

News from the Pews

St. Martin's Anglican Church Newsletter

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

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Christmas/Winter Edition
December 2023

Message from Rev. Shelly

Dear Friends in Christ,

How lovely it is to write to you all through our revived newsletter! My sincere thanks to all who are making this possible.

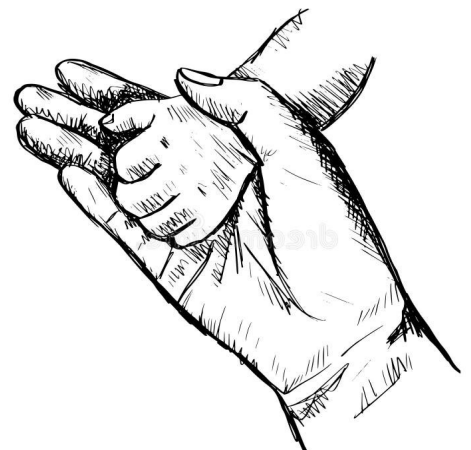
We are halfway through our season of Advent, and I feel as though this time of year goes by so quickly! During Advent, we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord. In the wider world, those around us treat Advent as though it is a countdown to Christmas, but Advent is so much more than that. It is a time for us to reflect and look for how God is calling us to grow in our faith. It is also a time for us to consider what it means to reflect on the birth of Jesus. Years ago, when I was quite young, I remember looking at a sacred painting of two hands. One hand was that of an adult, and the other was that of an infant. And my mind immediately leaped to an assumption that the adult represented God. Yet the artist of this particular rendition of the theme, who I was fortunate enough to meet, told me that no, Jesus is represented in the infant hand. They relayed to me the significance of the incarnation and how we often do not think or dwell on the true mystery of the incarnation. This early life conversation helped me to put into perspective what it means that Jesus, our saviour, and redeemer, came to us, as a human person, living as one of us, yet he remained fully divine, and with us. And while we know this to be true, really having this visualized to me in the picture helped to shape my perspective around this time of year.

I pray that as you continue through Advent, through Christmas, and through our Epiphany season, you consider all the ways that Jesus lived and dwelt as one of us and consider what it means in your faith walk.

Blessings to you all this season.

In Christ,

Rev. Shelly



Message from our Honorary Assistant

There is a moment before every show, after you have taken your theatre seat and the lights have dimmed, when you are on the cusp of entering another world – the world of the show you're about to see. Whether it be comedy, musical, drama or tragedy, the actors ply their craft and bring you into a world and time they have created. That moment before is called anticipation. Another word would be advent.

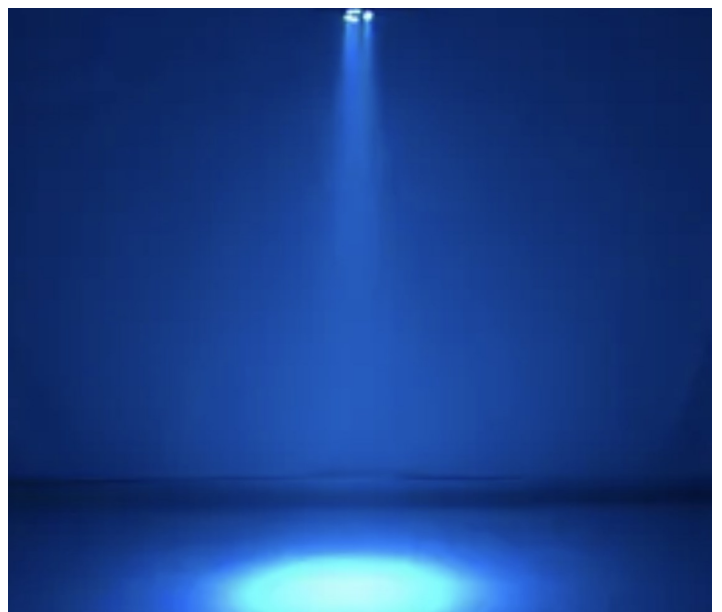
We are currently in the season of Advent – the time when the lights have dimmed in our part of the world, and we are anticipating the show to begin. Surprisingly, this show we are awaiting will be comedic, musical, dramatic and tragic – the story of the life of the Christ Child. Of course, it will begin in a moment of tenderness – a woman giving birth with a nervous husband frantically waiting and not entirely sure of what to do. Once born, smiling faces will look at this new creation – the child of God.

Then just as suddenly that quiet moment is broken by shepherds, excited by angels, all wanting to glimpse “this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord had made known.” It is a comedic scene, just like all the fathers, grandparents and siblings staring through the glass of a hospital nursery. Eyes full of wonder; dreaming, hoping and maybe even praying for and about the newborn.

