A Prayer called “St. Martin’s Cross” by Pat Bennett

- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS brokenness meets re-making.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS restlessness meets peace.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS bondage meets liberation.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS weakness meets strength.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS selfishness meets servanthood.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS death meets resurrection.
- In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS YOUR kingdom comes.

St. Martin’s Cross was carved about 800CE on the Isle of Iona and stands by the once-ruined, now repaired monastery – home to an ecumenical community that “gets it” and sparks fresh liturgy that is both relevant and steeped in tradition.

# St. Martin’s Episcopal Church: Annual Meeting Agenda
## January 28, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blessing over the food</td>
<td>Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call to Order / Prayer for the Church</td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes From 2017 Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Michael Kovach, Clerk</td>
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<td>Nominations for Vestry and Convention Delegates</td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Kovach, Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further Nominations From the Floor</td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
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<td>Michael Kovach, Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Warden/Youth Group Report</td>
<td>Susan Carpenter, Junior Warden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Report</td>
<td>John Alden, Stewardship CoChair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Financial Report</td>
<td>Ralph Trieschmann, Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of 2018 Budget</td>
<td>Ralph Trieschmann, Treasurer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voting, Collection and Counting of Ballots</td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michael Kovach, Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report From the Senior Warden and Update on Rector Search Process</td>
<td>Tom Allen, Senior Warden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions and Answers</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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<td>Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis</td>
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<td>Report of Elections</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Michael Kovach, Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Prayer and Dismissal</td>
<td>Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Hymn</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If you can stay a bit, please lavish some love on your church and help clean up.*
2018 Annual Meeting: Senior Warden Report
Submitted by Tom Allen, Senior Warden

2017: A Look Back
We began our work as a 2017 Vestry with our regular offsite meeting in February, where we got to know each other more on a personal basis, heard from a number of guest speakers, reviewed the 2020 Recommendations (see Appendix at end of document), and ensured all our activities were aligned with those recommendations.

At the end of our offsite, we agreed on three main priorities for 2017:

- Developing a Plan for Fixing the Church Facilities: Lincoln Drake gave an excellent overview of our current facilities and needs, and it was clear that the time was to begin planning for a Capital Campaign.
- Be More Intentional With Outreach: One of our Vestry members asked the question, “If we closed our doors, would the community notice?” Another member noted that on our current budget, “Outreach” was funded with zero dollars. Based on those observations and other discussion, we set a goal to be more intentional with outreach in 2017.
- Establish a Calendar of Regular Multi-Generational Events: Our ministries are full of energy and good works, but it’s not commonplace that they work across ministries and generations to fulfill the mission of the church. We saw the importance of developing events that inclusively bring together multiple generations.

With the backdrop of the 2020 recommendations and the three priorities listed above, we accomplished and/or approved a number of items throughout the year that are summarized below:

- **By-Laws Update:** We updated the language in the bylaws to make it gender neutral, while also clarifying our voting procedures in cases that require an email vote.
- **Initiation of Capital Campaign:** We supported the initiation of Capital Campaign to address our facilities needs; that campaign has been paused until this Fall, at the request of the Bishop, due to our Rector transition.
- **New Hearing Assistance Devices:** We received a grant of $2300 from the Diocese, in addition to a grant from the Legacy Endowment Fund, to fund the purchase of new, state-of-the-art listening devices using the latest T-coil technologies to provide hearing-impaired parishioners a better opportunity to hear the Word of the Lord.
- **Columbaria Expansion:** Pre-sale niches start at $450 (plus $275 for engraving), and you can view a model near the back chapel and pick up brochures providing more details. We have received some feedback on the design of the niches and are seeing what adjustments we can make.
- **Utility Pit Reconstruction:** We supported the reconstruction of crumbling railroad ties lining the utility pit to the left of the entrance to the church. The pit has been reconstructed with a fortress of stone blocks.
- **Legacy Endowment Fund Distribution:** The Legacy Endowment Committee approved the Vestry’s recommendations for disbursing the 2016 Legacy Endowment Fund Income of $5,692.83 in the following ways: $1,230 to support the purchase of hearing assistance devices; $2,000 to be given to our Outreach Ministry; $462.83 for Youth Ministry-directed outreach; and $2,000 to support African Ministries under direction of Bishop Paul in the Diocese of Kapsabet in Kenya.
• **Vestry Forums:** We held two Vestry Forums this year, one in the spring focusing on facilities, and another in the fall providing a general update on financials and Vestry priorities.

