

THE CLOAK

DECEMBER 1, 2009



ADVENT LETTER TO THE DIOCESE FROM THE BISHOP

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NOTICE:

January Cloak

dead line

December 16th.

January issue

is due out

December 26th.

Beloved in Christ,

As we begin Advent this year, I am very conscious not just about endings, but about beginnings. A dream I had at the time of our Diocesan Convention about beautiful azure blue Caribbean waters and light sand beaches let me know that I am beginning to let go of this ministry and responsibility to be open to something new - at least some months of relaxation and leisure, and a trip to Puerto Rico to spend some time alone with Marilyn and then with some friends. Then I will get engaged again in some form of ministry.

I am enjoying watching Bishop-elect Brian Prior begin his ministry with the Diocese of Minnesota, even as he concludes another with people he loves deeply and has served a long time. I like his questioning and the way he listens. I hear in his conversations that he already knows some things about us and is not merely impressed but genuinely moved by our long, rich history in which God has made us a blessedly varied community. I like watching Brian interact with staff with respect and attentiveness. I love to hear him talk about Staci and their sons, Brooks and Gage, for his love and joy are so lively. Being the "techie dinosaur" that I am, I am more than a bit jealous that he not only is skillful in this area, his sons will help him get up to

speed where he needs help.

I have suggested to Brian that he feel free to write you as a diocese or in various groupings as he prepares to move here and work with you as bishop. I want him and the diocese to have as smooth a transition as possible, and as we all know, he will have to "hit the ground running."

Please keep him and his family in your prayers, for you have no idea how much your prayers sustain us.

Advent is a season for looking ahead. We are waiting, waiting for something to come among us, to rise up within us, to come upon us. Historically, we join our ancestor Mary in waiting for her son, Jesus, to be born. She lived in a world beset by war, military occupation, economic hardship, inadequate health care, and she endured the prejudices of others. How like the Marys and Marias and Mariahs of Bethlehem today! How like her sisters in so many cultures, surrounded by poverty and chaos, and yet still nurturing not only a baby in the womb, but a fervent hope in her soul that this child to come would be the fulfillment of a promise, would bring promise, would be promise.

It takes a lot to harbor hope in

one's soul, and that is our journey as we wait for the Christ to be born again and again, year after year. By the time Advent comes each year, we have seen so many of our dreams and expectations fade or explode, and the act of hoping itself becomes near impossible. And then again, we hear the familiar stories about Mary and Joseph, their waiting and journey, and the birth of Jesus who is hope come true. And when we take the time-it does take time to listen-we open ourselves not merely to a story filled with nostalgia and sentiment-for that is never enough to renew us-we open ourselves to bear hope again.

My hope is that we shall do this as the Diocese of Minnesota, as well as in our individual lives, so that Christ may be born once again in us, born as an urgency for mission, a compassion for suffering, a companionship in ministry, and a commitment to journey into the longings of God's heart for peace, for justice, for reconciliation.

A blessed Advent of waiting and listening to you!

Yours in Christ,

+James L. Jelinek

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES



Come Lord Jesus
Be Our Guest

Christmas is the time when Jesus first comes to be our guest.

May all the word be clothed and fed.

We may not be able to cloth and feed the whole world however we can each do a small part by sponsoring an ECS child this Christmas.

If you can sponsor an ECS child this year, please let Jennelle know.

You may provide the full amount (\$50) or share with someone (\$25)

You may do the shopping or request that Jennelle does.

Please select the option above that fits for you to partner with ECS in providing Christmas Gifts this year. You may call Jennelle on Wednesdays (235-9320) or return the form provided in the bulletin on Nov. 30th and Dec. 6th to the ECS office by Dec. 10th. Jennelle will match your preference with a child/

student when their requests have been returned to the office. Don't forget to sign your name.

Thank you and may you be blessed this Advent/Christmas season.

Jennelle Cunning, ECS Site Coordinator



For the month of December please pray for the organizations that deal with children with special needs, especially for the work of the Sheltering Arms Foundation and Episcopal Community Services. Please pray also for those who work in Child Protection agencies throughout the State of Minnesota.

