flower dedications may be made online at www.smec.org/easterflowers by completing the form.

During the Lenten season, Altar Flower Dedications will not be accepted. Please consider honoring a loved one with an Easter lily dedication instead.

Please contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at relhakam@smec.org or 713-830-4146.



What It Really Takes to Run St. Martin's

Stewardship, faith and the shared work of the Body of Christ

As St. Martin's Episcopal Church begins its 2026 Stewardship season, Parishioners are invited into a deeper conversation — one that goes beyond budgets and numbers and what it means to belong to a church community. In a recent episode of "The Wayside Podcast," the Rev. Wesley Arning, Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries, sat down with three key Church leaders to reflect on the unseen work that sustains the life of St. Martin's and the spiritual meaning behind pledging as a practice of faith.

"We love the glistening Sunday morning stuff," the Rev. Arning acknowledged, "but there's a lot that has to happen to make this Campus work." From the beauty of the grounds to the rhythm of worship every seven days, much of what Parishioners experience flows seamlessly.

That trust takes a practical shape for Brandon Firor, Chief Operating Officer, who sees his role as an essential support of the ministry. "I never want to be the barrier to ministry opportunities," he shared. "My job is to make sure the Church can respond freely to what God is calling us to do."

That responsibility comes with significant practical realities. Simply keeping St. Martin's open — maintaining buildings, managing grounds and powering the 15-acre Campus — costs approximately two million dollars each year. "Nearly \$350,000 of that is spent on electricity alone," he stated. "Most of the operations work is invisible, but it's essential."

Careful planning, preventive maintenance and efficiency allow St. Martin's to steward resources wisely, he confirmed. Every dollar saved through operational care becomes a dollar that can be directed toward mission and ministry.

The Rev. Martin J. Bastian, Vice-Rector, framed Stewardship in deeply theological terms, underscoring that it's not simply about maintaining the Campus or balancing a budget — it is about sustaining the Body of Christ. "Scripture teaches us that the Church is the Body of Christ. And we have a spiritual responsibility to support that body." From music to education, pastoral care and community, "every ministry is sustained through the faithful and intentional giving of its Parishioners. ... Our goals in everything we do are that you know God. Whether through worship, fellowship over coffee and donuts, or opportunities for service and outreach, St. Martin's seeks to create spaces where Parishioners can grow in faith and experience God's presence more fully," he affirmed.

For Sarah-Hampton Cambas, Director of Parish Engagement, Stewardship begins not with numbers but with prayer.

"The first step in supporting St. Martin's is prayer," she explained. Rather than beginning with the Church's needs, Parishioners are encouraged to ask what God is calling them to give. "A pledge," she emphasized, "is a promise — one made in faith. It helps us plan for the year and steward our resources responsibly." While also acknowledging that life can change, pledges can be adjusted, increased, or reduced as circumstances require. "What matters most is the intention and trust behind commitment."

Even modest commitments can make a meaningful difference. Cambas noted that if each household increased giving by just \$50 a month, it would add more than \$2.5 million to the Church's annual budget — funds that could expand outreach, deepen discipleship and strengthen pastoral care.

Stewardship, the Rev. Arning concluded, is ultimately about forming habits of generosity and trust. It is learned over time and modeled across generations. It is most clearly seen at the Family Table service when children run forward with their offerings, learning that giving is not about the amount but about participation in the life of the Church.

As St. Martin's looks toward the year ahead, the invitation is clear: pray, commit and participate. Pledging is not merely a financial act — it is a spiritual one, an expression of faith in God's provision and a commitment to the shared work of the Body of Christ.



Hear the conversation featuring the Rev. Martin Bastian, the Rev. Wesley Arning, Brandon Firor and Sarah-Hampton Cambas on **The Wayside Podcast**, "What it Takes to Run St. Martin's" through St. Martin's website, on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Amazon Music.

THE STAR

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Membership 707

Discovering Your Membership at St. Martin's

Part I

Monday, April 20 • 6-8:30 p.m.
Bagby Parish Hall

Part II

Sunday, April 26 • 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Hope and Healing Center & Institute
Auditorium/Christ Chapel

Join the Rev. Dane E. Boston as he guides prospective and current members through our mission and core values. Deepen your understanding of St. Martin's and how to become an active and engaged member.

For more information, contact Kathy Johnson,
Director of Membership, at 713-985-3834
or kjohnson@smec.org.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.smec.org



Facebook.com/StMartinsEpiscopalHouston



@stmartinepiscopalchurch



St. Martin's Episcopal Church Houston



With an emphasis on beautiful liturgy and excellence in music, worship at St. Martin's provides an opportunity to give thanks and praise to God. Rite I is the form regularly used. All Christians baptized in the name of the Trinity are welcome to receive Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal Church.



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY

- **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH** Join us for worship at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays at www.smec.org/watchonline.

WEEKDAYS

- St. Martin's offers an online, recorded Compline Service, which is available on demand on our website.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY

- **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP** With Holy Eucharist at 8, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. in The Church.
-  **FAMILY TABLE WORSHIP** With Holy Eucharist worship at 9:15 a.m. All families are welcome in the Parish Life Center.
-  **RIVERWAY WORSHIP** A contemporary Holy Eucharist service, meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Parish Life Center.
- Healing prayer, or prayer of any need, is offered after each service. Audio and video links of the Traditional Sunday sermons are available at www.smec.org and on our YouTube channel.

WEEKDAYS — DAILY OFFICE

- **MORNING PRAYER** at 8:30 a.m. in Christ Chapel.
- **EVENING PRAYER** at 4:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel.

WEDNESDAYS

- **HOLY EUCHARIST** at 7 a.m. and noon in Christ Chapel.
- The Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Prayer service meets at 5 p.m. in the Parish Life Center on the first Wednesday of most months and via Zoom, www.smec.org/osl.

Please see the special section on Holy Week and Easter services for a complete list of special Worship services.