

THE **STAR**

09

Holy Week at St. Martin's

A sacred time of renewal, reflection
and deeper devotion to Jesus Christ.

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2026

*Spring and
Early Summer*
- at St. Martin's -

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 11 a.m. to 2 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 Table Service — 9:15 a.m.

Riverway Contemporary Service — 11:15 a.m.



The Ascension

This pane, part of stained-glass Window 4 in the north portal of The Church, depicts the Great Commission and Ascension. The beautiful Tri-lancet window depicts the final scenes of Christ's physical presence on Earth, His pronouncement of the "Great Commission," and His Ascension into heaven. Fifty days after His Resurrection, on a day celebrated as Pentecost, the promised Comforter comes to the apostles as sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind.

Find Window 4 on the north portal, just above the balcony pews.

ON THE COVER:

Captured in early March, the blossoms of a Mexican plum tree fill the Christus Garden on the east side of the Parish Life Center. Like the promise of Easter morning, these flowers remind us that life emerges where once there seemed only stillness. This season, St. Martin's invites you to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of new beginnings.

CONTENTS

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2026



- 02 From the Rector
- 05 From the Clergy
- 06 Adult Christian Education
- 08 Special Services
- 09 Holy Week Services
- 10 Easter at St. Martin's
- 11 Music St. Martin's
- 13 Programs for Adults
- 17 Programs for Women
- 19 Programs for Men
- 20 Student Ministries
- 21 Children's Ministry
- 24 Outreach & Missions
- 27 Parish Life
- 37 Hope and Healing Center & Institute
- 38 Giving
- 40 Altar Flowers
- 41 The Last Word

09 Holy Week at St. Martin's

During Holy Week, you are invited to enter a sacred time of renewal, reflection and deeper devotion to Jesus Christ. With more than 30 services offered throughout the week, the journey culminates in the celebration of the Sunday of the Resurrection.



26 Outreach Sunday: A Day of Parish Service

On Sunday, Feb. 8, Parishioners, Clergy and Staff came together in a vibrant morning of service, supporting 15 agencies through multiple hands-on Outreach projects. Volunteers of all ages answered God's call to serve with generosity that extends far beyond a single day.



29 Annual Parish Meeting and Star Award Presentation

At the 73rd Annual Parish Meeting, the Rev. Dane Boston presided over his first gathering as the Fifth Rector, engaging Parishioners, Clergy and Staff in the life and governance of St. Martin's. The meeting included Parish elections, recognition of Clergy, Staff and Vestry members, and the presentation of the Star Award to Lisa and Bob Heston in honor of their faithful service.

“Alleluia! Christ was risen.” “The Lord was risen indeed. Alleluia!”



Wait, something sounds off there, doesn't it?

It's still true, of course. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead was an actual event in human history — indeed, it was *the* event in human history. Unlike vague mythologies of deities dying each fall and rising each spring, and against any mealy-mouthed attempts to explain away the scandal of the Cross and Resurrection by claiming that Christ was somehow “alive spiritually” in the hearts of His disciples, the Church stands by the audacious claim that in a certain place — a tomb outside the walls of Jerusalem — and at a certain time — early on the first day of the week, immediately after the Passover, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea and Caiaphas was High Priest — a certain man — Jesus of Nazareth, an itinerant rabbi and miracle-worker who had been crucified by the Roman Empire — actually rose from the dead.

If Christ is risen, then the hope to which we cling is not just a hope for this present, passing, mortal life — it is a hope that points us to life everlasting with our Father.

And so, in the same way that George Washington was inaugurated President or Napoleon was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo, or the Houston Astros won the 2022 World Series, there is a sense in which Christ was risen.

But the reason the greeting at the top of this message seems off is that the Church goes one step further in Eastertide. We don't simply proclaim that Jesus was risen. We announce that Jesus is risen. And that subtle distinction makes all the difference in the world (and in heaven, too!).

To say that “Christ is risen” is to maintain that the fact of His Resurrection at a specific place on Earth and at a specific moment in human history actually has transformative implications for all places in heaven, on Earth, under the earth and throughout all time and eternity. If Christ is risen, then the dread of Death is undone for all human beings who have ever lived, stretching back even to our first parents and forward to the very end of time. If Christ is risen, then people of every tribe and kindred, tongue and nation are right now being brought together by the Spirit of God to share in the Promises of God. If Christ is risen, then the hope to which we cling is not just a hope for this present, passing, mortal life — it is a hope that points us to life everlasting with our Father.

If Christ is risen, then He is alive right now as you and I go about all the ordinary drudgery of our daily lives. If Christ is risen, then He is with us right now in the temptations we really face, the sorrows we really bear and the joys we really share. If Christ is risen, then our work of serving others in His world is not just a response to some theological argument or a distant historical event — it is actual, active, urgent obedience to the clear commands of our living King.

Beloved, if Lent was a season for us to abide in the awful awareness of our sins, that we should “not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father,” then Eastertide must be a season for us to arise in the glorious knowledge that sin's power is broken, Death is defeated and that you and I and the whole world are even now being made new. “For Christ our Lord is risen; our joy, it hath no end!”

May you and all those you love meet the Risen Lord who is alive in the life of St. Martin's Episcopal Church this Eastertide and always!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!



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

Dane E. Boston



A New Chapter Begins at St. Martin's

A joyful service filled with music, worship and commitment marks a historic moment as St. Martin's installs its Fifth Rector.



With the pews overflowing, Parishioners witnessed the installation of our Fifth Rector, the Rev. Dane E. Boston, on Jan. 21, 2026.

On the evening of Jan. 21, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, installed the Rev. Dane E. Boston as the Fifth Rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in a service marked by reverence, celebration and hope.

The service began with festive music as Dr. David Henning played the *Gloria Dei* organ, joined by brass and timpani. As the procession entered, the Parish Choir filled The Church singing the hymn "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," setting a joyful tone for the occasion.

Accompanied by the Rev. Cn. Kellaura Johnson, Bishop's Chaplain, the Rt. Rev. Doyle formally instituted the Rev. Boston, reading the official Letter of Institution, signed on Jan. 1, 2026, in the 18th year of his consecration. Following Collects and the Liturgy of the Word, the Rev. Boston preached a Sermon titled "The Church is Dead."

"It is customary on occasion like this for a new Rector to invite friends to introduce him to the congregation – to say some nice things about him. Well, y'all have put up with me since August 1st; if you don't know everything about me after Sherrie Perkins' interview on Sept. 16 (Celebration Sunday), then I don't know what to tell you. And the truth is that I couldn't find anyone to say nice things about me!

"I am grateful to Bishop Doyle for granting me the privilege of preaching before you tonight ... taking this opportunity to talk about

the work we share. ... We are called to ministry together as the Church of the Living God here, gathered in St. Martin's Parish in the year of our Lord, 2026. 'The Church is Dead,' say many of the pundits and pontificators of our culture. 'Useless,' 'Irrelevant,' 'Unhelpful in our postmodern, post-Christendom digital age.' ... If the Church is dead, then take heart. For we serve a God who raises the dead. It is my prayer and my hope and my promise that this Parish will live to proclaim that wonder. You and I are called in baptism to die daily. ... We are called to die to our own egos, and hungers and lusts. Called to die that we might truly live. The Church is dead and has been raised with Christ."

Following the sermon, Bishop Doyle presented the new Rector with a vessel of holy water, calling him to share in the ministry of Baptism. After the Prayers, the Rev. Boston knelt in the midst of The Church, offering a prayer of commitment to faithfully administer the Sacraments and carry out the duties of his ministry, that all may be drawn into God's Kingdom.

He then moved to the Crossing, where Bishop Doyle, at the close of the final prayer, introduced the new Rector and his family to the congregation. The service concluded with the Peace, the Welcome and the Offertory, after which the celebration continued in Bagby Parish Hall, where the congregation gathered in fellowship to mark the beginning of this new chapter in the life of St. Martin's.



"We are called to ministry together as the Church of the Living God here," the Rev. Boston stated during his sermon.



AN OFFICIAL WELCOME — Bishop C. Andrew Doyle presented the Rev. Dane Boston and his family to the congregation: Ella, Fritz, Debbie, Myles and Ruthie.



A MILESTONE MOMENT — Following the service, the Rev. Dane Boston, his family, the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, the Rev. Cn. Kellaura Johnson, and the Revs. Martin J. Bastian, Lisa R. Neilson, Alex Graham III, R. Wesley Arning, Dr. Jordan L. Hylden, Sharron L. Cox, Gregory Cross, and John R. Bentley, along with Dr. David Henning and Keith Lathrom, gathered with members of the Vestry and the Rector Search Committee for a commemorative photo to capture this significant chapter in St. Martin's history.

Resurrection is Lived

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." — John 12:24

Growing up here in Southeast Texas, I liked the sometimes short, transitional seasons the most. The winters seemed longer back then, since it felt like the north wind would constantly blow over Galveston Bay, making us bitterly cold. And the summers seemed shorter, probably because, like most school-aged children, I liked the freedom of long summer days! But after each of these seasons, I remember feeling this rush of excitement that something new was unfolding. In the spring, the daylight grew longer and longer, while in the fall, darkness seemed to creep up earlier and earlier each night, allowing the harvest moon to appear sometimes before I was asleep in bed.



Maybe these seasons were my favorites because both spring and fall seemed like liminal times; they were the thresholds for ushering in the changing seasons. It was in these liminal seasons that I developed a sense of time, growth, change, death and possibility. Jesus understood the workings of nature. In the Bible quote above, He reflects the reality that a seed must be buried in the soil, or "die," to become something other than a seed, and only then can it bear fruit. Many commentators suggest that Jesus is speaking metaphorically about what lies ahead for him. Others suggest that His words were meant to prepare His disciples for their own future, since the following verses are directed at them.

But there is also the sense, in this verse, that the whole of life has purpose, that the disappointments, challenges and the endings can have meaning. These "deaths" can bring about new life, "fruit," if we but pay attention. These cycles of life, just as the seasons of the year, can bring us into a fuller life in and through Christ.

This understanding is known as the paschal mystery. We know of Christ as the paschal lamb from St. Paul's usage in 1 Corinthians 5:7 and, thus, can recognize that paschal points us to Passover and Easter. But paschal mystery, what is that?

The paschal mystery is that movement Jesus made from a fruitful earthly ministry, too fruitful, which threatened the Judean power structure made up of the Sanhedrin and the Romans in his day, leading to his suffering, his death, and finally his resurrection. Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection bore fruit for all of us. And it also showed us the path of living our own lives here on earth, and not just when approaching our earthly, bodily deaths.

If we reflect on our lives, along with the accomplishments and joys, we will see seasons of disappointment, failure, endings. Those "deaths" did not end our earthly lives, but something "died" which allowed new life to emerge, fruitful lives to be lived.