• **Diocesan Convention:** We sponsored five attendees at the convention in Hannibal. We are excited that Loretta Go has been elected to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee.

• **Copier Lease Renewal:** We renewed our copier lease with Konica, at a lower annual rate than we paid prior, to ensure we can continue to print high-quality pieces vital to our worship experience.

• **“Hanging of the Greens” Celebration:** We sponsored the intergenerational “Hanging of the Greens” gathering to adorn the church for the Advent and Christmas season. The event was well attended with involvement from all ages.

• **Stewardship Giving Statements:** We worked with the staff to increase the number of statements sent showing progress toward pledges, going from mailing those four times a year to five times a year.

• **Pumpkin Patch:** We sponsored another successful Pumpkin Patch, raising funds for next year’s Youth Mission Trip, the Navajo Reservation on which the pumpkins are grown, and the church on that reservation. This intergenerational event continues to be one of our most popular examples of church fellowship and community outreach.

• **Rector transition:** We held many difficult and prayer-filled conversations to discern the future of St. Martin’s, and where we go next. As I have reported before, this involved conversations with the Bishop’s office, and the recommendation from Bishop Smith that Father Jon and St. Martin’s part ways.

**So, What Happened?**

Father Jon leaving St. Martin’s was of course the most significant change we experienced at St. Martin’s this year, perhaps in the last eight years. I have written before about why he left and what happened, but I will briefly recap what led to the Bishop’s recommendation that he and St. Martin’s part ways.

The Vestry had been monitoring several declining pieces of data, such as Average Sunday Attendance (AS), pledging and loose offerings, and attendance in children’s worship services, among others. While many numbers are down across the Diocese, ours were down precipitously in the past 18 months. While I certainly acknowledge that there’s so much more to church than the numbers, the trends we saw were not exactly a sign of a healthy, thriving church. And it was clear that overall parishioner engagement, energy and morale were not where we wanted it to be.

In addition, we were worried about Father Jon from a personal standpoint. It was clear his divorce and challenging custody arrangement with Abbey were taking their toll on him. There were issues with his dealings with the staff. Commitments to some of his duties were not being fulfilled. He was gone a lot. He was struggling financially, which led to some concerning actions the Bishop discussed during his meeting with us Jan. 21.

Despite feedback provided to Father Jon through meetings and conversations, things were not improving and seemed to be getting worse. We continued to grow increasingly worried about St. Martin’s, and increasingly worried about Father Jon.

Susan Carpenter and I decided to meet with Joe Chambers, Canon to the Ordinary, at the Bishop’s office, to get his advice on how we get to a better place. After Joe met with the Bishop to communicate our
concerns, the Bishop met with Jon and immediately told him it would be best for him to find a new job. We were surprised this moved as fast as it did, and ended up in the place that it did, so quickly.

I will say for me personally, going to the Bishop with our concerns was an incredibly difficult decision. And perhaps, we were naïve in thinking that going to the Bishop’s office merely to seek guidance wouldn’t turn into something much bigger. Maybe we should have worked with Jon, the Vestry, and the congregation to work through our issues. However, I wonder if we had taken that route, if we would not have ended up in the same place.

I have met with many of you over lunch, coffee, and even a beer to hear your questions and concerns about the change we have experienced. I will continue to make myself available via phone or in person. My phone number is 314-578-9726, and my email address is thomas.allen@wfadvisors.com, though I always prefer a live conversation over email. Reach out if you want to talk or hear something that you need clarified. And we as a Vestry will do our best to communicate where we are in the process, and what’s next.

Looking Forward to 2018
Obviously, much of our work for 2018 will be continuing to ensure all staff and parish needs are met as we search for a new Rector. As I have mentioned, the Bishop’s office offered us two paths to select a new rector: the traditional interim path, and the quicker path to choose a Priest in Charge for a three-year term (where after two years, we mutually decide if we want to continue past three years).

At the January Vestry meeting, we communicated to Joe Chambers at the Bishop’s office that we have decided to take the Priest in Charge path, which is in line with the prevailing sentiment from the congregation.

With that decision made, we have the following steps before us:

1. **Interview and Select a Short-Term Interim**: Before we hire a Priest in Charge, the Diocese will offer us a well-trained short-term interim Rector to be with us beginning in February and through July 1st, at the earliest. At the time of this writing, we are just beginning to interview that person.

