

# THE MISSION

*ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS*

*DECEMBER, 2003*

*"The Purpose of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church is to help people be transformed, gifted, called, equipped and sent into ministry by Christ in the context of a caring community of celebration."*

## *From Mother Marilyn*

Dear Friends,

We are entering the season of Advent, a time of reflection and heart preparation for the birth of Jesus, the very Incarnation of the Son of God. Try to imagine for a moment what this season would be like without the secular kaleidoscope of pressures and expectations – if we could just wait in awe and wonder, trying to take in the incredible love of God poured forth for us, trying to fathom how that love is manifest in one small very human baby.

We might look at baby Noah Sullivan or baby Virginia Whipp or baby Julie Ann Skinner – each a miracle of new life in our church family – and know that Jesus was just such a baby in those days in Bethlehem. What hope there is as we gaze at the potential in each new life. What hope there is as we remember the fulfillment manifest in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

It seems to me that St. Martin, too, is in a season of new life, that the incarnate Word of God is speaking to us of hope and expectation, love and relationship – the amazing gift of God still vibrant and powerful in our lives.

I pray that we may take time -- and make time – this season to enter into that holy space of waiting, praising, being grateful, listening, hoping, loving and being loved. I pray that our faith and hope will be renewed, that indeed Jesus Christ will be born in us in fullness and joy.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near!" (Phil.4:4,5) Allelujah! With Mary, let our souls magnify the Lord and our spirit rejoice in God our Savior, for he has done great things for us!

In Christ's love and joy,

Mother Marilyn+

And more – *From Mother Marilyn:*

Many thanks to Jay Johnson, Cynthia Obermeyer, Randy Hoidahl, Jane Owens, Mark Johnson, and Georgia Reissig for planning a wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. It was awesome and a great beginning to the next 25 years!

Thanks to Joey Wolf and all who participated in the Adult Forum. We have some great ideas for "Rebuilding our St. Martin family!" And we had some great discussions. Stay tuned!

Thanks to Sharon Hoidahl and all our wonderful Sunday School teachers: Tom Keables, Be Martin, Jo Cunningham, Susan Shepard, Rick and Laura Whipp, Amanda and John Sullivan. We're continuing to work on our education space even while our children are learning and having a great time. Thanks for your continued prayers for all of them.

Thanks to Jay Skinner, Sue Richardson and Landy Phillipe for their creative leadership of Children's Chapel. Do you know our little ones did a service project? Wonderful doves of peace for our friends at CCRV to brighten their Advent.

Thanks to Bruce and Michelle Raymond, Cal Hosman, and Boone Williams for all they're doing for our youth. When you see the kids around on Sunday mornings, they are working in their peer-led small groups. They have all sorts of ideas for contributing to the life of the parish, and we appreciate those who are already serving at the altar on Sunday mornings!

\*\*\*Look for the new Adult Forum (Thanks, Marilyn Macdonald!)

\*\*\*Look for the Inquirer's class

\*\*\*Look for the Advent Quiet Day, Dec. 13,  
9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Christmas services will be on December 24 at 6:00 p.m.  
(There will be a children's sermon.)

December 24 at 10:30 p.m.

December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

On the second Sunday of Christmas, January 4, we will  
have one service at 9:30 a.m.

so we can all enjoy our Christmas pageant!