



The Echo



SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN AUSTIN VOL. 51 NO. 8

SPECIAL FALL KICK-OFF EDITION

"WE'VE GOT SPIRIT"

FALL MINISTRY



September 12, 2004

"FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF COWARDICE TO FALL BACK INTO, BUT RATHER A SPIRIT OF POWER AND OF LOVE..."
-2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Come share the excitement
at the Fall Ministry Kick-off!

9:00 Spirit Rally – an energetic rally of mission and ministry. A celebration of the involvement of all ages.

10:00 Festival Eucharist – gather as one community of faith, in the power of the Spirit, to praise God in word and song, and share in Christ's feast of life and love.

11:00 Ministry and Mission Festival – a showcase of opportunities to "Share God's Love" through education and volunteering

Interactive Booths Highlighting Opportunities for Service, Worship and Education
Building Tours - Moonwalk - Face Painting - Live Entertainment for Adults & Kids
Blood Drive - Activities for All Ages - Great Food - Pizza, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs (\$2-\$5)

DRESS FOR SPIRIT BY WEARING YOUR FAVORITE TEAM COLORS,
ST. MARTIN'S SHIRTS, OR OTHER FESTIVE ATTIRE!

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

606 West 15th Street
 Austin, Texas 78701-1514
 512/476-6757 • Fax: 512/473-2946
www.saintmartins.org

Interim Senior Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. James E. Bennett,
 Bishop (retired)
jbennett@saintmartins.org

**Associate Pastor/Director of
 Congregational Ministries:**

The Rev. June A. Wilkins
jwilkins@saintmartins.org

Visitation Pastor:

The Rev. J. Glen Sandquist

Council President:

Donna Cordes

St. Martin's Lutheran School

512/476-4037
 Miriam C.A. Junqueira, School Director
mjunqueira@saintmartins.org

The Echo

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Submissions to The Echo

will be directed to the appropriate staff program director for review. Email copy submissions to: dsheehan@saintmartins.org or place in Denise Sheehan's box in Room 231. Please send **Address changes** to Max in the church office at 476-6757 or email mottmer@saintmartins.org.

From Pastor Bennett



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, grace and peace be to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

True faith and genuine love need to be distinguished, but dare not be separated. Faith that moves mountains without love is nothing. Divine love without the presence of God by faith is impossible.

*My friend is always doing Good.
 But doubts the meaning of his labors,
 While I by faith am much imbued
 And cannot be bothered by my neighbor.*

– Faith and Works, Muriel Sparkman

Martin Luther put it this way: "Faith is the doer and love remains the deed." The two can be distinguished but not separated.

St. Paul writes, "In Christ the only thing that counts is faith working through love," (Galatians 5:6). When our trust in God's grace for us in Christ empowers our action, then our deeds have the quality of genuine love.

"There is no act, not a single one, not the best about which we can unconditionally say: He who does this proves unconditionally that he loves" (Works of Love, Soren Kierkegaard).

There is no charitable contribution, no gift at Christmas, no nursing the sick to health, no singing of hymns which unconditionally proves that they are acts of genuine love. All may have the hidden quality of pride, fear, guilt and even lack of faith.

The only thing that counts, the only thing pleasing to our loving God, is **faith at work in love**. Then the deed is truly Soli Deo Gloria, to the glory of God alone.

It is for God alone that we gather to worship; we receive the promise of his word, the power of his presence, the strengthening of His Body. How can we avoid the opportunity to gather in praise and prayer with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

I invite you to make a renewed commitment for your presence each week. May God bless you with the power of His presence.

Sincerely in the Name of Jesus,

Pastor Bennett, Interim Senior Pastor

Milestone Ministry

Milestone Ministry is about partnering the home and church and supporting individuals and families. At key moments in the lives of people, St. Martin's invite them (and/or their parents) to learn, receive a blessing, and to be sent forth to share God's love.

On Sunday, September 12, we will celebrate three such milestones in the lives of children and youth and their families.

Entrance into Sunday School – Children age 2 (as of Sept 1) officially begin Sunday School. Children learn they are valued people in this community. Children and parents receive a blessing and Beginner's Bible.

Young Reader – As children begin first grade they are actively learning to read. St. Martin's provides a "grown-up" version of the Bible – the great stories of faith which children can tell again and again.

Entrance into Confirmation – An intense journey in faith and community. Not only do youth learn catechism and Bible, they learn to fellowship and serve together. Youth receive an NRSV study Bible.

Parents, Godparents & Congregation Members – Come by the Bible table in the lobby on Sunday, Sept 5 to learn more about these milestones. Adult Bibles will also be on sale at this table!

Worship & Music

Two Familiar Groups, Two New Times

Two of our instrumental groups will be meeting at new times for this year.

St. Martin's Brasses now meet at 7:30 PM in the Gallery of the Nave every Tuesday evening. Trumpets, French Horns, Trombones are needed.

