



St. Martin in the Fields
Episcopal Church

Worship

Community

Faith building

Outreach

The Mission

July, 2009 Volume 4, Issue 7

Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

Good morning!

It is July 1, and I as I sit here, collecting my thoughts, preparing to write my article for the July Mission newsletter, my mind swirls. There is so much to think about, to write about, and to pray about. Mostly, it is about God in our lives—where is God leading us.

Mainly, what comes to mind is today is the second anniversary of our call to each other. I started two years ago, today. With this thought, I reflect back on our journey, so far. We have worked hard, learning how to dance together, learning and exploring how to trust each other and mostly, how to be family—and, I feel we are.

Part of learning “trust” means letting down our projected image—you know, the one we want others to see us as—and to just relax. It is time to be ourselves around each other, just as in any family, and this is good. It means the honeymoon is over—we are all here to stay—and now we can sit down from the dance lessons and take a sigh of relief, or can we?

Over the past two years, so many of us have worked tirelessly patching, building, worshipping, and loving each other, building up the Body of Christ which was starting to look a little beat down. Moreover, it has worked. We have grown in size, in spirit, and in love. We have painted the inside of the church, painted and carpeted the inside of the Community Life Building, and received donations of newer appliances and purchased a new lawn mower—with many volunteers stepping up to mow. We have added hours to Mary Ruth’s service to us, and it shows. We have a new Episcopal flag and a new vesting room. And, that is not even scratching the surface. Now, it is time for a rest, or is it?

The natural tendency would be to take a break, relax for the summer and let someone else do it for a while. I might agree—it would be nice to have some time off and recharge—if it were not for the vandals who are attacking the church right now. Or, if it weren’t for new visitors coming most every Sunday looking for a spiritual home, some healing and relationship with God and the Body of Christ. It might be the time to step back and relax if it were not for the youth in our family who still need Christian formation—hearing what and why about Jesus from us adults. It might be time for all of us to take it easy for a while if we were sure of our own relationship with Jesus—**have we touched Jesus, lately.**



Yes, the honeymoon is over, and I thank God for that. Now, we can get on with the next steps of building and healing. We are not finished in either. If I were to mention the last Rector’s name, would it still cause a little rise in your blood pressure? (I am not planning to go anywhere.) Do we not still have a need for prayers and support for our families and our friends as they struggle with their challenges, and is not the Body of Christ diminished with each need? Have we grown enough to survive as an independent Parish in our Diocese, or do we need to continue to grow to at least 125 Average Sunday Attendance from the 90 we currently enjoy?

I suspect we all know the answers to these and many more questions as we reflect on where we are, where we have come from, and where we need to be. The overall answer is God loves us, and wants the best for us. In addition, thank you Jesus, that only happens when we take care of each other—and we do. Only, now it is time to take the next steps. *(Continued on page 2)*

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Please Note: For security reasons the ministry schedule will now be emailed to the server list each month. It currently goes just to adults, but any youth who wants his or her own copy may contact the church office.

(Connecting...from page 1)

First, take a breather this summer. It most likely will be a hot summer, and a good time to relax. I hope to do so, myself. Recharge the batteries by taking some time off, and some time in. In other words, relax, but do not forget your spiritual life and what the inside of the church looks like. Take care of yourself in all manner of things. Secondly, this summer I would like to visit with each family or person at St. Martin's. I want to hear from each person, regardless of age, what you think—what is working, and what areas we need to improve. I would like to call this "A Summer of Discovery". Now that the honeymoon is over, let us re-discover and grow in our relationship with each other and with our church family, how we can take it to the next step.

God's Blessings,
Jim+



Bulletin Board

**Vestry Meeting July 21
(3rd Tues.) 7 p.m., library**

St. Clare's
Supper
Tues., July 28,
5:30 p.m.,
St. P. /St. M.
church

**New Member
Incorporation Series
Coming Soon**

Financial Report: The financial report for the first six months of 2009 will appear in the August newsletter.

Prayer requests: The email address for prayer requests has been changed to avoid excess spam. To make a prayer request, please call the church office 303-680-6376.

Healing for Survivors of Childhood Abuse: Mary's Hope Workshops (www.maryshope.org) presents "Spiritual Healing and Recovery" Introductory Workshop on Saturday, July 18, 2009. For adult survivors of childhood abuse and trauma, and those who care for them: clergy, therapists, spiritual directors, social workers, friends, family. Learn how to help survivors heal their spiritual woundedness. Good Shepherd Episcopal Church 8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.. Cost: \$50.00. Pre-registration required. Call 303-377-0293 or email maryshope@qwestoffice.net.