A primary example of this is the death of our youth. No matter what age we may be, we have seen the vibrancy of our earlier lives lost. We all finished preschool and moved into elementary school, where we had no naps and eventually had to produce more work than coloring within the lines. From elementary school we jumped to secondary school, where the expectations were even higher. Some of us graduated from college and had to leave behind our easy-going schedules and the late-night entertainments we enjoyed in our early adult lives for 9-to-5 jobs or raising children 24/7. And it is only until we pass through all these small "deaths" that we reach an age and discover that our bodies betray us and no longer function as they used to!

This cycle is not just something that happens once in our lives or is just about aging. Perhaps you experienced a divorce or the death of a dream? Maybe it was the death of idealistic views of our families, our church, our country? These and other paschal deaths can be experienced daily. How do we live through all these paschal deaths? How do we move forward to resurrection?

We move forward by looking to Jesus and His example of fruitful living, suffering, dying and rising to new life. We do not cling to the past or how life used to be. We grieve and acknowledge our loss. We make peace with what was and what is. We pray for the grace to accept what is. And then slowly, imperceptibly, just like the buds on the tree branches in early spring, new life begins to emerge. Fruit is produced. Resurrection is lived.



The Rev. Sharron Cox
Associate for Spiritual Formation and
Pastoral Ministries
scox@smec.org



Adult Christian Education

St Martin's offers a wide variety of groups and classes designed to help you deepen your faith and become rooted in God's amazing grace. Whether you are just beginning your spiritual journey or seeking to grow as a devoted disciple of Christ, there is a place for you here. Please reach out to learn more.

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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christian Education Sunday School classes will not be held on April 5 due to Easter and on May 24 due to the Memorial Day weekend.



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

This 30-minute class is a Clergy-led coffee-and-discussion session following the 8 a.m. worship service. Each class focuses on the day's lectionary reading. All are welcome to drop in.

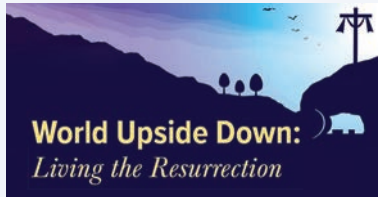


THEOLOGY FOR LIFE

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE

Led by St. Martin's Clergy and guests

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



WORLD UPSIDE DOWN: Living the Resurrection

Sundays, April 12-May 17

After the cross and the resurrection of Jesus, what comes next? As we continue tracing the narrative of the Bible, we'll explore the birth of the Church in the book of Acts, the Gospel of grace proclaimed in Paul's letters and the shape of the Christian life. We'll then turn to Revelation before concluding with a recap of the Bible as one unified story — centered on the Gospel of our risen Lord and Savior.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER HOUR

Sundays, April 19, May 17 and June 14
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.

Contact the Rev. Sharron L. Cox at scox@smec.org or 713-830-4131.



ADULT CONFIRMATION

ADULT CONFIRMATION:

Anglicanism 101

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
Sunday, April 12 · 10:15-11 a.m.
Chapel Reception Hall

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden, Associate for Christian Education, leads the final class about the Anglican Communion, which has over 85 million members, 47 member churches, and spans the world

To learn more about the next scheduled class, contact Haley Lynch at hlynch@smec.org or 713-830-4110.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE



With the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, Saturday, April 18 11 a.m. · The Church
The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, will officiate our Confirmation service. The Rev. Doyle was elected bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Texas on May 24, 2008, and was consecrated on Nov. 22, 2008, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. He was seated as the ninth Bishop of Texas on June 7, 2009, following the retirement of the Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly.



SMALL GROUPS RETURN

Sundays, May 31-June 28 · 10:15-11 a.m.
Bagby Parish Hall

Clergy and Lay Leaders will guide a five-week small group series about the lectionary texts appointed for worship each Sunday, as we gather for a round-table discussion and close with prayer for one another. If you haven't yet joined a small group here, this is a great way to get a taste of what they're like.

Easter Offering

Join us in celebrating one of St. Martin's most cherished Easter traditions: the Easter Offering! This special day is a time for reflection and renewal and an opportunity to embody the spirit of giving.

On Easter Sunday, we invite you to contribute to our Easter Offering, whether using designated envelopes or donating loose cash in the offering plate. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, will be made towards our outreach ministries.

Our Vestry Missions Committee will ensure these gifts have a meaningful impact, allocating the funds to various organizations that St. Martin's supports.

This Easter, as we gather to celebrate new beginnings, let's also come together to share in the joy of generosity. Together, we can create ripples of positive change that resonate far beyond our Church walls.

Let's make this Easter an unforgettable celebration of compassion and community!



UTO Lent 2026 – 40 Days of Grateful Welcome

Find Offering Envelopes in The Church pews and don't forget to bring your UTO boxes on Easter morning!

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of The Episcopal Church that began in 1883 as a simple practice of gratitude and generosity. Through UTO, people are invited to embrace a daily spiritual discipline, noticing the daily blessings, thanking God and making an offering in a UTO Blue Box.

These prayers become a blessing to others. One hundred percent of the collected funds are distributed as grants to support ministries throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.





OSL HEALING PRAYER SERVICE



First Wednesday of the Month
 May 6, June 3 and July 1 · 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 to anyone seeking personal prayer.

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



Keeping the Kalendar

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday, May 14 · 6 p.m.
 Parish Life Center

Celebrate the joyous feast of Ascension Day with a special Holy Eucharist service. Together, we will hear the story of Christ’s ascension into heaven and reflect on its significance for us as believers. Incense will be used during the service. Please stay afterward for a reception in the Narthex. All are warmly welcome!

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



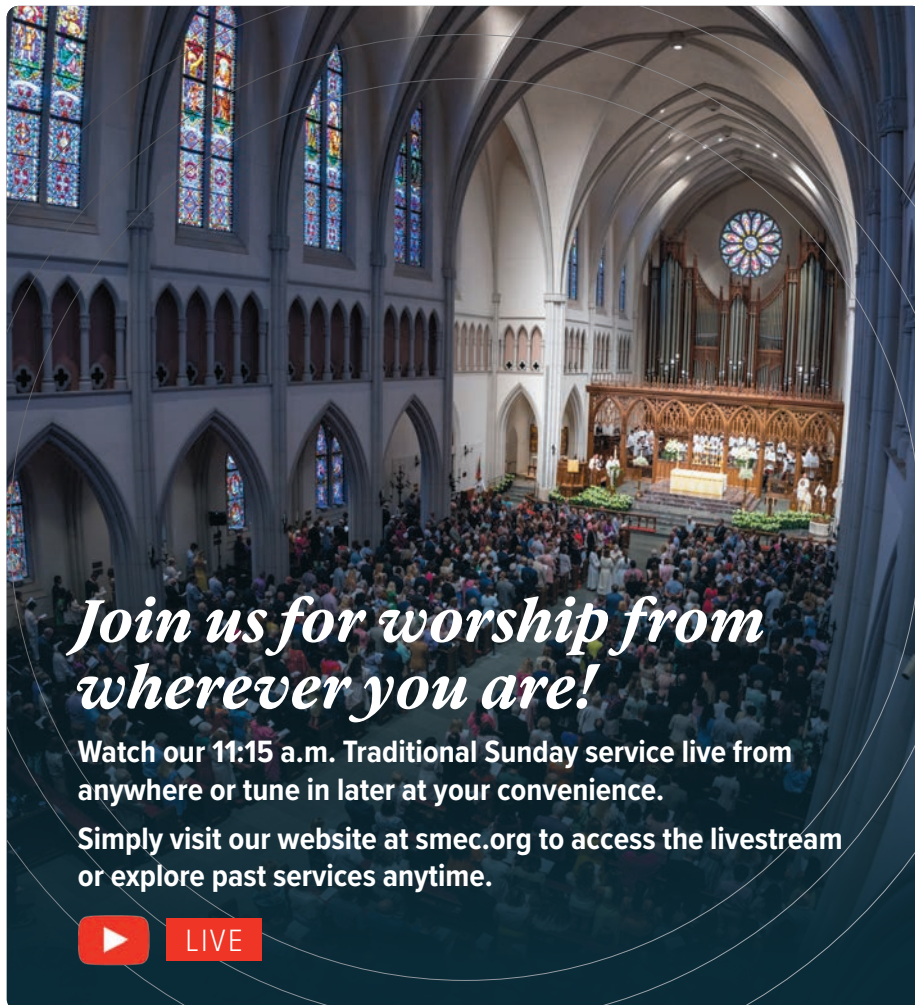
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Week

Thursday, April 2 · 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Church

Parishioners and guests are invited to make their pilgrimage along the Via Dolorosa, or “Way of Sorrows,” during Lent and Holy Week 2026. The Stations of the Cross depict the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus and the devotion that commemorates it.

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



Join us for worship from wherever you are!

Watch our 11:15 a.m. Traditional Sunday service live from anywhere or tune in later at your convenience.

Simply visit our website at smec.org to access the livestream or explore past services anytime.



HOLY WEEK SERVICES



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.

Wednesday in Holy Week

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.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 · 7 p.m. · *The Church*
Service will be livestreamed

Maundy Thursday Liturgy, Stripping of the Altar and Holy Eucharist with the Parish Choir

The worship service will process outdoors in silence and conclude near the Great Cross with the hammering of the nails into the wooden cross.



Keeping the Kalendar

RIVERWAY

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.

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, contact Deanna Lawson at dlawson@smec.org or call 713-985-3807.



The Sunday of the Resurrection

- Easter Sunday, April 5 -

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Hosted by St. Martin's Vestry
8-11 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

Join us for a warm and welcoming Easter morning! The current and past Vestry of St. Martin's offer a complimentary breakfast for everyone. Bring your loved ones and enjoy great food and fellowship before or after the services.



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES

7, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. · The Church
The 11:15 a.m. service will be livestreamed.

Celebrate the joy of Easter with our Traditional Worship services. Experience the Holy Eucharist lifted by festive music from the Parish Choir, *Gloria Dei* Organ, and the sounds of brass and timpani.



FAMILY TABLE SERVICE

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

This joyful and kid-friendly Holy Eucharist service brings the Easter story to life. Join us as we share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



RIVERWAY CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11:15 a.m. · Parish Life Center

Since 2021, Riverway has joyfully blended the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church with elements of contemporary worship. We welcome everyone to join us in a space of reflection, praise and community.

CHILDCARE

Childcare will be provided for 6-week-olds through 3-year-olds in the Children's Life Center during all Easter services.

**JOIN US FOR CHORAL EVENSONG
AND THE PREMIERE OF TWO ORIGINAL WORKS!**
Composed for Dr. David Henning and the Parish Choir

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.



- Sunday, April 19 • 9 and 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. -

I Will Give You Rest (2025)

“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.

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.



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 Opera 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.

- Sunday, April 26 • 4 p.m. • The Church -

O Come, Let Us Sing (2025)

“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.



On Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, the Rev. Dane E. Boston shared the news in a Parish-wide email of the retirement of Dr. David Henning, effective April 26. "As St. Augustine of Hippo famously said, "Those who sing pray twice." For the past 20 years, Dr. Henning has doubled the prayers of the people of St. Martin's by leading our Parish in joyful song. What a gift and legacy to share with the Church!" he stated.

Join us as we celebrate Dr. Henning's extraordinary ministry Sunday, April 26, after the 11:15 a.m. service and the 4 p.m. Evensong in Bagby Parish Hall. Mark your calendars and don't miss this opportunity to honor his gift to St. Martin's!



About Dr. David Henning

Since 2006, Dr. David Henning has served as Director of Music and Parish Organist, where his faithful leadership and artistic vision have shaped the sound and soul of worship. Under his direction, the Church's repertoire has become a defining expression of worship, strengthening and defining St. Martin's Parish as a community of faithful servants. Our music ministry has carried out its reach nationally and internationally.

St. Martin's music program has flourished through our choir ministry and distinguished concert series, drawing Parishioners and the wider community into sacred music. Most recently, the Parish Choir joined acclaimed soloists and members of the Houston Symphony in a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah on Oct. 26, 2025, led by Keith Lathrom, St. Martin's Parish Choir Director.

His influence has extended beyond Houston, as he has represented St. Martin's on multiple European tours with the Parish Choir. These sacred concerts have featured our choir and David Henning performing in revered sacred spaces such as St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, York Minster, St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Chartres in France, among others.

David Henning is an acclaimed international recitalist. In the summer of 2023, he was invited to perform a series of solo organ recitals across England. His performance at Westminster Abbey as part of its renowned "Summer Organ Recital Series" left an indelible mark on Dr. Henning's career milestone.

Following his retirement, Keith Lathrom, Choral Director of the Adult Choir, will serve as Director of Music at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

With the Rev. Dane Boston
Tuesdays through May 5 · Bagby Parish Hall

Take a meaningful pause in your week and join our Rector, the Rev. Dane Boston, as he leads Parishioners through the appointed lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. Bring your lunch and spiritual appetite! This is a great way to explore, reflect, ask questions and grow in faith.

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

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesday, April 8
Mondays, April 20, May 4, 18, June 1 and 15
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.



OSL HEALING MINISTRY STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays, April 8-29, May 13-27
and June 10-24 · 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 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.

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

Wednesdays through May 13 · 7-9 p.m.
Children's Life Center 123, Large Pod

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.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

April 26, May 31 and June 28 · Noon
Parish Life Center Narthex

Riverway wants to celebrate you if you've had a birthday, anniversary or any other good news over the past month. Join us for our Celebration Sunday reception following the 11:15 a.m. services.



DEEP ROOTS: GOOD BOOKS AND GOOD CONVERSATION

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

"The Power and the Glory"
by Graham Greene

Thursday, May 21 · 6:15-7:45 p.m.
Student Life Center, Living Room



This classic 20th century novel, often regarded as Greene's best work, is an exploration of God's grace through the channel of a very flawed priest who is on the run from persecution.

Join us for our regular gathering as we discuss great works of theology and literature from the Christian tradition.

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

THE GATHERING

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

Friends in Bloom

April 27 with Danette McMahon

Memorial Day holiday

No meeting in May

Red, White and Boom

June 22 with Bill Parish

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, contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or kattellepsen@me.com.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS



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:

- April 8 – “Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont”
by Elizabeth Taylor
- May 13 – “The Secret Book of Flora Lea”
by Patti Henry



Evening Group

Third Tuesday of the month
7-8:30 p.m. · Children’s Life Center,
Room 109 and via Zoom

Schedule:

- April 21 – “The Covenant of Water”
by Abraham Verghese
- May 19 – “Table for Two”
by Amore Towles

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



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, Family 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.



EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Meets weekly through May 26

Would you like to find a place where you can define, refine, articulate, and live your faith? If so, then EfM is for you! Education for Ministry (EfM) is a challenging four-year study in Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theology, developed by the University of the South’s School of Theology with worldwide groups who worship and study in a community of 12 participants and an accredited mentor.

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

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM) GRADUATION

Sunday, May 31
11:15 a.m. Traditional Service
The Church

You’re invited to attend the
ALZHEIMER’S & DEMENTIA EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

This is Personal

Monday, April 20
9 a.m.–4 p.m. • Bagby Parish Hall



Reserve your seat today and be part of the conversation—space is limited!

Questions? Contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or kattellepsen@me.com.



Nature's God and the American Founding

Dr. Justin Dyer, Dean of the School of Civic Leadership, The University of Texas, Austin



Wednesday, May 6

Program begins at 7 p.m. • Bagby Parish Hall
Book signing to follow the lecture

Books will be available for purchase on-site, before and after the lecture. Registrations are encouraged due to limited seating. Donations are welcome to support this annual lecture series.

Sign up for this free event at www.smec.org/sponberg.



In the Declaration of Independence, the American Founders famously wrote: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ... endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ... from the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.” But who was this “god” they referenced — was it the God of the Bible or the God of the Enlightenment?

Come for an educational and inspiring evening as we explore how to be both faithful followers of Jesus and engaged, responsible citizens!

Join Dr. Justin Dyer, founding Dean of the School of Civic Leadership at The University of Texas at Austin and a leading expert on the American founding, as he explores why a biblical understanding of God was central to America's origins.

About the Sponberg Lecture Series

This lecture is part of a series that began in 2024 with best-selling writer and podcaster Tom Holland, who discussed how Christ’s teachings have profoundly influenced Western history and values. In 2025, St. Martin’s welcomed Dr. Vincent Phillip Muñoz, University of Notre Dame, who addressed “Christianity, Religious Freedom and the Foundations of American Constitutionalism.”

Our series honors the memory of longtime St. Martin’s member Ron Sponberg and aims to educate a broad audience about the core values and principles that have long supported the American constitutional order.

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



BLANKET LADIES

Wednesdays · 10-11 a.m.
Activity Center, Family Room

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.

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



ST. CLARE'S NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

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

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.



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.

*There will be no tour on April 5 due to Easter.

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.

*There will be no tours on April 1 due to Holy Week.

Christ Chapel Guided Tour

Tuesday, April 21 · 10-11 a.m.

Visit our beautiful English Gothic country-style chapel to see how the original 1959 church gave life to the new worship space. Learn about the magnificent marble altar, cornerstones containing time capsules, the 15 brilliant stained-glass windows and many more of the glorious treasures guided by our knowledgeable Docents.

The Campus Gardens Tour

Wednesday, April 29 · 10-11 a.m.

Learn more about the diverse green spaces that transform our 15-acre Campus into a collection of meditative and peaceful environments.

To schedule a group tour, contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117.

SAINTLY STITCHERS

Mondays · 10 a.m.-noon
Activity Center, Upper Hall East

The men and women of Saintly 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.

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

GREETERS GUILD

Welcome Parishioners and visitors on Sundays.

This ministry is comprised of Parishioners who greet visitors and Parishioners before and after the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. Stationed at the east and west Narthex doors and in the Narthex, our Greeters say hello to everyone who enters The Church while answering general questions and encouraging visitors to fill out a Visitor card. Greeters serve one Sunday per month at the service of their choice.

To volunteer, contact Kathy Johnson at kjohnson@smec.org or call 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. 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!



ECW EASTER FAMILY FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 4 · 10 a.m.
Parish Life Center · Free Admission

Turn to page 21 for more details.

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



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Women of Purpose.
 United in Faith.



The Episcopal Church Women 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 hosts inspiring programs with guest speakers, the Joy of Giving Market, 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!



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*

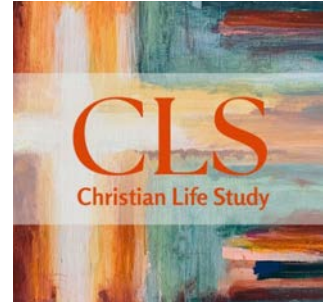
April 11
(second Saturday due to Easter holiday)

The group will make “blessing bags” for our Outreach partner, The Landing. The Landing serves women, men and children in Houston who have been affected by the sex trade. Their mission is to share the love of Christ while helping survivors find safety, empowerment and freedom.

May 2
 We will end our year with Holy Eucharist, reflections and brunch.

Visitors are always welcome at any meeting! Please join us.

For further details, please contact Deanna Lawson, dlawson@smec.org or call 713-985-3807.



CHRISTIAN LIFE STUDY

Discover the power of a praying community.

DAY CLASS

*Thursdays · 9:30-11:15 a.m., in person and via Zoom · Parish Life Center
 Class ends April 23*

EVENING CLASS

*Tuesdays · 6:30-8 p.m., in person and via Zoom · Children’s Life Center
 Class ends May 12*

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

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.

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



ECW Luncheon Highlights

The Making of an Artist at Spring Luncheon

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's gathered for their annual Spring Luncheon on Feb. 10, welcoming Dallas Christian artist Brenda Bogart as the featured speaker. Bogart, a former interior designer turned full-time artist, shared the story of her calling and the inspiration behind her bold and expressive artwork. More than 250 guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, fellowship and the engaging presentation by Bogart.



WELCOMING SMILES — Pictured from left are Spring Luncheon Co-Chair Kate Walters, ECW President Whitney Gormley, guest speaker Brenda Bogart, ECW Spring Luncheon Co-Chair Alicia Kimmel, Laurie Moreland and the Rev. Dane E. Boston.



ST. MARTHA'S GUILD IN SERVICE — ECW members volunteered through St. Martha's Guild graciously setting, serving and clearing tables during the Spring luncheon.



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 Deanna Lawson at dlawson@smec.org or call 713-985-3807.



DADS' BIBLE STUDY

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

All Dads are Welcome!

Join dads 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 going through the Acts of the Apostles. No registration is needed to attend the discussions led by the Rev. R. Wesley Arning.

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 leads this thought-provoking journey through the first book of the Bible.

GENESIS: Foundations of Faith

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| APRIL 2: No meeting due to Holy Week | APRIL 23: Joseph's Reconciliation: Part 3 (Genesis 46-47) with the Rev. Alex Graham |
| APRIL 9: Guest Speaker, Attorney Mark Lanier
<i>Mark Lanier is a well-known trial attorney and founder of the Lanier Theological Library</i> | APRIL 30: Death and Blessing: Part 1 (Genesis 48) with the Rev. Alex Graham |
| APRIL 16: Joseph's Reconciliation: Part 2 (Genesis 44-45) with the Rev. Alex Graham | MAY 7: Death and Blessing: Part 2 (Genesis 49-50) with the Rev. Alex Graham |
| | MAY 14: Annual Crawfish Boil |

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, April 28, May 19 and June 23
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 cover and a heart ready to serve.

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

The new Kids' Meals headquarters provides more room for volunteer opportunities: 8790 Hammerly Blvd.

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

STUDENT MINISTRIES



SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

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

Come to the Student Life Center on Sunday mornings for discussion on the Scriptures shared in the Worship Service that morning.