St. Martin's Chamber Ensemble will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM in Room 333. If you play a woodwind instrument or strings you are invited to be a part. Contact: Dale Elmshaeuser, Adult Instrumental Coordinator (delmshaeuser@evl.net), ext 17.

Choir Kick-off

Adult and High School singers: come try out the St. Martin's Choir during our Fall Kickoff, Sat, Sept 11 from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM, in Room 340. Look at upcoming music for the season, get to know one another better and have a light lunch. This is the perfect opportunity to see how much fun praising God through song can be.

Symphonic Winds Lead Our Worship

The St. Martin's Symphonic Winds will be leading worship on three dates at the 11 AM Eucharist: Sun, Oct 3 – *The Feast of St. Francis* and the *Blessing of the Animals*; Sun, Nov 14 – *Consecration Sunday*; and Sun, Dec 19 – *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*. Play an instrument? Come join the Winds! Contact: Dale Elmshaeuser.

Mark your calendars now:

Six special Sunday evening events all at 5 PM:
Oct 31, Reformation Sunday – Vespers with Bach's *Ein Feste Burg*, BWV 80.

Nov 7, All Saint's Sunday – All Lutheran Hymn Festival, *I Sing a song of the Saints of God* featuring Instruments, Handbells, Children, Youth and Adult Choirs from around Austin.

Nov 28, Dec 5, 12 and 19 – Advent Vespers.

Contact: Dale Dietert, Director of Worship Arts (ddietert@saintmartins.org), ext. 17.

Orff Instrumental Class – offered to children in grades 1–5 on Wednesdays (5:45–6:30 PM, Room 316) beginning Sept 15. Taught by Laurie Jenschke, the class will offer children the opportunity to play Orff instruments including the xylophone, metallophone, glockenspiel, and various drums. Children will learn to read and play rhythmic patterns and ostinatos that will accompany some of the children's choir anthems as well as congregational hymns. Contact: Dale Dietert.

The Newcomer Ministry welcomes guests and seekers and encourages fuller participation in this community of faith. On Sunday morning at the Welcome Center (in the entrance of the church proper) information about the St. Martin's community is available, and those interested in joining the community receive information to help begin the process of membership.

Welcome Center – The Welcome Center provides a time and place to meet staff and other members of our welcoming team, who will offer directions for your journey and a variety of ways to be connected. If you would like to join a monthly rotation welcoming team and meet new people, contact Bryan Rust, Director of Liturgy & Hospitality (brust@saintmartins.org), ext. 19.

Greeters Guild – These outgoing and dedicated individuals are St. Martin's front line in our ministry of hospitality, welcoming worshippers and offering assistance and information. On Sunday morning, the greeters provide ways to be incorporated into the community. Volunteers usually serve on a monthly rotation at each of the main Sunday worship hours and are available for special events. Contact Bryan Rust.

Lectors – Members of the Lectors Guild proclaim the Holy Scripture at the Saturday and Sunday worship. They also participate in special liturgies at Christmas and during Holy Week. A strong, articulate voice is desired. Children are welcome to participate. A training will be conducted on Saturday, October 16 at 10 AM for those who are new to this ministry or those who want to brush up their skills. Contact Bryan Rust to register.

Worship & Hospitality

This is the second year for the **Unity Children's Choir of Austin**. We were small but mighty as the singers gained confidence in their singing ability. This fall, the rehearsal time changes to Wednesdays, 4–5:30 PM. Also new is the addition of a training choir for grades 1 and 2 with director Stefanie Moore. (Rehearsals–Wednesdays, 4–5 PM). **Unity Children's Choir performances:** our Nov 7 Hymn Festival, Christmas Lessons & Carols (Dec 19), Lenten Vespers, a joint concert in Fredericksburg and Kerrville with the Texas Hill Country Youth Choir (April 23 & 24), and Fiesta Texas (April 30).

Monthly tuition is \$35 and is paid to St. Martin's Lutheran Church (limited number of scholarships are available – to make it possible for all children who want to sing). Students also purchase a Unity Children's Choir t-shirt.

Auditions: two Wednesdays, Sept 1 & 8 from 4–6 PM (Room 316). To set up an audition, singers must call (830-997-8263) or e-mail Mrs. Jenschke (ljenschke@austin.rr.com). She will call you back with

**UNITY CHILDREN'S
CHOIR of Austin**
experiencing excellence through singing!

your time. Rehearsals for the 2004-05 season will begin on Sept 15 at St. Martin's in Room 316. For more information about Unity Children's Choir, please visit www.unitychildrenschoir.org.

Get ready for Sunday Morning LEARNING at St. Martin's!

Parent Orientation – September 8 ■ Kick-off – September 12 ■ Classes begin – September 19

Infants & Toddlers

Rainbow Seeds – the very first “Sunday School” class for your little ones. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate so that the joy of Rainbow Seeds can be remembered and reinforced throughout the week. Modeled after popular play programs for young children, such as *Gymboree* or *Music Together*, participants will experience parachute play, scarves, percussion instruments, varied rhythms, songs, lullabies, movement, play and stories all in praise to God. 11:00 AM in Room 207.