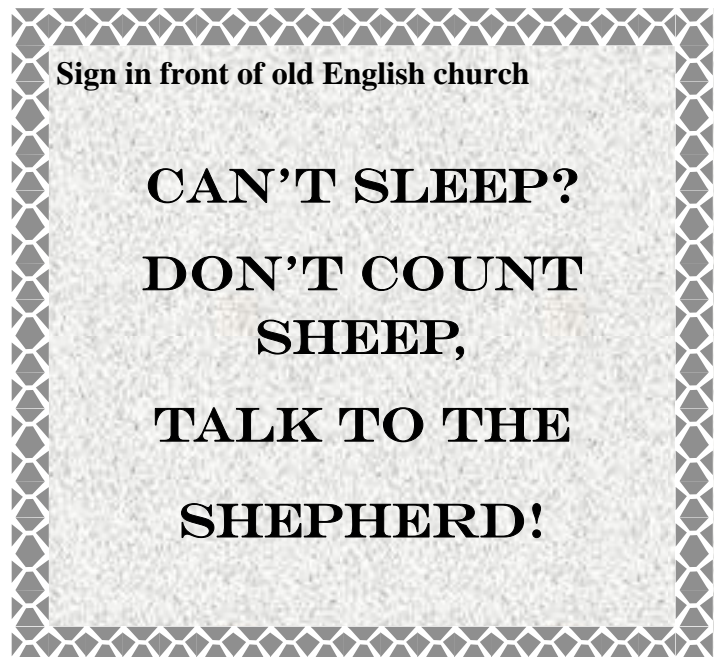


July Birthdays:

- July 7: Chuck
- July 8: Michael
- July 10: Jordan
- July 17: Alec
- July 20: John
- July 21: Bethany
- July 24: Lauren
- July 26: Noah
- July 26: Jeffrey
- July 26: Bryan
- July 29: Violet
- July 30: Mike
- July 30: Beau
- July 30: Sharon

July Anniversaries

- July 8: Becca & Dave
- July 10: Michelle & Bruce
- July 29: Jo & John



Sign in front of old English church

**CAN'T SLEEP?
DON'T COUNT
SHEEP,
TALK TO THE
SHEPHERD!**

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

Children and Youth Ministries

Youth Kristi Koltiska/Bryan Shallenberger

The youth of St. Martin will take two mission trips to Wind River Reservation in Fremont County, WY. The first trip will be from July 5-10; the second is July 26-31. Watch for reports and photos in upcoming newsletters.



Editor's Note: The photo of the St. Martin confirmation group which appeared in the June issue of The Mission was taken by Jason. Thanks, Jason.

General Convention Information and Updates

The 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church will begin July 8 in Anaheim, CA. For more information about convention, visit the website at www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm. Some background material is in the large rack in St. Martin's narthex below the bulletin board. Members of the Colorado deputation will speak at a forum at St. John's Cathedral Sat., Aug. 1, from 10 a.m. to noon. Check the deputies' blog at <http://coloradogcdeputies.blogspot.com/2009> for news & reactions during convention.

Vestry Highlights, May, 19, 2009

Judy Steddom, Clerk

Jo C., Sue G., Fr. Jim, Lee M., Thor N. (Senior Warden), Bruce R., Ann S., Mike S. (Treasurer), John Sh. (Junior Warden), Susan S., and Bob W. were in attendance.

Thor N. provided the prayer and scripture to start the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Cash on hand is 16,500.00
Mission Trip - 2,600.00
Balance 13,900.00

High Plains grant application for 2010 is due. Fr. Jim will submit application. There was a consensus that whatever money we do not use will be returned.

Plate and pledge income is up as well as facility use rentals. Diocesan pledge will be made soon of \$1,000.00.

Junior Warden: "Grass is Growin"

Senior Warden: No Report

Rector: "Grass is Growin": Our tractor has died -- probably a piston rod. It was purchased in 1991; the cost to repair the old one would be as much as a new one. A proposal was made and a consensus

reached after a lengthy discussion, that a new one will be purchased. A proposal for a fund raiser to help defray the cost of a new tractor was discussed and agreed upon.

Old Business: A Membership and Incorporation Meeting was held the end of May. Given the parish's resources, the focus was on how do we get people to come, stay, and become involved?

New Business: Our Mission Statement needs to be rewritten to and updated and will be forthcoming soon.

The Vestry Retreat was discussed and although the group felt there was some good information offered, it could have been more useful. The Vestry is looking into holding another retreat in the future to determine the roles of the Executive Council, Vestry, and Parish Council.

Ministry heads will meet July 7, at 6 p.m., to discuss a calendar update. Fr. Jim asked to pray and discern during this transition.

Next Vestry meeting will be July 21, at 7 p.m. The meeting ended with prayer.

Submitted by Judy S., Clerk

Church Leadership

Rector: The Rev. Jim Gilchrist
Sr. Warden: Thor N.
Jr. Warden: John S.
Vestry: Jo. C., Sue. G., Lee M., Ed. P., Bruce R., Ann S., Susan S., Bob W.
Treasurer: Mike S.
Clerk: Judy S.



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-martins.net