

# THE STAR

06

Celebrating its Fifth Year

Riverway Contemporary service  
weaves art, music and community.

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026



*Summer & Early Fall*  
at St. Martin's

St. Martin's celebrates the first Sunday of American Independence in 1776 with a historic service and liturgy.



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 the contact listed for each event with 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.

## PHONE NUMBERS

Office	713-621-3040
Activity Center	713-621-8625
Café St. Martin's	713-985-3806
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	713-830-4117
Visitor Information	713-985-3834

Additional phone numbers and email addresses are at: [www.smec.org](http://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.



## Christ's Parables – The Prodigal Son

This pane, part of stained-glass Window 34, depicts six parables of Christ from Luke's Gospel. The parable recounts the Story of the Lost Son (15:11-32) in which a father's two sons both reject him in different ways: the younger by demanding and squandering his inheritance, while the older refuses to celebrate his brother's return out of jealousy. The father, representing God's unconditional love, runs to welcome the younger son with a lavish feast, which angers the eldest son. The father begs his oldest to celebrate and rejoice that his brother has been found, to forgive and love.

*“And he said unto him, ‘Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.’”*

*Luke 15:31-32 KJV*

Window 34 is the third window along the west (right) side of The Church from the back. Pane 34B is the top-right pane.

Stained-glass window directory cards are located in the pews.

### ON THE COVER:

Surrounded by his family, 3-year-old Henry Coskey Cole is welcomed into the Body of Christ as the Rev. Martin J. Bastian officiates his baptism on Nov. 2, 2025, during the Riverway service in the Parish Life Center.

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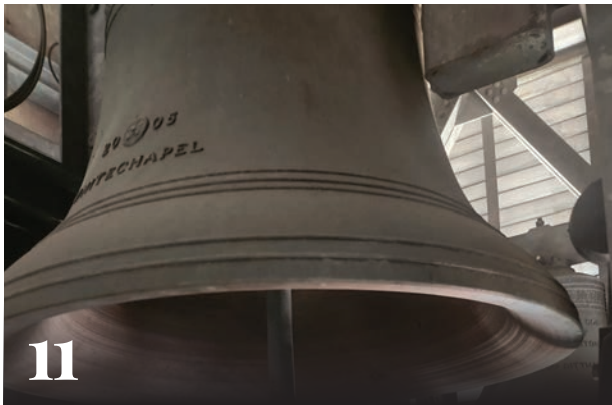
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## 06 Riverway Celebrates Five Years

Discover how Riverway has woven art, music and poetry into its liturgical life to build a warm and welcoming community since this distinctive service launched in August 2021.



## 11 After the Silence, the Bells Ring On!

After nearly nine months of silence, the beloved bells of St. Martin's ring out once again. Discover the journey to bring the timed peals back through months of specialized work.



## 31 From Lent to Alleluia!

Enriched by guest teachers and visiting Clergy throughout the Lenten season, St. Martin's carried that spirit of renewal into Holy Week — and the joyful celebration of Christ's Resurrection, on Easter Sunday.

# A Weekend of Remembrance

*St. Martin's prepares to mark both the 250th anniversary of American independence and the first anniversary of the Hill Country floods with worship rooted in remembrance.*

The word “anniversary” comes to us from the combination of the Latin words *annus*, which means “year,” and *versus*, which means “turning” or “turned.” An anniversary is simply the return, every 365 days, of a meaningful date. Originally used in the Church to refer to the annual remembrance of saints’ days, we now use the word “anniversary” colloquially to mark each complete turn of the year from significant moments in our lives. Anniversaries can be joyful, like wedding anniversaries, birthdays, or the day we started a new job. (My family and I will celebrate one year here in Houston on Aug. 1, 2026, which also happens to be the date that Debby and I will celebrate our seventeenth wedding anniversary!) And anniversaries can be sorrowful, like the commemoration of a national tragedy or the annual reminder of the day we lost someone we love.

This summer, one single date marks the anniversary of two profoundly meaningful, profoundly different events in our common life. This weekend, we will join with all Americans to mark with joy and gratitude the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This extraordinary milestone in our nation’s history is cause for us to give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings He has bestowed on our land and to renew our commitment to the self-evident truths “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

But alongside this national celebration, July 4, 2026, also represents a somber commemoration for us in Texas. This Independence Day will mark the first anniversary of the devastating Hill Country floods in which at least 139 people — including four precious members of our Parish — were killed. On the same day that our country celebrates a significant milestone — here in our community — we will also take time to remember, to reflect, to grieve and to share hope.

To mark this poignant dual anniversary, St. Martin’s will be offering some very special worship services this July 4th weekend.

## Gather to Remember

First, on the morning of Saturday, July 4, we will gather in The Church for a Service of Remembrance and Hope. We will remember before God those we lost on July 4, 2025, and acknowledge our continued grief. And we will hear the sure and certain hope of resurrection again to eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. All are welcome at this meaningful, beautiful service as we mark this important first anniversary.



## Worship Like it's 1776!

Then on Sunday, July 5, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence with a unique trip ... back in time! Let me explain. On July 4, 1776, just a few hours after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Vestry of Christ Church, Philadelphia, adopted a resolution asking their Rector, the Rev. Jacob Duché, to omit the customary

prayers for King George III and the Royal Family as found in the Book of Common Prayer (1662). Though it may seem a small thing to us, this act of liturgical rebellion — technically illegal for a priest and parish of the Church of England, as Duché and Christ Church were at the time, represents one of the very first public acknowledgments of American Independence and foreshadows the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States as an independent member of the Anglican Communion.

To mark this momentous occasion, on July 5, 2026, at all Traditional services, we will imaginatively recreate that first Sunday of American Independence by using the historic liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer (1662) — with music appropriate to 1776 and the prayers for the British king carefully crossed out.

Much of the service will be familiar to our ears, and yet I trust that the differences between worship in 1776 and 2026 will be surprising and illuminating. Our prayer is that by recreating this historic worship service to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration, we will be reminded of the blessings of liberty that our Founding Fathers secured “for ourselves and our posterity,” and we will be renewed in our commitment to pray and work as grateful citizens of this American republic because we know ourselves to be subjects of the King of Heaven.

The turning of a year — whether it is one year or 250 years — gives us occasion to pause, to reflect, to mourn, to give thanks and to look with faith to the future. Won't you join your brothers and sisters at St. Martin's this July 4th weekend as we mark two important anniversaries with meaningful, powerfully hopeful worship of our Lord?



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

*Dane E. Boston*

# Big Church, Small Town Feel

*A Life Spent in Pews of Every Size*



My journey as an Episcopalian has included membership in congregations of every possible size. I grew up at St. Paul's in Orange, which in the '70s and '80s had an average Sunday attendance of around 80 to 100 parishioners. After moving to Beaumont in 1996, I was a member at St. Mark's, Beaumont, which had an average attendance of approximately 150. During my training, I served at churches with an average attendance of around 40 to 50 on most Sundays. After I was ordained, I was sent to a church that, if we were really "packed," would have 20-25 on Sunday. Then, I landed at St. Martin's Episcopal Church where we average 1,300 to 1,400 Parishioners on most Sundays.

In clergy circles, we are always talking about church growth and strategies to add to our numbers. It seems as though there is a fault line running through us regarding church size. I've sat in at conferences where the speakers talk as if you aren't a good rector until your church hits 2,000 in attendance. I've also heard small-church clergy who seem to assume that large crowds always indicate that the Gospel is being "watered down." I don't believe in either of these views.

## What St. Martin's Gets Right

Large churches aren't better than small, and vice versa. In my two years here, I will say that St. Martin's does a remarkable job of creating a small-church atmosphere for such a large Parish. We are blessed with abundance; most churches can't fathom the resources we possess, but that blessing comes from faithful ministry. Reading the history of our Church is a testament to continued dedication for the sake of the Gospel. All the many ministries we support began when a person or group felt God's call to serve.

Additionally, our size is the result of principled decisions. The way we understand evangelism, discipleship, shepherding, and congregational life has served St. Martin's well in attracting folks of all ages and from all walks of life. We keep Jesus first, recognizing that our most significant challenges are spiritual, not administrative. That means we recognize the

need for members who love the Lord Jesus and embrace the implications of the Gospel for their lives, for the life of our congregation, and for the world around us.

## Grounded in the Word, Shaped by Community

I remember learning about our Family Table service, how it began in Founders' Hall with a few families and now overflows with children serving as acolytes, singers, readers and ushers. I can only imagine what the Spirit has in store for this evolving gathering. Many tell of their small groups and the role they play in their Christian formation. A member recently commented to me: "My 'Just For' group grounds me because it is the best way to study Scripture: in a home setting, with others who are there to openly listen and learn." Indeed, if we are not grounded in God's Word, we will fail to realize we all have access to the same means of grace (preaching, prayer, the sacraments). God promises to bless us to those ends.

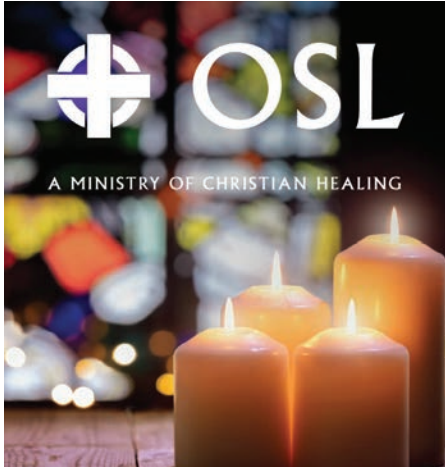
## The Only Thing That Matters

No amount of programming, resources, or administrative genius will help us if St. Martin's isn't a place where people are being transformed by God. Faithful ministry looks different in different places. God gives each of us different gifts and calls us to different work.

Regardless of size, let's never forget that none of us is good enough to deserve any of God's blessings, but that we have received each of our ministries by the mercy of God (2 Corinthians 4:1).



**The Rev. Elizabeth A. Miller**  
Pastoral Associate  
[emiller@smec.org](mailto:emiller@smec.org)



**OSL HEALING PRAYER SERVICE**



*First Wednesday of the Month*  
 July 1 and Sept. 2 • 5 p.m.  
 Parish Life Center and via Zoom

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.

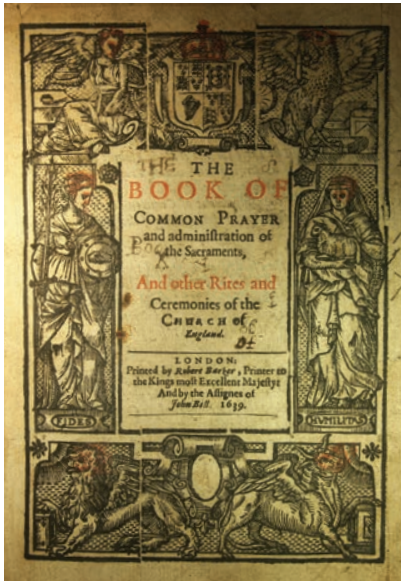
For more information, please contact Deanna Lawson at [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org) or 713-985-3807.



**MORNING PRAYER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND HOPE**

*Saturday, July 4 • 10 a.m.*  
 The Church

Honoring the first anniversary of the July 4, 2025, Hill Country floods that claimed 139 lives, including four St. Martin's Parishioners. A time to remember, grieve and receive the hope of resurrection. All are welcome.



**A 1776 INDEPENDENCE DAY LITURGY**

*Sunday, July 5 • All Traditional Services*  
 The Church

To mark the 250th anniversary of American independence, St. Martin's invites you to experience worship as it was celebrated on July 7, 1776 — the first Sunday after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We will use the historic liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer 1662, sing music of the period and pray the prayers for King George III — crossed out, just as they were that morning at Christ Church, Philadelphia.

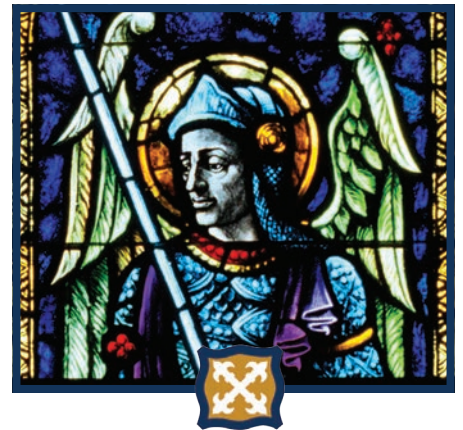


**COMBINED TRADITIONAL AND FAMILY TABLE SERVICES**

*Sunday, Sept. 6 • 9:15 a.m. • The Church*

**COMBINED TRADITIONAL AND RIVERWAY SERVICES**

*Sunday, Sept. 6 • 11:15 a.m. • The Church*



**Keeping the Kalendar**

**ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS WORSHIP SERVICE**

*Tuesday, Sept. 29 • 6 p.m. • The Church*

Commonly known as Michaelmas, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels is among the most ancient and beloved observances in the church calendar — a moment to contemplate the mystery of the heavenly host and their place in the story of faith. This year, our Keeping the Kalendar service comes to The Church, offering a setting of grandeur and intimacy that benefits the occasion.