2. **Construct the Office of Transition Management (OTM) Profile**: A subset of the Vestry will complete a comprehensive profile that will be used to share with potential candidates. This profile consists of a number quantitative and qualitative questions, but essentially will answer the question, “What are we looking for in a Rector, and why?” This document will need to be completed by the end of February.

3. **Web presence update**: We will need to ensure our website and Facebook page are up to date, as this will be the first stop for any candidate interested in our opportunity. This also needs to be completed by the end of February.

4. **Parish Listening Sessions**: In the month of February, the Vestry will hold a series of parish listening sessions to ensure we have the input we need to represent the needs of the parish as a whole.

5. **March Convention**: Joe Chambers, is attending a national Episcopal Church convention in March, during which he will speak with potential candidates and communicate the information we prepared for St. Martin’s. This will be in addition to candidates who discover our opportunity and approach us through other channels.
6. **Interviews:** In the March through May timeframe, the Vestry will conduct interviews and site visits with potential candidates. Remember that with the Priest in Charge path, since the timeline is compressed, the Vestry serves as the search committee.

7. **July 1 Start Date:** If all goes as planned, our goal is to have a new Priest in Charge start by July 1, with a September 1st start date at the latest.

“Remember, God is at Work in This Process”

During our January Vestry meeting, as Joe Chambers was educating us on all the intricacies of the search process, we found ourselves drawn into the details and increasingly anxious about all we had to do. Joe stopped and said, “Remember, God is at work in this process.” We laughed, relaxed a bit, the tension was lifted, and he helped us pull back and remember that we are by no means in this alone.

God is with us as we embark on this journey. God is with us in how we work together. God is with us as we answer the question, what are we looking for, and why? God is with us in how we communicate and support each other throughout the process. God is with us as we meet new candidates. God is with us as we make our decision and call. And God is with us as we move forward to a new and reborn St. Martin’s.

Thanks be to God.

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**Appendix: 2020 Recommendations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Ministry</th>
<th>Develop a discernment process toward a unified parish-wide ministry at St. Martin’s, one in which the entire congregation can participate.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixing the Church Facility</td>
<td>Implement a deliberate and urgent program to refresh and repair the physical plant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry by Ministry planning</td>
<td>Support ministries and the vestry in their strategic planning efforts, ministry by ministry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Development</td>
<td>Educate parishioners about what it means to aspire to be the church we want to be in the 21st century; increase parishioner ownership and engagement in church priorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming for Families</td>
<td>Develop and enhance ministry programming that serves younger families in the congregation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Priest Associate’s Report — 2017
I often say I’m the Saturday Night Priest at St. Martin’s. But I’m also here most Wednesdays, show up other times and places as needed, and am generally available for email, phone calls and texts. I’m 30% employed by St. Martin’s and averaged 23.3 hrs/wk in 2017.

My main duties continue to be
• crafting and leading our Saturday evening worship “The 5°5”
  — a down-to-earth, contemplative-leaning service that encourages all who come to participate in accordance with their gifts and comfort zone.
• pastoral care, including hospital visits and tender conversations
• crafting funerals, weddings, Holy Day liturgies and Christmas pageant
• participation in Christian Formation such as Confirmation (none in 2017), Lenten programs, book studies, and working with stewardship team

New Projects in 2017
• Red, White and Blue worship — following up on an idea introduced at diocesan clergy conference, I mined the BCP for pertinent prayers and designed worship incorporating proud and prophetic texts from US History with parallel scripture passages, illuminating the coherence of our national values with Biblical ones, and highlighting our national progress toward liberty and justice for all. Jon allowed us to use this worship at all our services the weekend before July 4.
• “Interwoven” Retreat for our diocesan ECW (Episcopal Church Women) — I invited Mary Drastal and Lura Koch to partner in creating a rich and varied body-mind-spiritual smorgasbord with music, fiber art, and teaching on prayer and some amazing medieval saints. 50 women signed up —17 of them through St. Martin’s, so this was a big event for our parish. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and I learned a lot from the collaboration with many passionate leaders.

In general, all my ministries are life-giving and fulfilling — more than I could ask or imagine. I do find it challenging always to be running between here and my beloved St. Thomas Deaf Church, which employs me 50%. This verse from John’s Gospel is my lead: “No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again” (Jn10:18). I have abundant life in Christ. It is my JOY to share it abundantly.