The extraordinary story that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary time before it. If you concentrate for just an instant, far off in the depths of your being, you can feel the beating of your heart and the silent prayer you hold not only for yourself, but for the world, “that in stillness lies.” Both it and we hold our breath for this show to start.

Blessings to you all.

The Rev. Richard Newland



Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

PARISH ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

MINISTRY / TITLE

NAME

INCUMBENT

Reverend Shelly Pollard

HONORARY ASSISTANT

Reverend Richard Newland

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Rob Mackay

People's Warden

Moyah Morgan

Deputy Wardens

Elaine Watters, Denise Farrugia

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Moyah Morgan

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Rev. Shelly

FAITHWORKS

Peter Davidson

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Lee Lynn

Garden Maintenance

Debbie Cuciurean

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Elaine Watters

HELPING HANDS

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Shirley Vasey

LIBRARY

June Hall

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Denise Farrugia

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PROPERTY

Peter Davidson

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Elaine Watters

SCREENING IN FAITH

June Hall

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Lee Lynn

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Rob Mackay

ST. MARTIN'S CENTER BOARD

Ross Strickland, Peter Davidson, Rob Mackay

STEWARDSHIP

David Bevan

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Janis Lynch

SYNOD DELEGATE

Art Slade



Ward 2 Town Hall (Social Justice Ministry)



Earth Week Community Clean-up
(Stewards of Creation Ministry)



Poster Presentation at the Community, Advocacy & Networking
Conference - Youth in Policing



DARS Outreach Sunday Presentation (Outreach Ministry)



Helping Hands Ministry

**As part of our newsletters we will be providing an overview of church finances with some explanation in order to keep parishioners apprised of our situation.*

Financial Update

Year to Date As of November 30, 2023

Income is below forecast by \$971.

Expenses are over budget by \$10,275 due mainly to Special Projects.

Currently this deficit is being offset by funds in our bank account (\$8,403) and investment returns from the Consolidated Trust Fund * (\$13,481).

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFF</u>
INCOME	\$ 230,158	\$ 231,129	\$ 971
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 251,014</u>	<u>\$ 240,736</u>	<u>\$ 10,275</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	<u>- \$20,856</u>	<u>- \$9,610</u>	<u>- \$10,292</u>
OTHER INCOME *	<u>\$13,481</u>		
NET INCOME	<u>- \$7,375</u>		



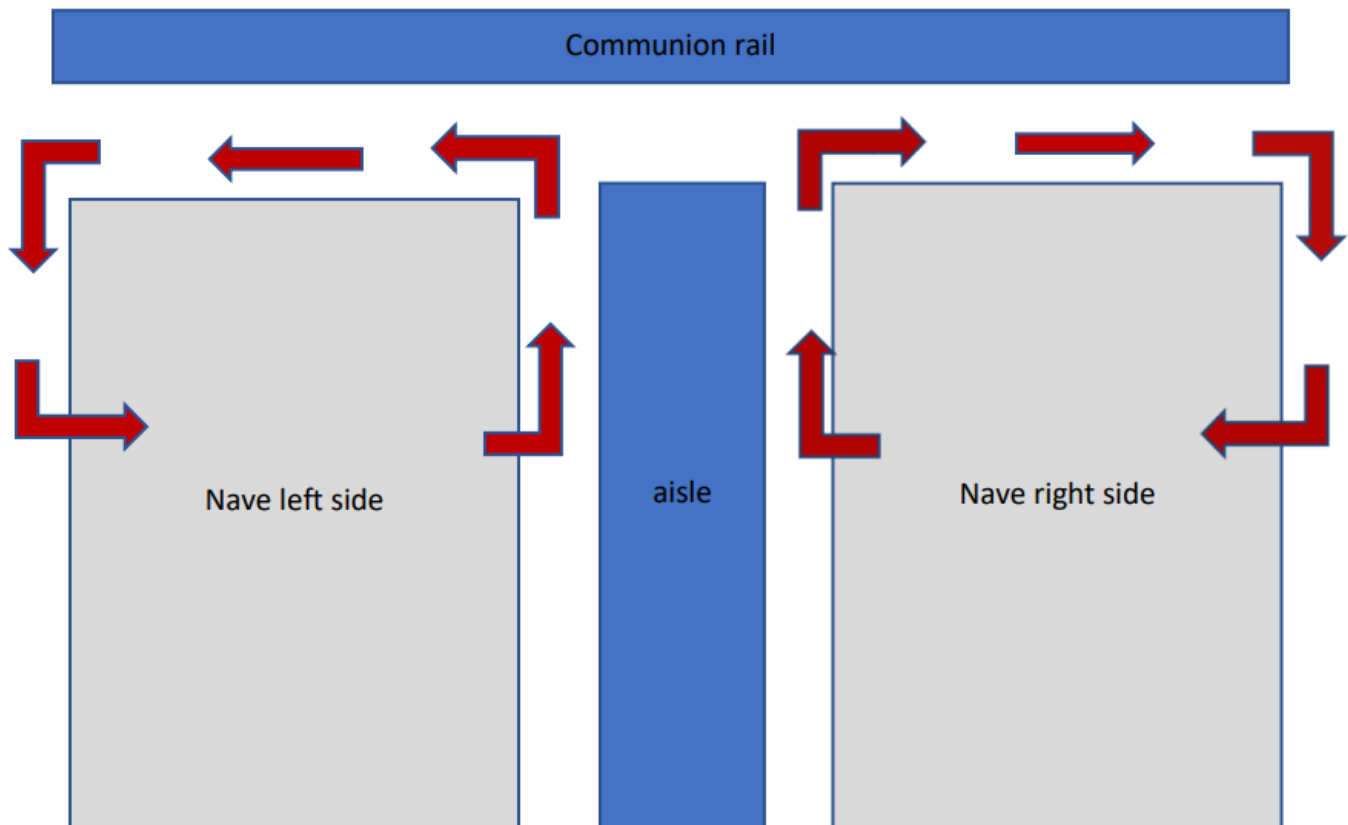
**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