Professional childcare is also available throughout the morning for infants through age 5!

Children (Age 2 through 5 grade – as of September 1)

Life Together – based on the Sunday morning lessons and Gospel readings (lectionary) shared in churches around the world. Children explore what they have heard in “big church” through storytelling, music and crafts. All children are sent with ideas to carry the message with them and share throughout the week with friends and family.

Godly Play – uses key sacred stories, parables and liturgical events to support the season. The time is structured similarly to worship through gathering, hearing the word, response (for children this is through play), sharing a feast and sending out. Children are presented with beautiful tactile materials, stories told from the heart, and time to explore.

2s & 3s

9:30 AM
Life Together

11:00 AM
Godly Play

4s & Kinder

Godly Play

Life Together

1st & 2nd graders

Life Together

Godly Play

3rd, 4th & 5th graders

Godly Play

Life Together

Choir is a great place for children & youth to learn and grow!

St. Martin's Children's Choir –
Sunday Mornings, 10:20 – 11:00 AM, Room 316

St. Martin's Youth Choir –
Sunday Mornings, 8:40–9:30 AM, Room 340 (See page 8.)

Directed by Laurie Jenschke, Children & Youth Choir
Coordinator

Jr. High Youth (6th – 8th Grade)

9:30 & 11:00 AM – In *Secret Service* ALL will have a chance to serve others with random acts of kindness. People might leave church to find words of encouragement tucked into their windshield wiper or their windshield sparkling clean. Room 151.

10:30 AM – At fellowship time, all Jr. High Youth will gather in Room 151 for DEVO in a slightly different format that last year.

Sr. High Youth (9th – 12th Grade)

9:30 & 11:00 AM – Your first fall passion trek will be *Jesus Goes to Hollywood*. ALL Sr. High youth will explore movies and search for the Gospel in an increasingly secular society. Room 150.

10:30 AM – At Fellowship time, all Sr. High Youth will gather for Life & Lattes. Discuss life issues over coffee (or hot chocolate, tea, water, etc!). Room 150 (the Sr. High Lutheran Latte Lounge).

Adults

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Mosaic Television – View *Mosaic Videos* (ELCA video magazine). The same video will be shown for an entire month! Topic will be posted each month on the bulletin board. Parlor.

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Foundations Class – Join this group for great Bible study and lively singing of hymns. Chapel.

Crossways – An in-depth study of the Old and New Testament. Six segments of ten weeks. Cost: One time course material purchase—\$60 (Couples \$70). Room 230.

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Mosaic Television – See above description.

11:00 AM – Noon

The Inspire Class – A continuing discussion of the Social Statements of the ELCA, covering such topics as the Death Penalty, Racism and Economic Justice. The class begins Sept 26 with a five week discussion about the second ELCA study on sexuality, specifically dealing with homosexuality. Led by Pr. June Wilkins and Pr. Jim Bennett. Parlor.

family.org – Exploration of how families worship together through the book *Parenting in the Pew* by Robbie Castleman and Ruth Bell. Room 230.

For more information contact Whitney Myers, Director of Family Life (wmyers@saintmartins.org), ext. 18 or make plans to attend the Parent Orientation on September 8 at 6:30 pm. Sign up for Sunday School in the lobby, at the September 8 Orientation or at the September 12 Kick-off.

New Fellowship & Learning Opportunities for Adults

First Sundays 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Parents of Sr. High Youth – Gather for fellowship and a presentation at the same time as monthly Senior High Super Sundays. (See page 8). The September presentation, *Meet the Mosaics*, will be led by Whitney Myers, Director of Family Life. Dinner (provided by SMLC) will be served at 5:30 PM. Presentation and discussion will follow. Begins Sept 5 in Parlor. Contact: Kathy Krebs, Adult Education Coordinator.

Sundays 10:30 – 11:00 AM

Babies & Breakfast – This new gathering is part of the Sunday morning Fellowship hour. Look for the table with the diaper bags in the Fellowship Hall and come meet other young parents at St. Martin's.

Second Tuesdays

Saintly Seniors – The existing fellowship and service group will explore issues connected with the golden years of life. Health issues, driving during those golden years, exercise, caring for loved ones, and more. Please register on Adult Ed bulletin board or with Kathy Krebs. Free will offering for lunch (provided by Chef Larry Lobash and *Our Daily Bread*). Begins Sept 14 in Parlor.

Wednesdays (WNSM) 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Just for Parents – Your children are here for Unity Children's Choir on Wednesday afternoon, so why not join with other parents for fellowship and learning. The group facilitated by Kathy Krebs will focus on Christian parenting issues using videos, books, and scripture. Begins Sept 15 in Room 230.