*Reception to follow in The Narthex*

For more information, please contact Haley Lynch at [hlynch@smec.org](mailto:hlynch@smec.org) or 713-830-4110.

# Welcome to a New Program Year!

*This is a season of renewed purpose and possibility for our Parish family*

Dear friends,

On behalf of St. Martin's 2026-2027 Vestry, welcome to a new program year! This is a season of renewed purpose and possibility for our Parish family, and we are so grateful to journey alongside each of you.

For those unfamiliar with the work of the Vestry in an Episcopal Church, we serve as agents and legal representatives of the corporate property and finances and act as a liaison between you — the congregation — and the Clergy. St. Martin's has a wonderfully accessible Clergy team, however, if you ever have comments or suggestions and would feel more comfortable sharing them with a fellow Parishioner, we are here for you! You can find a full list of Vestry members on the inside back cover of your weekly worship guide each week, and we would welcome any feedback you wish to share.

Whether you have served faithfully for years or are looking for your first opportunity to get involved, there is a place for you in our ministry. Every act of service and engagement in our programs strengthens the fabric of our Parish and community.

My first step to getting involved was joining Janie Putman's fabulous mother-in-law class, "A Change of Heart," when I was newly married and wanting to get off to the right start in that special relationship. I met the most amazing women in the group, which led me to Christian Life Study, then to the Episcopal Church Women, and on and on. The relationships I made at Church during that time were an integral part of supporting me through motherhood and early years of marriage.

As I've gotten older and have more time to give back, I love the structure St. Martin's provides through its outreach programs and worship services. St. Martin's Clergy, Staff and lay leaders work hard to vet community partners and streamline ministry opportunities, making it simple for me to just show up and do my part. There is no easier way to get to know your fellow Parishioners than working on a project together, studying the Word together, or serving in Worship together.

Think and pray about how you and your family may be called to join us on Aug. 23, beginning at 10 a.m., in the Activity Center Gym, as we present some of our thriving ministries and programs. I know it can be intimidating to figure out how to become more involved at Church and to wonder if you have any time to commit. But I also know that the Lord has a place for each of you in this Parish.

I encourage you to ask for His wisdom to guide you to where He wants you — and then show up on Aug. 23 to see how He uses you to further the work of His kingdom and richly bless you in the process!

Have a wonderful summer and see you soon at St. Martin's!



**Susan McConnell**  
Senior Warden

## VESTRY NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL OCT. 15

Current members of St. Martin's may nominate any confirmed member of the Parish for consideration to serve on the Vestry for the upcoming three-year term. Nominations can be submitted for review from August to mid-October of each year. Nominations are to be kept strictly confidential – please do not inform nominees or their family and friends that they have been nominated.

Completed nomination forms for the upcoming term must be received by Thursday, Oct. 15. Vestry Nomination Form available online at [www.smec.org/vestry](http://www.smec.org/vestry).

**For more information, please contact Brittney Pena at [bpena@smec.org](mailto:bpena@smec.org) or 713-985-3821.**



# Beauty as Ministry:

## How Riverway Weaves Art, Music and Community



St. Martin's has long been home to some of Houston's grandest stained-glass windows and sacred music, but Riverway's embrace of beauty and the arts has been a pleasant surprise in recent years — opening the door to new (and unexpected) ministry opportunities.

As the contemporary service prepares to celebrate its five-year anniversary later this summer, Clergy, Staff and Parishioners have begun to reflect on what has made Riverway genuinely stand apart.

### A Place to Belong and Feel Known

From its early days, Riverway has understood the dual importance of creating a welcoming and close-knit atmosphere inside *and outside* of its worship services. Offering a service with exceptional music in a space that is graced by some of the grandest stained-glass windows in the city is one thing. Offering a service where you feel known and find peace is another thing entirely. Riverway has attempted to hold both.

Parishioner Caitlin McClure has experienced this firsthand. “St. Martin's has been my Church for over 25 years, but since 2021, Riverway has truly been our home. In the past five years, we've gotten married and welcomed three children, and through all the chaos and change that come with that season of life, Riverway has been a place of consistency for our family.

“Each week, we come together to reset, recharge and worship in a relaxed, welcoming environment without judgment. We're so thankful for the Riverway service and the sense of peace and solace it brings to our family!”

That sense of belonging didn't happen by accident — it was built into Riverway's DNA from the beginning. Housed in the Parish Life Center, Riverway launched on Aug. 29, 2021 — one week after the new building's consecration and the conclusion of a five-year campaign, *Building for the Ages*, that also included Christ Chapel,

the Levenson Pastoral Care Building and the Children's Life Center. The modern, multi-use worship space hosts the weekly Family Table services, meetings, and events — accommodating up to 750 people across varied age groups and activities. It's a space that is as welcoming as the contemporary worship service it shelters — one the Rev. Wesley Arning, who has led Riverway since 2023, describes as “both Anglican and modern, where we break bread and hear God's Word.”



### A Space Designed for Wonder

The Parish Life Center's unique design has been central in drawing visitors to Riverway. The space is bathed in sunlight on Sunday mornings, with two massive stained-glass windows spanning almost the entire eastern and western walls. Designed by renowned artists at Associated Crafts Willet Hauser Architectural Glass in Minnesota, the 30-foot contemporary panels feature “The Nativity” on the eastern wall, “Jesus at the Temple” on the western side and “Jesus and the Children” on the north side, above the altar.



Because the chairs are movable, Riverway can reshape the space for services, most notably for Good Friday, which is centered around an eight-foot wooden cross. Prayer is shaped not only by words but also by physical space and the space itself communicates an openness that spoken words alone cannot.

“Riverway has been described as an effective side door into life at St. Martin’s,” the Rev. Arning said. “From its inception, Riverway has sought to offer a space for those who would not naturally call this Parish home. Worship and hospitality go hand in hand, and with a more intimate atmosphere, Riverway has fostered a genuine community feel within a large church.”

## Where Art Meets Theology

The tone is set the moment one enters the Parish Life Center doors. With the help — and creative eye — of St. Martin’s Artist-in-Residence Joy Hilley, the narthex has been transformed multiple times into an art gallery, bathing once blank walls with rotating exhibits featuring painters and photographers. For Hilley, the gallery is not just a transformative decoration; it is theology made visible.

“The mystery and beauty of the Gospel have long found expression in sacred art,” she said. “Having an art gallery in the narthex becomes an invitation for the whole Church to join in Riverway’s ongoing conversation about the role of creativity and beauty in a life of faith.”



Parishioners take in paintings and artwork from the “Wind & Fire Pentecost” exhibition during a reception in the Parish Life Center on June 25, 2025.

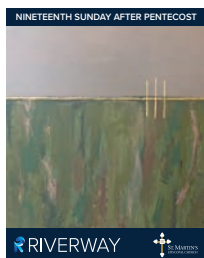
“These exhibits have featured works by Parishioners and local artists, yet another way to bring people to and welcome people onto the Campus who might not otherwise have visited,” affirmed the Rev. Arning. “The works invite people to slow down and enjoy the pieces before or after the services.” It’s not uncommon to see members linger over a particular piece while sipping coffee. For Hilley, that lingering is precisely the point. “I am grateful for the opportunity to create art and curate exhibits that offer space for contemplation, holy imagination, and an encounter with the Spirit.”

All this flows from a deeply theological conviction that beauty matters to God and should matter to Christians. The Rev. Arning affirmed that “The Church has an important role in society in cultivating support for beauty in all its forms for the glory of God.”

The infusion of beauty into the service itself also appears in subtle ways. Typically, one of the featured works in the narthex is incorporated into the cover of the weekly worship bulletin and as the background slide to all the liturgy and music on the screen panels — reinforcing the expressive message.

## A Sound Unlike Any Other

Beauty at Riverway is not only confined to the walls; it fills the room. Music has always been one of Riverway’s core strengths, and many have said that it was what drew them to the service. Few contemporary services can claim that they have a string section. Led by Eric Priest, this six-person band is home to some of Houston’s finest musicians. The integration of beautiful music into a modern Episcopal worship setting can be tricky, but Riverway has found a way to bring both elements together thoughtfully.



One of the featured works by Joy Hilley is typically incorporated into the cover of the weekly Riverway worship bulletin.

“Our music in Riverway covers an incredible breadth of styles and eras,” Priest said. “In a recent service, we sang the classic hymn ‘Crown

Him with Many Crowns,’ a praise chorus from 2005, a new song from an Anglican community in Australia, and a song inspired by a Bach cantata. Whatever your starting point is musically — whether you love singing old favorites or new songs — you will encounter fresh music in Riverway.”

The musicians feel that standard of excellence keenly. Violinist McKenna Jordan, who joined the ministry one year ago alongside her husband, Curry, describes the experience as both professionally and spiritually engaging. “The level of musicianship throughout our band is exceptional. Week after week, the Riverway musicians, under the talented leadership of Eric Priest, push each other to be the absolute best we can be, serving the Church and the congregation at a high level.”



“Our music ... covers an incredible breadth of styles and eras.” At the piano, Riverway Music Director Eric Priest leads the Riverway worship ensemble — drums, bass, cello, violin and guitar — on stage, reflecting the rich musical diversity at the heart of Riverway’s services.



The Rev. Wesley Arning delivers the sermon from the lectern during the 11:15 a.m. Riverway service in the Parish Life Center.

For Jordan, the experience has carried a personal resonance beyond the music itself. “Having had long tenures at other Houston area churches, I finally feel back at home in the Episcopal Church in which I grew up and was confirmed. I actively look forward to our time at St. Martin’s, the lovely people and Staff who immediately welcomed me with open arms, and with whom I can experience moments of faith and praise week after week.”

That musical richness and belonging carry into Riverway’s life stream beyond Sundays as well, echoing what many in the Riverway have come to feel.



“People have come to know and love the Lord in that space and the beauty that has infused the community reflects the ultimate beauty that flows from God.”— The Rev. Wesley Arning

## Beyond Sunday Mornings

For Riverway, Sunday morning has never been the whole story. Over the past five years, the service has marked various holy days throughout the Church year through “Keeping the Kalendar.” They have hosted services such as All Souls’, St. Michael and All Angels, and Ascension Day. One of Anglicanism’s many gifts is the liturgical calendar, which offers a certain rhythm to a Christian’s life. Many are accustomed to the liturgical feast days on Sundays, but many occur midweek and are associated with saints. The “Keeping the Kalendar” services were a way

to celebrate some of the lesser feast days in a contemporary setting while also introducing the Parish to new elements of worship, such as the use of incense.

Poetry, too, has found a home in these services. Dr. Matthew Boyleston — a longtime Parishioner and a Professor of Creative Writing and English at Houston Christian University — has offered an original poem for each “Keeping the Kalendar” service. It’s been a great gift to the community by all accounts and deepened the experience of worship. What began as an invitation became, for Boyleston, something closer to a calling.

“I love how the Riverway service witnesses to the vitality of the arts in Christian life,” he reflected. “It has been an adventure to write poems for Riverway’s ‘Keeping the Kalendar’ services and I hope that these poems have blessed the Parishioners as they have blessed me. Our God is a creating God, and when I write, I feel both His presence and His charge to tell the truth, live more intentionally, and pursue beauty and justice.” Read a poem from Dr. Boyleston by visiting [www.smec.org/riverway](http://www.smec.org/riverway). Embracing different forms of art, music, and poetry are just a few ways this contemporary service has carved out a unique path in the



Bathed in candlelight and ambient light, worshipers gather around a wooden cross at the center of the Parish Life Center during the Good Friday service on April 3, 2026.



Riverway article continued from page 8

wider life of St. Martin's. Incorporating beauty into its liturgical life to build community among its members has been an important part of the ministry's growth.

The experience is one that Esther De la Torre appreciates. "Riverway feels like home to me. There's nothing quite like being in a sacred space where the arts make faith come alive or being around people who genuinely welcome you. It's a kind of experience that stays with you long after the service ends."

The steady uptick in attendance has shown that Riverway continues to fulfill a need not only at St. Martin's but in the broader Houston community. Mark McClure reflected on the transition to attending contemporary service three years ago. "I grew up in more traditional services, and the idea of a contemporary one felt a bit outside my comfort zone. But it didn't take long for me to realize how personal and welcoming it felt. It's smaller than the main service, yet still large enough to feel like a big family, and it quickly became our Sunday routine. The sermons are consistently relatable, and the Clergy and volunteers are truly wonderful."

That sentiment resonates across generations of St. Martin's families. Longtime Parishioners Michelle and Lorne Bain offered their own reflections. "We come to Church to thank God for His work in our lives and to prepare our hearts for the week ahead. Whether we attend the Traditional services or the Riverway contemporary service, we find hope, encouragement, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in each. From the Riverway musicians to the Parish Choir and *Gloria Dei* organ and through the preaching of our full Clergy team, the beauty of the Episcopal tradition shines through!

"Be adventuresome and give Riverway a try and broaden the ways in which you can find the Lord where and as you need Him. Find it all in the St. Martin's family!"

