



St. Martin in the Fields  
Episcopal Church

Worship

Faith building

Community

Outreach

# The Mission

February, 2009 Volume 4, Issue 2

## Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

Hope for change, and change for hope.

This has been a familiar political campaign slogan with which most of us are familiar. And, we have change, and are changing. We have watched a significant moment in our history with the election and inauguration of the first African-American president in the United States of America. Along with that momentous event of January 20<sup>th</sup> come incredible hope and high expectations. We should, and we will, pray hard alongside these expectations and this hope. I believe it is the right thing to do, in this challenging time, whether the person you voted for won or didn't win, we need to make our country better, stronger, more economically sound, and from my view point, more Godly. This will require work from all of us; this will require some change.

Which, of course, brings up the age-old joke, "How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?" The answer is, "Change? We don't change. It's always been that way."

Or, do we?

In the past few weeks there has been a change in the policy of the Diocese regarding the ordination of people in open, same-gender relationships, and in allowing the call from a parish to a priest living in an open, same-gender relationship. After a five year moratorium imposed by the Bishop, this is a significant change. It is one that should not be taken lightly, but with prayer and discernment, just as both the appointed taskforce and the Bishop did.

Therefore, as your spiritual leader, if any one individual or group would desire to go further into conversation regarding this change of policy, I am welcoming the opportunity to talk. Please, just give me a call or catch me in church, and we will go from there. This issue may be more significant for some than for others, and I do not want anyone left feeling neglected—let's talk.



I have a thought, regarding change, I would like us to consider.

One of the more constant elements of debate within the church is the authority of scripture. Many have stated that scripture is sacred, fixed and consistent. They have argued, "It is in the bible, God said it, and that's it!" **And, they are correct.** Scripture is the word of God, and it is correct.

However, that is not the end of the debate. We cannot grab a bible, beat someone over the head with it, and just say "it's in the bible, therefore take your lumps." The bible is full of ambiguity, contradictions, arguments, insinuations, challenges and change. This past Sunday's lessons points out one of three moments within the bible of change, God's change. In Jonah 3:10, after Jonah made his proclamation to Nineveh and they turned away from what was wrong and turned to God, "...**God changed his mind...**"

*(Cont. on pg.4)*

### Inside:

**Page 2:**  
Bulletin Board  
Coffee Hour  
Confirmation Class  
Vestry Highlights

**Page 3:**  
New Vestry member  
Biographies  
Membership

**Page 4:**  
Children's Chat  
Youth  
Adult Bible Study  
Birthdays/Anniversaries  
Prayer Request Information

**Page 5:**  
Ministry Schedule

## Hunger Banquet

Friday, Feb. 20, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Community Life Building

**Tickets: \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door;  
see any youth group member**

**Proceeds go towards mission trip**

**"Will starve for food"**

## Coffee Hour Hosts:

This is a very simple job which only requires a desire to help and some very simple prep skills. You just need to make coffee, both decaf and Regular, and put out your treats. Coffee is available at the church, so all you have to bring is the good stuff. This may include any of the following - fruit, donuts, cake, cookies, nuts, fruit, bread, pastries. If you have the talent and the time and want to make more complicated fare that would be great also.

We have found out through practice that "we" as a congregation like anything and appreciate everything. Thank God. We all did a wonderful job last year sharing this responsibility and enjoying everyone's generous provision. It is my hope that this will continue.

God Bless and Keep you all.  
S. Gilbert

## Bulletin Board

**Vestry meeting:**  
**Tues., Feb. 3, 2008**  
**7 p.m., library**

**Ash Wednesday Service:**  
7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009  
  
What about Shrove Tuesday?  
Watch for information.

St. Clare's  
Supper  
Tues., Feb. 24,  
5-7 p.m.

**Confirmation classes begin Sunday, Feb. 1, at 4 p.m.** in the library. Class will meet every other week until Regional Confirmation on May 9. Anyone who wants to be confirmed, reaffirm their confirmation vows, or be received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination, please contact Fr. Jim or L. Mayfield.

## *Vestry Highlights, Jan. 6, 2009, Meeting*

*Sharon Armstrong, Clerk, pro tem*

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with prayer led by Bruce Raymond.

Fr. Jim expressed concern about needing to fill the role of vestry clerk and also that one more vestry member was needed. Susan Shepard and Jo Cunningham who have agreed to join vestry were considered as possible people to take on the job of clerk as well. The by-laws do state that the clerk can be a member of the vestry. It was also stated that nominations for vestry members can come from the floor at the annual meeting which is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved and accepted.