Wednesdays (WNSM) 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Spanish – Learn conversational Spanish with Bob Gibbons, Spanish teacher at Anderson High School. Room 139.

Wednesdays (WNSM) 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Trinity – 5 week class presented by Kathy Krebs will briefly review traditional, theological thoughts on the Trinity. Explore the Trinity and its social implications through Leonard Boff's book, *Holy Trinity Perfect Community*. Copies of book available through Kathy Krebs for \$12.00. Sep 15– Oct 13. Room 147.

The following Adult Education Opportunities will continue at WNSM:

6:00 – 6:50 PM

Life Together – lectionary-based study. Room 230.

Centering Prayer – NEW TIME! This contemplative prayer group will help with cultivating a daily practice of prayer. Room 126.

Yoga – NEW TIME! Led by experienced instructor, Meg Kanewske. Cost: \$10.00 per session. Parlor.

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Yoga – Led by experienced instructor, Meg Kanewske. Cost: \$10.00 per session. Parlor.

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Crossways – NEW TIME! Part II of a two-year course to explore the Bible. New participants welcome. Room 230.

Prayer Room open for prayer – Room 126.

Fridays 9:30 – 11:30 AM

Friday Morning Moms – Mothers of young children are invited to join together on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday mornings with other moms to provide friendship and support to one another. Our first two meetings (Sept 17 and Oct 1), we will share coffee, tea, goodies and fellowship and discuss ideas for the group's future. Babies and toddlers are welcome. Begins Sept 17 in Parlor.



Stephen Ministry A new Stephen Ministry training class begins in late September. Orientation for training classes will be **Sunday, September 19** after the late service. For more details, contact: Cindy Dobbs 249-8307, Jim Oliver 301-4753 or Nancy Mueller 476-3357. Stephen Ministry is a system of lay ministry that provides Christian care-giving to those facing challenging life circumstances. Consider being a part of this vital ministry.

Wednesday Night at St. Martin's Begins September 15

Children (5th Grade & Under*)

- 3:30–4:00 PM Snacks
 4:00–5:30 PM Unity Children's Choir (see page 3)
 4:00–5:00 PM Games/Fun, Homework Help & Tutoring
 5:00–7:00 PM Dinner for All
 5:45–6:30 PM Orff Instrumental Class (see page 3)
 6:00–8:30 PM Wednesday Night at God's House

*Childcare is available throughout the evening

Junior High Youth (6th – 8th Grade)

- 4:00–5:00 PM Homework Help
 5:00–7:00 PM Dinner for All
 7:00–8:30 PM Confirmation

Sr. High Youth (9th – 12th Grades)

- 4:00–5:00 PM Homework Help
 5:00–7:00 PM Dinner for All
 7:00–8:30 PM Covenant Groups (begins October 27)

Sr. High Youth are also invited to participate in Adult Ed opportunities, musical groups or to volunteer in the children's area.

Adults

- 4:00–5:30 PM "Just for Parents" (see page 5)
 5:00–7:00 PM Dinner for All
 6:00–6:50 PM Classes (see page 5)
 6:30–7:30 PM Chamber Ensemble
 7:00–8:00 PM St. Martin's Choir Rehearsal
 Classes (see page 5)
 7:00–8:30 PM Crossways (see page 5)
 8:00–9:00 PM St. Martin's Festival Singers

F O O D !

Chef Larry Lobash & *Our Daily Bread* serves up delicious, affordable, and fast meals from 5–7 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is also a great place to have small and informal meetings and enjoy wonderful fellowship.

Larry's fall menu will include: Pizza, Soup, Salad, Larry's famous Chicken Salad Sandwich, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs, Enchiladas, Chicken Soft Tacos, Quiche, Weekly Special (\$5).

\$5 and Under

Many items include chips OR add a chips and a cookie for \$1 each!



September 15—Celebrate September birthdays!



Adult Ed Special Events in September!

See Through the Scriptures Retreat Day

September 11 • 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

A fast-paced but highly revealing journey through the entire Bible, tracing the key themes that surface throughout it. Participants gain a clearer understanding of what preceded Jesus in order to understand the truly immense and earth-shattering nature of Jesus' ministry. Room 230.

Journey Together Faithfully – ELCA Sexuality Study Part II

Six Tuesdays, beginning September 14 • 7:00 PM

Participate in this important discussion with facilitator Rob Cogswell (St. Martin's member and librarian for the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest).

Spirituality Retreat

September 24-26

A weekend for adults to listen to God. Presentations on ways to be open to God will be presented by Barbara Schutz, Dr. Hilmer Krause, Carmen Retzlaff, and others throughout the weekend. The weekend will close with worship led by Dr. Krause. This retreat will be held at Slumber Falls Camp and Retreat in New Braunfels. Early bird registration: Sep 12 (\$60). Registration deadline: Sep 19 (\$70).