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



WEEKLY LIFE GROUPS

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

May 13: End-of-year party for the last Life Group meetings.

This is a great opportunity for students to explore the Bible more deeply. Dinner is provided, so please bring \$5 to help cover the cost.

High school and middle school boys and girls meet at 6 p.m. and break into separate groups. All students in grades 6 to 12 are welcome.

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

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 for more information.

SAVE THESE DATES!

- APRIL 5: Easter Egg Hunt, 10:15-11 a.m. in the Student Life Center
- APRIL 18: Confirmation Service with Bishop C. Andrew Doyle, 11 a.m. in The Church
- APRIL 30: Rescheduled High School Social, location TBD from 6-9 p.m.
- MAY 3: 5th Grade Tour of Student Ministries from 10-11 a.m. in the Student Life Center
- MAY 17: Senior Sunday in the Student Life Center from 10-11:30 a.m.
- MAY 31: Promotion Meeting for the 5th Grade Parents from 10-11 a.m. in the Student Life Center
- JUNE 14-21: Blueprint Ministries Mission Trip to San Antonio, 6th grader- 12th grade completed / cost \$750 per person

MOVIN' UP – 5TH GRADE TRANSITION

Sunday, May 3
10:15 a.m. · Student Life Center

We invite all incoming 6th-grade students for the fall to join us for a personal tour of our building and learn about our ministry!



5TH GRADE PROMOTION PARENT MEETING

Sunday, May 31
10:15 a.m. · Student Life Center

We invite the parents of our incoming 6th-grade class to join us for pastries and coffee. During this time, we will share information about the impactful programs Student Ministries offers.



SENIOR Sunday

CELEBRATION!

Sunday, May 17
10-11:30 a.m. · Student Life Center



BLUEPRINT MISSION STUDENT SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO

June 15-20 · Cost: \$750
For students completing grades 6-12

This summer, Student Ministries will take our middle and high school students to San Antonio to work with Blueprint Ministries, a non-profit that works to make homes healthier, safer and drier for San Antonio neighbors. We will help with minor restoration work, while having fun and making friends from churches and organizations across Texas.

We'll end the week with a group trip to SeaWorld!

We have reservations for up to 16 students, so don't miss out. Registration closes May 15 or when the trip is full.

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



At St. Martin's, we believe that children are not simply the future of the church, but children are the church!

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.

For more information, please contact Rozlyn Cline at 713-985-3816 or rmcline@smec.org.

Volunteers Needed!

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

Child Care Policy

Childcare is available in the Children's Life Center for 6-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.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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.



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.



The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's Invites You to



Saturday, April 4 ❀ 10 a.m. ❀ Free Admission
Parish Life Center ❀ Bring your Easter egg basket!

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

Please bring your UTO boxes!

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



VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

For 4-year-olds through 5th-grade children.
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.

Deadline to register is May 31!
Learn more at www.smec.org/vbs.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Adults and children can sign up to volunteer for this joyful week of faith, fun and friendship. Your presence, whether you lead, assist, or support behind the scenes, makes a difference. (Teenage volunteers must have completed grade 5.)

Sign up today at www.smec.org/smecministries/vbs

ADDITIONAL DATES

- MAY 10: Celebrate Mother's Day with Flowers and Cups.
- MAY 17: Last day of Sunday School. Enjoy popsicles on the playground!
- MAY 31: Mandatory meeting for VBS volunteers at noon in the Children's Life Center.



UNITED THANK OFFERING COLLECTION

During Lent, St. Martin's collects donations for the United Thank Offering, a ministry sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women.

Please return your boxes on Saturday, April 4 at the ECW Family Easter Festival or on Easter Sunday.

family table



Family Table Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

Good Friday

Friday, April 3 · Noon · Parish Life Center

This worship service is specifically designed for families and children.

For additional details about Holy Week services, please see page 8.

The Sunday of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 5

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

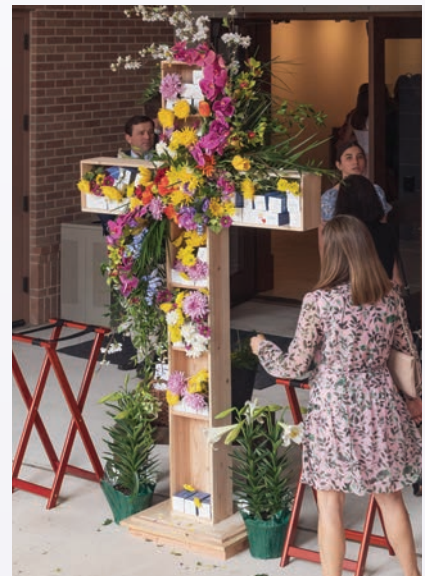
Hosted by St. Martin's Vestry
8-11 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

Join us for a warm and welcoming Easter morning! The current and past Vestry of St. Martin's offer a complimentary breakfast for everyone. Bring your loved ones and enjoy great food and fellowship before or after the services.

WORSHIP SERVICES

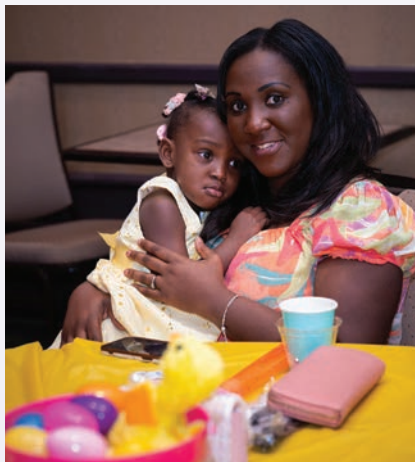
8:30 and 9:45 a.m. · Parish Life Center

This joyful and kid-friendly Holy Eucharist service brings the Easter story to life. Join us as we share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of His resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol.

The cross will be outside of the Parish Life Center following the 8:30 and 9:45 a.m. Family Table services.





Across the Miles: A Christmas Thank You That Became a Blessing

This past Christmas, the elementary Sunday School classes at St. Martin's brought extra joy to United States Air Force recruits at Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The project was organized by Rozlyn Cline, Director of Children's Ministry, who has a personal connection to military life through her own son. Under her guidance and that of other Sunday School teachers, each child colored a festive image of a dog wearing a stars-and-stripes scarf and a Santa hat, adding a personal note of thanks and Christmas greeting.

These cards were sent as part of "Operation Write Home," a program connecting children's messages of gratitude to those serving our country. Among the many cards, one in particular stood out: a young boy who had endured a heartbreaking summer, losing a beloved family member and was questioning his faith and God. Despite this, he colored his card and wrote a simple message of Christmas cheer to a stranger.

Weeks later, an unexpected reply arrived: a handwritten letter from one of the recruits at basic military training, sent to St. Martin's Episcopal Church, in care of Rozlyn Cline. "I was touched deeply at his reply," she recalled. "At a time when this Airman was going through basic training and needed encouragement, he found time to sit and offer some! It just showed how amazing his character was."



Airman First Class
Lane Davis

The letter came from Airman First Class Lane Davis, who shared his own story: overcoming bullying in middle and high school, missing his family while serving, loving his country and finding purpose in serving people like the children who sent their cards. Most strikingly, the soldier reminded the young boy, "While being called a hero feels good, Jesus is the real hero. I love my country, so serving is my honor. I do it for people like you!" He also encouraged the young boy to put God first in his life, to express gratitude and to seek spiritual guidance. "Remember, God loves you and always put Him first."

Touched by the exchange, Cline contacted Airman Davis to share with him how profoundly his words had impacted the boy and his family. In response, Davis opened further about his own faith journey, explaining that he grew up in Mississippi, attended

church regularly with his family and gave his life to Christ at age 12. He said, "Getting the letter from that child made me smile and I felt special. I can't explain it, but I felt led to write back; I had a different feeling than I have ever had, it was like I had to write him back."

"To us, we were sending hand-drawn notes to random people, but God had a plan all along..." Cline said.

The impact of that simple exchange rippled far beyond the boy himself. His mother and family were deeply moved, witnessing how a personal connection and thoughtful words from a stranger could bring hope and encouragement during a season of grief. For the boy, the letter reaffirmed his faith and reminded him that even in moments of doubt, small acts of kindness can carry profound meaning.

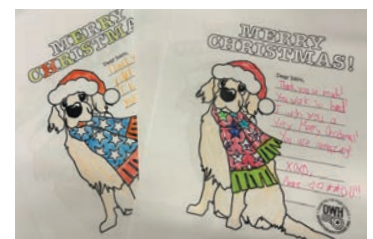
"To us, we were sending hand-drawn notes to random people, but God had a plan all along ..."

Rozlyn Cline reflected on the project, noting how powerful it can be for children to see their efforts make a difference. "They learn that even a small note or drawing can touch someone's life," she said. "Sometimes, it's God working in ways we can't predict."

What began with a simple Christmas card became a profound reminder of God's connection, encouragement and faith. Moments like these remind us that God tenderly cares for His children across the entire body, beyond our Church walls and can be at work in our lives, despite obstacles such as miles or life circumstances. "This project will now become an annual Christmas tradition, giving children at St. Martin's the opportunity to share God's love through their creativity and gratitude," stated Rozlyn Cline.

Let us lift our deployed service members in prayer, asking God to surround them with strength, comfort and peace.

Examples of
handmade Christmas
cards produced by
St. Martin's Sunday
School children.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

How can you give your time, talent and treasure to people in our community, throughout Texas, the nation and beyond? St. Martin's collaborates 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.

Be In The Know!

Sign up to receive the monthly Outreach newsletter and discover all the ways you can serve our ministries.

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



KIDS' MEALS – COMMUNITY Fun For The Whole Family!

Tuesdays, April 14, May 5 and June 24 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 WITH ST. MARTIN'S

*Monday, June 15
1-3:30 p.m. · 8790 Hammerly Blvd.,
Houston 77080*

Join your St. Martin friends at Kids' Meals to help prepare and pack free, healthy meals for hungry children in the Houston area. Volunteers age 8+ are welcome (all under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Dress in closed-toed shoes and bring a hairnet or hat.

DESSERT MINISTRY – CHURCH IN THE FIELD

Mondays, April 13, May 11, and June 8

Please sign up to bring 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, April 14, May 12 and June 9
6:30-9 p.m. · Meet in St. Martin's parking lot*

Through this transformative experience, Parishioners and friends minister to homeless people near downtown by serving a meal, and as prayer partners. Volunteers aged 18 and older carpool to the service.

CCSC WORK DAY

*Saturdays, April 25, May 30, and June 27
9 a.m.-noon · Come and Go as needed
3434 Branard St., Houston, 77027*

Volunteers help organize and distribute food and clothing at the Christian Community Service Center. The organization assists the poor, hungry, disabled and needy, providing a back-to-school and Christmas program for low-income children.



AMAZING PLACE SUMMER PARTY

*Tuesday, May 19 · 10 a.m.
3735 Drexel Drive, Houston, TX 77027*

Come join us in celebrating the summer season with our friends at Amazing Place. The organization provides a safe, spiritual, and nurturing program for older adults with mild to moderate Alzheimer's or similar dementia.