I can’t look back on 2017 without mentioning my boss. Jon Hall and I had our differences and affinities, lo these 6½ yrs. He’s an out-of-the-box thinker who had faith in me to do a new thing with the 5°5 and gave me credit for what I did well. I’ll always be grateful for the opportunity to work here —mostly not on Sundays. 7 yrs ago Jon told me: “I had a dream that you came to St. Martin’s and did whatever it is you’re called to do, and it built the church. What are you called to do?” My dream is for each and all of us to live out THAT legacy: to find what God is calling us to do. That vision, joy, liveliness and passion WILL build this church.

Yours in Christ, emily*

The Rev. Dr. Emily Hillquist Davis
Junior Warden Activities for 2017-18 year have included:

- Vestry Retreat and Goal Setting
- Attended Vestry and Executive Committee Meetings
- Attended Diocesan Vestry Training
- Anti-racism Training
- Worked on incorporating the 5 Marks of Mission into various aspects of the church
- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry visit to St. Louis
- Met with Father Jon Hall to discuss parish matters
- Met with various parishioners to discuss church matters
- Met with Bishop’s office
- Worked with staff throughout the year including attending some staff meetings
- Coordinated Volunteers for Easter, Pumpkin Patch, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Services
- Researched White Loan provisions
- Researched Diocesan grants
- UTO Campaign
- Coordinated Ministry Fair
- Met with Lincoln Drake about facilities issues
- Welcomed Ski Group from Tennessee
- Reviewed Planned Giving Brochure and Packet
- Pastoral Care Visits
St Martin’s Episcopal Church
Treasurer’s Report for 2017

St. Martin’s has been supported by dedicated volunteers since its formation over 50 years ago. We are grateful for our members’ willing hearts, helpful hands and for your gifts made to the church. I would additionally like to thank Janet Theiss for the time and effort she puts in to keeping our books and for providing monthly financial reports on a timely basis.

Thanks to our Counters who ensure that the offering and other income is accurately reported and deposited each week. Thank you very much for your diligent efforts and for being part of our Financial Team.

A financial review of our financial controls and policies for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 was done in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal Church of St Charles – results of that review are available upon request from the office of St Martin’s. In summary, no significant issues were found though a recommendation was made to convert accounting method to one based entirely on cash movements. This recommendation was taken up by the vestry and agreed to - so beginning in 2018 the accounting for St Martin’s shall be 100% cash-based, the biggest impact of which being that we no longer attempt to account for asset value and depreciation which is found to be irrelevant in a church since the Diocese technically owns the assets anyway. Another Financial Review should be conducted in 2018 for the 2017 reporting.

In terms of key variances to the 2017 budget, the Normal Operating Income from plate, pledges and charitable grant giving were below budget by $23,662. I am quite pleased to report that parishioners who pledged in 2017 met or exceeded their pledge commitments for which we are grateful. The budget shortfall therefor was more attributed to reductions in plate contributions that maybe are aligned with apparent reductions in average attendance or that those who had in prior years given in plate had moved to making pledges. As we make plans for 2018 let me take a moment to remind parishioners of the importance of continuing to make and meet your pledge obligations as we rely on these to manage the mission of our church. For any looking to automate their pledge gifts or to explore options such as planned giving – please contact the Treasurer or the Parish Administrator for advice.

Regarding expenses for 2017 I wish to commend the staff, vestry and all ministry leaders on the accomplishment of doing an excellent job of forecasting their expenses a year in advance and for managing to those forecasts. At year end we came in $3,023 under budget for expenses. There were several expenditures in 2017 that were not budgeted but only totaled approximately $4,200 (an ice machine, an HVAC Condenser, Nursery room door, a restroom fan) but savings in areas like snow removal allowed us not to go over plan.

In spite of keeping expenses under control, the deficit planned at the beginning of the year and added to with lower than expected income resulted in a total of $94,891 needed from our St Martins Investment Fund (i.e. savings investment account known as SMIF) in order to cover expenses. That fund started the year with a balance of $521,740.96 and ended the year at $467,752.91 a net decline of just under $54,000. Helping to offset the expenses funded by SMIF was a good year in the market with the Fund earning a net amount of $64,559.
Separate from the SMIF, the St. Martin’s Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) operates as a Permanently Restricted Fund which ended 2017 with a balance of $208,200.