As Riverway approaches its five-year mark, its commitment to worship, beauty and hospitality is an undeniable part of its success story. "People have come to know and love the Lord in that space and the beauty that has infused the community reflects the ultimate beauty that flows from God," the Rev. Arning affirmed. "It has become a 21st-century model of what St. Augustine called, 'A Community of Delight.'"

## CLERGY UPDATE

# Growing our Clergy Family: *St. Martin's Welcomes Andrew Hebert*



St. Martin's Episcopal Church is delighted to welcome the Rev. Andrew Hebert as our new Curate, beginning his ministry on July 1. He, along with his wife and their four children, is looking forward to joining St. Martin's Parish family.

Andrew brings more than a decade of diverse ministry experience, a deep love for the Church and a passion for building

up the Body of Christ in the knowledge and love of God. A Houston native, Andrew Hebert earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from Houston Christian University and a Master of Arts in Theology with a focus on Worship, Theology and the Arts from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

During his studies, he completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Ascension Seton Medical Center and undertook his field education at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

He spent six years at First Presbyterian Church in Houston, serving first as Elementary Coordinator and then as Associate Director of Elementary Programming, overseeing Sunday school for more than 100 children. He later served as Director of Contemporary Worship, leading a weekly service and directing a team of musicians, singers and multimedia volunteers.

In his role as Curate, Andrew will be fully integrated into the rhythms of Parish Life — assisting worship services, providing pastoral care through hospital visits, home visits, funeral planning and meeting regularly with Clergy and Staff.

Andrew was ordained to the diaconate at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Austin on June 27. We will be honored to celebrate his ordination to the priesthood here at St. Martin's in 2027.

### **MORE THAN A TITLE: WHAT A CURATE ACTUALLY DOES**

The word "curate" has an interesting history. Derived from the Latin word "curatus," it originally denoted a member of the clergy entrusted with the "cure of souls" — that is, the spiritual care of a congregation. The French word *curé* and the Spanish *cura* both still carry this meaning today, simply translating as the Priest in Charge and Rector.

The familiar English verb to curate comes from the same root, meaning to organize, select, and present — whether an art exhibit, a set of musical pieces, merchandise, etc. Over time, the English use of the word shifted.

In our Anglican/Episcopal tradition, a curate is typically a newly ordained priest who is assigned to a more senior clergy person for mentoring and hands-on formation.

## Adult Christian Education

### GROW WITH US

At St. Martin's, we offer a wide variety of groups and classes designed to help you deepen your faith and become rooted in God's amazing grace. Whether you're beginning your spiritual journey or seeking to grow as a devoted disciple of Christ, you'll find a place here. We encourage you to prayerfully consider where God may be leading you.

**Need more information about our Adult Sunday School programs? Unless otherwise noted, please contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org) or 713-830-4108.**

### NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christian Education Sunday School offers only one special class held on July 5 (Independence Day) and all classes will not be held on Sept. 6 (Labor Day).

For the most up-to-date information on groups, classes, meeting dates and times, visit us at [www.smec.org](http://www.smec.org). St. Martin's new program year begins Aug. 30.



### WORSHIP LIKE IT'S 1776!

With the Rev. Dane E. Boston

Sunday, July 5  
10:15 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

A presentation followed by questions and answers about the special Traditional worship service on July 5.



**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

Led by St. Martin's Clergy and Staff

Sundays, July 12-Aug. 16 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Bagby Parish Hall

The Book of Common Prayer is one of the great treasures of the Anglican tradition. Since St. Martin's has offered the Daily Office Morning and Evening Prayer, some Parishioners have been asking: Why are these services so central to our Anglican tradition?

In this six-week series, we'll dive into the riches of our Prayer Book, exploring its theological meaning, its history and the rich musical tradition it gave rise to, from choral Evensong to Anglican chant.

- July 12: The Rev. Dane Boston, Opening the Prayer Book
- July 19: The Rev. Gregory Cross, Morning and Evening Prayer
- July 26: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden, Baptism and the Holy Eucharist
- Aug. 2: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden, From Weddings to Funerals
- Aug. 9: Keith Lathrom, The Prayer Book and Anglican Sacred Music
- Aug. 16: The Rev. Sharron Cox, Keeping Liturgical Time

### THEOLOGY FOR LIFE: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Led by the Rev. Dane E. Boston

Sundays, beginning Sept. 13 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Bagby Parish Hall

In this new series, we'll explore what may be the most beloved book of the Bible, the Gospel of John. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son." "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

What would our faith be without these and so many other texts found only in John? This fall, join us as we journey through the highlights of John's Gospel from beginning to end and enter a new program year grounded in the Gospel.

### CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER HOUR

Sundays, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 20  
10:15-11 a.m. · Levenson Pastoral Care Center  
Bride's Parlor

Silent prayer is the interior practice of allowing God to enter into our lives and help us grow more in faith, hope, and love for others and ourselves. Come and join members of St. Martin's in these monthly offerings as we learn, through silence, of God's love for us and of our love for others and ourselves.

Contact the Rev. Sharron L. Cox at [scox@smec.org](mailto:scox@smec.org) or 713-830-4131.



### ADULT CONFIRMATION

#### Anglicanism 101

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

Sundays, Sept. 13-Nov. 1 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Chapel Reception Hall

This class is especially designed for adults seeking Confirmation in our Church, but it's open to everyone — from lifelong Episcopalians to those wanting a new perspective. This class is required in preparation for Confirmation on Sunday, Nov. 15.



### ADULT CONFIRMATION SERVICE

With the Rt. Rev. Héctor Monterroso  
Sunday, Nov. 15 · 11:15 a.m. · The Church

A native of Guatemala, the Rt. Rev. Héctor Monterroso served as bishop of Costa Rica for 14 years before becoming a bishop assistant in the Diocese of Texas, July 1, 2017. His current ministry includes strengthening and growing Hispanic congregations, new missional communities and churches in the Diocese of Texas.



# The Return of the Bells of St. Martin's

*After months of silence, the bells of St. Martin's once again mark the rhythm of Parish life.*

For 20 years, the bells of St. Martin's Episcopal Church marked the rhythm of Parish life — calling the faithful, honoring the dead, ringing out the quarter, half and full hours. Then, sometime last year, an electrical failure tore through the bell tower's control system. The electronics fried. The silence was especially striking because the bells had long been part of The Church's daily soundtrack. It didn't happen all at once. For a few weeks, the tolling of the bells had grown uneven, skipping beats and notes going off. Then eventually, so did the sound.



**REMARKABLE HISTORY** — Cast in England by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, one of the oldest bellmakers in the world — dating to 1570 — the bells connect St. Martin's to centuries of church tradition.

## More Than Decoration

To understand why the bells' silence mattered so much to St. Martin's, the Rev. Dane Boston explained what church bells mean to a parish and their significance. "Church bells are more than merely decoration, and they do more than mark the passing hours of the day," he said. "Traditionally, the blessing of a church bell is reserved — along with the blessing of an altar, a font, and the chalice and paten of the Eucharist — to the Bishop, signifying the almost sacramental nature of bells. Bells sanctify both space and time."

The peal of bells at a wedding calls the faithful to rejoice; the tolling at a funeral summons them to mourn and points toward the hope of the Resurrection. "Even over great distances, bells call the people of God to prayer and mark the sacred moments in our lives," he noted. "To be within earshot of the bells reminds us that we are in a parish: a distinct geographical community, with the Church at its center. Bells proclaim the Gospel!"

**FORGED IN BRONZE** — On March 6, 2006, tolling bells were installed in the east tower (the Cranmer Tower) of The Church and dedicated on Jan. 6, 2008. The four bells ring four distinct notes: F, A-flat, C, and E-flat. F is the largest in weight at 1,967 pounds and is 45 inches in diameter; E-flat is the smallest, weighing only 422 pounds and under 27 inches across. They are accurately and harmoniously tuned in accordance with the five-tone principle. This produces purity and sweetness of tone, allowing the bell to ring a full, mellow sound in tune with itself and the other bells in the set.

The four bells are made of a bronze alloy, called bell metal, containing copper and tin and are specifically cast in crafters' molds. Once cast, the molds are destroyed, making each bell unique in the world.

Whitechapel Bell Foundry, one of the oldest companies in the United Kingdom, cast St. Martin's bells. Whitechapel also made the bells for St. Paul's Cathedral and Big Ben in London and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.



## A Nine-Month Education

For James Prieto, St. Martin's Facilities Manager, restoring the bells quickly posed a complex challenge. The electrical surge had damaged several of the mechanical strikers — the hammers that physically strike each bell — so that some stopped moving altogether. The timing collapsed. Then, eventually, so did the sound.

"We got a lot of feedback," he recalled, "When the bells were off-key, people noticed. And then, even more so, when they went silent." What followed was a nine-month education in a surprisingly specialized rare craft. The system — four real cast bells, swung by motors and struck by custom-fabricated hammers, the largest weighing 120 pounds — was originally installed by a bell manufacturer and runs on proprietary technology. This meant only a handful of authorized vendors in the country could service it.

Prieto eventually located Verdin, a six-generation family business in Ohio that had installed the original mechanism at St. Martin's. Their diagnosis was straightforward but sobering: a full replacement. This meant new motors, strikers, wiring and a new controller — all custom-manufactured for St. Martin's specific bells. This process was estimated to take four months.



**MARKING THE HOURS** —The bells chime the hour and quarter hours Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A simple two-bell peal rings for five minutes before the Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer — weekdays at 8:25 a.m. and 4:25 p.m., and on Sundays before the 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. services.

All four bells peal before the 9 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday services.

Hoping to shorten the timeline, Prieto explored a second vendor that promised faster results. "They promised that they could have the bells ringing by January 2026 without ever having seen the system," he said. Unfortunately, the delays piled up. Prieto turned back to Verdin, this time working directly with the company's owner, Bob Verdin, who personally moved St. Martin's to the front of the production line.

When the equipment finally arrived, there was nothing high-tech about getting it into place: 800 pounds of motors, brackets and hardware had to be carried up more than 100 stairs, piece by piece, by hand. The experience left Prieto with one lasting lesson: that a proactive maintenance plan would be in place moving forward.

Going forward, Verdin will make regular service visits and the new system can be monitored remotely. "Ideally," he added, "instead of nine months, maybe it could have taken three or four."

## Silence in Season, The Peals Return!

According to the Rev. Dane E. Boston, there is a certain liturgical appropriateness as to when the bells fell silent and when they returned. "There is a long tradition of either muffling or completely silencing all bells in Lent. The absence of their joyful pealing puts us in a penitential, reflective mood." The congregation had, in a sense, kept an unintentional Lenten silence. While not fully restored, the bells did toll during the Lord's prayer on Easter Sunday — a sign of life returning to St. Martin's. "To have them return in Eastertide when our rejoicing is at its height!" added Boston.

On Monday, May 11, after months of silence and two months of installation and fine-tuning, the first clean peal rolled across Campus once again. By the quarter hour, the familiar carillon had returned. For the Rev. Boston, who arrived as Rector Aug. 1, 2025 — after the bells had already gone silent — the moment carried a particular weight.

"I had never heard our bells, since they had fallen silent before my arrival as Rector," he said. "That made hearing them pealing the first Sunday morning of their restoration especially wonderful! And it was fantastic to have our tolling bell return during the Lord's Prayer on Easter Sunday."

**PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**



**FIND SPACE FOR MINISTRY** Sunday, Aug. 23 · 10:15- 11 a.m. · Activity Center Gym

Join us for our annual Ministry Fair to find out more about opportunities to serve at St. Martin’s and embark on a mission of ministry to use your gifts for our Lord and His Glory.

For more information, please contact Juli Browning at [jbrowning@smec.org](mailto:jbrowning@smec.org) or 713-985-3845.

**ALZHEIMER’S CAREGIVERS’ SUPPORT GROUP**

Mondays, July 6 and 20, Aug. 3 and 17, Sept. 21  
 Tuesday, Sept. 8  
 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.



Contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or [kattellepsen@me.com](mailto:kattellepsen@me.com) for details.

**THEOLOGY LIVE!**

Thursdays, July 16, 30 and Aug. 13 · 7-8:15 p.m.  
 New Magnolia Brewery · 1616 Bevis St.



Why do we believe in God? What is true love and how can we find it? How do we find deep purpose in life? How do we reconcile science and faith? How should the Bible shape our approach to immigration policy, or end-of-life issues, or war? Is there life on other planets? Sometimes it’s easier (and more fun) to ask these questions at a café or pub with friends than in Sunday school. That’s why we’re hitting the road this summer, spending three evenings at New Magnolia Brewing Co. with some great speakers, good conversation, and good company. Invite a friend and join us!

- July 16: *Why Grace Matters*, with the Rev. Dane Boston
- July 30: *Keeping it Real in a Virtual Age: AI, Screens and Being Human* with the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
- Aug. 13: *One Flesh: Men and Women in the Body of Christ* with Dr. Kira Moolman Pettit

For more details, contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org) or 713-830-4108.



