



Worship  
St. Martin in the Fields  
Episcopal Church

Community  
Faith building  
Outreach

# The Mission

November, 2009 Volume 4, Issue 11

## Connecting with the Rector

Fr. Jim Gilchrist

I have often reflected on the season of fall, and written on the changes it brings. I know I've told you before, just how much I enjoy the change of seasons—the cool crisp air, the revealing of the true colors of the leaves when the chlorophyll and sap retreats for a long winters nap, the change in position of the sun in our sky which brings a different light. To me, there is a sense of hope, a sense of renewal in its beginning stages—what new wonderful life will reappear after a few short months of winter. Yet, this year seems a little different.

There has been a significant change in the Gilchrist household. It is an ending and a beginning. It is a time of reflecting, and cherishing what has past, and looking forward to what is being revealed for the future. It was time, this fall, to say goodbye to Gus, our beloved cat for more than twenty years. (We called her Gus, short for



August—the month she was born back in 1989. A co-worker of Fabian had rescued her from the gutter on Colfax, and, well...it has been a wonderful twenty years.) God had gifted us with dominion over this fragile life (wait, she was a cat—she had dominion over

us) and through the sharing of our lives with one of God's creatures, we learned volumes. One of the volumes was stewardship of God's gifts to us.

However, having never been more than a few hours without fur in our lives over the past forty years, we knew another gift from God was waiting for us to show

up. The only difference was, for the first time in our married lives, the fur is attached to a "dog". Meet Buddy! The one whose feet hardly ever touch the floor (incredibly spoiled, already). I won't go



into the theological, ideological, or social issues in selecting a "dog"—we have always been cat people—but, seemingly as God saw fit, Buddy needed to be in our lives. Again, the

beginning of a long (hopefully) relationship involving feeding, caring and loving one of God's creatures—a time of stewardship.

If you haven't noticed, there is an underlying theme as I share the news of a household change in the Gilchrist residence—stewardship. It seems appropriate; fall is a time of reflecting on stewardship. It is that time when many of us stand up in church to talk about a seemingly uncomfortable subject—money—or actually, more to the point, the subject of Time, Talent and Treasure.

I must confess, as a teenager, I was extremely uncomfortable with the subject of stewardship—it always seemed to be about money. I hardly had any, and the church was always asking for it, or so it seemed.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

### Inside:

Page 2: Connecting....cont.  
Meet Russ and Fran  
Blackman

Page 3: Stewardship  
Adult Bible Study  
Ministry Fair  
Birthdays/ Anniversaries

Page 4: Vestry Minutes  
Parish Council Report  
Loaves & Fishes

Page 5: Bulletin Board/  
Upcoming Events  
Excerpt from The  
Episcopal Handbook  
Entertainment Books

## St. Martin of Tours Patron Feast Day, Nov. 8:

Ingathering and blessing of coats, hats,  
gloves & blankets for St. Clare's

Ingathering of 2010 estimate of giving cards

Special coffee hour celebration

*(Connecting... cont. from page 1)*

As a young person, without the benefit of life's experiences, I did not understand. I didn't understand stewardship was more than just money, but of time and talent. I did not understand what little, or what abundance, I had was a result of the gifts of talents and skills from God. I did not understand, of that gift, I had/have the opportunity to gift back some of what I had, or now have.

Oh, it has taken many years of soul searching, years of learning how life works, years of learning how organizations and families work, years of learning the delicate relationships we enjoy with the gifts given to us by God. We have been endowed with a marvelous gift from God—life—and we have the chance to share that gift with others.

Over the past twenty years, Fabian and I have been gifted with the responsibility of caring for Gus, by sharing a small portion of our time and our love, and receiving her

love and gratefulness back. Perhaps, over the next number of years we can do the same with Buddy. We can share a small portion of our lives in caring for Buddy, and receiving back the gift of gratitude and love from him. What amazes me, while we may be giving 10% of our time (think about how much time is actually spent) in caring for our animals; they are willing to give back completely.

While we reflect, in this fall season of stewardship, just how much Time, Talent and Treasure we are able to offer our church family and its mission, and to the needs of the world, it is a great time to reflect on the complete gift of love God has for us.

I suspect Buddy will help teach me of the gift of love.  
God's Peace and Love,  
Jim+

## Meet Russ & Fran Blackman

Fran and Russ Blackman became members of St. Martin in the Fields in the fall of 2006. "From the time we walked in the door the first time everyone made us welcome." The first Sunday they thought the praise music was for a special occasion but the music was there the second time they visited also and they realized it was integral to the life of St. Martin's. The Blackmans enjoy the music, and the camaraderie, and they especially enjoy Fr. Jim's sermons. They both agreed that St. Martin's services "lift your spirit".