In anticipation of needs to update our facilities in the coming years, the church will be planning a Capital Campaign with several specific projects identified. Expect that campaign to launch in Fall 2018.

Regarding the 2018 budget, the vestry has approved the attached plan.

Respectfully, Ralph Trieschmann, Treasurer
### 2017 Year End Statement and 2018 Budget - Annual Report

#### Operating Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2017 Act.</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fund Raising</td>
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<td>Other Income (Mem./Col./other)</td>
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<td>6,500</td>
<td>1,701</td>
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<td>Designated Income</td>
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<td>Facility Use Income</td>
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<td><strong>Income from Operations</strong></td>
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<td>427,765</td>
<td>404,103</td>
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<td>73%</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>427,765</td>
<td>404,103</td>
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<td>Supply Priest</td>
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<td>1,175</td>
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<td>182,498</td>
<td>179,071</td>
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<td><strong>STAFF</strong></td>
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<td>400</td>
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<td>Staff Development</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL STAFF</strong></td>
<td>145,277</td>
<td>136,618</td>
<td>141,715</td>
<td>138,946</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<td><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE</strong></td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>498,994</td>
<td>508,170</td>
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(DEFICIT) (194,068) (74,252) (94,891) (138,170)
Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF)

The LEF funds performed well in 2017, following our year in 2016.

The Committee is pleased to report the LEF of St. Martin’s continued to grow in 2017, not only by the income it generated from its investments, but also through the generous donations of those remembering our church from their estate planning, as well as individuals who made direct donations, memorial gifts or other contributions toward this fund.

Although additional contributions were small in 2017 (under $500) the LEF Fund had over 10% return improving its balance to over $206,000 after 2017 Ministry distributions and fees. Therefore we will have eligible over $6,700 for Outreach and Ministry for 2018 projects based on the LEF guidelines.

Eligible funds from 2016 for 2017 Ministry projects was just over $5,692. Those funds were used in helping several Outreach programs such as the Diocese in Kenya, Circle of Concern, Magdalene House, and our Youth Group and for new Hearing/Listening devices for our Church during 2017.

We will have our next quarterly LEF meeting sometime in early March. The Committee will finalize the eligible funds for Outreach and formally report the information to the new Vestry. Per the policies of the LEF, the income is made available for special use in support of our Church mission provided they are not used for traditional operating expenses of St Martin’s. If you have any ideas for the use of these funds for Outreach in 2018, please contact someone in Vestry or me and we can give assistance on how to apply and determine if it meets guideline criteria.

This investment fund is managed through State Street Global. A detailed report is available to anyone upon request, but a summary is within this financial report. Through income growth and donations along with fund expenses throughout the year, the ending balance as of December 31, 2017 grew to $206,970.45 up from $187,186.53 at the same point in time last year.

Understand the LEF is an ongoing fund to which contributions can be made at any time. Please note that any donations designated for the LEF will add to the principle of the fund in perpetuity and are therefore not available for use in support of annual church operations. If you do not intend your gift to St Martin’s to be as restricted as the LEF policy dictates, please consider giving instead though a pledge or to the St Martin’s Investment Fund discussed below.

When you feel the desire to make any gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund, please clearly indicate this in your donation or any estate planning documents. Be confident your gift going into these funds perform historically well and the income derived is for use in ongoing ministry works of our church. If you are interested in donating or setting up a donation, please contact one of us. We would be glad to help you through the process and answering any questions you may have for this giving ministry.

We have 2 outgoing members on our committee, and will be looking for replacements. Some have already indicated an interest to join, but if you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact someone in our Vestry or me. We can provide more details.

Mike Kelly
LEF Committee Chair
Following is our “Mission Statement”. We review the three parts of this statement at each meeting to help us properly balance our general directive to change lives.

**Mission Statement**

A. Focus on those ministries which have an Episcopal tradition.
B. Evangelize to the West County community through community involvement.
C. Support individual/personal needs only as recommended by St. Martin’s or Community Agencies.

The Outreach Team –Linda Wilson, Tim Bosche, Alice McLaughlin, D’Arcy Elsperman, Loretta Go, Elin Cogan-Adewunmi, John Alden (Vestry Liaison) and Dana Griggs - were all involved with a variety of ministries. The various outreach teams provided opportunities for our congregation to participate. I am also pleased to report that outreach at St. Martin’s goes well beyond the committee itself. Outreach includes many individual efforts throughout the community, as well as associated activities such as the Garden project, Pumpkin Patch, and United Thank Offering.