**Reports:** Treasurer: Mike Shallenberger passed out the financials in their new format to the members. December came in as a positive. The vestry approved the financials. The new approved 2009 budget was passed out with the new relocation of funds to several of the ministries. There has been a gifted amount of money from one of the parishioners to increase the nursery care to \$20.00 a month. This will be adjusted on the budget. The figures from the new budget will be loaded on the computer and expenses will be tracked. The vestry approved the housing allowance for the rector in the amount of \$24,000 for the year of 2009.

Junior Warden: It was decided that carbon monoxide monitors will be purchased for both buildings. In the near future the furnaces will be checked to ensure they are safe and operating correctly.

Sr. Warden & Rector: see Annual Report.

Web Site: Bruce Raymond is re-doing the web site. It will have an entire new look. Once completed it will enable ministry heads to update their ministries for the parish website and it will be their responsibility to do this.

**New Business:** Article on church check up from the Rocky Mt. News was discussed and Fr. Jim wanted all members to read it over and bring in any suggestions they may have at the next meeting.

The sextons of the church will be asked if they can change cleaning date to earlier in the week.

A Parish Council needs to be re-formed with the ministry heads and the Executive Committee. This council would be calendaring the events and plans for the church through out the year. This would prevent conflicts and bring a better system for all. There had in the past been a council and there is a need to reconstitute it. This would also improve communication and participation.

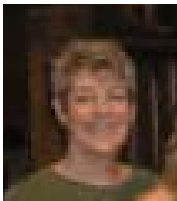
Fr. Jim would like to see people head up only one ministry to prevent burn out and get more people involved. He also would like to see term limits of one year in some of the ministries.

Thor Nelson would like to invite the children ministry heads for the next meeting to discuss the children Sunday School program and get a idea of how that is working.

Meeting ended with prayer by Fr. Jim at 8:25 PM.

## New Vestry Member Biographies

**Jo Cunningham:** I have attended Episcopal services off and on since I was old enough to be in Sunday School, and have very clear memories of being thrilled with the mysterious formalities of church early on. Such things as the lace doily I carefully bobby-pinned to the top of my head, genuflecting before entering and leaving the pew, kneelers, the pride I felt when I had memorized the Apostles Creed, Jubilate Deo, and the General Confession, and meeting the Bishop at my Confirmation all had a strong impact on my young, religious self. My faith journey was pretty consistent even into college.



My husband, John, was raised in the Lutheran Church, and, as we moved from assignment to assignment with the USAF, we attended whichever church was closest and most comfortable for us at the time. It was nice to know that the liturgy between the two denominations was so similar, but somehow I never felt the urge to leave the Episcopal Church.

When we landed in Aurora in 1982, I found St. Martin in the Fields...meeting in a raised double-wide mobile building in the middle of the SE Aurora prairie. When our 2-year old Lynzi toddled up to climb on the altar rail during the service, Father Billy Miles stopped the service and advised me to let her be...."She's a curious child of God, and she belongs up here." I knew I had found a church home, and have never lost that sense. Over the years, the people of St. Martin's have become our extended family...seeing us through difficult family times and supporting our spiritual growth, and I am ever so grateful.

I have participated in various ministries within our parish over the years – facilitating the nursery ministry, teaching, and later facilitating Sunday School, serving on a committee to call a new priest, ushering, lecturing and intercessing, and serving 2 years on the Worship Committee. I have just been trained as a Chalice Minister, and am very nervous!

Although I have been approached before about joining the Vestry, I just didn't feel it was my call. Somehow, God has worked his voice through the busyness of my life to give me a nudge at this time, and I'd like to take the opportunity to serve the St. Martin's community in this way.

**Prayer Requests:** Please call the church (303-680-6376) or Fr. Jim (cell: 303-513-9175; home: 303-766-0205) if you are ill, going to be hospitalized, will be traveling, or want any other prayers. Email address for prayer list: prayer@st-martins.net or through the web site: www.st-martins.net.