Russ has been an Episcopalian all his life; Fran became one when she was a college student. Over the years in the various churches they have attended they have served as wardens and sextons, on vestries, altar guilds, and committees, and as general volunteers. Russ was even parish administrator for St. Barnabas, Denver, for a number of years.

Fran was born and grew up in Boise, ID. Russ was born and raised in Pueblo. They met at Western State College and married in 1959. Fran was in secretarial/executive administrative assistant positions throughout her professional life, most of them in higher education, with her final 13 years serving as executive assistant to the Chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Services Center. Russ served 41 years in education, moving from teaching middle school and high school (business

and marketing), to central administration for the Westminster school district. His final 20 years were spent serving on staff of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education. After retirement from the state, he became Executive Director for the Colorado Vocational Teachers Association.



In 1999 both Blackmans retired "completely" which has allowed them time to volunteer, to travel, to spend more time with their family.

Their son Cory lives with his family in Estes Park, and their daughter Lisa and her family live in Ft. Worth. Russ & Fran's five grandchildren are all in high school or college. The other member of Russ and Fran's family is a Maltese/Pomeranian "designer mutt", named "Alfie". Alfie travels with Blackmans both in-state and out-of-state.

Russ and Fran spend several months in California during the winter where they belong to a shuffleboard league, play bocce ball, and bridge. And many friends and relatives come to visit. They attend a very large Episcopal Church in the Palm Springs area ("quite different from St. Martin's"). On their way home from California, they sometimes take side trips to places like the Grand Canyon and Utah canyonslands.

Back here in Colorado, Blackmans belong to a couple of dinner groups, they travel, and they get together with family. And of course, they attend St. Martin in the Fields to get together with their Aurora church family.

**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.

# Faith Formation Ministries

## Stewardship

Bob Williams

### Stewardship Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow

Yes, Friends, as you know, Stewardship is 24/7, 365 days a year. Stewardship is the prevailing concept for everything we do, say, and think.

We have been given an awesome responsibility and privilege of doing, taking care of, and extending the Teachings of Christ.

Stewardship is ... taking very good care of the friendships we have been given, even if we disagree with our friends we make sure they are always whole and have our unconditional Love.

Stewardship is ... taking good care of the things we have been entrusted with and putting them to the best use and benefit of others.

Stewardship is ... making sure that our actions and resources reflect our commitment to our Faith and its teachings.

Stewardship is ... making sure that we use our time and energies to the benefit of others, and reflect the teachings of Christ.

Stewardship is ... adding value to the lives of others.

Stewardship is ... is always present and all encompassing.

Peace,

Bob Williams Stewardship co-chair

### ST. MARTIN MINISTRY FAIR

On November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a ministry fair between the two services (9 a.m.) and following the second service (about 11:45 a.m.). Information will be provided about the many ministries at St. Martin's. Ministry heads will be available to answer any question you may have. This is an opportunity for you to participate with your time and talent.

Take the next few weeks to pray for guidance about joining one or two of the ministries. Some involve more commitment than others but all are important. Do you want to worship through song? Then perhaps the Music Team is the place for you. Or if you enjoy helping with social things, then Hospitality may be a perfect fit. Or perhaps you would like to prepare the altar for Eucharist— then the Altar Guild could be the answer. All of the ministries will have a description of what serving on them would entail. The all important thing is that there is one that is perfect for you . . . all you have to do is say "yes".  
—Sharon Armstrong

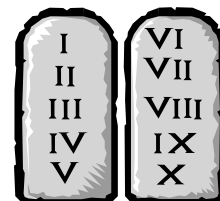
## Adult Bible Study

Thor Nelson

The Adult Bible Study this year is studying the biblical roots of the Episcopal Catechism. The Catechism is included in the Prayer Book and is a thorough discussion of the foundational beliefs of our faith. Topics through the remainder of the fall include the 10 Commandments, Sin and Redemption, God the Son, The New Covenant, and the Creeds. Adults of all ages are encouraged to come and participate. Classes are informal discussions and no advance preparation is required. Each class is independent so if you have to miss a week, just come the next. If you have any questions, please contact Thor Nelson at [tnelson@hollandhart.com](mailto:tnelson@hollandhart.com) or at Sunday services.