Following are St. Martin’s supported ministries:

**Book Sale** – Linda Wilson and Scott Wuesthoff co-chaired the effort to have our first St. Martin’s used book sale. It generated $1,171.66 split between the youth group and Outreach. See donations listed below.

**Hosted Episcopal Relief** – Linda Wilson also headed the effort to host 10 adults from Iowa that were part of the Episcopal Relief organization, helping in the St. Louis flood cleanup. Various people in the congregation provided 17 meals during the time they were here.

**The St. Martin’s College Scholarship** – This springtime ministry supports deserving West County students from low income families. This past year we again supported Circle of Concern’s scholarship program.

**Food Pantry support** - We contributed money and food to Circle of Concern in support of efforts in the West County area. The second Sunday of each month is specifically dedicated as Food Pantry Sunday.

**Thanksgiving Food Collection** – Giving from St. Martin’s was substantially up from 38 full grocery bags last year to over 60 bags this year. In addition, money was donated for Thanksgiving turkeys, supporting meals for West County families in cooperation with Circle of Concern.

**Christmas Giving** – This year we supported the Salvation Army Angel Tree. We also supplied gifts for the Episcopal City Mission and donated to the Christmas Adopt-a-Family program at Circle of Concern.

**Blood Drive** – St. Martin’s hosted two American Red Cross blood drives this past year. A total of 50+ units were collected. Again, we were slightly up from last year.

**Cathedral Breakfast Program** - Again this year, St. Martin’s parishioners cooked 180 dozen hard boiled eggs for the homeless.
Peace Meal – Larry Cornelius acted as the coordinator this past year. Many from St. Martin’s prepared and served meals at St. John’s Episcopal Church near Tower Grove Park.  

Paper Recycling - St. Martin’s along with our neighbors at the Fountains Senior Living Facility, have been and will continue to recycle paper through our recycle bins. Not only are we supporting many of the residents that are passionate about recycling, we also help out the church by meeting the minimum weight to warrant the continued use of the recycle bins reducing the cost of trash removal.

Following are charities supported at the direction of the Outreach Committee. Monies were generated by the Outreach Committee such as our Schnucks Grocery Cards, the used book sale, individual donations, and $2,000 designated by the Vestry through the Legacy Endowment Fund.

Donations:
- $200 - Peace Meal
- $1800 - Circle of Concern Scholarship fund
- $485 - Episcopal City Mission (From Book sales)
- $200 - St. Andrews Resources for Seniors
- $200 - Garden Project supporting fresh food for Circle of Concern
- $300 - St. Louis Post Dispatch 100 Neediest Families
- $200 - Grace Hill
- $150 - Haven of Grace
- $200 - Magdalene House
- $545 – Thanksgiving meals (Circle of Concern)
- $200 – Adopt a Christmas family (Circle of Concern)
- $200 - Salvation Army Angel Tree
- $550 - Episcopal Relief (Houston Hurricane)
- $200 – Episcopal Relief (Puerto Rico)
- $100 - Circle of Concern 5K “Run Circles around Hunger (5 parishioners)

Outreach Committee
Dana Griggs
Facilities Report for 2018

January 17, 2018

The volunteer position of Facilities Chairperson allows our Junior Warden to concentrate on Ministry and allows a concentrated effort by one person to take a comprehensive look at the facility for current and future needs.

I want to thank Tom Warrington on his departure for his service as Sexton for the last 9 years. Tom did a tremendous amount of work, over and above what we would have expected of a part time Sexton. Cost savings on what he accomplished during his extra hours were immeasurable and a wonderful gift. He will be hard to replace.

Our Sunday Sextons: Ted Imrie who opens and acolytes on alternate Sundays, does the set up for early service and coffee hour. Kirk Beckman takes over at 9 AM and earlier on alternate Sundays for the set up and take down after fellowship hour, cleans up, and secures the building. They have both worked to keep us in good shape for services.

Weekly upkeep by our contract with CARE Janitorial Service has helped in maintaining the facility.

Administratively, Janet Theiss has been a great help with all the details involved with negotiations and operations.

Building expenses for 2017 ended 4.5% under budget at $72,304.57. This was achieved by negotiating new vendor contracts with Engineered Solutions for HVAC service/maintenance at a 25% reduction and Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal with Snoscapes, LLC at an overall 30% reduction in costs. Tie wall replacement in front utility area was completed with expense moved to 2018 at cost of $2,000.