OUTREACH SERVE DAY

*Wednesday, June 17 · 10-11:30 a.m.
Student Life Center Main Hall
Children Welcome!*

Please join us to help us prepare a variety of projects associated with the Angel Tree Holiday Project, Houston International Seafarers' Christmas shoebox project, Church in the Field, Agape Development Summer Counselor snack kits and assembling care bags for Elijah Rising.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TRAINING

*Wednesday, June 24
9:30-11 a.m. · Student Life Center Main Hall*

Join the Restoration Team and Gulf Coast Disaster Readiness for an informative session on preparing individuals and families for disasters, and on training to respond to and serve those affected.

To learn more, please contact Courtney Kearns at worldmission@smec.org.



OUTREACH PROJECTS AT HOME!

*Monday-Friday · 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Reception Desk*

Looking for service projects or activities to do at home this summer? Color Kids' Meals bags or Prayer Postcards for our non-profit partners.

Pick up and return completed packets at the reception desk.

OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

SERVE AT WORKFAITH CONNECTION:

Times and Dates Vary
4555 Dacoma St. or Virtual

WorkFaith Connection provides faith-based training and coaching to help individuals achieve long-term employment. This is a meaningful coaching opportunity for volunteers to support numerous roles, including mock interviewers, job application advisors, and graduation celebration participants.

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

VOLUNTEER AT UNDIES FOR EVERYONE

Times and Dates Vary
Second Saturdays and Third Thursdays.

Sign up for a two-hour shift to sort, pack, and label pairs of underwear that will end up in drawers around the country.

To volunteer, 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

Monday through Friday
8 a.m.-noon

St. Martin's needs volunteers to support the organization through meal preparation, meal distribution, mail distribution, organizing the clothing room, trash pick-up outside the building and client service coordinator.

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



WORLD MISSIONS

at St. Martin's Episcopal Church

SOLE HOPE

APRIL SHOE CUTTING AT HOME PROJECT

Sign up Required: www.smec.org/sole-hope
Shoe Parties are an excellent way to make a global impact without leaving Houston. The work involves cutting and preparing fabric uppers from used denim for Sole Hope's Ugandan cobblers to handcraft shoes for vulnerable children. Last year, St. Martin's volunteers cut out over 350 shoe patterns that were shipped to Ugandan cobblers. Pick up kits on Wednesdays, starting at 10 a.m. from the Front Reception Desk.

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



CHAT WITH AMISTAD MISSION CHILDREN

Tuesdays, Apr 14, May 5 and June 16
6 p.m. NEW TIME · Via Zoom

St. Martin's invites you to connect with the children of Casa San Martin and their "mama" at the La Villa orphanage in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The organization that runs this orphanage, Amistad Mission, is a long-time mission partner of St. Martin's.

To join in the fun, email Outreach for the Zoom link: outreach@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

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



MISSION TRIP TO RWANDA

SEPTEMBER 2026

Limited number of spots available

Join St. Martin's as we travel to Rwanda in September to visit our ministry partner, Africa New Life Ministries!

See firsthand their Women's Development Program in Kigali, meet participants and graduates, and visit their main school campus in Kayonza.

Additional activities may include visiting historical museums, visiting rural communities, going on safari and other cultural activities.

For registration details, please contact Courtney Kearns at worldmission@smec.org.



SOLE HOPE DENIM DRIVE

Outreach needs adult-size blue cotton/denim pants. (Stretchy or jeggings-type jeans do not work for this project). For more information about Sole Hope, visit www.solehope.org.

Please drop off these items at the front reception desk, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, contact World Missions, worldmission@smec.org.

Outreach Sunday: A Day of Service

On Sunday, Feb. 8, Parishioners and Clergy expressed their faith in Christ by volunteering at our 16th Annual Outreach Sunday. From 10 to 11 a.m., 250 volunteers of all ages participated in various projects at the Activity Center and the Children's Life Center, serving 3,146 individuals.



The 15 agencies served included
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 for world missions partners
Africa New Life – Activity Kits
Sole Hope – Shoe-pattern Cutting

Thanks to everyone who took part in assembling kits, making goody bags, coloring cards, crocheting prayer shawls and cutting shoe patterns. In 2025, 3,093 Parishioners answered God's call to serve with generosity and compassion. Thank you for sharing your generous hearts and for your commitment to caring for our community and those beyond our city limits.

To find out how you can serve, contact outreach@smec.org.



Feast of Lights and Acolyte Appreciation Dinner

Students in grades 6 through 12 who serve as acolytes were commissioned and recognized for their contributions during the Feast of Lights worship service on Jan. 11. Prior to the 6 p.m. service, the Acolytes and their families enjoyed a celebratory dinner. The Rev. Gregory Cross and the Rev. Alex Graham III, along with our Rector, the Rev. Dane Boston, recognized the young Parishioners for their accomplishments in serving St. Martin's. Rozlyn Cline, Director of Children's Ministry, Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam, Worship Service Coordinator, Madison Vanacore, Student Minister, and Barbara Piana, Verger and Worship Coordinator, helped to recognize the acolytes during the presentations. In total, 78 active acolytes serve St. Martin's throughout the year.



FAITHFUL SERVANTS — On Jan. 11, St. Martin's Master and Senior Acolytes, including those who serve in The Church and in Family Table, were commissioned during the service.



A SERVANT LEADER — St. Martin's Master Acolyte, Aubry Robinson, a senior at St. Agnes Academy, gave a heartfelt testimonial about her faith and how it shaped her life.



APPRECIATION DINNER — The Rev. Lisa Neilson, the Rev. Sharron Cox and Eric Priest, Director of Contemporary Worship, helped to serve supper during the Acolyte Appreciation event.



Some of the acolytes who received a distinguished certificate of appreciation pose with Madison Vanacore, the Rev. Gregory Cross and Barbara Piana after the dinner.



WEDDINGS

OCTOBER 4

Alyssa Leigh Walters and
Eric Richard Priest

OCTOBER 11

Hannah Lingen Cen and
Hayden Richard Fox

OCTOBER 18

Casey Marie Padgett and
Nicholas Bennett McAlister

OCTOBER 25

Norma Kate Langdon and
Brandon Paul Greer

NOVEMBER 15

Meagan Elizabeth O'Shaughnessy
and Luis Francisco Alonzo

NOVEMBER 22

Brindley Elizabeth Mize and
Thomas Custis Green

JANUARY 10

Kelli Denise Llewellyn and
Tanner Aubrey KinCannon

JANUARY 31

Erika Caroline Wilcox and
James David Petri



BIRTHS

OCTOBER 1

Henry Hallam Wooldridge
Son of Meredith and John Wooldridge, Jr.
Grandson of Ann and John Wooldridge
Great-grandson of Marjorie Johnson

OCTOBER 2

Charles Harvin Martins
Son of Emily and Ben Martins
Grandson of Lyl and Andy Harvin
Grandson of Michele Martins

OCTOBER 4

Price William Robinson
Son of Meagan and Duncan Robinson
Grandson of Debbie Brown Robinson

OCTOBER 24

Whit James Petruzzello
Son of Clare and Gage Petruzzello

OCTOBER 26

Elliott Holmes Sachs
Son of Isabel and Dave Sachs
Grandson of Ruth and John Holmes

NOVEMBER 6

Marjorie Mae Wooldridge
Daughter of Mary Carolyn and
Raleigh Wooldridge
Granddaughter of Ann and John Wooldridge
Great Granddaughter of Marjorie Johnson

NOVEMBER 10

Liles Bonner Baker
Daughter of Brittany and Coalter Baker
Granddaughter of John Baker
Great Granddaughter of Susan and James
Baker, III

NOVEMBER 15

Mary Grace Summers Pipkin
Daughter of Lila and Thomas Pipkin

DECEMBER 1

Rosemary "Rosie" McIlhenny Gibbs
Daughter of Aly and Tracy Gibbs

DECEMBER 2

Isla Austen Ward
Daughter of Anabelle and Ryan Ward
Granddaughter of Sheri and Wayne Gross,
Michael Reade and Claire Ward

DECEMBER 5

Campbell Davis Mayfield
Son of Claire and Michael Mayfield
Grandson of Sheila and Tad Mayfield
and Carolyn and Orion Campbell

DECEMBER 23

Natalie Hazel Watson
Daughter of Katie and John Watson



BAPTISMS

OCTOBER 11

Robert Alexander Blasio
Madeline Carlyle Brann
Morgan Lee Brann
Annabelle Elliott Franz
James Earl Tilson

NOVEMBER 2

Mya Samantha Allen
Natalia Nicole Ayala
Brimmer Antoinette Bradley
Catherine Clara Cole
Henry Coskey Cole
Rosemary Shepard Noe
Charlotte Stacey
Evelyn Stacey
Cullen Taggart Waterman

NOVEMBER 23

Hannah Lee Arning
Charles Barrett Monday IV
Millie Lahiere Monday
Sterling Collins O'Meara
Westley David Wright

DECEMBER 21

Claire Athena Donnelly

JANUARY 17

Miller Marie Green
Luke Doggett Schramm
Blair Tyler Spinks

JANUARY 24

Cameron Michelle Evans
Margot Brooks Riddick
Alexander James Turner
Andrew Louis Turner

JANUARY 31

Goldie Vivienne Grichor
Henry Hallam Wooldridge
Mary Elizabeth Wright



NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Katrina Adlerz | Lanie Holdsworth |
| Kate Adriaenssens | Thomas Holdsworth |
| Coalter Baker, Jr. | Christina Horsman |
| Debby Boston | Don Horsman |
| Ella Boston | Isla Jornayvaz |
| Fritz Boston | Betty Leigh |
| Myles Boston | Dianna Liu |
| Ruthie Boston | Claire Mayfield |
| Anne Bradley | Jesse Melendrez |
| Clover Bradley | Frank Merkle |
| Lauren Brady | Leslie Morrison Vuyk |
| Rose Cardenas | Eddie Joe Noonan II |
| Manuel Carrera | Haley Noonan |
| Cheryl Culifer | Kinsey Oliver |
| Chris Culifer | Nnedinma Onyegbula |
| Alex Donnelly | Hilary Orr Francis |
| Eric Donnelly | Josh Richards |
| Alan Floring | Filemon Tan, Jr. |
| Nancy Floring | Ryan von Dohlen |
| Gwynn Francis | Emily Willingham |
| Kerner Francis | Richard Willingham III |
| Lake Francis | Alice Yerkovich |
| Philip Francis | Charlotte Yerkovich |
| Allie Harvin | Louise Yerkovich |
| Sheri Harvin | Margaret Yerkovich |



SYMPATHY

- SEPTEMBER 21**
Charles Edward Houston, Jr.
- OCTOBER 13**
Nancy Scott Liles
- OCTOBER 14**
Betty Templeton Adkins-Gilliam
- OCTOBER 18**
Ruth Laverne Houston
- NOVEMBER 5**
Anita Moore Doyle
- NOVEMBER 12**
Mary Ellen Thanheiser Finnegan
- NOVEMBER 25**
Andrew Robert Clarkson
Gretchen Frye Bruce McClenny
- DECEMBER 8**
Carrie May Robertson Allen
- DECEMBER 10**
George Ellis Mims
- DECEMBER 13**
Dan Hodges Montgomery
- DECEMBER 15**
Carla Ransleben Clayton
- DECEMBER 17**
Betty Jean Randal Shindler
- DECEMBER 24**
Donna Jeanne Stanley Taylor
- DECEMBER 25**
Sandra Dunnam Justice
- JANUARY 25**
Robert "Bob" Wirt Paddock
- JANUARY 31**
Valeria Ann Jackson Oualline



CAFE
ST. MARTIN'S

GATHER. EAT. ENJOY!

