



Worship
St. Martin in the Fields
Episcopal Church

Faith building
Outreach

Community

The Mission

August, 2008 Volume 3, Issue 8

Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

Can you believe it, it is almost fall. Where did summer go?

Oh, I know that the weather is still very hot, and the calendar shows we have plenty of summer left. In addition, the leaves have not started to turn, and we are still mowing the grass. Nevertheless, did you notice? By the time you read this most of the kids will be back in school. Is it me, or are they going back sooner than before? Growing up we always started school after Labor Day, giving us that last summer push before buckling down to work. Then, again, we did not have “snow days” in South Georgia.

I cannot help but think about my days in public school. This is the year of our 40th High School reunion, which will occur next month. Unfortunately, Fabian and I will most likely not be able to attend, but it is center-most in my thoughts these days. Several of my classmates have been working very hard to make the reunion happen, and one in particular had been extremely busy with what is called the “E-Train.” Ron has been the conductor, in many ways, of emails coming in from all over the world. There are messages of those who will be coming; of those who cannot; of those who have made the “fully healed list” (whose ailments will no longer cause them any pain, but at a much too early age) and are in the presence of God forever. There are memories of football, band and much more.

However, it is the messages of old friends re-connecting—sometimes after forty years—that gives my soul joy. You see, in my humble opinion, these are “God moments.”

Let me see if I can share with you how I see God at work in these “reunion moments” and how it works for all of us.



(The short course) Some time ago, we (Adam and Eve?) fell from grace with God when we (all of us) tried to be on par with God (eating from the Tree of Knowledge—Good and Evil) resulting in the perception of separation between God and ourselves. God said this was no good, and after many failed attempts to get us back into union with God, God came down in the person of Jesus to accomplish the task, once and for all. (I told you it was the short course, a very short course)

The Good News of the Bible, and there are many things within the bible that are truly good, is found in Mark 1:14b-15 “...proclaiming the good news of God, and saying; “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent (which means to turn toward, or to turn back to God), and believe in the good news.” In other words, God in the person of Jesus Christ has come to walk the face of the earth to reestablish the relationship between God and God’s people—all of God’s people.

Ever since the time Jesus walked among us, and then said he would be with us always, it has been our privilege to
(continued on page 2)

Inside:

Page 2:
Bulletin Board
Musician Thank You
Servers Needed
Coffee Hour
High Plains Region
Summer Picnic
& Eucharist in the
Park

Page 3:
Children’s Chat
C.O.R.E. News
Adult Bible Study
Outreach
Page 4
Birthdays &
Anniversaries
Stock Fund
Safeguarding God’s
Children

Celebrating Fr. Jim’s

1st

Anniversary

As Rector



Photos by Sharon Armstrong

Thank you, Musicians!

Thank you to all the musicians who provided music for services St. Martin this summer while the regular music team took a much-needed break. These volunteers placed their own personal worship time on hold to lead others in worship.



Catharyn Baird, Patty Juhl, Jason Merillat, Joe Owens, Marina Raab, Bruce Raymond, Michelle Raymond, Amie Claire Raymond, Sarah Raymond, Barb Thomas, Laura Whipp, Jocelyn Whipp, and Rachel Whipp.

CORE Events:

Aug. 10: "Faith Day with the Rockies"
 Aug. 17: Fun Day at Elitch Garden
 Sept. 7: Regular CORE Sunday activities begin

Safeguarding God's Children Workshop
 12 noon,
 Sunday, Aug. 24,
 at St. Martin's

Children's Ministry Meeting Sunday, Aug. 10, 11:30 a.m.

Servers wanted

Do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to serve in one of the altar ministries at St. Martin's? We need more acolytes, both torchbearers and crucifers; chalice ministers; lectors and intercessors; altar guild; and music ministers. Whatever your age, gender, race, theological leanings, there may be a place just right for you. Ask Fr. Jim or L. Mayfield.



(Continued from page 1)

look for and see the face of Jesus in those around us (becoming the Body of Christ). By modeling God's desire for relationship, especially in the way Jesus formed relationships with those around him we can more easily see the face of Jesus in those we know, with those whom we have relationships—even when we have not seen them for forty years. Can you imagine for a moment Jesus sitting around a campfire with his disciples, his crying over the death of his friend Lazarus, of his getting so angry with the vendors in temple upsetting their tables, of his breaking bread with old friends and strangers alike? These are God moments—a continuation of the love God has for us, shown best in relationship with each other.