**THE GATHERING**

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

**“A Whale of a Good Time”**  
 July 27 with Danette McMahon

**“Don’t Bug Out ... It’s Gathering Time”**  
 Aug. 24 with Jane Vandiver

**“Gathering for Giggles, Good Times and Joy”**  
 Sept. 28 with Robert Greaney

The Gathering is dedicated to leveraging its resources to support Church members and others in our community who are experiencing memory loss. This program offers a safe, nurturing environment with creative, stimulating activities for participants, giving their care partners a much-needed break from daily responsibilities.

The Gathering is a CarePartners program hosted by St. Martin’s. Volunteers are welcome! Please contact Kathy Tellepsen.

For more information about The Gathering, contact Kathy Tellepsen at 713-301-4786 or [kattellepsen@me.com](mailto:kattellepsen@me.com).

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY

July 26, Aug. 30 and Sept. 20 · 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.

## OSL HEALING MINISTRY STUDY GROUP

Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 9  
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](http://www.osltoday.org).

For more information, please contact  
Deanna Lawson at [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org)  
or 713-985-3807.



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

**20s & 30s** Wednesdays · 6:45-8:15 p.m.  
Kick-off dinner: Sept. 2,  
Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen  
Full program begins Sept. 9  
Children's Life Center

### Fellowship opportunities for young professionals.

Join our young adults as we grow in faith and friendship through Scripture, prayer and shared meals. Meeting weekly on Campus, we spend time in study, fellowship and conversation that deepen community and connection. This fall, watch for Saturday social gatherings and join the biweekly Monday night book club, offered year-round.

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

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY



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 that worship and study in a community of 12 participants and an accredited mentor.

Contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org)  
or 713-830-4108.



## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Four weeks, beginning Sunday, Sept. 13  
Meeting times, dates and locations vary

## SMALL GROUPS RETURN THIS FALL

St. Martin's small group ministry continues with new studies that invite participants to take a deeper step into their spiritual journey. It's a great way to grow in faith while also building community with your Church family. Groups meet on Campus or in homes once weekly following a study guide and videos produced by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden.

Participants can register in advance from a menu of different locations and times at [www.smec.org/just-for](http://www.smec.org/just-for).

## RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

With the Rev. Dane Boston  
Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 15 · Noon-1 p.m.  
Student Life Center

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. This is a great way to explore, reflect, ask questions and grow in faith.

Contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org)  
or 713-830-4108.

## 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](mailto: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 Parish, and for 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](mailto:janieputman@mac.com) or 713-516-5849.



## DEEP ROOTS: GOOD BOOKS AND GOOD CONVERSATION

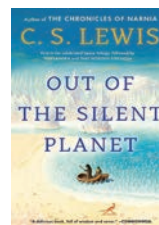
Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

### "Out of the Silent Planet"

by C.S. Lewis

Thursday, Sept. 24 · 6:15-7:45 p.m.  
Student Life Center, Living Room

We possess a great inheritance of wisdom in the Christian tradition, and in this monthly series, we take C.S. Lewis's advice to read the old books — studying classic texts that give us deeper roots in richer soil.



This fall, we turn to Lewis's "Space Trilogy," three science fiction novels that explore the question, "What does it mean to be human?" with extraordinary insight. It is a question as

urgent in our age of A.I. as it was in Lewis's time of world war. Books are available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or your favorite bookseller.

Contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org)  
or 713-830-4108.

## PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### New Program!

#### ST. MARTIN'S FELLOWS

With the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

Twice a month on Tuesday evenings  
Sept. 15 and 29 · 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Student Life Center, Living Room

The St. Martin's Fellows Program is a nine-month intensive seminar that equips Christians to see the world through the lens of the Bible's great story of creation and salvation and to follow God's calling in every area of daily life: in the workplace, at home, and in service to our community, country and world.

The program goes beyond teaching what Christians believe. It challenges participants to understand all of life in light of the Gospel, engage thoughtfully with movements and ideas in contemporary culture and navigate these challenging times with courage and hope.

Participants read approximately one book per month, drawn from biblical scholarship, trusted overviews, primary sources such as Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, and Richard Hooker, and the best of contemporary Christian thought. Because formation shapes the whole person, participants also commit to a rule of life that includes weekly Eucharist and praying the Daily Office.

As a St. Martin's Fellow, you'll be equipped to live salt and light as Christ's disciples in every aspect of your life.

**Tuition is \$200 (all required books included). Space is limited.**

**Please register in advance to reserve your place at [www.smec.org/st-martins-fellows](http://www.smec.org/st-martins-fellows).**

Participants are asked to commit to the full nine-month program (allowances made for necessary absences).

**Contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org) or 713-830-4108.**

#### FAITH IN LITERATURE

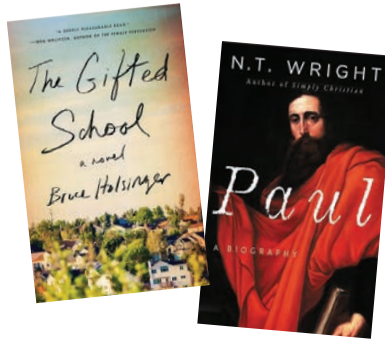
Looking for a faith-based book club? St. Martin's Faith in Literature day and evening groups meet to explore and discuss relevant connections between faith and works of fiction.

##### Day Group

Second Wednesday of the month  
1-2:30 p.m. · Children's Life Center,  
Room 132 and via Zoom

##### Schedule:

Sept. 9 – "The Gifted School"  
by Bruce Holsinger



##### Evening Group

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

##### Schedule:

Sept. 15 – "Paul" by N.T. Wright

**For more information, please contact Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org) or 713-830-4108.**

### 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](http://smec.org/cafe) to view the weekly menu.



#### Pastoral Care



Walking the Mourner's Path

#### TRANSFORMING GRIEF: Walking the Mourner's Path

Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Nov. 11  
4-5:30 p.m.

Levenson Pastoral Care Center,  
Bride's Parlor

Cost: \$30 (scholarships available) – limited to 10 participants.

Deadline: Wednesday, Sept. 2

Walking the Mourner's Path is a prayer-centered, spiritually directed eight-week program designed to help participants navigate the complexities of grief within a supportive and confidential community.

The program is led by lay and clergy facilitators using a participant workbook that provides a framework for each workshop. It is recommended that it has been at least nine months since the death of your loved one.

**To learn more or register for this program, contact the Rev. Lisa Neilson at [lneilson@smec.org](mailto:lneilson@smec.org) or 713-985-3849.**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:cgubbs@smec.org) or 713-985-3804 or [stclaresguild@smec.org](mailto:stclaresguild@smec.org).**

## DOCENT GUILD

Beat the heat and discover the beauty of St. Martin's Church!

Our volunteer Docents offer free guided tours of the Church's stunning Gothic architecture, stained-glass windows, and the rich symbolism throughout the worship space. Tours are available for Parish members (groups and individuals), schools, and community organizations. Special tours of the Church Windows, Christ Chapel and a Campus tour of the Gardens are available on request.

### The Church Tours

*Wednesdays · 11 a.m.-noon*

*First Sunday of the month after 11:15 a.m. services – Tours resume Sept. 2 and Sept. 6*

**For more information, contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117 or Deanna Lawson at [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org) or 713-985-3807.**

## 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](mailto:cgubbs@smec.org) or 713-985-3804.**

## 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](mailto:bpiana@smec.org).**

## GREETERS GUILD

**Be the first face of St. Martin's!**

Join this friendly team and welcome visitors and Parishioners at our Sunday morning services with a warm smile. It's a simple but meaningful way to serve, and you're only needed one Sunday per month.

**To volunteer, contact Katharine Perrow at [kperrow@smec.org](mailto:kperrow@smec.org) or call 713-985-3834.**

## 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](mailto:cgubbs@smec.org) or 713-985-3804.**



## THE WAYSIDE PODCAST AT ST. MARTIN'S

### ST. MARTIN'S PODCAST

This summer, The Wayside Podcast is sharing some old classics as they prepare for a fall lineup filled with thoughtful and engaging guests. Hosted by the Rev. Wesley Arning and Parishioner Ryan Presley, this weekly podcast features conversations with authors, artists and theologians that bring fresh insight into matters of life and faith.

Listen to the podcast on St. Martin's website and on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and Amazon Music. Check out the Wayside Podcast on Instagram at: [thewaysidepodcast](https://www.instagram.com/thewaysidepodcast) or contact the Rev. Arning at [podcast@smec.org](mailto:podcast@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!

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Women of Purpose.  
United in Faith.



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

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

**For more information, contact Valerie Rivera, [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org) or 713-985-3817.**



### THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING®

St. Barnabas Chapter

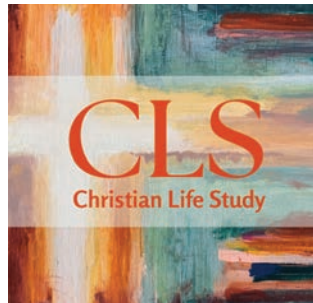
Saturday, Sept. 12 · 10 a.m.  
Chapel Reception Hall

The first meeting of our new program year will include brunch, the installation of new officers and an induction ceremony for new members led by the Rev. Sharron L. Cox.

The Order of the Daughters of the King® (DOK) is a lay religious order for women, founded in New York in 1885, within the Episcopal tradition. Members commit themselves to a Rule of Life and Rule of Service that focuses on prayer, service and evangelism.

Our chapter meets monthly on Saturday mornings for outreach projects, guest speakers and special presentations, including Advent Quiet Day. Guests are always welcome.

**To learn more about DOK or become a member, please contact Deanna Lawson at [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org) or 713-985-3807.**



### CHRISTIAN LIFE STUDY

Discover the power of a praying community.

Are you:

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

Bring a friend and join other women for small-group discussion, worship music and relevant teaching in a welcoming and encouraging environment. All denominations are invited. Classes meet weekly from September to April with opportunities to connect in small groups.

### DAY CLASS BEGINS SEPT. 10

"The Way to Endure Through Trials" by Dr. David Jeremiah — the books of 1 and 2 Peter — and "1, 2 & 3 John & Jude" by Max Lucado

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

### EVENING CLASS BEGINS SEPT. 8

Galatians: "A Liberating Faith", Colossians: "Jesus Christ, Creator and Lord of All" and 1, 2 Thessalonians: "A Living Faith" by Leon Taylor

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

Join us any time during the season. Zoom Groups available.

Register at [www.clsbiblestudy.com](http://www.clsbiblestudy.com).

**For more information about the day and evening classes, please contact Liz Gallien at 713-830-4139 or [lgallien@smec.org](mailto:lgallien@smec.org).**



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF ST. MARTIN'S  
PRESENTS

FALL LUNCHEON

## THE POWER OF STORY

*Remembering and Sharing God's Faithfulness*

with *Katie Dunn*

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22  
11 A.M. • BAGBY PARISH HALL  
\$40/ person • Book signing to follow  
Event Chairs: Diana Bridger and Joan Dunlap

Join us for a meaningful morning of inspiration, fellowship, and reflection as Katie Dunn, host of the "StoryTellers Live" podcast, shares how God works through the stories of ordinary lives to encourage and inspire others in faith.

Rooted in Psalm 107:2 — "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story" — this gathering invites women to reflect on the ways God has been present in their own journeys.

Contact: Valerie Rivera • [vriviera@smec.org](mailto:vriviera@smec.org) • 713-985-3817





Reserve your seat at  
[smec.org/ecw-events](http://smec.org/ecw-events)

Registration opens: Aug. 25 at noon  
Deadline to register: Sept. 14



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](mailto:dlawson@smec.org) or call 713-985-3807.



### DADS' BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, beginning Sept. 3  
8-9 a.m. · Welcome Center

#### All Dads are Welcome!

Join other 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 lives to the Gospel. No registration is necessary to attend the discussions led by the Rev. R. Wesley Arning and Ryan Presley.

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



### MEN OF ST. MARTIN'S Bible Study

Led by the Rev. Alex Graham III

Kick-off Social · Thursday, Sept. 10 · 5 p.m. · TBD

Thursday mornings beginning Sept. 17 · 7 a.m. · Bagby Parish Hall

Café St. Martin's offers breakfast at 6:45 a.m.



After spending the past year studying the Book of Genesis, the Men of St. Martin's will continue their journey through the Torah — the first five books of the Bible — with an in-depth study of Exodus, the Bible's second book. Together, we will explore how God faithfully carries forward the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob through the people of Israel. Along the way, we will examine major themes such as redemption, covenant, worship, holiness, and the presence of God. Special attention will also be given to the ways Exodus points ahead to Jesus Christ, the true Passover Lamb, who delivers His people from sin and restores their fellowship with God.

For additional information about the Men of St. Martin's Bible study program and other events, please contact the Rev. Alex Graham III at [agraham@smec.org](mailto:agraham@smec.org) or Deanna Lawson at 713-985-3807 or [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org).



### SERVE WITH PURPOSE:

Help Feed Houston's Hungry Children

Tuesdays, July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 22 · 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](mailto:ttindol@smec.org) for further details.



### 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](mailto:bpiana@smec.org) for more information.



## A Season on the Fairway

The Men of St. Martin's Golf Shamble Cup brings generations and good company on the greens.