For the above events and all other adult opportunities contact: Kathy Krebs, Adult Education Coordinator (kkrebs@saintmartins.org), ext. 37.

September

- 5 No Sunday School**
- 6 Labor Day** – School and Church offices closed.
- 8 Parent Orientation** – 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Learn what opportunities are available for you and your child and/or middle or high school youth. Confirmation students are expected to attend and high school students may attend with parents.
- 11 See Through the Scriptures** – a fast-paced journey through the Bible for high school youth and adults. See page 6.
Women of the Church General Meeting – 9:30 AM in the Parlor. Mark your calendar.
Choir Kick-off – 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM in Room 340. See page 3.
- 12 Fall Ministry Kick-off** – See cover.
- 14 Sexuality Study Part II** – Begins 6 weeks of discussion led by facilitator Rob Cogswell. See page 6.
- 15 Wednesday Night at St. Martin's Begins** – See page 6.
- 19 Sunday School Begins** – See page 4.
- 24 Spirituality Retreat** – New Braunfels. See page 6.

St. Martin's
HIGHLIGHTS

Special Events or Opportunities—Everyone is Welcome!

October

- 3 St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals** – 9:30 & 11 AM
- 9 Lay School with Dr. David Zersen**
- 10 Baptism Instruction Class**
- 23-24 "heART" Arts and Crafts show and sale**
- 30 New Member Class**
- 31 Reformation Vespers** – 5 PM in the Nave

November

- 7 All Saint's Sunday Hymn Festival** – 5 PM in the Nave
- 14 Stewardship Luncheon**
- 24 Annual Joint Eucharist** – at St. David's Episcopal
- 28 Family and Friends Advent Event**
Advent Vespers – 5 PM in the Nave



Stephen Ministry 25th Anniversary Celebration • Aug 1, 2004
 Pr. Robert Hurlbut & Rosie Nieman, two of St. Martin's first Stephen Ministers.



Sr. High Beyond Belief Mission Trip 2004 • Chicago • July 10-18

For more pictures, log onto www.saintmartins.org
 Senior High Youth: Watch for information coming soon about 2005 Wilderness Trip!

Youth & Children

Senior High (9th – 12th graders)

Super Sunday – The first Sunday of every month we will be gathering with over 75 youth high school youth from Lutheran churches all around Austin. At these gatherings we will eat, have a devotion, socialize, and do awesome activities. Be ready for a lot of energy and excitement! St. Martin's is hosting the first Super Sunday on September 5.

Sr. High Youth Room – Everyone should run down to the Sr. High Youth room on Rally Day, because we are revamping it! Phase I is scheduled to be completed by Rally Day.



Sr. High Youth September Events

- Sept 5, Super Sunday at SMLC
- Sept 19, Lutherstock at Camp Chrysalis

Contact Becca Andersen, Youth Ministry Coordinator (bandersen@saintmartins.org), ext. 20.

Jr. High Youth (6th – 8th graders)

The Back-to-school Lock-in was a blast. Now, we're gearing up for Confirmation & fall fun!

Confirmation – an exciting and comprehensive 3-year program for youth to explore the meaning of the Christian faith in their lives through classroom instruction, adult-mentoring, fellowship, and service. Now enrolling for 2004-2005. Contact Whitney Myers, Director of Family Life.

Fall Events

- Oct 3, Sweet Berry Farms Maize Maze
- Nov 12-14, Synod Gathering at Camp Chrysalis (Look for registration information in late Sept)
- Dec 18, Care Package Delivery and Christmas Party

Contact Becca Andersen, Youth Ministry Coordinator (bandersen@saintmartins.org), ext. 20.

Former SMLC Youth

St. Martin's needs your updated addresses to keep in contact. Give us your address, phone, e-mail, etc. and also your plans for the fall! Contact Whitney Myers, Director of Family Life.



JAM- Jesus and Me (3rd, 4th and 5th graders)

Get ready for our Fall Firehouse Field Trip on Sunday, September 19 after 11:00 AM worship. Contact: Sharolyn Browning, Children's Ministry Coordinator (sbrowning@saintmartins.org), ext. 21.

Lord's Prayer Milestone (1st, 2nd or 3rd graders)

Sundays, Sept 26 – Oct 24, 12:15–2:00 PM.

The young person, with a parent, will explore familiar Bible stories to become more aware of their relationship with God. There is a special emphasis on the Lord's Prayer. The young person will be awarded the God and Me medal, which is recognized by Camp Fire, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, on *Christ the King Day*, Nov 21. Room 230.

Wednesday Night at God's House

...a joyful time being one of God's kids. Wednesdays, 6:00–8:30 PM (with pick-up pauses at 7:20 & 8:00 PM)

Hey, can you come over to play? All children 3 years to 5th grade are invited to come play at God's House. Explore a different topic every few weeks in many ways: cooking, storytelling, puppetry, video, games and songs. Themes for fall are: *Creation Station*; *Luther and the Lightning Bolt*; and *Two Saints and Three Doors*. All children will have an opening and closing together, and break into age groupings to go to all the different rooms in "God's House." Contact: Sharolyn Browning, Children's Ministry Coordinator.

