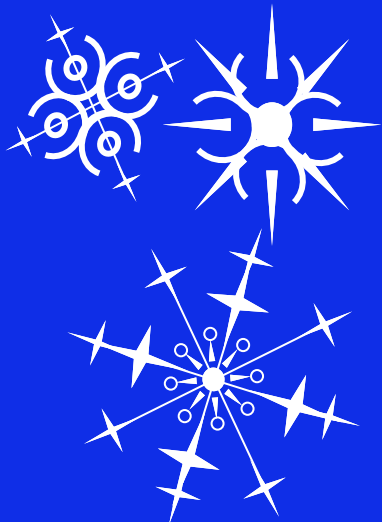
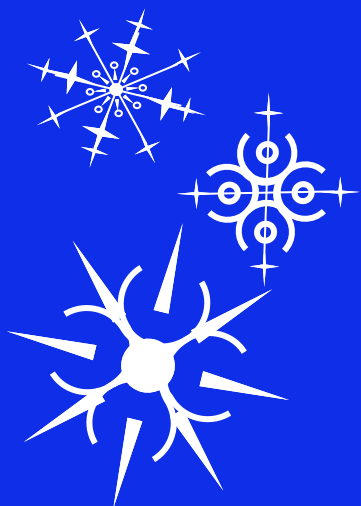


# Parish News



*If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.*

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu



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FOR YEARS NOW we've talked about how churches have moved from the model of Believe→ behave→ belong to Belong→ behave→ believe.

In both models, believing is asking "WHAT do I/we believe?" and behaving is asking "HOW do I/we do that?" and belonging is asking "WHO am I/are we?"

One of the main messages I heard when some of us were in Chicago a week or so ago was that these are not today's relevant questions. Diane Butler Bass, Brian McLaren, and Jeffrey Lee shared their research and experiences to help us see that the "What" of believing has changed to "How" (How do I/we believe that?), the "How" of behaving has changed to "What" (What should I/we do now?), and the "Who" of belonging has changed to "Whose" (Whose am I/are we?).

These are the spiritual questions of our time. Many non-churched people assume they know what Christianity is, but they can't understand how modern intelligent people can believe it. So they want our religious organizations and traditions to help them search out answers to their

## FROM THE DESK OF



MOTHER MARY

spiritual questions. They want a community that will encourage and help them in the search, and they want to be offered experiences in which they can engage these questions. To most people today, belief *about* God is not

nearly as important as an experience *of* God. It's not "Who's in and who's out?" but "What are you doing that could help me *respond* to God's amazing love that you talk about?" We are all longing for the God we want to give our heart to.

So what do you think? Does St. Martin's offer experiences that can lead people into a vibrant experience of God in Christ? Do you participate in them? Do you invite others to participate with you?

Mary+

*<sup>1</sup>It used to be that people looked for and chose a church that fit their beliefs. After being there a while and observing the written and unwritten rules and techniques of worship, study, and service, they would begin acting according to the norms of that church. And then, knowing they belonged, they would join the church. But that all changed. The reverse became true. People looked for and chose a church where they felt they belonged, where they could be in relationship. After a time they adopted the behaviors of the church. And, after that, they would find themselves believing many of the doctrines and dogmas of their church.*

- ◆ What →→ How (from what do I/we believe to how do I/we believe that?) moving from ideas and opinions about God to understandings of God through an encounter in the context of life experience
- ◆ How →→What (from how do I/we do that to what should I/we do now?) moving from a programmatic approach to a pragmatic approach that draws participants into crafting a way of life
- ◆ Who →→ Whose (from who fits here to whose am I/are we?) moving from propositional identity where personhood is based on extrinsic sources of inheritance, status, or choice, to propositional identity where personhood is inherently linked with relationships, networks and communities

## LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 21	ISAAC Issues Convention (at Sunnyside Church) 10am
Jan. 25	St. Martin's 102: On Eschatology
Jan. 26	N. T. Wright (at Eerdman's in Grand Rapids)
Jan. 29	Annual Parish Meeting & Potluck Brunch
Feb. 4	"Living Compass" training hosted by St. Martin's
Feb. 5	Book Discussion: <u>I Know This Much Is True</u> by Wally Lamb, at 3:00pm

Link to our online Calendar: <http://www.stmartinepiscopal.org/calendar.php>



**St. Martin's 102 is underway.** Session #2 will be on Wednesday, January 25, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. We will be discussing **eschatology – the study of the end times**. A group of readings will be emailed to anyone interested prior to the class, in hopes that people will have time to read some or all of the articles prior to coming for the discussion. (Don't stay away if you can't do the reading, though!) \*

"The way we view the end of the world (or of our lives) influences the way we live our lives now."

- ♦ **Is this true for you?**
- ♦ **Do we understand what people mean when they refer to "the rapture"?**
- ♦ **What, if anything, does eschatology have to do with environmental stewardship?**

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the topic, discuss it, and grow in your understanding of what you and others believe.