Six events, 18 holes, four-man teams and one best drive. For the past decade, the Men of St. Martin's Golf Shamble Cup has been drawing golfers — and the occasionally overconfident putter — to Gus Wortham Golf Course. This past year, with a record turnout, a few remarkable eagles, and a grandson or two joining in, the 2025-2026 season has earned a place in Parish lore, according to the “Commissioner,” Jeff Holstien.

What began as a heartfelt effort to carry Parish fellowship beyond St. Martin's Church walls has blossomed into a beloved tradition: a friendly but competitive tournament that welcomes Parishioners of all skill levels to the fairways for a unique experience of community and connection. As one anonymous wit scratched onto an old scoreboard: “They took the game I loved and made a Shamble of it.”

The Men of St. Martin's Golf Shamble Cup is an annual golf tournament series held at Gus Wortham Golf Course just east of downtown. This past season featured six Shamble events played across fall 2025 and spring 2026, with teams competing for the coveted Shamble Cup. Teams earn points each round, with cumulative standings tracked throughout the season.

“As a longtime participant, I have always enjoyed the fun and fellowship these events provide,” stated Al Partlow. “The four-man teams typically include at least one low handicap golfer and three other players of varied handicaps. Regardless of the

outcome, everyone always has a great time and is ready to play again in the next one.”

What makes the Golf Shamble Cup more than a golf tournament is what surrounds it. Players earn bonus points for bringing their sons, sons-in-law, or grandsons, reinforcing what organizers say is one of the tournament's real purposes: strengthening friendship and passing traditions from one generation to the next.

“The Men of St. Martin's Golf Shamble has been a great way to meet many members of St. Martin's and spend several hours getting to know them,” stated longtime participant John Sutherland. “Many of the people I have met, I see on Sunday morning and at other events and ministries. The number of participants continues to increase and I believe this is due to the ‘Commissioner's’ continued dedication to getting the men on St. Martin's together for a fun afternoon on the golf course.”

The tournament also carries a charitable dimension: a round with Parishioner Titus Harris and the Rev. Wesley Arning was part of the Joy of Giving Silent Auction this past October, with the Men of St. Martin's making a matching donation to the Outreach and Mission ministries.

The joviality of the tournament is marked by humor: the Rev. John Bentley holds the informal title of “Weather Lobbyist,” whose intercessions “on behalf of fair skies have held admirably,” according to multiple golfers. After Shamble 6 concluded without a drop of rain on April 30, Holstien confirmed that Fr. Bentley had earned the highly coveted Men of St. Martin's “No-Hitter.”

On Nov. 6, records were set at Shamble 2 when 10 teams showed up — the first time in nearly 10 years that a golfer had to be turned away. (Winners Wade Upton, John Schwarz, Tim O'Neal and David Upton posted a combined 140 to take the cup.) Shamble 3 on Dec. 11, brought its own drama, as the 9:20 a.m. team of J. M. Jones, Larry Dorr, David Brollier and David Livingston birdied the 16th hole twice to pull away to a two-shot win — and a Shamble rookie reportedly sank a birdie putt from more than 100 feet at No. 17. It's not unusual to hear debates over gimmes, selective score recollection, and what Holstien calls a “liturgical-level commitment to tee times.”

On March 5, the closest finish of the season came at Shamble 5, decided by the Joy of Giving team. “Paul Mason, Titus Harris,



the Rev. Wesley Arning and Garrett Tollette edged out the field,” he noted — a finish that had players replaying every hole on the drive home.

As Jim Phillips stated, “With Titus as your four-member team leader, one would think winning the day would be a cake walk. Well, we did win, but only by a stroke. Thanks to the ‘Commish,’ the rules of play and the overall quality of the players, the winning team is not predictable — even if Titus, JM or Sherman is on the team. And besides, the most important part of the day is being social and having fun.”

That spirit carried through to the season finale. On April 30, the 10 a.m. team of Jeff Holstien, Larry Dorr, David Brollier and Baxter Spann ran down the 9:20 a.m. team on No. 16 to claim the Shamble 6 title and close out the season in style.

By the season’s end, the standings mattered, but so did the stories. Between fairways and fellowship, the Golf Shamble Cup victories are measured in friendships, family stories and turning morning golf into something closer to community.

### 2026/2027 Men of St. Martin’s Shambles Tournament Dates

- Sept. 17
- Nov. 5
- Dec. 10
- Jan. 2, 2027
- March 4
- May 6

The Golf Shamble Cup is nominally a golf competition, though longtime participants might argue that it’s equally a fellowship ministry conducted with irons and a putter.

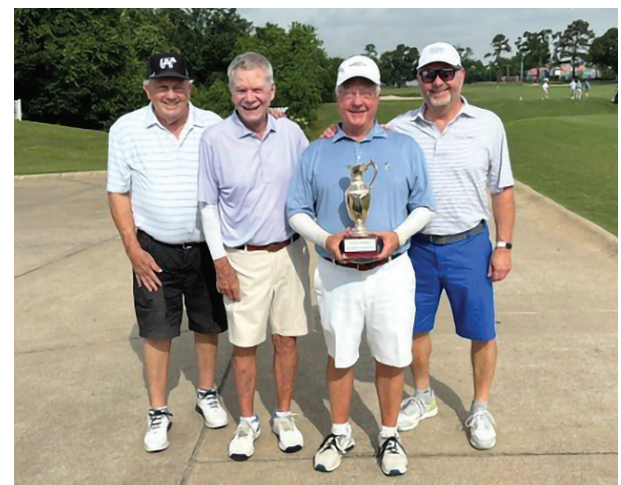
To learn more, please contact Jeff Holstien at [dhi8710@aol.com](mailto:dhi8710@aol.com).



2025/2026 Shamble 2 Winners: Wade Upton, John Schwarz, Tim O’Neal and David Upton.



2025/2026 Shamble 5 Winners: Paul Mason, Titus Harris, the Rev. Wesley Arning and Garrett Tollette.



2025/2026 Shamble 6 Winners: Jeff Holstien, Larry Dorr, David Brollier and Baxter Spann.

## A NEW SEASON OF SACRED MUSIC BEGINS!

God continues to bless our Music Ministry. On July 13, we will welcome Principal Organist John Meier and, in June, expanded the roles of Associate Organist Hannah Fox and welcomed Parish Choir member Patrick Perez onto our full-time Staff as Cantor and Music Ministry Coordinator.

### ST. MARTIN'S WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL ORGANIST



The Music Ministry Department is delighted to welcome **John Meier** as St. Martin's new Principal Organist. John comes to us after 24 years on the music staff of The Church of St. John the Divine, where he served as Associate Director of Music and Worship. In that role, he shared organ responsibilities for Sunday services and accompanied the St. John the Divine Chorale.

A native of Port Angeles, Wash., John earned a Master of Music in Organ from Rice University, where he studied with Clyde Holloway. He has performed widely throughout Houston and is a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians and the American Guild of Organists.

John and his wife, Andrea, have two sons, Jacob and Caleb.

### St. Martin's Welcomes Hannah Fox and Patrick Perez full time in the Music Ministry Department



We are also thrilled to announce that **Hannah Fox** will transition into the full-time role of Associate Organist. Hannah has served St. Martin's faithfully over the past three years, playing for Sunday services, weddings and funerals while completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Rice University.

Before joining St. Martin's, Hannah served as Associate Organist at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston and previously as worship pianist at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Hannah and her husband, Hayden, were married at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in October 2025.



**Patrick Perez** has joined the Music Ministry Department's leadership in the role of Cantor and Music Ministry Coordinator. Patrick is a familiar face and voice at St. Martin's, having first joined the Parish Choir in 2001.

He is also a certified piano technician and has maintained the pianos across the St. Martin's Campus. In this role, Patrick will continue as a member of the Parish Choir and help to coordinate the department's many musical and logistical needs.

Patrick lives in Houston with his wife, Annamarie Zmolek, a member of the Parish Choir and the music teacher at St. Martin's Preschool.

### A JOYFUL FAREWELL: Honoring the Ministry of Dr. David Henning

St. Martin's Parishioners and friends gathered on April 26 for a moving Choral Evensong service honoring the faithful ministry of Dr. David Henning, Director of Music and Parish Organist, as he celebrated 20 years of service to the Church and his retirement. The service featured the world premiere of "O Come, Let Us Sing," an original choral and organ work composed by internationally acclaimed composer Daniel Knaggs and commissioned in Dr. Henning's honor. Led by the Parish Choir under the direction of Keith Lathrom, the Evensong offered an inspiring afternoon of Scripture, prayer and sacred music.

Following the service, Parishioners, Clergy and friends celebrated in Bagby Parish Hall at a heartfelt farewell reception, sharing memories, gratitude and prayers, wishing Dr. Henning every blessing in his retirement.



The Parish Choir presented David Henning with a legacy gift in honor of his retirement: an organ stop for the *Gloria Dei* organ in The Church that will bear his name.



The Rev. Dane Boston recognized David Henning's legacy and contribution to St. Martin's. "Because of David's faithful leadership, St. Martin's music program has flourished through our choir ministry and distinguished concert series, locally, nationally and abroad."

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

*“Yes Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.” — Isaiah 26:8*

At St. Martin’s Student Ministries, our mission is to inspire middle school and high school students with the transformative grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We offer vibrant Sunday morning classes, engaging Bible studies, and other special events designed to uplift and empower young minds.

**Want to dive in and learn more? Visit [www.smec.org/students](http://www.smec.org/students) or Contact Student Ministries at [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org).**

### SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

*Sundays, July 12-Aug. 2 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Children’s Life Center*

Our middle and high school youth are helping to guide the Children’s Ministry’s summer Sunday School series on the Sermon on the Mount.

### SAVE THESE DATES!

- AUG. 1: Student Confirmation registration for the 2026-2027 year opens
- AUG. 9: First Fall Student Ministries Bake Sale
- AUG. 16: Student Ministries Open House
- AUG. 30: Sunday Get-Togethers Begin
- SEPT. 20: Student Ministries Lemonade Stand with Outreach at the Fall CCSC Food Drive
- SEPT. 27: Student Ministries Fall Acolyte Training



### 2026-2027 STUDENT CONFIRMATION INTEREST MEETING

*Sunday, Aug. 2 · Noon-1:30 p.m. · Student Life Center Main Hall*

Is your student ready to take the next step in faith? Students in grades 8-12 and their parents are warmly invited to our Confirmation Information Session — an essential first step in one of the most significant journeys a young person can take.

You’ll learn about the season’s schedule, requirements, the Parent/Student Confirmation Covenant and have the chance to ask questions before the journey begins. St. Martin’s Student Confirmation class guides students through a rich year of classes, discussion, fellowship, service and retreat.



### FIRST FALL STUDENT MINISTRIES BAKE SALE

*Sunday, Aug. 9 · 10:15 a.m. · Location to be determined on Campus*

We invite all students to join us at the first Fall Bake Sale of the semester! We will meet on Saturday before joining the community and baking together in the Student Life Center. All proceeds will go to our Summer 2027 trips.

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

# Open House SUNDAY

## STUDENT MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Aug. 16 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Student Life Center Main Hall

We invite all students and their families interested in Student Ministries out to the Student Life Center for our annual Open House! This time is for you to come check out all that we are doing this next program year, from retreats, summer trips, to Life Groups and more!

Contact Student Ministries at [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org) for details.



## SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

Sundays beginning Aug. 30 · 10:15-11 a.m.  
Student Life Center Living Room

See how God works in our daily lives. Come to the Student Life Center on Sunday mornings and enjoy coffee, lemonade, donuts and discussion on the Scriptures shared in the Worship Service that morning.

Contact Student Ministries at [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org) for details.



## WEEKLY LIFE GROUPS

Wednesday, beginning Sept. 9 · 6-8 p.m.  
Student Life Center



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](mailto:students@smec.org) for more details.



## SERVE AT THE ALTAR — STUDENT ACOLYTE TRAINING

Sunday, Sept. 27 · 12:30-1 p.m. following  
the 11:15 services · The Church

Acolytes play a vital role in St. Martin's Traditional Services, assisting the Clergy, carrying the processional cross and helping bring the beauty and order of historic worship to life.

We welcome all incoming Confirmands, returning acolytes looking for a refresher, and any student eager to serve. No prior experience is necessary. *Parents, please note that acolyte service hours count toward both service hour requirements and academic credit.*

Contact Student Ministries at [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org) for more details.



## ST. MARTIN'S YOUTH CHOIR

Sundays beginning Aug. 23 · 10:15 a.m. · Children's Life Center

Make A Joyful Noise Through Music!

Middle and high school students interested in worship through music are invited to join the St. Martin's Youth Choir this fall. No experience is necessary! We perform at the 11:15 a.m. Traditional Service at The Church twice each semester, and we also mentor the Young Singers in their music-making. Be a part of our community!

Contact Carole Nelson at [cnelson@smec.org](mailto:cnelson@smec.org) or 346-335-8677 for more information.



At St. Martin's, we believe that children are not simply the future of the church, but children are the church! We take Jesus's teaching to "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them." (Matthew 19:14).

