

THE CLOAK

JANUARY 1, 2009



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WORDS FROM WINNIE,

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Dear Friends,

These are the Angel's last words to Mary after the annunciation, as reported in Luke's Gospel, which we read on the 4th Sunday in Advent. Since it was nearly impossible for many of you to brace the blizzard and bitter cold to get out to church the morning of December 21, this article repeats some of the points in that sermon about the annunciation. The sermon was about calls to serve God.

Mary's acceptance of her call to become the God-bearer, the Mother of Jesus places her in a key role for the salvation of the world. The Bible is filled with calls of prophets. Some, like Moses and Isaiah, argue with God, pleading unworthiness. (See Exodus chapters 3 and 4 and Isaiah 6:1-8.) Others, like Jonah even try to run away from the presence of God (See the first few lines of the book of Jonah.) We don't know why God chooses to call us to special tasks, only that God chooses whom God chooses, and with or without our cooperation, carries forward the great plan for salvation.

Vocation has been on my mind a lot recently because December 20 was the first anniversary of my ordination, and I want to thank you for all the ways that you have en-

riched that first year of priesthood for me.

I'd like to invite all of you to think about your own vocations and how God calls you to them. My answer to this vocation to the priesthood was a long time in coming—I did not have the ability to say as Mary did, here am I, your servant. For 30 years I felt this call from God but didn't really believe that it meant me. Who me? Not worthy, not ready, not holy enough, or rich enough. As a young woman I didn't even qualify to be a priest since only men were ordained so I first thought the call might be to become a nun. (Yes, there are Episcopal nuns and monks.) Even after women's ordination, I'd come from a conservative Episcopal family who had no use for the notion of women being priests and it was hard for me to hear God beyond all that noise. But it was always there, that voice of God, calling.

What might God be calling you to do that you have denied or not done? It may not be a job in the church—many, many kinds of work are truly vocations. But, just in case, you are also called to be a minister in God's church, I want you to know that St. Martin's needs you—the whole Episcopal church needs you.

In the coming year we'll continue our work here at St. Martin's toward balancing our budget and keeping the parish secure and empowered through the 21st century and beyond. Thanks to your hard work and generous donations, we have done wonderfully well in the past year regarding our budget. Our deficit spending is reduced considerably, but further changes will be needed. For St. Martin's to continue with a seminary-trained, salaried priest, the position will likely not be full-time. So our job in 2009 is to begin to form a team of people who can work with a part-time priest to supplement the work of ministry at St. Martin's.

You may be one of the people called to be part of this team! Listen for God's voice! It may be there, calling you to become a member of this team.

Early in 2009 we will begin to discern the gifts of our people, to identify members of a team who can serve the parish along with the priest.

What role can you play? What mantle of grace is God offering you? Perhaps you are called to serve as part of a pastoral care team, as a parish administrator, as a liturgist, a preacher, teacher, an intercessor; or as a deacon who "interprets to the church

NOTICE:

**February Cloak
dead line
January 21ST**

the needs, concerns and hopes of the world” as the prayer book says, along with assisting in worship. Opportunities abound –as many as there are gifts of the Spirit. Don’t wait! God is infinitely patient with us, and works out the miracle of salvation with our without our assistance, but there is great joy in participating in that work.

In Ely Cathedral in England, there is a sculpture of the Virgin Mary in the Lady Chapel. The statue and the whole chapel finally replace a wing of the church that was bombed to bits in WWII. With

the restoration of the chapel nearly complete, the church commissioned a well-known religious artist to do the statue of Mary, but no one checked his exact plans—artistic freedom, right? So when the statue was unveiled, there was considerable wailing and gnashing of teeth because this was no demure maiden with downcast eyes and a blue veil. Instead he had made a goddess-like figure, larger than life, in a clingy iridescent blue gown and golden hair with her face and arms uplifted. (UP) Perhaps he was thinking of her singing the *Magnificat*—my soul pro-

claims the greatness of the Lord—or it could be these lines: “Here am I the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word!” May such joy be yours! For nothing will be impossible with God. Amen.

Wishing Many blessings for the new year.