**Susan Shepard:** Susan Shepard began going to the Episcopal church when her family moved from Missouri to the Little Snake River Valley in southern Wyoming. Susan and John moved to Aurora in 2000 and have been part of St. Martin in the Fields ever since. A member of the Altar Guild for a number of years, Susan also bakes the communion bread and has taught Sunday School. Susan's husband John is currently Junior Warden. They have three children and a one-year-old granddaughter who lives in Wyoming. Susan works in medical transcriptions and enjoys doing crafts.

---

### Mike Shallanberger – Treasurer

While not quite a cradle Episcopalian, I have been attending the Episcopal Church since I was 8 years old and was confirmed at age 12. My ancestors were primarily from Ireland and the UK, so we had to take turns between the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church. I have prior experience serving on the vestry, as treasurer and as finance committee chairperson at Calvary Episcopal Church in Santa Cruz, CA.

I have been married to Ann for 29 years. We have three grown children, two of whom attend St. Martins – Alyssa Stidham and Bryan Shallanberger. Ann serves on the Vestry and Bryan is co-director of the youth group.

We moved to Aurora 9 years ago from the Central Coast of California. We began attending St. Martins in 2001 at the invitation of Lee and Kathy Christy—former members of the church. Prior to our move to Colorado I worked in the banking industry for 26 years, during which time I was president and CEO of three financial institutions.



I currently work for a management consulting and training company located near DTC. The firm works with financial institutions throughout North America and the Caribbean. If I am not in church on Sunday, it is not because I am playing hooky or watching the Broncos game – I am on the road 100+ days per year.

I hold an A.S. degree in Banking and Personal Finance, a B.S. in Organizational Change Management, and I am an alumnus of the Pacific Coast Graduate School of Banking at the University of Washington. I am currently attending graduate school at Colorado State where I am working on my M.Ed. in Education (Adult Training & Education).

In my free time I count the beans, keep the books, and sign a few checks for St. Martins.

# Children and Youth Ministries

## Children *Sue Richardson*

### Children's Chat

Another wonderful church season is in full swing! This season (Epiphany) we will not only be reminded of the Wise Men's visit, but also about Mary and Joseph fleeing to Egypt and returning when the time was safe. We will explore Jesus' being "lost" in the temple at age 12 and hypothesize other things he may have done as a child. We will re-create His baptism in the "river" Jordan (in the Community Life Building basement), and try to understand that very important first miracle at the Wedding at Cana.

Sue Richardson will be teaching through Epiphany, with helpers scheduled each week. Come join us! Lend a hand, or lend some skill! Your talents will be gratefully accepted!

Best of all, come see what your children (or the children of the parish) are learning.

Peace,  
Sue

## Adult Bible Study *Thor Nelson*

The Adult Bible Study group has begun a discussion of women in the Bible. The group meets during the Christian education hour, at 9 a.m., in the library. Any adult is welcome. The schedule of discussions is:

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/18 Eve             | 3/1 Miriam               |
| 1/25 Sarah and Hagar | 3/8 Deborah and Jael     |
| 2/1 Rebecca          | 3/15 Jephthah's Daughter |
| 2/8 Rachel and Leah  | 3/22 Delilah             |
| 2/15 Potiphar's Wife | 3/29 Bathsheba           |
| 2/22 Tamar           |                          |

*(Connecting...Cont. from pg. 1)*

I firmly believe God intends for us to be constantly challenged by life—that there is not a absolutely clear path or set of instructions, making our journey to and with God to be a “no-brainer”—but that we must use the gift of intelligence and reason to wrestle with change to a more logical conclusion, a better path. Moreover, with each step on that journey’s path, we must turn and re-turn to God for God’s help—we cannot do it alone.

Hope for change, change for hope.

We have our challenges ahead of us, there is change happening now, and more in the future. But, it is OK. As we face change—and most of us naturally resist change—we have an advantage: “We will, with God’s help.” I suspect

## Youth *Kristi Koltiska/Bryan Shallenberger*

Journey to Adulthood and Rite 13 groups are meeting every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Community Life Building.

The schedule for topics is:

**Feb. 1:** R13: Who’s got the power;

J2A: Sending a postcard

**Feb. 8:** R13: Tools for decision making

J2A: How do you get what you need

**Feb. 15:** R13: I need, I want, I have

J2A: Gandhi, King, and civil disobedience

**Feb. 22: No Sunday School — we’ll be breaking our fast at 9 a.m. in the Community Life Building.**



C.O.R.E. activities will center on planning and preparing for the Hunger Banquet Feb. 20, and the 30-Hour Famine lock-in Feb. 21-22. The group will work on a community service project, learn about world hunger and have some fellowship during the lock-in.