**If you want to be more conversant in your faith, come to St. Martin's 102!**

## Work Wednesdays at Open Doors



Here's an opportunity for you to use your handy-person skills to help Open Doors toward their mission of building relationships and overcoming homelessness. **Gather with others on the first and third Wednesdays of the month to work on tasks preparing and maintaining apartment units for residents!** The time each Wednesday is 9am to noon. Meet up at 9 in the Community Room (Apt. 18) at Cooper Apartments, 605 W. Lovell, for coffee and donuts and to divide the tasks of the day, then get "hands on" with some light household projects throughout the shelter and resident community. This is a great way to use your skills and love of projects, and to give support to the homeless and low wage working adults served by Open Doors! The first Work Wednesday is February 1st. Contact Laurie with any questions.

**THE READINGS**, some more light-hearted than others, have been scanned (thank you, Pat V.) Each reading is only 1 or 2 pages (well, one is 3 pages, but the 1st page is just the title plus 1 paragraph), and also, you can choose which of the articles you want to read. Here's the list:

- 10 Things to Do While Waiting for the Second Coming
- If We Neglect the Salvation of the Earth
- In God's Time
- Joy to (the end of) the World
- Knocking on Heaven's Open Door
- Other Views of the End Times
- Pass the Popcorn . . . It's Eschatology Night at the Movies
- Ready for Rapture
- Revelation Journey
- What is the Kingdom of Heaven?
- What it Feels Like to Die

These are fairly light reading -- not from scholarly journals -- but will hopefully lead us into a good discussion.

Please let Mary know if you want her to send you an electronic copy of any or all of the above readings in preparation for the class. We can also print a copy for you, if you prefer.



**Congratulations on your Baptism, Devon!**



On **February 4**, St. Martin's is privileged to host the diocesan gathering for "Living Compass." This is the program the diocese is hoping parishes will use for their Lenten studies. There will be an introduction/overview of the program in the morning, and a "train the trainers" session until 3:30pm, with lunch in the middle. While anyone can attend both sessions, the afternoon one is intended for those who will lead or assist with the program in the parish.

You can register here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?id=en\\_US&pli=1&formkey=dGgXMGRsOhdQaEswaGtiZ2xJWkxTSGc6MA#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?id=en_US&pli=1&formkey=dGgXMGRsOhdQaEswaGtiZ2xJWkxTSGc6MA#gid=0)

Musette is coordinating the lunch.

**We need people to set up and take down tables and chairs.**

**We need at least one person to register and welcome people as they arrive.**



## Wisdom from other Traditions

"On a foggy afternoon, a holy woman sat outside the temple. She watched as tides of people passed, a river of human need. She saw the destitute wandering alone. She saw the wounded limping by. She saw the drunk stumbling and the lame struggling to continue on. And, on the outskirts of the tide were the outcast, trying to connect, but being scoffed by others. In the sight of this human need and despair, she prayed and she cried out to God, 'how can a loving creator see so much suffering and do nothing to help them.' And God said, 'I did do something to help them: I made you.'"

—A wisdom story from the Sufi tradition



A few weeks ago, we were contacted by Ellen Tipton (pictured), a Organ Studies student at WMU's School of Music. She requested to play our organ, explaining that her goal was to play 60 different pipe organs by the time she turned 60. We were her 43rd pipe organ. If you would like to see her blog entry on St. Martin's go to:

<http://sixtybysixty.tumblr.com/>

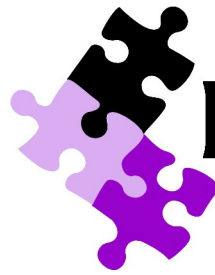
\*You will have to scroll down the blog to see the article.

## Colors of Creation

In following our Parish Theme of Colors of Creation, we celebrate the color of Green in Epiphany.

*"We are each called to go through life reclaiming the planet an inch at a time until the Garden of Eden grows green again."*

—Joan Chittister



# ISAAC

## 2012 Issues Convention

Saturday, January 21, 10am - 1pm  
Sunnyside United Methodist Church  
2800 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49048

Be part of the fun and lively democratic process to choose which 3 of these local issues ISAAC congregations & organizations will work on together in 2012!

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- Education & Early Childhood
- Environmental Justice
- Transportation
- Violence & Drug Prevention

The more people we send, the more votes we get! Please sign up! Contact Steve B.

Questions?

Contact Jeremy Orr, ISAAC Organizer, 341-4213.

## Server Schedule

### Sunday, January 22

#### Altar Guild:

Jane, Laura & Shari

#### 10am Service

Acolytes: Mike, Becky & Alex  
Lectors: Jenny & Mikell

Eucharistic Ministers: Mark & Jeanine

Prayers of the People: Tom P.

Alms Bearers: Joel & Julie

Oblations Bearers: Shari & Laurie

Greeters: Carol W. & Barb W.

Nursery: Barb R.

Coffee: ??????

Counters: Mike & Pat

#### 8am Service

Acolyte: Shari

Lector: Bob

Prayers of People: Ron

### Sunday, January 29

#### Altar Guild:

Kay & Dawn

#### 10am Service

Acolytes: Shari, Becky & Alex  
Lectors: Mike & Jane

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom & Nancy

Prayers of the People: Pat V.

Alms Bearers: Bill & Lynne

Oblations Bearers: Joel & Julie

Greeters: Barb R, Chuck & Lou

Nursery: Dawn

Coffee: **Annual Meeting Potluck**

Counters: Carol Ann & Erik

#### 8am Service

Acolyte: Al

Lector: Paula

Prayers of People: Bob