Our Children's Ministry team, led by Rozlyn Cline and Ursella Rylander, partners with dedicated parents and Sunday School teachers to offer age-appropriate Bible curriculum that fosters spiritual growth and nourishment.

For more information, please contact Rozlyn Cline at 713-985-3816 or [rmcline@smec.org](mailto:rmcline@smec.org).



## SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

Sundays · July 12-Aug. 2 · 10:15 a.m. in the Children's Life Center

Children are invited to join us for "Summer on the Mount," a four-week Sunday school series exploring Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and what it means to live as followers of Christ each day. This summer series will help children grow in faith while building friendships and having fun together.



## 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](http://www.smec.org/children).

### Child Care Policy

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



## BIBLE HIGHLIGHTING

Sundays, Aug. 2 and 9  
Parish Life Center Narthex

Get ready to mark on the Word! Before our 3rd-grade Bible Presentation Sunday, we invite our entire Church family to help make it special. Here's how you can join in:

**Sign Your Name.** Each Bible will be accompanied by a note card for you to share your name and heartfelt message.

**Highlight Your Hope.** Take a moment to reflect and highlight your favorite verse – a verse that inspires you, brings you peace, or encourages your faith.



## 3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sunday, Aug. 30 · 9:15 a.m.  
Parish Life Center

Attend the Family Table service to celebrate this special milestone as 3rd graders will receive their Bibles in front of their Church family.

To register your child to receive a Bible, visit [www.smec.org/children](http://www.smec.org/children).



### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, Aug. 16 · 9:15 a.m. · Parish Life Center

Children are invited to bring their backpacks to Church for a special blessing by our priests during the Family Table service. Students will also receive a 2026-2027 tag to take with them into the new school year!



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Aug. 16 · 10:15 a.m. · Children's Life Center

Children and parents are invited to explore Sunday school classrooms, meet teachers and take home a Children's Ministry calendar for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027.



### YOUNG SINGERS

Sundays beginning Aug. 23 · 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.

Contact Carol Nelson at 346-335-8677 or [cnelson@smec.org](mailto:cnelson@smec.org) for more information.

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](mailto:outreach@smec.org).



**SUPPORT ELIJAH RISING:**  
MEAL TRAIN FOR EMERGENCY  
SAFE HOME RESIDENTS

*Meal Drop Off · 10 a.m.-6 p.m.*

Elijah Rising was born out of a prayer gathering in 2012, rooted in the belief that the Church must stand against the injustice of sex trafficking in our city.

During the World Cup, when demand for exploitation rises, Elijah Rising's Emergency Safe Home has been sheltering eight women survivors. You can offer them something powerful and personal: a home-cooked meal. Your meal carries a message of care, hope and love.

To sign up please visit: [www.mealtrain.com/trains/445vq2](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/445vq2)



**SUPPORT HOUSTON HAVEN:**  
MEAL DELIVERY FOR CANCER  
PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

*Meal Drop Off · Sign Up Required*

Houston Haven was founded in honor of Patty Holloway, who battled lung cancer and was always grateful to live near the Texas Medical Center. She wanted the same comfort provided to others. In her memory, Houston Haven provides low-cost, short-term housing to out-of-town cancer patients and their families.

Each property has a meal team that provides a weekly home-cooked meal. Your participation is a tangible act of care for a family far from home during one of life's most difficult seasons.

Please contact [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org) to sign up.

ONGOING OUTREACH MINISTRIES



**KIDS' MEALS –  
COMMUNITY**

Bring the family and prepare sandwiches for the whole family

*Tuesdays, July 7, Aug. 4 and Sept. 1  
4 p.m. · Parish Life Center Kitchen*

**DESSERT MINISTRY –  
CHURCH IN THE FIELD**  
Homemade cookies needed for monthly meals

*Mondays, July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 7*

Please sign up to bring cookies or brownies and drop them off at St. Martin's reception desk.

Sign up required at [bit.ly/DessertOutreach](http://bit.ly/DessertOutreach).



**CHURCH IN THE FIELD**

*Tuesdays, July 14, Aug. 11 and Sept. 8  
6:30-9 p.m. · Meet in St. Martin's parking lot*

Parishioners and friends are invited to carpool downtown to serve a meal, pray alongside and worship with our homeless neighbors in a monthly gathering that many describe as transformative.

**CCSC WORK DAY**

*Saturdays, July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 26  
9 a.m.-noon · Come and go as needed  
3434 Branard St., Houston, 77027*

The Christian Community Service Center is a coalition of Houston churches serving neighbors in need through food, clothing, job training, vision care and programs for children. Volunteers help to organize the food pantry and clothing donations.

**VOLUNTEER AT CCSC  
BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS**  
Supply Bag Assembly

*July 25 \*Children 5 and up are welcome;  
volunteers 12 and under must be  
accompanied by an adult.*

**Community Event**

*July 31-Aug. 1 \*Volunteers must be  
at least 15 years old*

Help distribute school supply bags, backpacks and gift cards to clients.

For more information and to sign up,  
visit: [www.ccschouston.org](http://www.ccschouston.org).



**CCSC FOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, Sept. 20 · 8 a.m.-noon  
Bagby Porte Cochère

Pick up a bag on Sunday, Sept. 13, fill it with groceries and drive through the Bagby Porte Cochère on Sept. 20. Volunteers will unload donations right from your car!

**Food donations most needed at the Christian Community Service Center:** canned chicken and tuna, hearty soups, canned fruit and vegetables, dry beans, boxed dry cereal, peanut butter, dry pasta and/or pasta sauce and can openers.

Cool off with a refreshing cup of freshly squeezed lemonade. Student Ministries will be selling regular and large cups to help fund upcoming student mission trips.

**BAYOU CITY BREAKFAST SNACK PACKING**

Sunday, Aug. 9 · 10 a.m.  
Children’s Life Center

Drop by the Children’s Life Center after Family Table to pack weekend snack kits for Houston kids who might otherwise go hungry. It’s a simple and joyful act of service the whole family can share.

**For more information, contact Outreach at [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org).**



**OUTREACH SERVE DAY**

Wednesday, Sept. 23  
10-11:30 a.m.  
Student Life Center Main Hall

Please join us to help us prepare for the Angel Tree Holiday Project, Church in the Field Christmas project and more. All are welcome.

**WORKFAITH**

**SERVE AT WORKFAITH CONNECTION**

Times and Dates Vary  
4555 Dacoma St. or Virtual

WorkFaith Connection provides faith-based employment training and coaching to men and women. Your time and encouragement can make all the difference.

- 1. Mock Interviews:**  
Meet one-on-one (in person or virtually) with two or three clients to practice interview skills.
- 2. Celebration Champion:**  
Cheer on and inspire JSA graduates at their graduation ceremony. For many, you may be their only champion.
- 3. Application Advisor:**  
Review job applications, helping individuals present their best selves to potential employers in about 30-60 minutes per application.

**For more information, contact Outreach at [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org).**

**UNDIES FOR EVERYONE**

**VOLUNTEER AT UNDIES FOR EVERYONE**

Times and Dates Vary  
Second Saturdays and Third Thursdays.

Sign up for a two-hour shift in the Undies for Everyone warehouse 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](http://www.undiesforeveryone.volunteerhub.com).

**Please contact Ellie Herder at [eherder@undiesforeveryone.org](mailto:eherder@undiesforeveryone.org) or visit [www.undiesforeveryone.org](http://www.undiesforeveryone.org)**



**ST. MARTIN’S AND LORD OF THE STREETS: Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m.-noon

Every weekday morning, Lord of the Streets opens its doors to Houston’s homeless community — and St. Martin’s shows up to help. Our volunteers make up a vital part of this ministry.

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



“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” (Psalm 96:3)

# WORLD MISSIONS

at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church



## CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDS AT AMISTAD MISSION

Tuesdays, July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15 · 6 p.m. · Via Zoom

The children of Casa San Martin in Cochabamba, Bolivia, are waiting to meet you! Join St. Martin’s for an evening Zoom call with the children and their house mother at La Villa orphanage, our cherished mission partner. Come ready to sing, swap questions and introduce yourselves and your pets!

To receive the Zoom link, email [outreach@smec.org](mailto:outreach@smec.org).

### FAITHFUL STEPS:

#### St. Martin’s Year of Outreach and Impact

In 2025, the people of St. Martin’s did not simply give; they went. They volunteered time, packed lunches and snack kits, cut shoe patterns, served meals, filled shoeboxes and care kits with necessities, reviewed grant applications, boarded planes and wrapped their arms around children in Bolivia. Guided by a shared calling to be the hands and feet of Christ, Parishioners lived out their faith through service to neighbors near and far.

The same spirit of faithful stewardship shaped the work of the Grant Discernment Committee, whose members devoted months to careful, prayerful discernment. They reviewed 74 grant applications, conducted more than 30 site visits, and in June, awarded 38 grants totaling \$643,500 to 31 agencies in Houston and seven partners beyond the city.

The reach of St. Martin’s generosity stretched further still. When floods devastated the Texas Hill Country, Parishioners responded swiftly and generously, providing more than \$80,000 in disaster relief.

Across West Central America, in Bolivia, relationships with the children of Amistad continued through greeting cards, Zoom calls and a visit to Casa San Martin July 25-29, 2025. Six Parishioners traveled to be with them, sharing in play, worship and fellowship.

Together, these efforts reflect a year marked by faithful service, generous hearts and a shared commitment to love neighbors near and far.

### Outreach by the Numbers

From weekly volunteering opportunities to local initiatives and international mission trips, St. Martin’s Parishioners made a remarkable impact.

- 504 outreach events on and off our Campus
- 3,093 Parishioners served as volunteers
- 44,870+ people impacted
- \$72,745.12 donated in in-kind gifts (food, clothing, school & sports supplies)
- 15 service opportunities offered during Outreach Sunday
- 300+ Parishioners participated in Outreach Sunday
- 3,000+ people served in a single day
- 250 foster children gifted through the Angel Tree program
- \$80,000+ distributed for Texas Hill Country flood relief
- 340 denim shoe kits prepared for children in Uganda



Parishioners participate in Outreach Serve Day June 17, 2025, preparing a variety of projects for upcoming mission work and local outreach ministries.

### Grants at a Glance

Through a rigorous and prayerful review process, St. Martin’s Grant Discernment Committee invested more than half a million dollars in the work of organizations transforming lives in Houston and around the world.

- 40+ Parishioners served on grant review teams
- 74 grant applications vetted
- 38 grants awarded
- Grants ranged from \$5,000-\$20,000
- 31 grants awarded within Houston
- 7 grants awarded outside Houston
- \$643,500 total grant funding distributed



Parishioners cut shoe patterns from donated denim jeans for Sole Hope during Outreach Sunday on March 2, 2025. More than 300 people participated in the service project.



**BIRTHS**

**DECEMBER 2**

Virginia Storey Roff  
 Daughter of Haley and Thomas Roff  
 Granddaughter of Mary Katharine  
 and John Roff

**FEBRUARY 5**

Kate Patricia Newberry  
 Daughter of Annabelle and  
 Oliver Newberry IV

**FEBRUARY 12**

Peyton Mai Lowe  
 Daughter of Kim and Jordan Lowe  
 Margaret Louise von Dohlen  
 Daughter of Katrina Adlerz and  
 Ryan von Dohlen

**FEBRUARY 21**

Christopher Lockhart "Locke" King  
 Son of Kimmy and David King

**APRIL 16**

Lilly Louisa Rosenberg  
 Daughter of Isabel and  
 Jonathan Rosenberg



**BAPTISMS**

**FEBRUARY 7**

William Daniel Hughes IV  
 Charles Matthew Melody  
 Isla Austen Ward

**FEBRUARY 8**

Elliott Holmes Sachs

**FEBRUARY 14**

Thomas Walker Burke IV

**APRIL 4**

Eli Grant DeBusk  
 Isla Charlotte Dupre  
 Harrison Bradley Haick  
 Louise Jensen Sipiora  
 Peter Warden Stephens

**APRIL 19**

Camille "Millie" Burgess Koone



**WEDDINGS**

**FEBRUARY 7**

Leah Michele Stivala and  
 Joseph Robert Sitzman

**FEBRUARY 14**

Karen Elaine Blake and  
 Jon Kevin Sellars



**NEW MEMBERS**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Bagchi      | Lauren Larive          |
| Todd Bagchi         | Charles Lubbat         |
| Erik Belz           | David Lubbat           |
| Lily Belz           | Nancy Lubbat           |
| Nate Belz           | Darnell Lucero         |
| Rory Belz           | Connie McKenzie        |
| Sarah Belz          | Maxfield McKenzie      |
| Corey Benoit        | Sheila Miller          |
| Leslie Benoit       | Steve Miller           |
| Bryant Bradley      | Matt Murphy            |
| Ella Bradley        | Lori Newell            |
| Hannah Bradley      | Tom Newell             |
| Jacob Bradley       | James Newman           |
| John Bradley        | Dion Or                |
| Lisa Carroll-Davis  | Allen Parks            |
| Harrison Clarke     | Michael Pierce         |
| Aimee Cronfel       | Aly Priest             |
| Eli Cronfel         | Eric Reiningger        |
| Carroll Cummings    | Wynne Sharpe           |
| Edward Cummings III | Maggie Shumate         |
| Natali Czarneski    | Trent Shumate          |
| David Davis         | Anna Katherine Spencer |
| Eric Docherty       | Evan Spencer           |
| Jess Einaudi        | Evelyn Spencer         |
| Lorenzo Einaudi     | Sophie Spencer         |
| Olive Einaudi       | Cedric Tiu             |
| Sara Gessinger      | Elio Tiu               |
| Charles Graves      | Diana Trevino          |
| Victoria Graves     | Stef van de Vijver     |
| Michele Harmon      | Cecilia Vasquez        |
| David Hooper        | David Vasquez          |
| Quenby Jackson Mott | Monica Vasquez         |
| Caroline Jenkins    | Beth Veltrop           |
| Melissa Jenkins     | Barbara Vilutis        |
| Travis Jenkins      | Elizabeth Washburn     |
| Liz Karpati         | Theo Zounis            |
| Kirsten Landry      |                        |



**SYMPATHY**

**FEBRUARY 2**

Charles Eugene Baker, M.D.