Winnie+

The dead line for the February Cloak is **January 21st**. Your articles need to be in the Cloak mail box in the Guild Hall or emailed to cloak@smecmn.org

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES



From my window in the ECS office I look out and see beautiful white snow covering the ground. I see the sun reflecting on the library next door. The beginning of another year often provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the past and look to the future and to start with a fresh slate, clean like today’s snow. In January of 2008 there were rumors that Rev. Marilla Whitney would be resigning from her position in the ECS office. I remember the Sunday when Mother Winnie announced that Marilla had resigned. I also remember Jackie Ziemer saying to me – “that sounds like a place for you”, not a position but a place. Members of the parish spoke to me about applying too. Because of the encouragement from many of you, I am now in place.

I didn’t know much about ECS. How much do you? Do you know the motto for ECS? ECS is: ***Grounded in faith, Sustained by hope and Acting through love. ECS strengthens and supports adults, youth, children and families at risk and in need.***

You have been living out your faith.

The ECS staff in Minneapolis is very supportive of your Family Resource Center.

Last week I received an email telling me that I could request the remaining funds in our account. In 2009 we will start with a clean slate and a new budget. What that amount is I do not know. What I do know is that I have received compliments from the main office for our work together in 2008 to “*strengthen and support families at risk and in need in Greater Minnesota.*” And I know that I have the support of you, the members, of St. Martin’s. Thank you for making our Resource Center a place where the light shines.

Do you have an extra winter coat in your closet?

One of the programs in Minneapolis that ECS supports is called **Ready for Success**.

Mother Winnie and I visited this site in July. Here women come to receive clothing, donated by stores and individuals, suitable for the work place. Many are re-entering the work force after they have learned a new skill. Clients are referred to **Ready for Success** by more than 100 social service agencies. Currently RFS is in need of winter coats for the women who come to their program. Plus sizes are in especially short supply. If you would like to donate a new or gently used coat Mother Winnie will be happy to deliver it to RFS when she goes to the diocese office. RFS is just across the parking lot from the diocese office.

Jennelle Cunning, ECS Site Coordinator

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

JANUARY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Mother Winnie Vacation	2 Mother Winnie Vacation	3 Mother Winnie Vacation
4 H.E. II 10am Mother Winnie Vacation	5 Mother Winnie Vacation	6 Mother Winnie Vacation	7 Choir 5:45 Mother Winnie Vacation	8 Liturgy & Worship 9:30am	9 ECW 1:15	10
11 H.E. II 10am	12	13	14 Choir 5:45 Vestry 5:30pm	15	16	17
18 H.E. II 10am Spanish Service	19	20	21 Choir 5:45 Feb. Cloak Dead- line	22	23	24
25 H.E. II 10am Annual Meeting	26	27	28 Choir 5:45	29	30	31

Please check the Half Cloak each Sunday for updates to the Calendar events!

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

1 Stephen Gerdes
5 Charles Johnson
7 Stephen & Jody Gerdes
8 Ron Lutz
19 Misty Bland
19 Jazlyn Gerdes
21 Alyssa Lutz
25 Celia Simpson
25 Lucas Simpson
25 Lauren Ettsvold
30 Maria Trevino

January 4th

Head Usher: Bob L. Jr.
Lector: Fran S.
Intercessor: Anna H.
Chalice: Pat G.

January 11th

Head Usher: Doug Wollam
Lector: Jim Simpson
Intercessor: Fran S.
Chalice: Diane L.

January 18th

Head Usher: Randa S.
Lector: Tom H.
Intercessor: Chuck J.
Chalice: Thom P.

January 25th

Head Usher: Michi D.
Lector: Rob Laird
Intercessor: Rob Laird
Chalice: Sheryl C.

If you are unable to serve please find a replacement.