ECW MINUTES

Six ladies gathered and held an informal meeting on November 6th. The general discussion centered on the kitchen and the need for a new dish drainer. It was also noted that the kitchen should be left clean after it is used and that includes

putting dishes away. UTO (United Thank Offering) ingathering will be later.

St. Martin's Vestry Contacts

Name	Email	Address	Home Phone	Cell	Term Ends
Michi Donnelly Sr. Warden	ucc319@frontiernet.net	840 Albion, Fmt	H-235-5721	W-235-5382	2011
Bob Luedtke Jr. Jr. Warden	bob@rwl-group.com	229 Woodland, Fmt	238-2012	612-765-0714	2011
Les Hohenstein Treasurer	lhohestein@bevcomm.net	36172 130 th St Blue Earth 56013	507-526-3545	507-525-2938	2012
Doug Wollam	billbusse@yahoo.com	515 E. 1 st . Fmt	238-2987		2009
Randa Simpson	randakays56@hotmail.com rsimpson@bevcomm.net	969 Liberty, Fmt	238-4879	236-3244	
Mary Whiteman	marwhite@bevcomm.net	PO Box 227, Fmt	238-1782		2009
JoAnn Eggert	none	232 S. Orient, Frmt		230-3335	2011

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Midweek Worship 6:15PM	3	4 ECW 1:15pm	5
6 Service 10am	7	8	9 Midweek Worship 6:15PM	10	11	12
13 Service 10am Vestry Meeting Noon	14	15	16 Cloak DL 4pm Midweek Worship 6:15PM	17	18	19
20 Service 10am LGBT Meeting 4:15pm	21 Cloak Deadline 6pm for emailed items	22	23 Midweek Worship 6:15PM	24 Christmas Eve Service _____	25 Christmas Day Service _____	26
27 Service 10am	28	29	30 Midweek Worship 6:15PM	31		

December 6th Head Usher: Bob L. Jr. Lector: Gail I. Intercessor: Les H. Chalice: TBD	December 13th Head Usher: Doug W. Lector: Pat G. Intercessor: Bob L. Jr. Chalice: Thom P.	December 20th Head Usher: Mary W. Lector: Tom H. Intercessor: Thom P. Chalice: Michi D.	December 24th Head Usher: Michi & Bob Lector: Rob L. Intercessor: Chuck J. Chalice: Les & Diane	December 25th Head Usher: Joann E. Lector: Sheryl C. Intercessor: Sheryl C. Chalice: Tom H.	December 27th Head Usher: Randa S. Lector: Intercessor: Pat G. Chalice: Sheryl C.
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Please check the Half Cloak each Sunday or web site for updates to the Calendar events!

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

3 Kendale Chandler	18 Jennelle Cunning
6 Daniel & Christine Crow	18 Mary Whiteman
7 Sandy & Lauren Ettesvold	31 Michela Ziemer
16 Jim Simpson	31: Georgia Theobald
16 Mark Ingledew	

VESTRY MINUTES

Vestry Minutes - St. Martin's Episcopal Church

November 15, 2009

Present: Mother Winnie, Michi Donnelly, Robert Luedtke, Jr., Joanne Eggert, Les Hohenstein, Mary Whiteman, B. Truesdell – clerk. Absent: Doug Wollam, Randa Simpson.

The Vestry of St. Martin's was called to order at 12:00 pm. Mother Winnie began with a Gathering Prayer. Robert moved and Mary Whiteman seconded to accept the agenda with the following changes: (donation to Humane Society and cleaning) and the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Parishioner input: None presented

Treasurer's Report: Les reported that we have received 22 pledge cards. Hoping we receive more. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Michi and seconded by Mary. Motion carried. A motion was made by Mich and seconded by Mary to give \$84.00 of the loose plate from the Blessing of the Animals service to the Humane Society.

Senior Warden: None presented

Junior Warden & Building & Ground: None presented

Clergy Report: Mother Winnie reported she had good reports of the St. Martin's Day service. She has not met with the Methodist minister in regard to the Spanish services. The Bishop has approved working with Methodist Church. This is Mother Winnie's week off. She will be here the month of December and have the first 2 Sunday off in January – 3rd & 10th. Michi will have Morning Prayer on Sunday, Nov. 22. The ½ time schedule was discussed as was the secretary's schedule.