### February Birthdays:

**Feb. 4:** Mimi Whipp  
**Feb. 11:** Fr. Gordon Valentine  
**Feb. 13:** Mike Blaser  
**Feb. 14:** Heather Paprocki  
**Feb. 14:** Gavin Gallegos  
**Feb. 20:** Michelle Raymond  
**Feb. 20:** Justine Owens  
**Feb. 23:** Jinny Daniel  
**Feb. 26:** Dave Dooley  
**Feb. 29:** Heather Williams

### February Anniversaries:

**Feb. 20:** Jim & Fabian Gilchrist

*If your name/date is not listed or is not listed correctly, please call the church — 303-680-6376.*

if it is in God’s heart—the ability for God to change God’s mind—there is room to work for change within our hearts.

If we cannot embrace change, openly, then let us embrace God, and God will help us with the rest.

God’s Peace,  
Jim+

**Church Leadership**

**Rector:** The Rev. Jim Gilchrist  
**Sr. Warden:** T. Nelson  
**Jr. Warden:** J. Shepard  
**Vestry:** J. Cunningham, S. Gilbert,  
 L. Mayfield, E. Paprocki, B. Raymond,  
 A. Shallanberger, Susan Shepard, B. Williams  
**Treasurer:** M. Shallanberger



**St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church**

**4740 S. Buckley Rd., Aurora, CO 80015**

**303-680-6376**

**web site: [www.st-martins.net](http://www.st-martins.net)**

**e-mail address: [office@st-martin.net](mailto:office@st-martin.net)**

**prayer chain: [prayer@st-martins.net](mailto:prayer@st-martins.net)**

**February 2009**

**Ministry Schedule**

Please arrive 20 minutes prior to start of service

| Date                | Torch Bearer                      | Crucifer        | Chalice Minister                           | Lector        | Intercessor             | Usher                                    |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|-------------------------|--|
| Feb. 1<br>10:15 am  | Alexis Hartung<br>Sybil Keables   | Brandon Kern    | Sharon Armstrong<br>Bryan<br>Shallanberger | Judy Steddom  | Mary Louise<br>Gradwohl | John Cunningham<br>Jo Cunningham         |
| Feb. 8<br>10:15 am  |                                   | Sarah Raymond   | Chuck Tice<br>Judy Tice                    | Martha Libby  | Chuck Tice              | Bill Eldred<br>Kandice McKeon-<br>Eldred |
| Feb. 15<br>10:15 am | Justine Owens<br>Mikayla Kern     | Michael Hartung | Mike<br>Shallangerger<br>Alyssa Stidham    | Missi Kern    | John Shepard            | John Shepard<br>Sue Gilbert              |
| Feb. 22<br>10:15 am |                                   | Richard Daniel  | Richard Daniel<br>Randy Hoidahl            | Bruce Raymond | Judy Tice               | Tom Keables<br>Sharon Armstrong          |
| Mar. 1<br>10:15 am  | Jocelyn Whipp<br>Eithan Phillippe | Lauren Hartung  | Martha Libby<br>Thor Nelson                | Thor Nelson   | Sharon<br>Armstrong     | Ann Shallanberger<br>Alyssa Stidham      |

| Date            | 8:00 a.m. Server | Altar Guild       | CCRV                    | Coffee Hour    | Teller                             |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Feb. 1,<br>2009 | Catharyn Baird   | Cynthia Obermeyer | Mary Louise<br>Gradwohl | Erwin family   | Bruce Raymond<br>Bob Williams      |
| Feb. 8          | Lorna Mayfield   | Susan Shepard     |                         | Tillman family | Bob Williams<br>Thor Nelson        |
| Feb. 15         | Thor Nelson      | Judy Tice         | Lorna Mayfield          |                | Thor Nelson<br>John Shepard        |
| Feb. 22         | Catharyn Baird   | Cynthia Obermeyer |                         |                | John Shepard<br>Jo Cunningham      |
| Mar. 1          | Lee Mayfield     | Susan Shepard     | Tom Keables             |                | Jo Cunningham<br>Ann Shallanberger |

*If you are a server and know you will have a conflict in March, please notify M. Kern by Feb. 15 so she can accommodate your calendar. Once the schedule is published, you are responsible for finding your own substitute. Then please let the church office know who is serving in your place. Thank you.*