

## Winnie's Words for March 2010 Cloak: The Heart Work of Keeping a Holy Lent

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on a great welcome for our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior. Worship was well attended (57 people); the church looked lovely, lunch was abundant and delicious, and our vestry discussion with the Bishop was helpful and encouraging.

Bishop Brian told us that he hopes parishes will look to the diocese for support and resources rather than supervision and hierarchy. This was good news to the vestry, whose reflections with the Bishop included hopes for continued good energy at St. Martin's in spite of our budget-saving move to a part-time priest. The Bishop encouraged St. Martin's to be a "ministry-centered congregation," where all members can contribute their talents as ministries to keep our parish active and strong. His idea is that everything we are called to do for the church is really ministry, whether that is putting together this news letter, visiting sick or shut-ins, leading morning prayer, hosting coffee hour, teaching children, guiding our youth, or mowing the lawn.

He also encouraged us to be sure that we are well-known in our community for the special things we do—this can mean everything from more publicity (with help from the Diocese) to the special projects we do for outreach and mission. In short, St. Martin's needs to be known in Fairmont and beyond for its special focus on.... You fill in the blank! What do you think St. Martin's is called to do here and now, in our community or beyond?

Our young people and their sponsors have recently set a great example with their participation in the Kids Against Hunger food pack for the second year. This ministry not only provides basic life-saving meals to hungry families. It also helps our young people understand the needs of a hungry world and feel that they are a part of the solution. Our youth were able to participate in this great ministry because of the hard work and support of so many of our people—Diane Luedtke as youth director, Jennelle Cuning, who wrote the grant for funds from the Sheltering Arms Foundation and worked through the whole process, Laura Lutz, Joann and Dwaine Eggert, who helped with fund raising and participated as adult members of the team to keep things running smoothly during the intense hour of assembly-line food packing, and many many more of you who contributed funds, soups, or worked in the kitchen, or brought friends to attend the fundraiser meals that helped the kids' fundraising.

This is a hard act to follow, but it's been such a great experience, that we must now ask, what's next? How else can we answer God's call to help the hurting world with the many talents and gifts that make our parish strong?

This question is part of the heart work of Lent. Let us pray, discuss, and discern, along with our own individual spiritual improvements for lent, how can St. Martin's as a parish be an even stronger, livelier Christian presence in Southern Minnesota and beyond!

Wishing you a blessed and fruitful Lent,  
Winnie+

**Wow! Wasn't last Sunday's visit with Bishop Prior great! The altar was set with our best linen; the choir sang in finest voice, the serving tables held all our wonderful array of salads, desserts, veggies and delicious hot dishes. The tables were set and EVERYTHING went smoothly. Thank you all for the food you brought, the work to get our church ready, those that helped in the kitchen before and after our meal, to those who helped with the service. Thank you so much for all the love you put into our day. Michi**

### *Senior Warden's Report*

St. Martin's had the wonderful experience of having Bishop Brian Prior visit on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. We were the first on his list of the many visits on his schedule, what a special privilege for us. For the first time in many years, I feel that this Bishop truly cares about St. Martin's and the other out- state congregations. During our visit with him following our service he really only asked us three questions. He asked, "Who has been a member here the longest" and wanted some history of the church and in comparison to then, how are we doing now. The second question asked us what are our concerns for St. Martin's today, and finally he asked us where we see ourselves in five years from now. Bunny Peters spoke up and said since she was baptized at St. Martin's she probably was the member with the most seniority. (No Doubt!)

These three questions stirred a lot of discussion from the Vestry and Mother Winnie while Bishop Prior listened and asked more questions. We talked about our youth, the painful realization that we needed to go to half time ministry, we spoke of our seniors and all that they have contributed and are still contributing, we spoke of our St. Martin's family and how we work together, and most important we talked about our future. Bishop Prior praised Diane Luedtke, the youth and other team members for their work with the Kids Against Hunger project, he enjoyed hearing of our Blessing of the Animals service in conjunction with the animal shelter. He was absolutely delighted to learn about the Holy Hot Dish event that we are currently taking part in. However, he did ask that we not ask him to vote on a hotdish.

Bishop Prior stated that our ministry in St. Martin's is very strong and asked us "What can I do to help you. How can the Diocese help St. Martin's be here in 5 years" We had a lot of different ideas for him and he bought up several areas of thought for us. He wants to network other churches to begin sharing information on successful marketing and fundraising youth projects, caring for our elderly, and the concerns of half time ministry.