First Communion Instruction

One of the ways parents keep the promise to "provide for their instruction in the Christian faith" is to prepare their children for participation in the Lord's Supper. This is an important milestone in the life of a Christian because it is where we receive God's forgiveness and are strengthened for service by God's abiding love. This sacrament is a gift of God's love to you and your children. The next 1st Communion Instruction Class is Oct 31. To enroll your child, contact Whitney Myers, Dir. of Family Life.

St. Martin's Youth Choir

Grades 6-12 (formerly know as Choristers)

Top three reasons to join it:

3. You would inspire others your age and younger to be a part of the worship experience.
2. You could prove to your parents that you really can wake up on Sunday mornings. It can be fun.
1. You can help spread God's love, inspire others, and in the process, be touched by the awesome power of music and God's word combined.

Laurie Jenschke, Children & Youth Choir Coordinator
Meets Sundays, 8:40–9:30 AM in Room 340

Social Outreach at St. Martin's

Social Ministry or Social Outreach is a wonderful way for Christian communities to reflect the love of God into the world. Some people might say that a church should not deal with sadness and suffering and poverty, some might say that these issues are too "political" and therefore should be avoided by the Church. But that would be denying Jesus' example. Jesus didn't shy away from political situations, Jesus didn't ignore poverty and Jesus certainly didn't avoid suffering.

We are called in the world to share God's love with all people, and involvement in Social Ministry is a way that a church can help others get their "daily bread". The programs that we participate in help people to feel the love and help of God. These programs help people that might otherwise feel lost or abandoned. Just as Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40)

St. Martin's offers the community opportunities to help people in our community, in our city and in our world through offering benevolence money to particular agencies and also through direct service opportunities. Every month St. Martin's focuses on one of our Social Outreach partners to share information about them and to raise benevolence money on their behalf.

The first 8 months raised awareness and support for: Austin Helps Honduras, Habitat for Humanity, Kairos Prison Ministry, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Caritas of Austin, Salvation Army, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Austin Safe Place.

For the remaining months of 2004:

September – Meals on Wheels and More was founded in 1972 as a non-profit charitable corporation created to assist elderly and homebound people in need. The eight founding volunteers cooked and delivered meals three times a week to 29 people, using two East Austin church kitchens.

October – Austin Group for the Elderly (AGE) supports organizations and individuals involved in the process of vital aging. Elderhaven Adult Day Care, SeniorNet Learning Center; The AGE Building

November – Lutheran World Relief seeks lasting solutions to poverty and injustice and in doing so, compels U.S. Lutherans to put their faith into action.

December – Capital Area Food Bank is a non-profit organization that serves as a clearinghouse by receiving and storing donated food and other grocery products. CAFB distributes food and grocery products in manageable quantities to human and social service agencies that help people in need.

BENEVOLENCE REMINDER

In the past, benevolence money has been a percentage of St. Martin's total budget. This year, the congregation can give to the agencies and partners that they would like to see receive attention. But, that means that if one does not give a dedicated offering to agencies they feel passionate about, the agency will not receive money from St. Martin's. In order to make a gift to a particular ministry, please write a check out to St. Martin's and note the agency's name in the memo line.

For more information on outreach at St. Martin's, contact: Pastor June Wilkins (jwilkins@saintmartins.org), ext. 15.

Direct Service Opportunities through St. Martin's

There are some exciting opportunities coming up for St. Martin to participate in service to our community and our world:

Agua Viva – our partner congregation in Laredo, Texas. This new ELCA congregation is in one of the poorest per-capita regions in the United States. We have been collecting necessary items for their ministry and on October 15, 16 and 17 we will be going down to Laredo for a weekend to help with repairs and to get to know the congregation. If you would like to go along, contact Pr. June.

Mobile Loaves and Fishes – works to bring food to homeless and hungry people in Austin. Every night, a truck rides around the city handing out sack lunches to people. St. Martin's has gone on numerous runs with the trucks run by other local churches. Soon, St. Martin's and three other downtown churches will be getting our own truck so our opportunities to serve will be more frequent.

Habitat for Humanity – builds decent housing for people with low incomes. The next "Lutheran Build" is breaking ground on Saturday, September 11. St. Martin's dates for hosting and building on the home are November 13 and December 11.



October 23-24 at St. Martin's An arts and crafts show which benefits the Honduras Scholarship program through scholarships for Junior High and High School educations. A variety of artists will be selling and displaying their work, including St. Martin's member Bunny Oliver. There will also be food and entertainment. Come support a wonderful cause.