Have you hugged an old friend lately? Give it a try—look for the face of Jesus, and feel the presence of God.

God's Peace,

Jim+

Coffee Hour

Thank you, thank to all parishioners who have provided coffee hour for St. Martin over the last several months: Sarah Gallegos, Ed & Heather Paprocki, Denise & Jason Merillat, Jim & Shari Laginess, Ann & Mike Shallanberger, Jesse & Alyssa Stidham, Dana & Thor Nelson, Bill Eldred & Kandice McKeon-Eldred, Mary Louise Gradwohl, Brandi & Jason Tillman, Martha Libby, Dave & Becca Dooley, Susan & John Shepard, Bob Williams Michelle & Bruce Raymond, Sue Gilbert, Sharon Armstrong, Sue Richardson, Lorna & Lee Mayfield. And thank you to those who have signed up for August.

This is a wonderful cross-section of the parish, but providing coffee hour refreshments is not a closed list. ANYONE may sign up — two families can combine for a Sunday if that's easier. All you need to do to sign up to host a coffee hour is to write your name on any available Sunday on the Thomas Kincaid calendar in the kitchen.

If you have questions about what is involved, please contact S. Gilbert.



High Plains Region Summer Picnic & Outdoor Eucharist
6 p.m., Wednesday, August 20
 Westlands Park-5701 S. Quebec St.

Picnic starts at 6 p.m. in the Center Pavilion. Bring your own picnic as well as chairs or blankets for seating. Adult supervision will be provided for playground area. The service will begin after the picnic and will include a children's homily and contemporary music. The event is sponsored by Good Shepherd, Holy Apostles, St. Gabriel's and St. Timothy's churches.

Children and Youth Ministries

Children

Sue Richardson

Children's Chat

Participants in the St. Martin children's ministries will meet on Sunday, August 10, after the second service, for about an hour. We would like anyone interested in helping (even just for a day or two) to attend or let Fr. Jim, Landy Philippe, Sue Richardson or Jay Skinner know of your interest.

We will need nursery helpers, Sunday school teachers and helpers for preschool/kindergarten, primary and intermediate levels, and children's chapel teachers and assistants. You could offer to teach, help with discussions, crafts, music, drama or dance. Your skills can be used! Even cooking and baking... one year we made wonderful fresh rolls and our priest consecrated them for communion!!

So please, prayerfully consider joining our team. Our children are our hope for the future!

Peace,

—Sue

Outreach



Elizabeth Raymond with chart of "pledging days" for mission trip.

Seth & Elizabeth Discuss Mission Trip

On July 13 Seth and Elizabeth Raymond talked about their upcoming mission trip to Taiwan and Hong Kong. They plan to spend a year teaching English and music to a kindergarten class (Elizabeth) and working to establish an Episcopal campus ministry at three universities (Seth). To find out more check out their blog: <http://sethandelizabethtaiwan.blogspot.com>.

Sudanese family Update

Many parishioners at St Martin in the Fields have joined the effort to help a Sudanese family stranded in Denver when Juma, husband and father, suffered a massive stroke. Juma, his wife Nada and four children were on their way to Nebraska. Juma has recently been released from the hospital to the Jewell Life Care Center for rehabilitation. He is completely paralyzed on one side. Nada and the children have moved into an apartment. Nada is enrolled in ESL classes and the children are registered for school.

St. Martin's goal was to raise \$1500 to help the family, and to date more than two-thirds of that amount has already been given.

Youth Kristi Koltiska/Bryan Shallenberger



This month C.O.R.E. will be going to Faith Day with the Colorado Rockies on Sunday, August 10th. All youth are also invited to join us at Elitches on August 17th from noon until 5:00 p.m. For discounted entrance fees and free lunch please RSVP to Kristi by August 3rd. We do need some parents to

join us. Don't forget that these activities are for all youth going into grades 6-12 as well as for their families. For more information on these activities, contact Kristi by email at kristikoltiska@yahoo.com or by phone at 303-667-6005.



Water fight, yeah!



We had a great time at our July lock-in. We were also able to host breakfast for the youth from Oklahoma on their way to their Rite 13 mission trip.