At the end of our visit he reminded us that St. Martin's is not the building, but it is the caring, loving people that have come together to share in their ministry of St. Martin's and we are no longer alone.

Respectfully,  
Michi Donnelly  
Feb. 2010



From IX Bishop of Minnesota, Bishop Brian N. Prior

#### [4,000 miles and counting](#)

With close to 4,000 miles on my car since I have arrived in Minnesota I have had a chance to begin to enjoy the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. Consistently what I have discovered is very competent clergy and deeply committed laity all sharing in ministry. Truly, the level of passion for God's mission and the love of the Episcopal Church here is awe inspiring.

I have thousands of miles in front of me and I look forward to the destinations they bring me to. For in each community of faith I am sure to find more who love the Lord and desire to make their congregations healthy and vital.

Thanks for sharing the journey with me!

## **Hey there! BrianPrior is using Twitter.**

**Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What's happening? Join today to start receiving BrianPrior's tweets.**

When Cloak editor Thom returns from AZ he can answer what Twitter is all about. Thanks to Thom and Chuck for arranging and paying for someone to Video Bishop Prior's visit to St. Martin's. We know what Video is.

### Holy Week and Easter Schedule

- Maundy Thursday (Apr. 1) - 6:00 pm  
Agape supper followed by Holy Communion with optional foot washing.
- Good Friday (Apr. 2)  
Way of the Cross walk begins at the Methodist church at 10:45  
Community service at 12 noon at St. Martin's  
Evening service at 6:00 pm. No Holy Communion at either service.
- Holy Saturday – 8:00 pm  
A short, festive Easter Vigil/Evening Prayer Sunset celebration.  
Holy Communion at this service.  
A reception in the Guild Hall follows the service.
- EASTER EUCHARIST – 10 am.

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 6:00 pm for Soup and Sandwiches.  
Holy Communion follows supper and then Bible Study. All are welcome.

APRIL CLOAK DEADLINE ---- MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

**St. Martin's Pantry Wish List**

**(Please help St. Martin's maintain a balanced budget by adding one or two of these items to your grocery list)**

**PAPER GOODS**

Paper plates  
9 oz paper cups  
Coffee cups  
Paper towels  
Trash can liners  
Toilet paper  
Kleenex

**FOOD**

Coffee  
Sugar  
Powdered creamer  
Tea  
Snacks for youth  
Crackers  
Powdered drink mix

**CLEANING PRODUCTS**

Liquid hand soap  
Glass cleaner  
Bathroom cleaner  
Furniture polish  
Spic-N- Span (or Mr Clean)  
Toilet bowl cleaner  
Dish washing liquid

Art Supplies for Sunday school (check with teachers before purchasing)

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**February --- ECW**

Seven women gathered on February 2 for dessert and discussion.

December minutes were accepted. The Treasures Report also accepted.

Dues of \$10 for 2010 are now due.

A request from Winnie for large print Eucharist books was denied.

The kitchen faucet needs to be replaced. We decided that since we give to the general fund that should be used for maintenance. Possible projects were discussed.

We can fund food for families gathered for a funeral. Our thought is to pay for Vetter's to cater as a gift from the guild. Andy will discuss a menu based on family needs.

Pat Gimm, Secretary

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**K I D S   A G A I N S T   H U N G E R**

**Total PROCEEDS --- \$996.50**

<b>Soup Lunch</b>	<b>\$297.50</b>
<b>Pancake Supper</b>	<b>\$201.00</b>
<b>M&amp;M Coin Containers</b>	<b>\$197.50</b>
<b>ECW</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>St. Martin's Parish</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>

**THANK YOU EVERYONE**

## **Vestry Minutes - St. Martin's Episcopal Church February 14, 2010**

Present: Mother Winnie, Michi Donnelly, Bob Luedtke, Jr., JoAnn Eggert, Les Hohenstein, Randa Simpson, Bunny Peters, Thom Peterson, Clerk Pro-Tem - Rob Laird

The Vestry of St. Martin's was called to order at 12:00 pm. Mother Winnie began with a Gathering Prayer commissioning the new Vestry members with the current Vestry members serving as sponsors. Robert moved and JoAnn seconded to accept the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Bob moved and Thom seconded a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Carried.

It was suggested that our Parish Administrator be asked to pay the bills. The suggestion was tabled for further discussion.

Parishioner input: Michi reported that some members have expressed concerns that some shut-in members have not had a visit from our Priest for sometime. Mother Winnie addressed these concerns by indicating that she had been in contact with the parishioners insofar as possible and that it was not possible to arrange a mutually convenient time for a visit with them.