September Preaching Schedule

Wed	Sept 1	12:10	Pastor Wilkins
Sat	Sept 4	5:00	Pastor Wilkins
Sun	Sept 5	8:00	Pastor Bennett
		9:30	Pastor Wilkins
		11:00	Pastor Bennett
Wed	Sept 8	12:10	Pastor Sandquist
Sat	Sept 11	5:00	Pastor Wilkins
Sun	Sept 12	Fall Kick-off (see page 1)	
		10:00	Pastor Bennett
Wed	Sept 15	12:10	Dr. Zersen
Sat	Sept 18	5:00	Pastor Bennett
Sun	Sept 19	8:00	Pastor Bennett
		9:30	Pastor Bennett
		11:00	Pastor Bennett
Wed	Sept 22	12:10	Dr. Zersen
Sat	Sept 25	5:00	Pastor Bennett
Sun	Sept 26	8:00	Pastor Bennett
		9:30	Pastor Daryl Koenig
		11:00	Pastor Daryl Koenig
Wed	Sept 29	12:10	Pr. Bennett

Miss Breakfast?

If you haven't tried breakfast on Sunday mornings, you are missing out. Larry Lobash of *Our Daily Bread* prepares and serves a wonderful breakfast every Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30-11 AM.

A variety of delicious items are available such as fresh baked quiche (with smoked gouda & blackforest ham or spinach & bacon), migas, breakfast tacos, coffee cakes, croissants and muffins. Orange juice, too! Come enjoy breakfast...the coffee is always free and the Fellowship is priceless!



Thanks and Praises

A very special thanks to my wonderful family at St. Martin's at the time of Clarence's death. So much love and kindness given to my family at a very difficult time in our lives. With our faith in God and the love of each of you, we are doing fine.

God's blessings,
Rosella Vilcoq
and family

Dear Members,
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers when we needed them the most. Lucille (Hager) had enjoyed being a member of your congregation before her move back to Cape Girardeau, and we attended your church on visits to Austin. May God continue to bless your work in His kingdom.

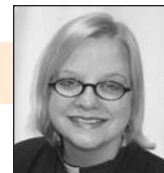
Sincerely,
Jeanine Hager

Dear St. Martin's,
We thank you for the visits, the flowers, and for bringing us Communion.

Your sisters in Christ,
Hedwig & Lena Althaus

Notes of thanks and praises can be emailed to: dsheehan@saintmartins.org, placed in Denise Sheehan's mailbox in Room 231, or mailed to the church office (attn: Denise).

From Pastor June



For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints – and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.

– 2 Corinthians 8:2-5

This past week, I was spending more time than usual adding up numbers – and it was thrilling! Usually, facts and figures can be pretty boring and mundane and I try to avoid them as much as possible. But this week, the totals kept coming in of what the members of St. Martin's had given towards our various outreach partners, and the numbers were exciting.

When we told the congregation that Agua Viva, our partner congregation, needed a van for their food pantry, someone from St. Martin's heard the call and bought them a van. When we came back from Agua Viva with the story of how the air conditioner in their sanctuary broke, St. Martin's responded again with more than enough money to repair the air conditioner. And then in July, our benevolence focus was Mobile Loaves and Fishes. The total came in from that, and the congregation gave almost half of the needed money for a full year of runs.

And all of this generosity is for friends in our community who we barely know. It is for people who go to the food pantry and attend church in Laredo, Texas. It is for people who are homeless in downtown Austin. We do not know their individual names yet, but their need is recognized by this congregation.

With your enthusiasm for service and your generosity apparent, it is truly my privilege to share in this ministry with you.

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

Pastor June Wilkins,
Associate Pastor

Women of the Church The September Session One bible study, *Everyday Surprises: The Parables of Jesus* is available online through the *Lutheran Woman Today* website: www.lutheranwomantoday.org. The Trinity Care Center Bazaar is on Saturday, October 23 (9 AM to 1 PM). Handcrafted items are needed. There is also a residents' birthday party in the Chapel area at Trinity Care Center on Thursday, September 16 at 2:30 PM. For more information on Women of the Church events, contact Shirley Scott.

Council Highlights

July 19, 2004

- ◆ Approved the June Council minutes.
- ◆ Treasurer reported the financials show the expected summer dropoff in giving. The utilities expenditure already shows the positive effects of the leveled payment program. The report was approved.
- ◆ Both pastors submitted written reports.
- ◆ A Stewardship Task Force is being formed to plan for the fall stewardship campaign. Commitment Sunday is November 14.
- ◆ Board of Trustees members and others met with a representative of the sound system company. A couple of alternatives will be tried to improve the sound in the Nave. The sound for the Fellowship Hall is being worked on.
- ◆ Board of Finance reported that budget requests from boards and committees are due to the Board of Finance by August 9.
- ◆ Board of Parish Education noted that the materials in the resource room were gone through and evaluated for future use.
- ◆ Lutheran School Board reported that enrollment figures for fall are at 108. Several scenarios and financial information is being prepared. An Open House was held Sat., July 17, resulting in a few new children.
- ◆ Council Stewardship Work Session discussion resulted in three points:
 1. Opportunities to grow in our personal relationships with God (study, worship)
 2. Energy and diversity in worship
 3. Opportunity for involvement and service
- ◆ "God's changing church to meet a changing world."
- ◆ A work group to review and streamline the constitution has been formed.
- ◆ Photos of Call Committee members with names and contact information are posted at church.