**FEBRUARY 4**

William "Mack" Powers Denison, Jr.

**FEBRUARY 14**

Thomas Gregory Sumner

**FEBRUARY 23**

Stephen Andrew Caldwell

**FEBRUARY 27**

James Harlie Robinson

**MARCH 13**

Sadie Gwin Blackburn

**MARCH 15**

Betty Jane Cox DeVerter

**MARCH 23**

Cary Cravens Doggett

**MARCH 24**

Louis Leighton Hill, M.D.

**MARCH 27**

Mary Jeanne Naus Watters, Ph.D.

**APRIL 3**

Patricia Cudd Fox

**APRIL 15**

George Arthur Laigle

**APRIL 20**

Nancy Ferguson Haywood

**APRIL 25**

Joan Fredley Minor Brollier

**APRIL 27**

John Lohmann III



# The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle Presides at St. Martin's Confirmation Service

On Saturday, April 18, St. Martin's welcomed the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas, for a joyful and sacred service of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Faith. Surrounded by family, friends and the prayers of the Parish community, students and adults renewed their commitment to Christ and were strengthened by the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. We rejoice especially with those who were confirmed, received into The Episcopal Church, or reaffirmed their baptismal vows during this meaningful celebration.

**For information about student confirmation, please email [students@smec.org](mailto:students@smec.org).  
For more information about adult confirmation, please email Tany James at [tjames@smec.org](mailto:tjames@smec.org).**

The next Adult Confirmation – Anglicanism 101 class begins Sept. 13.



## Confirmed

Ivy Absmeier  
Catherine Adriaenssens  
Liz Anders  
Bailey Bickers  
Pam Brasseux  
Sally Bridges  
Joe Bridges  
Charlie Cassin  
Jack Clampitt  
Elizabeth Cone  
Mark Curry  
John Fertitta  
Kerner Francis  
Frances Harper  
Sheri Harvin  
Lee Hochner  
Margaret Hull  
Caroline Jamison  
Joseph Jornayvaz  
Scarlette Juneau

Allison Kaspar  
Davis Kinsey  
Anita Laquer  
Elinor Lester  
Aiden Leyrer  
Michelle Leyrer  
Shae Loreno  
Julia McAnelly  
Emily McDonald  
Margo McDonald  
Claire McGee  
Tate Meyer  
Lowe Miller  
Carter Moore  
James Newman  
Ethan Oholendt  
Rebecca Older  
Christian Older  
Mosby Perrow V  
Kiera Pierce

Maddy Plumhoff  
Mary Langham Potter  
Violet Priest  
Flora Randall  
Miller Robinson  
Catalina Row  
Sloane Scheyer  
Ellie Schilling  
Riley Springmeyer  
Charlotte Stillwell  
Caroline Synnott  
Charlie Taylor  
Will White  
Luke Zoerb  
Leighton Zorich

## Received

Stephanie Castle  
Maggie Row  
Kelsi White



# Celebrating the Sunday of the Passion — Palm Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday, also known as the Sunday of the Passion, marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week — one of the most sacred and dramatic periods in the Christian calendar. At St. Martin's, the day is observed across multiple services, each offering a distinct and meaningful experience for worshippers of all ages. At all services, Parishioners received palm crosses and pinned them to their clothes.

The traditional 8, 9, and 11:15 a.m. services featured the Passion narrative — the full dramatic account of Christ's final days, from the Last Supper through His betrayal, arrest, trial and crucifixion. The Family Table service began outdoors, where the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem came to life, led by a live donkey, followed by Clergy and Parishioners processing into the Parish Life Center. The Riverway community similarly gathered outside the Parish Life Center before processing in, beginning the service with the same powerful image of arrival and welcome.



Family Table Clergy and Lay readers gather with Parishioners outside before the procession into the Parish Life Center, marking the beginning of the Palm Sunday celebration.



Waving palm fronds and singing, Parishioners join the procession behind Eric Priest, Director of Contemporary Worship, and a donkey led by a shepherd, re-enacting Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.



Ushers welcome Parishioners as they arrive for the Traditional Palm Sunday services.



Altar Guild members distribute palm crosses — a cherished symbol of faith — to Parishioners arriving for the Traditional services.



Preaching at the Traditional services, the Rev. Dane Boston reflects on the meaning of 'Hosanna!' — a cry for salvation. "Help us! Deliver us! ... The cries for help were not heard unless God intended to bring them deliverance from death by undergoing death. That is the promise of this day," he proclaims from the pulpit.



The Honorable James A. Baker, III and Susan Garrett Baker depart The Church following the 8 a.m. Traditional service.



The Rev. Alex Graham reads the Passion's Crucifixion narrative during the Riverway service.



Riverway Parishioners gather outside the Parish Life Center doors, waving palm fronds and shouting "Hosanna!"

# Maundy Thursday — Commemorating the Last Supper

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus gathered with His disciples to celebrate the Passover meal, giving them a new commandment: to love one another as He loved them. This message took on a deeper significance on Thursday, April 2. The term “Maundy” comes from the Latin “Mandatum,” meaning “commandment.”

Following the sermon by the Rev. Dane Boston and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Clergy removed the Blessed Sacrament from the Altar. Members of the Altar Guild stripped the altar, removing the sanctuary’s decorative furnishings in preparation for Good Friday. In silence, the congregation knelt as The Church was solemnly transformed.

The service concluded outdoors, where the Clergy and Parish Choir led a procession to the Great Cross. There, the congregation sang the anthem “Were You There?” and those who carried and prayed upon a metal nail throughout Lent pounded it into the large wooden cross.



Altar Guild members Samantha Hutchison, Hope Huber and Therese Moore roll the altar cloth and the frontal from the Altar.



The Revs. Lisa Neilson and Alex Graham hand over the large altar candles to the Revs. Martin Bastian and Dane Boston.



The Rev. Dane Boston wipes down the altar. The stripping of the altar symbolizes Jesus’ humiliation and his abandonment by the disciples. It marks the transition into the deep mourning of Good Friday.



In silence, the procession heads out the north portals, leading the way to the Great Cross across The Church.



Parishioners gather around the draped Great Cross to sing, “Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord),” an African American spiritual.

# St. Martin's Celebrates Easter Weekend 2026



Kicking off Easter weekend, the Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's hosted the beloved Easter Family Festival on Saturday, April 4.

## He Is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

On Easter Sunday, Parishioners and guests filled St. Martin's Campus for seven worship services — from early morning through 6 p.m. — each one proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In The Church, the *Gloria Dei* organ, brass and timpani joined the Parish Choir to lift the faithful with joyful song. The Traditional, Family Table and Riverway service liturgies all resounded with alleluias — the ancient word of praise held in silence through Lent and released with joy on Easter morning. At St. Martin's the resurrection was not only proclaimed: it was lived, sung served and shared.



"The Resurrection is the promise of a new life," states the Rev. Alex Graham as he opens an oversized Easter egg, revealing three live chicks to the delight of children and adults alike.



Young Parishioners serve as lay readers during the Family Table Service.





"Christ, Jesus, is alive," proclaims the Rev. Dane Boston. "You and I will one day rise in Him. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed!"



A blessed Easter Sunday — Our Parish family united in worship, praise and the hope of the resurrection.



At Riverway, St. Martin's Contemporary service, the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden preached the Easter sermon to a congregation of seekers and the faithful alike.



HHCI's vision is a world in which mental health care is easily accessible by all. HHCI was founded in 2011 by members of St. Martin's Episcopal Church committed to being more intentional in their outreach to those encountering grief or loss, battling depression or addiction, or needing mental health resources. An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, HHCI offers comprehensive mental health resources serving the Greater Houston community and beyond. For information, visit [www.hhci.org](http://www.hhci.org) or call 713-871-1004.

## FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED FROM DR. ELIZABETH MCINGVALE

HHCI's 2026 Spring Breakfast speaker, Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale, shared insightful lessons about mental health awareness.

1. **"It's time to treat the brain like we do the body"** – When someone has cancer, we take them to see a doctor. When someone is struggling with mental health, we should take them to a therapist to get them help, too.
2. **"I always hear people say they wish they started treatment sooner; I never hear people say they wish they started later"** – Will my child/spouse/friend grow out of their problems? Likely not, without effective evidence-based treatment. The earlier you seek professional help, the sooner your loved one can feel relief.
3. **"A doctor can't specialize in 30 things"** – When looking for treatment, research a doctor or therapist's history and education. It takes years of training and practice to become a true specialist, so look for someone who has a history of using evidence-based treatment for your specific needs (OCD, depression, etc).
4. **"My parents were my champions"** – Everyone needs an ally or a "champion" on their side. It can be a parent, sibling, friend, coworker, or anyone else you can think of who will advocate for you. That person who is going to be there when you must make tough choices, who will love you through the hard days, and who will hold hope for you when you don't have any hope left. If you know someone struggling with mental health, you can be their champion!
5. **"Life isn't about you"** – The way we are most fulfilled is not money, not awards and not success; it's something we do for someone else.



Dr. Elizabeth McIngvale addresses attendees at the HHCI Spring Breakfast.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### COGNITIVE WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH

Presented by Madeline Stiers, Ph.D., LCSW-S, Chief Clinical Officer, Hope and Healing Center & Institute  
Thursday, July 23 · Noon–1 p.m.

Join online at <https://bit.ly/4tkRTPi>

Explore the dynamic relationship between cognitive wellness and mental health through a science-based, preventative lens. Through guided discussion and applied learning, participants will gain practical strategies to support cognitive wellness across personal and community settings.

For more information about the webinars, please contact Tanya Melendez at [tmelendez@hhci.org](mailto:tmelendez@hhci.org) or call (346) 335-8615.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE

Presented by Matthew S. Stanford, Ph.D., CEO, Hope and Healing Center & Institute  
Thursday, Sept. 24 · Noon–1 p.m.

Join online at <https://bit.ly/4uCDdT3>

Explore youth mental health and suicide through the lens of brain development and prevention science. Topics will include how brain development affects emotional regulation and decision-making in youth; the impact of environment, stress and trauma on the developing brain; and the importance of recognizing mental distress, discussing suicide, and supporting families through prevention and brain health strategies.