Café St. Martin's is open daily

LUNCH
Monday through Thursday
11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

BREAKFAST
Wednesdays
7–8 a.m.

Come by and choose from delicious hot meals made fresh daily by our Café team. Enjoy salad and potato bars, soup of the day and a sandwich station. For those on the go, you'll find convenient grab-and-go options and a variety of snacks, drinks and desserts.

Visit smec.org/cafe to view the weekly menu.



Annual Parish Meeting Highlights Growth, Gratitude and Faithfulness

On Sunday, Feb. 1, Bagby Parish Hall was filled to capacity as Parishioners, Clergy and Staff gathered to celebrate milestones, honor dedicated leadership and give thanks for the generosity and faithfulness of the St. Martin's community.

Senior Warden Sherrie Perkins recounted milestones during her year of leadership, noting, "This past year has provided so many experiences: innumerable joys, more than a few challenges, and even some unimaginable sorrows."

Among the joyful milestones of 2025, Perkins shared: "We offered a joyful welcome for the Boston family that included splendid worship and music, an Ordination (the Rev. Gregory Cross), an Installation service (the Rev. Dane E. Boston) and an amazing Joy of Giving Market." She also acknowledged financial and pastoral challenges, including budget shortfalls, building-related debt and the sorrow caused by the Texas Hill Country floods."

Reflecting on the Parish's response to calls to action, she said, "... we have remained a people of prayer (and) I am so very thankful to have had this front row seat of seeing God at work in our Church. You have been a faithful, generous Parish with your time, talent and treasure."

The Rev. Dane E. Boston offered words of gratitude and reflection, particularly for leadership during a year of transition. He thanked Sherrie Perkins for her "gift of self-sacrifice and service to step into the role of Senior Warden and thanked her for her "good sense of humor, her patience, joy, energy and her faithfulness."

He also praised Junior Warden Logan Walters, "a thoughtful, incisive and decisive leader, ... someone whose role ... overseeing the physical structures (of the 14.25-acre Campus), the 'Growing Together' and the 2026 Stewardship campaigns, helped to maintain an incredible legacy with which we have been blessed."

The Rector acknowledged those completing their terms, continuing and new Vestry members, Wardens and committee members and chairs. Turning to the Parish's ongoing mission, he emphasized the importance of stewardship, stating: "Our Stewardship effort must remain front and center of mind in this gathering of business." To reinforce this message, the Stewardship 2026 video featuring Parishioner testimonials was played.

The Rev. Boston concluded by affirming St. Martin's shared calling: "I give thanks to God for the privilege of serving you in this role as your Rector. St. Martin's is a unique place. It is singular in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion.

"... God, in His wisdom, has chosen and has called us to serve not simply our local Parish but the Gospel throughout the world. We are the largest Parish in the Episcopal Church and our membership grew this past year. I don't have a particular investment in us being the largest Parish in the Episcopal Church. I want us to be known as the most faithful."



73RD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING — At St. Martin's 2026 Annual Parish Meeting, both Senior Warden Sherrie Perkins and Fifth Rector, the Rev. Dane E. Boston, reflected on a year marked by joys, challenges and growth. Parishioners, Clergy and Staff gathered to celebrate milestones, honor dedicated leadership and give thanks for the generosity and faithfulness of the St. Martin's community.



RECOGNITIONS — Senior Warden Sherrie Perkins opened the Annual Parish Meeting, reflecting on her year of leadership and thanked the assembled for their support throughout 2025.



THE RECTOR'S REPORT — The Rev. Dane E. Boston thanked Parish leaders for their faithful service and dedication, including retiring Vestry members, new Wardens, Officers and Vestry nominees for 2026. He also recognized other Parish leaders seated behind the podium.



VESTRY RECOGNITION — The Rev. Dane Boston recognized Vestry nominees and their spouses. From left are Samantha Hutchison, David Jones and his wife, Pat, James Williams and his wife, Ebony, Greta Zimmerman and her husband, Chuck. Not present was the fifth nominee, David Kinder.



- 2025 STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS -
LISA AND BOB HESTON -

Celebrating Their Decades of Service at St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Bob and Lisa Heston, recipients of the 2025 Star Award, have devoted more than 30 years to serving their Parish community. Reflecting on the honor, Bob Heston said, "Receiving the Star Award was a shock to both of us. We had seen so many 'Star' families before us who really did a lot for St. Martin's. We honestly never stopped to think about being rewarded for what has become a way of life."

The couple's journey began when they moved to the Tanglewood neighborhood and Lisa suggested they try St. Martin's Episcopal Church, which was within walking distance of their home. "We were just beginning our Christian adventure together; although I was a lifelong Episcopalian, neither of us grew up in what you might call a church household," Bob recollected. It was under the leadership of the Rev. Laurence Gipson, Third Rector of St. Martin's, that their faith deepened.

"Church really became a place to get in touch with Jesus through the Bible." The Hestons became engaged in small-group Bible studies and developed relationships with Clergy members. "The two young ministers Larry brought — Stuart Bates and Marty Bastian (now Vice Rector) became our two closest Clergy friends," Bob noted.

As their spiritual foundation grew, they found that it helped to shape their children's lives. "When our children came along, it was natural to stay at St. Martin's," said Bob. "Their friends were there and the services were very welcoming. We taught Sunday School when they were growing up. We needed our children to see us engaged in Church," he affirmed. "Being on the same page as parents in this difficult world is essential. And being on the same page with God, Jesus, and the Church's role in our lives is critical."



The Rev. Dane Boston presented Lisa and Bob Heston the Star award at the annual Parish Meeting Jan. 25, 2026.



Bob and Lisa Heston with their daughter-in-law, Maggie, and son, Bobby, after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Answering the Call to Serve

Inspired by the Clergy and each other, the couple embraced service in multiple ministries. Bob noted: “(The Rev.) Larry Gipson’s ‘Men of St. Martin’s’ program was a huge inspiration ... showing me what a Christian man should do in his life and what responsibilities he has to his wife and children.” Lisa and Bob served faithfully in numerous capacities, including the Rector Search Prayer Committee, Master Planning Committee and the Outreach Grant Discernment Committee. Lisa served in leadership roles with the Episcopal Church Women, the Christian Life Study, the Altar Guild, the Vestry and the Missions Committees. “Whether as a group member or small group leader, I have deepened my relationship with Jesus through the study of Scripture as well as through fellowship with other women,” she stated.

Bob found fulfillment through serving on the Vestry in several leadership positions and stewardship initiatives, including the Building for the Ages capital campaign. “Being the senior Warden ... I began to think more and more about what we are all called to do in Stewardship.”

Serving Outreach ministries through St. Martin’s has also been central to their faith in action. Lisa shared that “Outreach has helped me to fulfill our Biblical calling to serve in ways that we would have never become involved in without the way being made for us by the Outreach Ministries team.

She mentored teenagers through “ReVision Houston” — a nonprofit organization that breaks the cycle of juvenile justice involvement and homelessness for youth aged 10-24 — while Bob coached them in softball

and taught Bible studies. “The best moment was last Christmas when one of the boys, now grown, sent me a video while he walked through the house he had just purchased. ... I literally teared up,” she recalled. “Once our hearts were set on fire with the Word of God, St. Martin’s became a place to do more than just go to Church,” Bob stated.

Joining a Legacy of Service

On the Star Award, they reflected on joining a legacy of devoted Parishioners. “Receiving the Star award was a shock to both of us. It is such an honor to have received this award, knowing how many families have received it before us and how much they have done to make St. Martin’s what it is,” stated Lisa. “We are grateful to Dane Boston, who is enthusiastically leading many volunteers and leaders,” added Bob. “(He’s) ensuring St. Martin’s stays easy to be involved in and to learn and embrace the Word of God.”

Looking back, the couple says that their service has been a source of joy and fulfillment. “We have loved every opportunity to serve, to grow in faith and to walk alongside so many wonderful people,” said Bob. “We are grateful for the Parish, Clergy, and our fellow volunteers who have made this journey so meaningful,” Lisa affirmed.

Their decades of dedication stand as a shining example of faith, stewardship and joy in service. “Serving here has filled our hearts and given us countless reasons to rejoice,” said Lisa. “We are grateful to the Rev. J. Thomas Bagby for all he insisted on and all those early leaders for taking the leap of faith to build this place,” Bob added.

The Star Award was begun as a way for the Parish to thank those who have gone “above and beyond” on behalf of St. Martin’s.

1994 Howard T. Tellepsen Lee W. Hogan	2001 William C. Harvin	2008 President George H.W. Bush First Lady Barbara Bush	2013 Tom L. Hail Edith E. Hail	2017 Buford Thomas Miller Mary Miller	2022 William C. Blackstone Lamar S. Hall William T. Miller Leslie Miller Ann M. Moss
1995 Richard H. Barker	2002 Lorne D. Bain	2009 W. K. McGee, Jr.	2014 Sandy Wilkens Richard B. Wilkens	2018 Anna A. McLean Scott J. McLean	2023 Michelle Bain The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr. Pamela Z. Bentley The Rev. Nicolas R.D. Dyke The Rev. Richard H. Elwood Lyl C. Harvin Andrew R. Harvin
1996 Milton B. McGinty	2003 William O. Swift, Jr.	2010 Candace McCoin June Tellepsen The Honorable James A. Baker, III Susan G. Baker	2015 The Rev. James E. Cunningham John L. Gillette	2019 Wylie Bernard Pieper Adele Pieper	2020 No Star Award for 2020 due to Covid Pandemic and no Annual Meeting
1997 Earl L. Lester, Jr.	2004 David T. Harvin Sally H. Harvin	2011 Janie Putman Frank M. Putman	2016 The Rev. Cannon B. Massey Gentry Barbara S. Patton John J. Patton Pamela Z. Barineau John N. Barineau III Lynn Campbell Bonham	2021 Susan Lawhon Padon Kathy A. Tellepsen Tom Tellepsen II	2024 No Star Award due to Rector’s Retirement
1998 Neal O. Wade, Jr.	2005 Charles C. Kraft Barbara G. Kraft	2012 Arlen G. Ferguson Gayle V. Ferguson			2025 Lisa T. Heston Robert L. Heston, Jr.
1999 George Sealy III	2006 John W. Hunnell Lee Hunnell				
2000 Flo McGee John B. Brock III	2007 Alfred H. Ebert Katherine F. Ebert				

Shrove Tuesday Family Fun!