Our Stewardship

July 2004

Operations	2003	2004	
Receipts	\$505,024	\$523,679*	4% increase
Disbursements	\$565,456	\$536,625	5% decrease
Building Fund	2003	2004	
Receipts	\$83,986	\$77,544	8% decrease
Disbursements	\$162,232	\$146,377	11% decrease

Average Weekly Attendance

Worship	Sunday Education
369	39

*2004 July income \$57,158, expense \$66,958.

SAINTLY SENIORS

Monday, Sept. 20 • Guided tour of Bullock State History Museum Meet at the church at 9:30 AM to proceed to the museum by car. Tour is \$7/person: includes museum admission, a docent, and an I-Max movie (45 minutes). Eat lunch in the museum's facility (not included in the \$7). See *Texas: The Big Picture* at 10:00 AM. **Make reservations by: Friday, Sept 3** (forms available on the church bulletin boards or by sending in a check). Make checks payable to St. Martin's and return to attn: Max Ottmer. Museum members will pay for the movie only (\$5). Information: contact Nancy Mueller 476-3357; Helen Nystrom 244-0157; Earline Oertli 282-2297; or Bess Sommer 244-6277. The senior members of our congregation are a "fun bunch" and we look forward to being together at the museum for a wonderful time!

FLOWERS IN ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH Altar flowers are a wonderful way to mark a milestone in one's life: remembering a departed loved one; a birthday; a baptism, confirmation or marriage anniversary or to mark important social and church events.

Dates still available are:

Sep 12, 19 • Oct 10 • Nov 7, 21, 28 • Dec 19

Pulpit flowers are also available for many dates.

To reserve flowers contact Nell Hielscher: **243-0467**.

HOW TO JOIN ST. MARTIN'S Attend a one day Saturday class on October 30 for both non-Lutheran and Lutheran transfers. Members are received the following Sunday, October 31. Register with Max at mottmer@saintmartins.org or call 476-6757.

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS Contact the church office at 476-6757. Engaged couple retreats and Baptism Instruction Classes are required. The next Baptism Instruction Class is October 10.

BIRTHS Andrew Daniel Alexander IV, July 19, 2004. Parents: Virgil & Allison Alexander.

BAPTISMS Caden Nicholas Crouch, August 8, 2004. Parents: Robert & Nikki Crouch.

WEDDINGS Emily Elizabeth Smith & Marcus Hans Hafner Jr., July 31, 2004
Alyssa Diane Grosskopf & Garrett Scott Martin, August 7, 2004

SYMPATHY Grover & Anita Bynum (daughter), Ruth Johnson (granddaughter) & family, death of Agnes Iverson Schneider, August 2, 2004.

Linda Zander, death of father, Thomas Galbreath, August 4, 2004.

Rebecca & Joseph Garlett, death of Rebecca's mother, Carol Keating, August 8, 2004.

Ed (brother) & Dorothy Nehring, Lillie Wade (sister) and Marilyn (daughter) & Lacey (granddaughter) Jennings, death of Walter Nehring, August 15, 2004.



Bob Abel



Bob Beglau



Donna Cordes



John Dietz



Bill Grosskopf



Laurie Mahaffey



Steve Miura



Nancy Mueller



Charlie Oertli



Anita Salmon



Linda Zander

CALL COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee and appointed persons make up the Call Committee. Listed here are those on the Committee. The Call Committee reports to the Church Council.

St. Martin's Worship

SUNDAY (Begins Sep. 19)

- 8:00 AM** Traditional Eucharist
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Eucharist
- 11:00 AM** High Church Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

- 12:10 PM** Healing Prayer Eucharist

SATURDAY

- 5:00 PM** Traditional Eucharist

St. Martin's Education

SUNDAY (Begins Sep. 19)

Childcare available for Infants & Toddlers all morning, Room 207

Class for Infants & Toddlers

11:00 AM, Room 207

Children: 2 years old – 5th Grade

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Upper Level

Youth: 6th – 8th Grade

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Room 151

Youth: 9th – 12th Grade

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Room 150

ADULTS

9:30 & 11:00 AM, Main Level

(see web-site or Sunday education brochure in the Welcome Center for additional information)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT ST. MARTIN'S

Classes & rehearsals for all ages (see schedule on web-site or ask at the Welcome Center)

www.saintmartins.org

FALL MINISTRY KICK-OFF • September 12

Special Worship time:

10 AM – Festival Eucharist

Activities for all ages. See schedule and details on the cover.

The Echo

PERIODICALS

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