2018 proposed Building Budget was $80,100 allowing for insurance and utility increases, for normal recurring expenses along with numerous small projects deferred to 2018. An updated 4 year projected facility plan has been submitted to the Vestry with estimated itemized expenses. This includes replacing the remaining 12 aged HVAC systems, upgraded fire alarm system, handicap ramp renovation, complete carpet replacement, and parking lot issues (cracking, underground water, ice). Also addressing needs in all restrooms, exterior entry doors, security and office’s renovation.

Landscaping: Diseased ash trees in the parking lot islands were removed with this expense covered by generous donations. A handrail was installed at the front entrance, also funded by donation. Numerous shrubs were also replaced by donation.

Thanks to all those who continue to participate in the spring and fall service days for grounds maintenance.

Recycle bins continue to allow a realized cost savings with Meridian Waste Services. Please no TV’s.

I would close by asking all those using the facility: please check to see that the doors lock behind you when leaving, turn off lights and return thermostats to program settings when departing. As always, suggestions are appreciated as you notice pending needs.

Respectively,
Lincoln Drake
Youth Ministry activities for 2017-18 year have included:

- Monthly Youth Group Meetings during the school year
- Introduction of the PRAY curriculum
- 5 Marks of Mission Training and Presentation to the congregations
- Youth position added to the Vestry
- Scout Sunday
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- World Food Day
- Participation in Diocesan Youth Advisory Council events including Cathedral lock-in and other events.
- Social events such as Breakout, Laser tag, Wild Lights at the Zoo
- Youth Mission Trip to Heifer International
- Change the World Campaign for ERD
- Help with the Book Sale
- Recognition of Graduating Seniors
- EYE Event Participation
- Camp Phoenix
- Pumpkin Patch
- Fall Festival Games
- Help with Hanging of the Greens
- Acolyte & Crucifer Training
- Preparing for Confirmation Classes
- Presidential Volunteer Service Awards
- Youth Participation in Outreach Ministries
Altar Guild Annual Report
Year Ending 2017

The Altar Guild is a very dedicated group of women who set up the church for weekly services. They also set up for weddings, funerals, baptisms and special occasions.

If you are looking for a place to share your talents and learn about your church, you will find Altar Guild service very rewarding. The commitment is approximately 1-2 hours on one Saturday morning each month, then helping to clean and put away supplies after church. Please talk to one of the members about joining the Altar Guild team.

Our goal is to replace paraments and vestments over a three year period. When a set of paraments (veil, banners & burse) and vestments (stoll & chausabel) are purchased, it must be purchased as a set. We have received an anonymous gift of a set of red paraments. We would like to purchase a red set of vestments, which would complete our church year colors. We would also like to add white, paraffin filled candles to our Advent wreath for Christmas. If you would like to apply money toward a purchase, please contact a vestry member, or talk to Ruth Minster about possibilities.

The Altar Guild is made up of nine special people: Sarah Aleman, Sherrie Algren, D'Arcy Elsperman, Mary K Heyde, Diane Metzger, Ruth Minster, Gail Schneider, Nancy Young and Carolann Sternberg. I thank this group for their support, help and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Metzger
January 2018

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY ENDS

The Women’s Bible Study met sporadically in 2017 due to my increasing disability. Our last class was in November. My hope is that someone, or a team, would lead another Bible Study, certainly in a different style and format and perhaps in the evening so that younger people would be able to attend.


I have enjoyed the lively Bible Study discussions! It is in such discussions that people make the gospel their own. It has been a privilege for me to lead these wonderful women in their study of the Bible.
The Rev. Virginia Noel
The St. Martin’s Men’s Group

The St. Martin’s Men’s Group meets monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month in Park Hall for fellowship and a hearty breakfast. All are welcome to attend. We start promptly at 9am and finish cleaning up the kitchen by 10:30am. All-in-all a pleasant way to begin Saturday.

During 2017, the Men’s Group supported the activities of St. Martin’s Church and other Episcopal organizations.