St Martin's
Episcopal
Church
Vestry Min-
utes
17-Dec-08

I. Call to Order:

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm. Members present were: Mother Winnie, Doug Wollam, Chuck Johnson, Michi Donnelly and Les Hohenstein.
- B. Members absent were: Bobby Luedtke and Randa Simpson.
- C. Mother Winnie opened the meeting with a prayer and bible reading.
- D. The agenda for the meeting was presented. Chuck made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Michi seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Activity:

- A. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Chuck made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Doug seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chuck gave a report on Diocesan Council. Gary Gleason has retired and no one has been appointed to fill his position. Staff member Karen Olson is currently handling Gary's duties. Kevin Shaw has been put in charge of congregational development. Delegates for the convention will need to be appointed for each of the next two years as well as alternates.
- C. The Senior Warden was not present to give her report.
- D. The Junior Warden reported that no one was signing up for clean-up duties. The suggestion was made that those performing various tasks take time to note what they had done and on what date so as to avoid needless duplication. Jennelle suggested that a doorbell button at the side door was really not necessary. Her clients usually came to the back door. After brief discussion, Michi made a motion to pursue the two button approach. Doug seconded the motion and the motion passed. The office will be painted while Mother Winnie is on vacation.
- E. Les presented the treasurer's report.
- F. Mother Winnie presented the priest's report.
- G. The current budget for was discussed. Cost saving measures have reduced our reliance on endowments by about \$20,000. But that does not mean we are out of the woods in that regard. \$30,000. was taken from endowments this year.
- H. Vestry appointments were discussed. There will be two positions to fill for 2009 and the positions of Senior and Junior Warden will need to be filled. Michi was asked to review the by-laws regarding elections.
- I. Chuck made a motion to accept all the reports as presented. Michi seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- J. The proposed budget for 2009 was presented for review. Mother Winnie offered some thoughts on compensation options. Doug made a motion to accept the budget as proposed. Michi seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of four to one. The diocesan office is to be contacted to see what other measures are available to help us get to a balanced budget.
- L. Chuck made a motion to adjourn. Michi seconded the motion. Mother Winnie closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Les Hohenstein, Acting Secretary

St Martin's
Episcopal
Church
Vestry Min-
utes
19-Nov-08

I. Call to Order:

- A: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. Members present were: Mother Winnie, Randa Simpson, Doug Wollam, Chuck Johnson and Michi Donnelly.
- B: Mother Winnie opened the meeting with a prayer and bible reading.
- C: The agenda for the meeting was presented. Item 7 & 8 were moved up to 4 & 5. Michi made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Doug Seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

II. Activity:

- A. The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Chuck Johnson had been present. Michi made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Randa seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Bobbie Jenson and Kathy Hiebert have asked to be married in the church. The diocesan office has no problem with such a ceremony as long as it is approved by the vestry. Doug made a motion to allow the ceremony. Randa seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- C. At the behest of the diocesan office, the finance committee is instructed to hold a budget retreat asap to address the needs of the congregation for the coming years. This would also be necessary to approach the First-Stop Committee.
- D. Mark Ingledew has requested the scholarship funds available this year. Randa made a motion to accept his request. Chuck seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. The name of those able access the safe deposit had not been updated for a while. New name are to be: Mother Winnie, Les Hohenstein and Randa Simpson.
- F. Street assessment for this year is \$300, and can be paid by the end of November or allowed to go on the annual tax roles. Michi made a motion to allow it to go on the tax roles. Doug seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. Junior Warden: Church cleaning will be this coming Saturday. Everyone who is able is urged lend whatever talent they may have. Supplies for painting the church office have been procured. Randy Nelson will be handling snow removal this coming winter. A cost had yet to be determined, but there would likely be no change from last year. The cost of a new door bell system was running higher than expected. It was to have a single button at the front door.
- H. Finance: It was felt that the Living Stewardship campaign had gone well. Pledges were up about \$6,000.00. As noted above, budgets to address shortfalls in the coming years would be necessary in seeking ACG relief.