Youth Group will start on September 7th. The youth will meet between services at 9:00 a.m. (between the two services) for study and again at 5:00 p.m. in the community life building for fun, fellowship, and service activities. More information will be coming soon, but if you have any questions, please contact K. Koltiska.

—Kristi

Adult Bible Study Thor Nelson

We are continuing our study of the parables of Jesus during the education/fellowship hour between the two services on Sunday mornings in August. In particular we will be looking at:

- Aug. 3 - The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18: 9-14)
- Aug. 10 - The Ten Talents (Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27)
- Aug. 17 - The Budding Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-36, Mark 13:28-32, Luke 21:29-33)
- Aug. 24 - The Friend at Night (Luke 11:5-8) & The Importunate Widow (Luke 18:1-8)
- Aug. 31 - The Master and Servant (Luke 17:7-10)

All adults and teenagers are welcome to join in any of the studies

—Thor



St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church

4740 S. Buckley Rd., Aurora, CO 80015

303-680-6376

web site: www.st-martins.net

e-mail address: office@st-martin.net

As You Go Did you know you can donate on the St. Martin website via paypal / credit card? This may provide you a way to keep up to date on your pledge in the midst of summer trips. Check it out!
 Also, if you stay in hotels which offer complimentary lotions, shampoo, conditioner and soap, please bring those items back to donate to the St. Frances center.

A New Way to Donate

We now have an additional way to receive donations to the church. Anyone wishing to make their donations in the form of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds may now do so. We have a brokerage account with Charles Schwab & Co. so we can receive the investments and turn them into cash at no cost to you.

So what is the advantage to you and the church? There can be a great tax advantage, depending on the stock, bond, or fund. Here is one example: I will use my own planned contribution to explain how it works. Years ago I started a mutual fund which has grown in value over the years (yea!). It is a taxable fund, meaning if I sold some shares to give the money to St. Martins as my pledge, I would pay capital gains taxes on the increased value. Then I could take the contribution off my taxes as charitable giving — that's pretty good. However, now I can give shares directly to St. Martins as my contribution without paying the capital gains tax (yea!) and still deduct the market value of the shares as charitable giving on my income taxes (double yea!) and St. Martins gets the same money as promised.

If this is confusing (and it is a little to me) give me a call and I will try to explain it further. All in all it is a win/win/win for everyone involved — just another way to honor our promises.

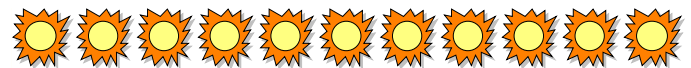
Blessings,

Jim+

Safeguarding God's Children Workshop



A Safeguarding God's Children Workshop will be held here at St. Martin in the Fields on Sunday, August 24, following the 10:15 a.m. service. The workshop helps adults working with children and youth provide a safe environment. The Diocese requires anyone interacting with children or youth in any way to take the Safeguarding workshop. The St. Martin workshop will begin with lunch at 12 noon; the workshop will run from 12:30—4:30 p.m. and will be led by Denise Merillat, Sue Richardson, and Jay Skinner. If you would like to sign up for the workshop, please call the church office to reserve a space.



August Birthdays:

- Aug. 1: Andrew Nelson
- Aug. 2: Justin Laginess
- Aug. 5: Sybil Keables
- Aug. 9: Mary Louise Gradwohl
- Aug. 10: Seth Raymond
- Aug. 15: Patty Juhl
- Aug. 15: Becca Dooley
- Aug. 16: Landy Phillipe
- Aug. 17: Jason Tillman
- Aug. 18: Judy Tice
- Aug. 21: Rachael Obermeyer
- Aug. 25: Michael Shepard
- Aug. 27: Lorna Mayfield
- Aug. 28: Kelli Laginess

August Anniversaries:

- Aug. 15: Wayne & Missi Kern
- Aug. 18: Fred & Martha Libby
- Aug. 26: Leon & Barbara Eckhart
- Aug. 28: Lee & Lorna Mayfield



Office Volunteers

Thank you many times over for those volunteers who have folded, collated and stapled the Sunday service leaflet each week this summer: Lorna Mayfield, Jeremy Mayfield, Lee Mayfield, Mary Smith, and Bob Williams.