### Adult Bible Study Schedule:

Nov. 1: The 10 Commandments  
Nov. 8, 15: Sin and Redemption  
Nov. 22, 29: God the Son  
Dec. 6, 13: The New Covenant  
Dec. 20: The Creeds  
Dec. 27, Jan. 3: Christmas Break



### November Birthdays:

Nov. 8: Zachery Sulyma  
Nov. 8: Cynthia Obermeyer  
Nov. 9: Bill Eldred  
Nov. 17: Denise Merillat  
Nov. 17: Fred Libby  
Nov. 21: Ron Juhl  
Nov. 22: Dennis Morales  
Nov. 28: Jim Skinner  
Nov. 28: Fran Blackman  
Nov. 29: Michael Hartung  
Nov. 30: Brittany Fitzgerald

### November Anniversaries

Nov. 9: Larry & Peggy Martin  
Nov. 15: Jim & Jay Skinner  
Nov. 19: Steve & Carol Whittington  
Nov. 25: Joe & Jane Owens

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

*Vestry Highlights, Sept. 15, 2009 Jo Cunningham, Catharyn Baird, Clerks pro tem*

The Vestry welcomed Sharon Armstrong, who agreed to fill this year's term vacated by Bruce Raymond. The Vestry also welcomed Catharyn Baird who has taken the open Vestry position. Both positions will be up for election at the Annual Meeting in Jan. 2010.

Fr. Jim reported that the church received approval for \$8,000 from the High Plains Region for calendar year 2010.

Bob Williams reviewed the Stewardship/budget timetable: this fall's campaign will begin Oct. 4, estimate of giving cards will be gathered Nov. 8, followed by budget preparation.

A Ministry Fair will be planned for a Sunday in November.

The Vestry reviewed information about the primary responsibilities of a parish vestry and previous discussion about the perception of what St. Martin's Vestry duties have been in the past. There followed a detailed and extensive discussion around the roles, responsibilities and relationship of a Vestry and a Parish Council in our parish. Fr. Jim began by reviewing the canonical description of the role of the Vestry:

**Finances:** stewardship, budget, managing the resources of the parish

**Building and Grounds:** maintenance of the facility, decisions concerning growth

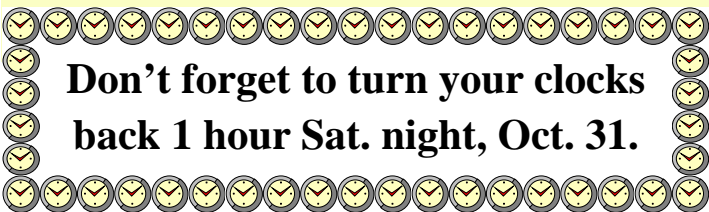
**Leadership**

**Spiritual Support**

Thor noted that to him, leadership meant that if any vital function of the parish was not staffed, the Vestry should step up to the plate to provide that leadership and/or recruit someone to support that function. Fr. Jim then talked about the parish Council model where ministries of a parish were the responsibility of the ministry chairs. The Vestry members then listed the current St. Martin ministries: education, music, hospitality, youth, altar guild, altar ministries (readers, acolytes, etc.), usher, and outreach.

The Vestry then discussed several different models of relationship between the Parish Council and the Vestry, including minimal, interlocking, liaison, and ratification. No decision was made as to which model to follow, the Vestry was leaning toward interlocking model. The discussion will continue throughout the year.

*Because there was not a quorum at the October Vestry meeting, there was not an official meeting and no minutes were taken.*



**Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour Sat. night, Oct. 31.**

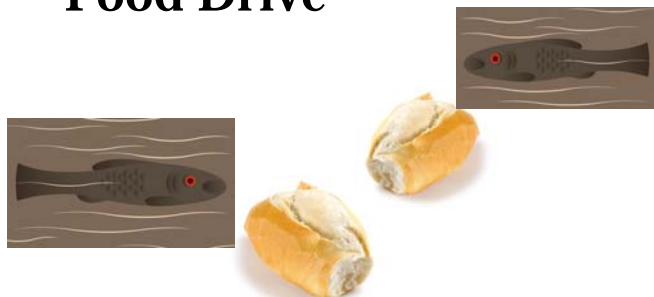
*Parish Council Report Thor Nelson*

The Parish Council met Oct. 6, with the following ministries represented: Rector—Fr. Jim, Adult Ed—Thor Nelson, Children's Ed—Catharyn Baird, Altar Servers/LEVs—Lorna Mayfield, Altar Guild—Susan Shepard, Coffee Hour—Sue Gilbert, and Hospitality—Jo Cunningham.