On Feb. 17, St. Martin's Parish came together for a joyful and lively Shrove Tuesday celebration, filling the evening with laughter, fellowship and festive spirit. Members of the Vestry welcomed guests and served a traditional pancake dinner, complemented by a flavorful Louisiana twist of red beans and rice. Parishioners of all ages donned colorful beads, boas and hats and enjoyed the fellowship, games and dancing. As is tradition on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the solemn season of Lent begins, guests feasted on foods that may be given up during Lent, including sweet desserts and a King Cake. The evening culminated in a spirited "second line" procession, led by the Rev. Gregory Cross and Kathy Johnson, with Parishioners and our Rector, the Rev. Dane Boston and his children, following along in song and dance.



Ash Wednesday at St. Martin's

On the first day of Lent, Parishioners filled The Church for Ash Wednesday morning, noon and evening services. This sacred day is marked by the imposition of ashes and the solemn reminder, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On Wednesday, Feb. 18, Clergy members imposed ashes on the foreheads of Parishioners at the 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. traditional services as well as at the 5:30 p.m. Family Imposition service outside the Parish Life Center. Throughout the day, members of St. Martin's community gathered in prayer and reflection, beginning the Lenten journey together with reverence and devotion.



Recognizing St. Martin's Scouts

Members and leaders of Scout Troop 354 participated in the St. Martin's Scout Sunday worship service on February 2 at the 9 a.m. Traditional service in The Church. This meaningful annual tradition honors Scouts and their leaders and includes a Scripture reading by a Scout, along with a reflection this year by Senior Scout Graham Erwin of The Kinkaid School, who shared insights from his Scouting journey.

Sponsored by St. Martin's, Troop 354 has helped shape generations of young men with more than 200 achieving the rank of Eagle Scout since 1954.

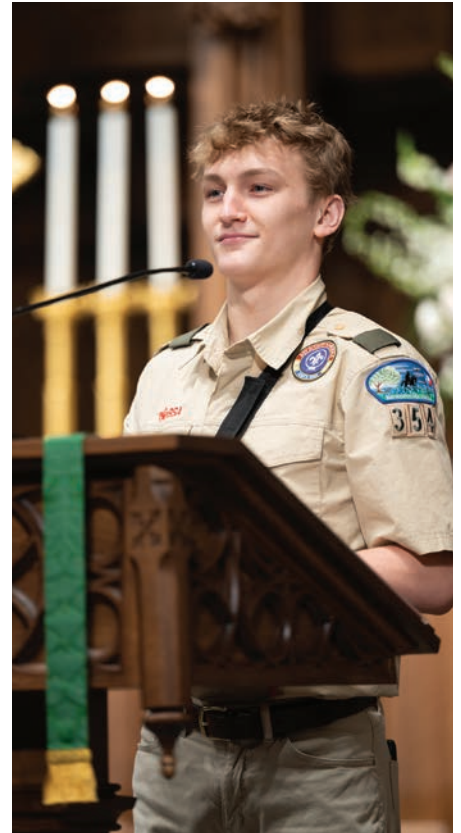
SCOUT TROOP 354

Meets Mondays

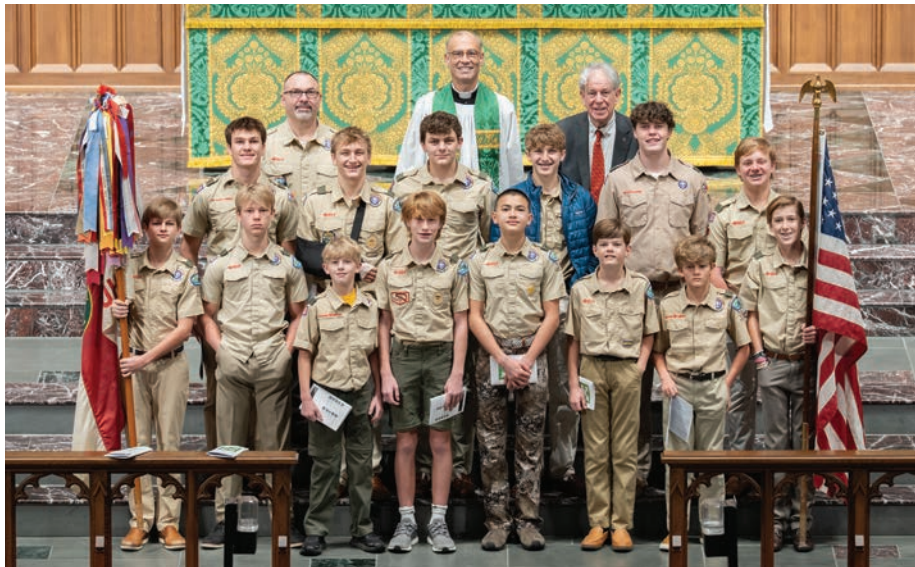
7:30 p.m. · Scout Center

Scoutmasters: Andy Shagory and Stan Stratton
Former Scoutmaster and active leader: Casey Brown
Chartered Organization Representative:
Judge Walter Schroeder

For more information, contact the Rev. Alex D. Graham III at agraham@smec.org or Andy Shagory at andyshagory@gmail.com.



Graham Erwin recounts how the Scouting Experience has molded his service.



HONOR AND DUTY — Troop 354 scouts and scoutmaster Dr. Howard Pryor and Judge Walter Schroeder pose with the Rev. Alex Graham III before the worship service.



James Villa, Star Scout, reads from Isaiah 58:1-12.



Transforming Lives. Restoring Hope.

Founded in 2011 by members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church — and located on the Church Campus adjacent to the Student Life Center — the Hope Healing Center & Institute offers free mental health care through education, training, clinical services, and compassionate support for individuals and families across Houston.

Call our front desk at 713-830-4141 for more information on how to help yourself or a loved one.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 @ 5 PM - 6 PM
Available In-Person Only
Light bites and refreshments to be served

You are Invited! In Person

OPEN HOUSE
Hope & Healing in Action

Contact our Event Specialist Catie Watso at cwatso@hhci.org | Direct (346) 335-8622

Speaker: Matthew S. Stanford Ph.D.
HHCI Chief Executive Officer



DISCOVER HOPE AND HEALING CENTER & INSTITUTE'S OFFERINGS TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH.

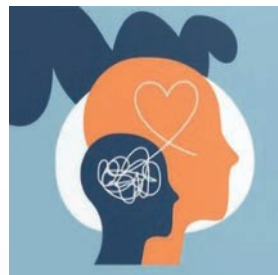
Open House · Tuesday, May 5 · 5-6 p.m.

Hope and Healing Center & Institute

Free Event!

Step inside a space where compassion meets care. Join us as we open our doors to the community and share how Hope and Healing Center & Institute is transforming lives through faith-based mental health support, education and healing. Come meet our team, explore our space and see hope in action.

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



THE NEUROSCIENCE BEHIND BEHAVIORAL ADDICTIONS

Thursday, May 21 · 12-1 p.m.

Register for this virtual event at <https://bit.ly/3OiPGot>.

Explore the connection between various behavioral addictions, brain function and mental health. Participants will learn how certain behaviors — such as compulsive technology use, gambling, shopping or gaming can alter brain processes and reinforce addictive patterns.

Contact Tanya Melendez, Community Education Manager at tmelendez@hhci.org or call (346) 335-8615 for more information.

Remembering and Honoring Loved Ones and Friends

Making a gift to Saint Martin's Endowment is a meaningful way to remember or honor loved ones. The funds in the Endowment can be designated as you wish, whether for special needs within St. Martin's Episcopal Church or for needs outside the Church. Gifts to the Endowment made in memory of loved ones who have passed away, in honor of someone, or for other reasons are excellent ways to help ensure that the heritage of St. Martin's will endure. 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 Sept. 27 through Dec. 31, 2025.

MEMORIALS

To the Altar Flower Fund in Memory of:

Jon Lamkin
by Lynn Lamkin

To the Altar Guild Fund in Memory of:

Patricia Pinson Lind
by Lamar and Warren Hall
Susan and Antone Peterson
Toni A. and Paul K. Piper

To the Building For The Ages Fund in Memory of:

Floyd Ames Smith, Sr.
by Sally Bell Rutherford

To the Campus Beautification Fund in Memory of:

Patricia Pinson Lind
by Mary Lehr

To the Endowment Inreach Fund in Memory of:

Sharon King Aldrich
by Harley King
Andrew Robert Clarkson
by Sande and Dwight Lyman
Joseph Thomson
William Taylor Evans
by Altar Guild Group One
Sande and Dwight Lyman
Daisy Quayle
Louise Ratz
Gayle Virginia Tate Ferguson
by Daisy Quayle
Mary Ellen Thanheiser Finnegan
by Debbie Robinson
Joseph Thomson

Frank Xavier Gruen
by Mary and Will Williams
Sandy Justice
by Marilyn and Bolivar Andrews
James "Jim" Kirkland
by Altar Guild Group VI
Nancy Scott Liles
by Anne W. Schwinger
Patricia Pinson Lind
by Minnie Cappel
Gretchen F. McClenny
by Helen Holdsworth
Dan Hodges Montgomery
by Amanda and Richard Hellmann
Jane Joplin
Sande and Dwight Lyman
Pene Moore
Mary and Will Williams
Tobin Scott O'Donnell
by Laurie and Paul Tyler
Patricia and Michael Vairin
John Patrick Scott
by Joan and David Dunlap
Martha Jane Arnold Touchstone
by Anne and Tio Suman
James Wilson Wooten
by Joan and David Dunlap

To the Endowment Outreach Fund in Memory of:

Maurine Linquist Alfrey
by Jodie and Jeff Holstien
Bonnie Davis
by Michael Donaldson
William Taylor Evans
by Jodie and Jeff Holstien
Kaylon and James Phillips
Ellen and Charles Sheedy
Frank Xavier Gruen
by Julie and Casey Doherty
Kathy and Dan Ellwood

Anca Loghin
Kaylon and James Phillips
Patricia Pinson Lind
by Peggy and Rick Ealand
Jody McCauley
Dan Hodges Montgomery
by Waverly Gage

To the Endowment Unrestricted Fund in Memory of:

Carrie Robertson Allen
by Susan and Antone Peterson
Carol Bollard
by Mary Hale McLean
Lynn Byrd
by Michael Sadler
Georgia K. Clarke
by Douglas Clarke
Andrew Robert Clarkson
by Joe Bailey
Tricia and Richard Nelson
Cynthia and Fisher Trigg
Henry Clay Dean
by Peggy Roe
Anita Moore Doyle
by Franna and Ted Litton
Mary Hale McLean
Sally Bell Rutherford
Cynthia and Fisher Trigg
Trinity Episcopal School
Betty Templeton Adkins Gilliam
by Agatha and Erich J. Brann
Bitsey Hail
Bonnie Ely Hibbert
by Anna and Scott McLean
Tricia and Richard Nelson
John Burnham Holstead III
by Marilyn and Bolivar Andrews
Sandy Justice
by Mary Hale McLean

Nancy Scott Liles
by Ashley and Al Pratkan
Gretchen F. McClenny
by Nancy and Larry Dorr
Sarah Duckers
Lance Clark McFaddin
by Anne McFaddin
Edward Louis Moses, Jr.
by Allison and Walker Kimball
Tobin Scott O'Donnell
by Sheering and Paul McConnell
Janet and Ken O'Donnell, Sr.
Robert "Bob" Wirt Paddock
by Susan and Antone Peterson
Eliza Lovett Randall
by Flo Crady
Isla C. Reckling
Martha Jane Arnold Touchstone
by Marion Gist
Chris Trail

To the General Fund in Memory of:

Andrew Robert Clarkson
by Ginya and Clayton Trier
Monty L. Harrell
by Sheryl Harrell

To the Joy of Giving Market Fund in Memory of:

Katherine Schultz
by Education For Ministry 2025 Group

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

William Taylor Evans
by Helen and Joe Allen
Sissy Boyd
Jenny and Allen Craig
Deborah Simon and Brooke Barit
Carol and George Dehan
Peggy and Rick Ealand
G.M. Rowe III and Family
Nancy and John Kritser
Jan and Ellis Ramsey
Jeanie and Collis Sanders
Mary and Harry Smith
Martha Smith
Bette and Ralph Thomas
Cynthia and Fisher Trigg
James A. Ullrich
Ann and John Wooldridge

To the Outreach Ministries Fund in Memory of:

William Taylor Evans
by Karen and Richard Ethun
Betty Templeton Adkins Gilliam
by Sally Bell Rutherford
Dan Hodges Montgomery
by Cynthia and John Adkins
Minnie and Ed Cappel
Jence and Craig Childers
Julie Harrell
Ronnie Martin
Liz and Larry O'Neill
Reagan Rives
Sally Bell Rutherford
Sally Schneider
Judy and Bobby Shackouls
Caryn and Graham Tebbe
Ann and Ronald Williams
Jim Wise
Pinckney Franklin Steed, Jr.
by Melvin Hildebrandt
Kate and Wayne Wetzell

To the Serenity Garden Fund in Memory of:

Elizabeth Williams Dwyer
by Alexander Dwyer
Casey Hedges

To the St. Martin's Preschool Fund in Memory of:

Mary Kathryn "Mary Kate" Jacobe
by Anne and Ricky Wolfcan

To the Hope and Healing Center & Institute Fund in Memory of:

Mark Thomas Gholson
by Ellen Brown
Mollie Ward Hill
by Linda Levine

To the Wayside Chapel Fund in Memory of:

Andrew Robert Clarkson
by Julie and Casey Doherty
Eliza Lovett Randall
by Margene Lloyd
William Taylor Evans
Dan Hodges Montgomery
Dan Moody
James A. "Jimmy" Ray
by Tellepsen Family

HONORARIUMS

To the Building For The Ages Fund in Honor of:

Margaret Smith
by Sally Bell Rutherford

To the Endowment Inreach Fund in Honor of:

Grace Moore
by Cassie Cloud
The Adam Group
Pam and John Barineau
The Rev. Martin J. Bastian
Bridget and Van Burkhardt
Pete Seale and Chalon Fontaine
Julia and George Hancock
Flo McGee and Wade Upton
by Barbara and Charles Kraft
The Adam Group
by John Patton

To the Endowment Outreach Fund in Honor of:

Margaret and Robert Baze
by Ben Baze

To the Endowment Unrestricted Fund in Honor of:

Dr. and Mrs. Russell Randall Grace
by Sarah Olin Grace
William Shappley
by Susan and Trip Hadad
Susan and Reed Tinsley

To the Outreach Ministries Fund in Honor of:

Susan and Jim Carr
by Mary L. Campbell

To the Wayside Chapel Fund in Honor of:

Barbara Shoemaker
by Julie Doherty
Rev. Dane E. Boston
by Tellepsen Family

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 reihakam@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.

DECEMBER 7

In memory of Chase Gardner by Anne and Jim Gardner and family

DECEMBER 14

In memory of Hazel Spurgeon Bell and Julian Bell Hoffer by Sally Bell Rutherford

DECEMBER 21

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Claire Athena Donnelly by her parents and godparents

In memory of Mary Kate Jacobe by Nina Jacobe

DECEMBER 28

In thanksgiving for Jennifer, Ron, Parker and Larson Jones and Sara, Brandon and Bradley Stelleges by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Barnes

In thanksgiving for Margaret and Jim Hutton on their birthdays by the family, Heather and Jeff Namendorf

In memory of Kathryn and Dr. Benjamin F. Barnes and Ruth and the Rev. Robert G. Dickson by Mr. and Mrs. Rod Barnes

In memory of Jane and Marvin Moreland by Robert, Imma, Ana and Jamie Moreland

JANUARY 4

In thanksgiving for the birth of Natalie Hazel Watson by her parents, Katie and John Watson

In memory of Beth Costa's birthday by Meg Costa and Sue Smith

In memory of Victoria May and Gerald Thomas Westbrook by their loving children, Brenda, Brent and Laura

JANUARY 11

On the occasion of their marriage by Kelli Denise Llewellyn and Tanner Aubrey KinCannon

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Matthew S. C. Olver

In thanksgiving for St. Martin's Acolytes

JANUARY 18

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Jared Osborn

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Miller Marie Green by Caroline and Harris Green

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Luke Doggett Schramm by Amy and Payton Schramm

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Blair Tyler Spinks by her parents, Chandler and Trey Spinks

JANUARY 25

In thanksgiving for the installation of our Rector, the Rev. Dane E. Boston

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Cameron Michelle Evans by Samantha and Cody Evans

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Margot Brooks Riddick by Maddison and Hunter Riddick

In thanksgiving for the baptisms of Alex and Andrew Turner by Christine and Josh Turner

In thanksgiving for the twelfth birthdays of Anneliese and Carsten by Meredith and Dean Huffman

FEBRUARY 1

On the occasion of the Installation of the Rev. Dane E. Boston by the Transition Committee and the Vestry of St. Martin's Episcopal Church

On the occasion of their wedding by Erika Caroline Wilcox and James David Petri

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Henry Hallam "Hal" Wooldridge by Meredith and John Wooldridge

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Mary Elizabeth Wright by Jenna and Michael Wright

FEBRUARY 8

On the occasion of their marriage by Leah Michele Stivala and Joseph Robert Sitzman

In thanksgiving for the baptism of William Daniel Hughes IV by Analise and William Hughes

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Charles Matthew Melody by Emma and John Melody

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Elliott Holmes Sachs by Isabel and Dave Sachs

In thanksgiving for the birthday of Lee Evans by the Sanders and Sharman families

In thanksgiving for all our Scouts and those who work with them

FEBRUARY 15

On the occasion of their marriage by Karen Elaine Blake and Jon Kevin Sellars

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Thomas Walker Burke IV by Margaret and Thomas Burke

In thanksgiving for the Rev. Gregory Cross by Ricki and Bill Henry

In loving memory of Mary Stuart McHenry Baker by James A. Baker, III; James A. Baker, IV; Stuart McHenry Baker; John Coalter Baker; and Douglas Bland Baker





A Staff of Devotion: Honoring Service Through Craft

Through a handcrafted virge, the Rev. John Bentley honors years of quiet service and devotion.

Just before the installation service of the Rev. Dane Boston as St. Martin's Fifth Rector on Jan. 21, 2026, a quiet and meaningful moment unfolded in The Church Narthex: the Rev. John Bentley presented a handcrafted virge — a ceremonial staff — to Barbara Piana, St. Martin's Verger and Worship Coordinator. The gift, a blend of craftsmanship and tradition, reflects the Rev. Bentley's love of Episcopal custom and symbolizes his devotion and care for the Parish's worship life. Completely unexpected, the presentation caught Piana by surprise, leaving her deeply moved as she prepared to lead the procession into The Church.

"It was a huge surprise when Fr. Bentley presented it to me the night before the installation," she recalled. "Serving alongside him has been a gift. When I first became Worship Coordinator at St. Martin's 18 years ago, Fr. Bentley was my go-to priest with questions about how St. Martin's handled worship. I admire him and his wife, Pam, for being the example of what it means to serve and support your Church."

For the Rev. Bentley, the decision to handcraft the virge was deeply personal. "I wanted it to reflect the style and decoration of St. Martin's. The virges available for sale are beautiful but somewhat generic," he explained. "After more than 20 years entering The Church behind our beautiful Processional Cross, it felt appropriate to make a small cross in a similar style for the virge."

This is the second virge the Rev. Bentley has made. His first was crafted for Walter L.G. Mace, a lay volunteer at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, with whom the Rev. Bentley served during a 1988 pilgrimage to England. "The experience on that pilgrimage,

culminating in a procession led by the Verger of Canterbury Cathedral, inspired me to honor those who quietly serve in worship." The Rev. Bentley honored Mace's service as acolyte master, lay reader trainer, and worship coordinator by naming him Verger and made a virge to thank him for his service.

For St. Martin's virge, the Rev. Bentley chose red oak for its beauty and durability, carefully shaping and painting the piece over 10 to 12 hours across two weeks. He took photos of the Processional Cross, used the one he believed best suited his plan and traced the outline onto the piece of red oak he had chosen.

"The most challenging part was mirroring the gentle curves at the ends of the arms and the center of the Processional Cross," he stated. Using a rotary Dremel tool with a circular sander bit "proved to be just what was needed," he noted. "The final challenge was to find the appropriate color of paint to closely mimic the color of the Processional Cross." He found satisfactory results by using two different spray paints.

Barbara Piana reflected on how the virge enriches her own ministry. "I am humbled to be named the first Verger at St. Martin's. Leading the procession on Sundays and other important services has helped me appreciate the traditions of our liturgical practices. Parishioners notice, and those unfamiliar often ask about it — it opens a moment to share the meaning behind our worship," she said.

Ultimately, the virge is more than a gift to one person. It is a symbol for St. Martin's and an expression of faithful service and the beauty of worship shaped by many hands across generations.



LEADING THE PROCESSION — Barbara Piana carries the newly crafted virge for the first time during the Installation Service of the Rev. Dane E. Boston on Jan. 21.



Barbara Piana and the Rev. John Bentley pose before the 9 a.m. Traditional service procession as she carries the handcrafted virge symbolizing faithful service in worship.

THE STAR

Volume 40, Issue 2, April 2026
© 2026 St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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. Reservations are required at www.smec.org/membership.

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.