- I. Clergy: We are proceeding with the Midnight Christmas Eve service. Ann W. will be asked to play as Sandy has a prior commitment. The christian radio station was proposed as a possible venue for promotion of the service. Personel review also needs to be completed. Sara Ingledew has beed relieved of her nursery duties and Nicki Stelten has been hired to replace her. Mother Winnie expressed concern that she may have overstepped her bounds. Randa supported her actions and asked the the vestry to do the same. Micki made a motion to that affect. Doug seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Randa made a motion to accept the various reports. Chuck seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.
- J. Gail has submitted her resignation from the vestry and her duties as Senior Warden. Doug made motion to accept her resignation. Randa seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- K. With the turnover in the vestry there was some confusion as to exactly who was doing what. Michi has been asked to serve the remainder Jeff Rouse's term. Les was asked to serve the remainder of Leena Devaraj's term. Moved by Randa, seconded by Doug and passed. Randa was asked to serve as Senior Warden. Moved by Chuck, seconded by Michi and passed.
- L. Chuck made a motion to ajourn. Michi seconded the motion. Mother Winnie closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Les Hohenstein, Acting Secretary

DIOCESEN NEWS

Beloved in Christ,

Does it happen every year at Christmas, or is it especially true this year? There's no room in the inn. No room.

It is not just the rooms that are full; it is more than that. For in fact, if you were to travel, I will bet that you would find it easier to make reservations at this late date, on a plane or a train, in a hotel or motel, than would be possible most years at this time. More people are staying home. There is less money -- or the fear of less money -- for travel. So we are protecting our wallets and purses, our checkbooks and credit cards. We are spending less for the luxury of Christmas celebrations than usual.

Stores report fewer sales, even when offering bigger discounts. Restaurants and caterers are serving fewer parties. Even those among us who have lost neither jobs nor income are being careful, prudent, cautious about spending. *There may be room in the inns, but is there room in the inn of our hearts?*

Brian Rusche, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, spoke to the Minnesota Council of Churches Board about the next session of the state legislature. (We sponsor them in partnership with Jewish, Muslim and Roman Catholic bodies.) Brian said, "We are likely in this next Minnesota legislative session, to make poverty worse." It was a grim reminder that along with spending less on our families and on ourselves, we are reducing our government-based services and our charitable giving even more.

I wonder: *what kind of people do we want to be? What kind of community, state, country do we want to have?*

It is in times of crisis, like this one, that we are brought to the test. One friend, who has worked hard and honestly all his life and became rich by most standards, has lost everything. Millions. Another friend, a priest, who has lived a caring and compassionate life, received a diagnosis of cancer that is so severe that his doctor told him, "Maybe a year." Knowing them both well, I am not surprised by their hopefulness about life -- whatever quality of life remains for them -- and their faith that God is and will be with them. I am in awe of their generosity of spirit, a generosity which shows up in their giving as well.

What about the rest of us?

This fall we Episcopalians conducted a shoe drive for those who have none. We filled a semi-trailer with over 32,000 pair of shoes. One of our churches began a fund drive to build a clinic in Uganda. "What better time to do so?" asked the deacon in her sermon, and many in the congregation are responding. I am sure you know other stories where people are acting in faith to give money away in the midst of this pervasive fear. It may be less than we want to give, probably less than is needed, but this generosity makes a strong witness that we are still, as always, our brother's and sister's keepers. We are still acknowledging our belief that God has linked us inextricably together in life.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem before the birth of their son became a holy-day, the holiday that billions of the world's people celebrate to this day. They came to an inn, looking for a room, and the innkeeper gave them what he could -- not the bridal suite, nor even a single with bathroom down the hall. They were a couple about to become a family. All the innkeeper had to offer was a stable. It was good enough.

We Christians have been taught to look for the Christ in everyone we meet, to practice a radical hospitality to serve the Christ in each other, for in serving them we are serving Christ himself. What do we -- each of us -- have to offer the Christ this year? Whatever we give will be what we give. It is up to God to make our gifts good enough.

Do you believe that? I do.

A blessed Christmas to you and yours, and through you to others.

Faithfully, in Christ,



+James L. Jelinek
VIII Bishop of Minnesota

We are on the web

Smecmn.org

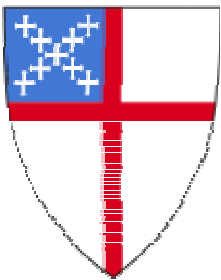
JANUARY 1, 2009

**ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

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Fairmont, MN 56031

Phone: 507-238-2686
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



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.