The issue of the mutual ministry review was addressed and is in the agenda for this meeting.

The possibility of videotaping the Bishop's visit next week was discussed. Mother Winnie will explore the issue to determine if the Bishop is agreeable to this idea. Chuck Johnson had volunteered to underwrite the cost of videotaping.

Treasurer's Report: See attached reports.

Senior Warden: Michi will continue to work on the mutual ministry review. She will establish a personnel committee. Using the forms from the Dioceses as a guideline. The committee will meet with Mother Winnie in due course. Michi, Randa and Les will serve on the committee.

Junior Warden & Building & Ground: Randa reported that there is no shortage of help for which she is grateful as she works out of town. She reported that Jim Simpson is available to function as an emergency backup person in the event of an emergency. Thom suggested that a version of a logbook be employed for parishioners to document building concerns noting what should be done and what has been done.

The issue of church cleaning was addressed and it was reported that a parishioner was concerned about the amount of time taken for cleaning. This concern was determined to be moot as the cleaning person is paid by the job, not by the hour and if she chooses to donate part of her time to cleaning, the gift should be accepted graciously and thankfully.

The issue of a sound system for the Guild Hall was held and it was decided that Thom would get current estimates on the cost with the thought of using memorial money to pay for the system. Joann offered to donate her karaoke system for now.

Clergy Report: Mother Winnie report is attached along with her tentative work schedule for the year 2010. She discussed the issue of our having morning prayer vs. the use of a supply priest during her absences on Sundays. She discussed her schedule and gave a synopsis of how her time is spent.

Bob moved to accept all reports, Randa seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Randa reported on a tentative cleaning schedule for the church.

Discussion was held concerning the date and location for the Vestry's annual retreat. A tentative date of April 24 was suggested with the location to be determined.

The Bishop will meet with the Vestry during his visit on February 21.

A brief discussion was held concerning the schedule for Easter Services.

There being no further business, Bob moved and Randa seconded to adjourn. Carried.

The closing prayer was given by Mother Winnie. Meeting was adjourned.

Next Vestry meeting: March 28, 2010

Robert Laird, Clerk Pro-Tem

# M A R C H    2 0 1 0

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  Rev. W. Out	2  Rev. W. Out	3 ECS 9–3  3:30 Confirmation 6:00 Soup & Study Rev. W. In	4 10:30 Bible Study 1:00 Worship & Liturgy Rev. W. In	5 1:15 pm ECW  Rev. W. Study Day	6
7  10 AM Worship	8 Rev. W.  Week Off	9 Rev. W.  Week Off	10 ECS 9–3 NO Confirmation  6:00 Soup & Study Rev. W. Week Off	11 No BIBLE Study  Rev. W. Week Off	12   Rev. W. Week Off	13
14  10 AM Worship	15  Rev. W. Out	16  Rev. W. Out	17 ECS 9–3 3:30 Confirmation 6:00 Soup & Study  CLOAK DUE Rev. W. In	18 10:30 Bible Study  Rev. W. In	19   Rev. W. Study Day	20   Pastoral Visitor Training
21 10 AM Worship  4:15 GLBT	22  Rev. W. Week off	23  Rev. W. Week Off	24 ECS 9–3 No Confirmation  6:00 Soup & Study Rev. W. Week Off	25 No Bible Study  Rev. W. Week Off	26   Rev. W. Week Off	27 Rev. W at Commission On Ministry
28 10 AM Worship Palm Sunday Noon: Vestry	29  Rev. W. Out	30  ECS TODAY 9–3 Rev. W. Out	31 ECS–CLOSED 3:30 Confirmation 6:00 Soup & Study Rev. W. In	Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Agape Supper with Communion	Good Friday Worship at Noon & 6:00 PM	8:00 PM Vigil of Light

**March 7th**  
Head Usher: Bob L.  
Lector: Sheryl C.  
Intercessor: Rob. L.  
Chalice:

**March 14th**  
Head Usher: Les H.  
Lector: Jim S.  
Intercessor: Thom P.  
Chalice: Tom H.

**March 21st**  
Head Usher: Bunny P.  
Lector: Pat G.  
Intercessor: Pat G.  
Chalice: Thom P.

**March 28th**  
Head Usher: JoAnn E.  
Lector: Bob L.  
Intercessor: Les  
Chalice: Doug

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

## Birthdays and Anniversaries:

**5 Paul Brown**  
**6 Denise Rouse**  
**10 Jo Montgomery**  
**11 Bunny Peters**  
**18 Betty Donnelly**

**26 Ron Ziemer**  
**29 Collin Kraemer**