# 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 St. Martin's heritage 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 713-621-3040.**

**These gifts were received Jan. 1 through April 15, 2026.**

## MEMORIALS

### To the *Building For The Ages Fund* in Memory of:

Robert Wirt "Bob" Paddock  
by Sande and Dwight Lyman

### To the *Christian Life Study Fund* in Memory of:

Ruth Rutherford  
Thomas Gregory Sumner  
by Hester and David Anders  
Donna Taylor  
by Julia Butler

### To the *Endowment Inreach Fund* in Memory of:

Carla Clayton  
by Jean and Michael Phillips  
William Powers "Mack" Denison, Jr.  
by Jean Gaskins  
Andrew M. Fossler III  
Carolyn B. Hamilton  
by Marilyn and Bolivar Andrews  
Dan Hodges Montgomery  
by Sande and Dwight Lyman  
Robert Wirt "Bob" Paddock  
by Marilyn and Bolivar Andrews  
Marjorie Carter Cain  
Carol and Dana Weaver  
Betty Jean Randal Shindler  
by Lisa Crispin  
Thomas Gregory Sumner  
by Sharyl and Robert DeMoss  
Barbara Martin  
Frances Moore

### To the *Endowment Outreach Fund* in Memory of:

Carla Clayton  
by Debbie and David Johnson  
Mary and Warren Neville  
William Powers "Mack" Denison, Jr.  
by Marilyn and Bolivar Andrews  
Trish Chambers  
Emily and Holcombe Crosswell  
B.B. Hollingsworth, Jr.  
Ann and Tom Kelsey  
Linda K. Underwood  
Allison and Josh Zeller  
Betty Jane Cox DeVerter  
by Patricia Russell  
Janis Lynne Johnson Hooten  
by Julie and Michael Donaldson  
Robert Irvin  
by Lynda and Cecil Gilbreath  
Sandra Dunnam Justice  
by Virginia Seale Watt  
Patricia Pinson Lind  
by Altar Guild Group V  
Dan Hodges Montgomery  
by Pam and John Barineau  
Robert Wirt "Bob" Paddock  
by Helen and Joe Allen  
Chris Athon  
Pam and John Barineau  
Margaret and Bob Baze  
Sheryl and Doug Bech  
Judy and James Black  
Trish Chambers  
Flo Crady  
Carol and George Dehan  
Henry A. Duprier  
Leah and Greg Eknoyan  
Donald Evans

John Gilbert  
Bitsey Hail  
Jim and Sharon Hibbert  
Jodie and Jeff Holstien  
Patti and Harry Hopson  
Evelyn and Bob Jewell  
Ann and Tom Kelsey  
Barbara Kimzey  
Carol and Charles Kingswell-Smith  
Carol and Sim Lake  
Dee Lawrence  
Lawrence Maddox  
Michael Levy and Rachel Levy Goldberg  
Tricia and Richard Nelson  
Graham and Ed Neuhaus  
Paige Deboben Ohlenburg  
Sarka and Tom Posey  
Charles Ripley  
Jo Frances Roark  
Mary Katharine and John Roff  
Cristie and Rodney Schlosser  
Martha and Byron Snyder  
Cynthia and Fisher Trigg  
Beth and Jim Wiggins  
Mary and Will Williams  
John H. Young  
David Wayne Payne  
by Lucille Meadors  
Mary Weismann Peterson  
by Ann Kelly  
Carrie Robertson  
by Judy and Henry Sauer  
Betty Jean Randal Shindler  
by Frances Evans  
Judy Teague  
by Judy and Henry Sauer

## GIVING AT ST. MARTIN'S

### To the Endowment Unrestricted Fund in Memory of:

William Powers "Mack" Denison, Jr.  
by Richard Domercq  
Klinka Lollar

### To the General Operating Fund in Memory of:

Lynn Joan Byrd  
by Mike Sadler  
Monty L. Harrell  
by Sheryl Harrell  
Mary Kathryn "Mary Kate" Jacobe  
by Samantha and Chris Jacobe

### To the Music Ministry Fund in Memory of:

Dr. James Harlie Robinson  
by Millie and Richard Kruse

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

Stephen A. Caldwell  
by Ann Winters

### To the Peace Garden Fund in Memory of:

Christopher Fox  
by Barbara Cherry

### To the Outreach Ministries Fund in Memory of:

Dan Hodges Montgomery  
by Trish Chambers  
Sue and Bill Kimbrell  
Barbara and Charles Kraft  
Dale Miller  
Mamir Nichols  
Judy and Henry Sauer  
Sue and Bill Sikes  
Ann Trammell  
Virginia Seale Watt  
Nancy Williamson  
Jim Wise

Robert Wirt "Bob" Paddock  
by Betty Montgomery  
Thomas Gregory Sumner  
by Julia Butler

### To the Riverway Worship Service Fund in Memory of:

Thomas Gregory Sumner  
by Shirley and Robert Allen  
Lawrence Borski  
Ann Harvey  
Grace and Gary Olander  
Winston Pickens  
Deborah and Kevin Stuckey  
Jeanene Trout

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

Mollie Ward Hill  
by Jodie and Jeff Holstien

### To the Wayside Chapel Fund in Memory of:

Jon Lindsay  
Dan Hodges Montgomery  
Robert Wirt "Bob" Paddock  
by Tellepsen Family

## HONORARIUMS

### To the Endowment Outreach Fund in Honor of:

Kristin Nixon  
by Lynda and Cecil Gilbreath  
Gwynne Old  
by Ruth Stephenson

### To the Wayside Chapel Fund in Honor of:

Robert and Margaret Baze  
by Elizabeth and Edward Berzin

*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](http://smec.org) to access the livestream or explore past services anytime.



# Altar Flowers Given to the Glory of God

Beautifying our worship space with flowers is a cherished way to honor a loved one, mark a special occasion, or simply offer a gift to the glory of God. We invite you to dedicate the altar flowers on a Sunday of your choosing. You may also direct floral gifts to the Garden of the Holy Cross flower fund, a meaningful way to remember or honor a loved one.

To make arrangements, please visit [www.smec.org/altar-flowers](http://www.smec.org/altar-flowers) or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at 713-830-4146 or [relhakam@smec.org](mailto:relhakam@smec.org).



## APRIL 12

In thanksgiving for the birth of Margaret Louise von Dohlen  
by Katrina Adlerz and Ryan von Dohlen

In memory of Sadie Gwin Blackburn  
by Susan McConn

In memory of Jean K. Brown on her 100th birthday  
by Debbie Robinson, Robert Brown, Jr., Haley, Will, Perry Alice and August Matthew Thanheiser; Jordan, Chris and Mason Glenn Rocheleau; and Meagan, Duncan, Preston Kent and Price William Robinson

In memory of Kimberly Novaes Gregg and Gregory Louis Gregg  
by Kay Gregg

In memory of Mary Gray Lester  
by Linda and John Griffin, Laura and Jack Shuhmacher, and Allison and Philip Lorenzo

In memory of Michael Rigsby  
by Carolyn Rigsby

In memory of Patsy Lefoldt Shappley  
by William Shappley and family

In memory of my parents, Nell and Francis Winters  
by Ann Winters

## APRIL 19

In thanksgiving for all those confirmed, received and reaffirmed on April 18

In thanksgiving for the Activity Center Staff  
by Mrs. Cynthia Guest

In thanksgiving for our beloved daughter, Sophie Miller, Acolyte Master, on the occasion of her 15th birthday  
by Megan and Steven Miller

In memory of Sandra McHenry  
by Adams McHenry

## APRIL 26

In thanksgiving for the ministry of Dr. David Henning  
by St. Martin's Vestry, Clergy, Staff and Parish Choir

In thanksgiving for Laura and William Kelsey, Carter and Wilson Kelsey, Margaret and Jeff Wilkinson, Patrick, Clara and Thomas Connor, Cameron and Keaton Wilkinson, and Mavis P. Kelsey III  
by Ann and Tom Kelsey

In memory of Margaret and John Heinzerling, Dr. Mavis and Mary Kelsey, Cooke Wilson Kelsey, and Ann Frost Bailey  
by Ann and Tom Kelsey

In memory of Barbara S. Patton  
by John Patton and family and her sisters, Judy Coleman and Bonnie Weekley

## MAY 3

In memory of Larry Sikes  
by the Sikes-Bartlett families

## MAY 10

In thanksgiving for mothers

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Liles Bonner Baker  
by Brittany and Colter Baker

In thanksgiving for Charles Greenstein on his 35th birthday  
by his mother, Sarah "Beth" Veltrop

## MAY 17

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Theodore Clewett Butler  
by Holly and Davis Butler and Julia Butler

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Mary Grace Summers Pipkin  
by Lila and Thomas Pipkin

## MAY 24

In thanksgiving for all who have given their lives in the service of our country

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Peyton Mai Lowe  
by Kim and Jordan Lowe

In thanksgiving for the baptism of Luke Talmadge Prath  
by his parents, Kristina Little and Patrick Prath

In memory of Col. James L. McBride Jr., U.S. Air Force, MIA Korea 1952  
by Carroll McBride Selander

## MAY 31

In thanksgiving for Moira Davis and her service as Altar Guild President 2025-2026  
by the Altar Guild

In thanksgiving for Bitsey Hail and her many years of service  
by Altar Guild Group II

In thanksgiving for our Education for Ministry graduates





# Sacred Waters:

## The Baptismal Fonts of Our Parish

Few moments in the life of the Church carry the weight of baptism. At the water's edge, a soul is claimed, named and welcomed into the body of Christ. It is fitting that the vessels holding those waters should reflect beauty, permanence and sacred meaning.

At St. Martin's, each baptismal font reflects the rich symbolism of our faith and the craftsmanship of its makers.

The baptismal font in The Church — along with the altars in The Church and Christ Chapel — is crafted from Botticino Classico marble quarried in the Brescia region of northern Italy. Prized for its warm ivory tone and golden-brown veining, this stone has adorned sacred spaces for centuries.

The baptismal font itself is octagonal — a shape rich in baptismal symbolism. Since the earliest centuries of Christianity, the number eight has carried profound theological meaning: just as God rested on the seventh day, the eighth day points to resurrection, renewal, and the life beyond death.

Each of the font's eight faces is carved with a shield bearing the fleur-de-lis cross, a recurring motif throughout The Church's interior. The font is crowned by a 300-pound oak lid, capped with a bronze finial depicting the *Agnus Dei* — the Lamb of God standing on a globe and carrying a cross-embazoned banner. Together, they proclaim Christ's victory through His sacrifice. The font, originally at the nave entrance, now stands near the altar rail on the west side of The Church.

### A Remarkable Sign

When the font was still in its original position, a remarkable moment unfolded on Holy Saturday, April 10, 2004 — the eve of The Church's grand opening and the first baptism that would be celebrated in the new marble font. According to Parishioner and Docent Guild leader Lee Hunnell, who recounted the story to fellow Guild member Susan Phelps, a Sexton was inspecting the font to ensure everything was ready for the baptism. He noticed the mid-afternoon sun shining directly through the stained-glass window of St. George, casting the image of the shield's red cross into the font's basin. The Altar Guild was alerted, and an attempt was made to photograph the phenomenon, but the camera's flash washed out the cross. Research conducted through the Burke Baker Planetarium revealed that the sun would reach that precise angle four times a year, on the days before and after the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. Several vigils were kept, cameras ready; however, the cross never appeared in the basin again.



The bronze finial on the oak baptismal font oak cover depicts the Lamb of God carrying a cross-embazoned banner. Originally, The Church font stood at the entrance to the nave, positioned atop a compass rose inlaid with Empress Jade and Rosso Levanto marble. Its points echo the emblem of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

### A Second and Third Font for a Growing Community

As St. Martin's expanded through the *Building for the Ages* campaign with the construction of the Parish Life Center and Christ Chapel, new baptismal fonts were installed in each worship space.

In the Parish Life Center, the baptismal font is contemporary in design and carries the same timeless symbolism. An octagonal wooden base supports a hand-cast glass bowl, crafted in Bryan-College Station, with a beveled, polished rim. Etched into the bowl is the Paschal Lamb carrying its banner of victory.

In Christ Chapel, the baptismal font is crafted from solid oak — its eight-sided pedestal base and lid trimmed with Gothic detailing on each face and capped with a carved wood cross. When not in use, it rests in a niche and rolls easily to the center aisle for baptisms. The Chapel’s intimate scale makes it a beloved setting for baptisms, particularly on Saturdays.



The baptismal font in the Parish Life Center features an octagonal wooden base and eight columns supporting a hand-cast glass bowl etched with a Paschal Lamb carrying its banner of victory.



The oak baptismal font in Christ Chapel is tucked in a niche and rolled out for baptisms.

### Preparing for Baptism

St. Martin’s welcomes families to celebrate baptism in any of these spaces. Parents preparing for baptisms are invited to attend a Baptism Instruction Class led by the Rev. Alex Graham. Classes are offered during three consecutive Sunday School sessions (10:15–11 a.m.) and on select Saturday mornings.

#### Upcoming Baptism Class Instruction Classes

- *Sundays, Oct. 4, 11 and 18 · 10:15-11 a.m.*  
*Activity Center Game Room*
- *Saturday, Nov. 21 · 9 a.m.-noon*  
*Children’s Life Center*

#### Baptism Services

The Episcopal Church traditionally celebrates baptisms on four principal Feast Days each year: the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost, the Sunday after All Saints’ Day and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. These occasions allow the whole congregation to witness, sponsor and participate in welcoming new members into the body of Christ.

#### Upcoming Baptism Services

*Sunday, Nov. 1* — The Sunday after All Saints’ Day  
*Sunday, Jan. 10* — The Baptism of Our Lord

#### Schedule Your Child’s Baptism

After completing Baptism Instruction, parents may schedule their child’s baptism by contacting Deanna Lawson at 713-985-3807 or [dlawson@smec.org](mailto:dlawson@smec.org).

# THE STAR

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## Membership 701

### Discovering Your Membership at St. Martin's

#### Part I

Monday, Aug. 24 · 6-8:30 p.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

Registration required by 5 p.m. the Sunday  
before at [www.smec.org/membership](http://www.smec.org/membership)

#### Part II

Sunday, Aug. 30 · 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](http://www.smec.org/membership).

For more information, contact Katharine Perrow,  
Director of Membership, at 713-985-3834 or  
[kperrow@smec.org](mailto:kperrow@smec.org).



ST. MARTIN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

[www.smec.org](http://www.smec.org)



Facebook.com/StMartinsEpiscopalHouston



@stmartinsepiscopalchurch



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](http://www.smec.org/watchonline).

### WEEKDAYS

- St. Martin's offers Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. and Evening Prayer at 4:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel, Monday through Friday. We also offer an online, recorded Compline Service 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](http://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](http://www.smec.org/osl).