The calendar was discussed in detail, including activities through Christmas. Some of the events are: Kimberley & Bud Erwin renewal of marriage vows (10/18), reading of names of those who have died whom parishioners want remembered (11/1), C.O.R.E. lock-in (11/7-8), St. Martin patron saint feast day observance including coat/hat/glove/blanket drive & blessing and stewardship estimate of giving card ingathering (11/8), ministry fairs (11/15 & 11/22), Loaves and Fishes Food Drive (11/22 & 11/25), Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social (11/25), and various Advent and pre-Christmas activities.

It was agreed that Parish Council would meet with the Vestry every other month.

**Loaves & Fishes Food Drive**



**November 22 & 25**

**Items needed:** canned or dry beans, beef stew, cereal, coffee, canned fruit, hot chocolate, canned or boxed juice, macaroni & cheese, dry or canned milk, oats, pasta & pasta sauce, peanut butter, rice, soup, sugar, tea, tuna, canned vegetables, bar soap, body lotion, deodorant, laundry soap, shampoo, tooth brushes & tooth paste, baby food, diapers, dog food, cat food. *All items will be given to Metro CareRing and an Aurora food bank.*

**Church Leadership**

**Rector:** The Rev. Jim Gilchrist  
**Sr. Warden:** Thor Nelson  
**Jr. Warden:** John Shepard  
**Vestry:** Sharon Armstrong, Catharyn Baird, Jo Cunningham, Sue Gilbert, Lee Mayfield, Ed Paprocki, Ann Shallanberger, Susan Shepard, Bob Williams  
**Treasurer:** Mike Shallanberger  
**Clerk:** Judy Steddom



**St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church**

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

**From the Episcopal Handbook....**



*The Episcopal Handbook is a "survival handbook" of short, sometimes light-hearted, essays on a variety of subjects encountered by both novices and veterans in the Episcopal Church. The Handbook is published by Morehouse Publishing.*

**How Much Money Should I Put into the Offering Plate?**

As much (or as little) as you like.

Like most churches, Episcopal congregations exist mainly on donations from our members.

Once a year most parishes run a "stewardship" or "pledge campaign," asking each individual or family to make a financial promise (estimate of giving) for the upcoming year. We then total those promises (estimates) and create our budget....

Of course, donations also come in the form of volunteer time. For example, electricians help with maintenance and accountants help audit the books, which can be priceless.

However, the main reason for giving to a church has less to do with paying bills and much more to do with cultivating generous hearts. God wants you and me to be generous (2 Cor. 9:7) The Lord wants us to be known not by the kind of car we drive, the size of the house we live in, or the jewelry we wear, but by our love. As Christ gave himself away for us, so too are we asked to give of ourselves away to others. So the old adage "give 'til it hurts" comes to mind – but, in fact, it could be better phrased as "give 'til it feels good."

Please join us!  
 Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist  
 7:00 p.m., Nov. 25  
 Followed by Pie Social

**Bulletin Board**

St. Clare's  
 Supper  
 Tues.,  
 Nov. 24, 5:30  
 p.m.,  
 St. P. /St. M.  
 church

**GOT  
 GROUP??**

**Vestry Meeting Nov. 17  
 (3rd Tues.) 7 p.m., library**

**Ministry Fair Coming:  
 November 15 & 22  
 Learn about our church  
 ministries—is there one  
 for you?**

That's why the Episcopal Church asks its members to use the tithe (10 percent of one's income) as a starting point. Tithing is never a requirement for membership; most parishes gratefully receive any contribution. However, money is a spiritual issue and our churches address it by gently challenging their members to grow -- to strive less for acquiring things for ourselves, and doing more to help those in need.

Bottom line: when the plate gets passed, use your own discretion. Few people know (or care) how much money you put in. How much we give is between God and ourselves.

But know that any contribution will be appreciated and, of course, tax deductible.

**2010 Entertainment Books**

There are still some 2010 Entertainment Books available—only \$30—with Two-for-One offers for fine dining and casual meals, hotels at 50% off, and discounts on rental cars, ski tickets, dry cleaning, and merchandise. Each book has \$20 in savings at Safeway, too. Proceeds go to the Danny Shewey Memorial Youth Scholarship Fund for all youth at St. Martins.

See R. Hoidahl for your book or call c/o the church office.