Committee reports:

Finance: A finance committee meeting is being planned.

Nominations: Discussion was held on the terms of the Wardens. Annual meeting will be held on January 17th.

Robert moved to accept all reports, Les seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Re-keying was discussed. No further action was taken.

Bonnie's contract was reviewed and signed pending the background check. Mary moved to approve the contract, seconded by Robert. Motion carried.

New Business:

Budget was discussed. Mother Winnie presented a budget forecast for St. Martin's with part-time Priest's salary and benefits. The budget will be worked on by Finance Committee.

Cleaning the church was discussed. The cleaning person will be responsible to the Building and Grounds Committee. No further action was taken.

Closing prayer was given by Mother Winnie. Motion to adjourn by JoAnn, second by Les. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Next Vestry meeting: December 13th at 12:00 p.m.

Bonnie Truesdell, Clerk

The dead line for the January Cloak is: **December 16th.** Your articles need to be in the Cloak mail box in the Guild Hall by Dec. 16th 4pm or emailed to cloak@smecmn.org no later than Dec. 21st. 6pm

The
communications
Committee:
Chuck Johnson
Rev. Winnie
Mitchell
Thom Peterson

Minnesota Episcopalians Elect the Rev. Brian Prior as Next Bishop

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota is pleased to announce that the Rev. Brian Prior has been elected IX Bishop of Minnesota.

Prior has been the Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Spokane, Washington since 1996. Rev. Prior is the Vice President of the House of Deputies of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. He received his M.Div. from Church Divinity of the Pacific in Berkeley, California in 1987. Rev. Prior has been married to Staci Hubbard Prior for 21 years. They have two teenage sons.

"I am thrilled to have the privilege of being among the first to welcome Rev. Prior as our new bishop," says Scott Crow, chair of the Standing Committee, which is charged with overseeing the election. "Our process has been filled with prayer, discernment, and the movement of the Spirit in our midst. It has been a powerful experience to witness the church at work and I look forward to the joyful Ordination and consecration of our new bishop on February 13, 2010."



The election, which was conducted in accordance with the Constitution and canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota and The Episcopal Church, was held in downtown Minneapolis on the second day of the 152nd Annual Diocesan Convention, with balloting beginning after a service of Holy Eucharist. Rev. Prior won on the 5th ballot. Clergy and laity votes are counted separately and a majority is needed in both orders to win the election. Rev. Prior had 118 of 205 clergy votes needed, and 153 of 117 lay votes needed. [The ballots are available on the diocesan website.](#)

Upon accepting election as the IX Bishop, Rev. Prior said, "I feel overwhelmed and blessed at this moment for the opportunity to come and serve in a place with such a rich history and with so many saints both past and present."

According to the canon law of The Episcopal Church, consent to the election must be secured from a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and a majority of diocesan Standing Committees. If received, Rev. Prior will be Ordained and Consecrated as the IX Bishop of Minnesota on February 13, 2010, in a service at the Minneapolis Convention Center with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding.

The diocesan bishop heads the geographic diocese of Minnesota, which encompasses the entire state and includes 106 congregations with approximately 22,000 baptized members. The diocesan bishop serves as the chief pastor to the 303 clergy in the diocese. The Diocese of Minnesota is one of 110 domestic and overseas dioceses in The Episcopal Church, which is one of the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion.



Four seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate on Thursday, July 23, at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. All four will begin their final year of seminary this fall.

From left to right: R. C. Laird, Candice Corrigan, Bishop James Jelinek, Keely Franke, Catherine Lemons.

Photo by: Susan Barksdale

We are on the web

Smecmn.org

DECEMBER 1, 2009

**ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

102 N Park ST
Fairmont, MN 56031

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E-mail: info@smecmn.org

Mailing Address Line 1

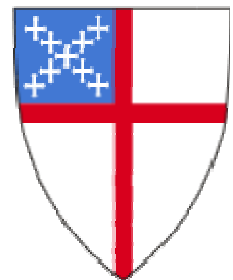
Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

Isn't it strange
how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks
before the day so we can include it in our agenda,
but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?



**St. Martin's is a reconciling community of Christian people striving through
worship, love and service to be a family in God and to bring others into the
fellowship.**