The Welcome Team

Volunteers from the Welcome Team are usually the first people visitors and parishioners meet when they come to St. Martin's. They enhance your worship experience by helping to ensure that the service runs orderly and smoothly. One of our functions is to direct you to the altar rail at the time of Holy Communion. We do this with safety in mind, trying to avoid crisscrossing by keeping you on your side of the nave to and from Communion. Take a look at the ideal flow illustrated in this chart and, to the extent you can, try to help us in this effort by endeavoring to stay on your side when you go to and leave the Communion rail. If you are using a mobility device such as a walker or cane, we graciously exempt you from considering this request. You may direct your device to the center of the communion rail if this is easier for you.

We need you!

Three people are required to carry out our duties each Sunday. Our team, however, is currently very short-handed requiring frequent scheduling of the same volunteers. You can make a difference by joining our team. We are appealing to you to get involved with us. If this appeals to you, please contact the office and let Sharon know.



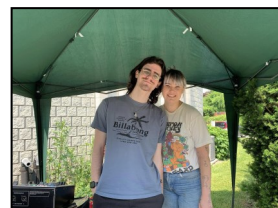
A Look Back



Road Trip to Herongate
May 2023



Strawberry Social
June 2023



Love Your Neighbour
Event
August 2023



Welcome Back Sunday
September 2023

Caribbean Event
September 2023



Crockadoodle Road Trip
October 2023



Holly Bazaar
November 2023



A Look Back continued



**Vendor Market
November 2023**

**Radio Play
December 2023**



A Look Forward

December



Advent 3 - December 17, 2023, 10am service; In person & live streamed

Christmas Potluck — Sunday, December 17th, 5:30 pm.

Reflective Compline - Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 7:00pm; on Zoom only

Advent 4 - Sunday, December 24, 2023, 10am; in person & live streamed

Christmas Eve Service — Sunday, December 24th, 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service— Monday, December 25th, 10:00am; in-person & live streamed

Christmas 1 - Sunday, December 31, 10am; in person & live streamed



January

Epiphany - Sunday, January 7, 2024, 10am; in person & live streamed

Movie Night - Saturday, January 20, 2024 (More details to follow)

February

Pancake Supper — Tuesday, February 13th, 2024, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Ash Wednesday service — Wednesday, February 14th, 7:00pm

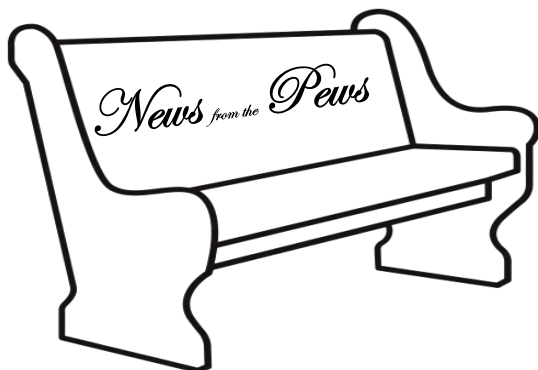
Lenten Study will begin on Tuesday, February 20th, 7:00pm on Zoom (Details to follow)



March

Earth Hour Potluck — Saturday, March 23, 2024 6:00pm-9:30pm

Easter Services (more details to follow)



Newsletter Editors:

Marilyn Dunhill
Denise Farrugia
Eugene Farrugia
Rob Mackay
Elaine Watters