• In July, we host a birthday party for the kids in the St. Louis Family Court Detention Center.
• We assisted at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
• We provide hand-crafted, engraved, wood urns on request to those interred in the church’s Columbarium.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McLaughlin

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<td>2017 Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbarium Urns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Court Birthday Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Balance December 31, 2017</td>
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MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry has been a vital part of the St. Martin’s community and congregation during 2017. We were able to continue providing uplifting music for the Sunday 10:15 Rite II worship service, even though we lost two staff positions. Our budget was cut, and our accompanist, Joy Floyd, was terminated along with a paid student section leader in the St. Martin’s choir. Our current Music Director had to take over as the accompanist while still directing the choir. Most guest musicians were paid from private funds. With some contributions from members of the congregation, we were able to reinstate the student section leader position for part of the year, and we enjoyed having Aidan McCarter lead the Tenors with his amazing talents. Regardless of these struggles, our music program has continued to be a strong and supportive ministry to St. Martin’s.

During 2017, the St. Martin’s Choir increased their numbers and improved their singing ability and music leadership. In April and in October, the choir led Choral Evensongs for which they learned an expanded amount of music and chant. St. Martin’s Hand Bell Choir grew in size to eight members and played lovely music for several Holy day services during the year. St. Martin’s youth orchestra also expanded to include more violins, violas, and cellos. They played for Easter tide, St. Martin’s Sunday, and Christmas Eve services. Our “young adult” instrumentalists also shared their talents throughout the year, and Erv Heyde was appreciated on his clarinet. In the summer months when the regular choirs were on break, we had several soloists play instruments or sing for the 10:15 worship service. Some of these were family members of current members of St. Martin’s who were visiting and willingly (and freely) helped lead the music for us.

I have enjoyed selecting music for worship and leading your Music Ministry in 2017. I really appreciate the continued support that I have received throughout 2017 from all of you! Denise Marsh, Music Director

Several of our St. Martin’s musicians have shared what this year’s Music Ministry has meant to them:

‘The bell choir gives me a chance to learn new notes, which also helps with my high school choir. Also we are part of a team and everyone likes listening to the bell choir and the singing choir. Another reason why I like St. Martin’s music is because it has no age limit and people in the choir groups are very nice and help with a lot of things that I need help with. Denise has given me the chance to join these choirs.’

Austin Riddle

‘When Grace Phillips died this year, her daughter Minta asked me to sing a song made famous by Judy Collins: ‘I cannot keep from singing’. I had never sung this before, but in reading the lyrics, I felt that it pretty much typified this year in the choir. As much as I kept saying to myself that it was probably time to step down and let some younger voices take over, I found myself gravitating to rehearsal and the choir loft whenever possible. Denise does such a wonderful job selecting just the perfect music for an intimate choir like ours and the lyrics are always well suited for the Lectionary. The choir members are used to one another’s sound by now and attentive to the various parts. I believe we make a joyful noise, and are happy to be an integral part of the worship service with Denise’s guiding hand. We also appreciate her students past and present joining us whenever possible. Thanks for listening!’

Beverly Kinkade

‘Singing with the choir gives me two spiritual lifts each week: Wednesday rehearsal is a mid-week spiritual experience and Sunday worship when it all comes together. I relish the shared love of creating music, the camaraderie, and the musical knowledge of the other singers that make rehearsals a treat—even after a long day. Every week Denise finds creative ways to make each piece a meaningful and integral part of the worship service. The opportunity to share in this choir ministry is an energizing gift that keeps me coming to St. Martin’s. If you like to sing—come and check it out. You will be welcomed as I have been.’

Nancy Sinclair
Children’s Formation

St. Martin’s children had many opportunities to worship, learn, serve and celebrate this past year. Here are some highlights:

- Spark! Formation and Children’s Worship
- Children’s Sermon during 10:15 service
- Absalom Jones Celebration 2017 – Seeking Christ In All Persons Through the Arts
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Fall Festival – games for children of all ages!
- Trunk or Treat
- Children’s Christmas Eve Pageant.

Staff Transitions

Beginning on February 1, Wendy Sain will take over the role of Assistant to the Clergy. She will provide all worship bulletins and other administrative support to clergy and lay leaders as needed. She will also fill in with some of the Communications tasks, such as the print announcements.

Jill Gould will continue on staff with reduced hours to primarily maintain the website and email communications.

While Wendy and Jill each have their own email addresses, they will also both receive all emails sent to communications@stmartinschurch.org. It is best to use this email address for any correspondence regarding communications, news and publicizing events within the parish.
THE PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a life-giving ministry of prayer for all who request their prayers. The Prayer Chain consists of men and women of St. Martin’s who pray for the members of St Martin’s, their families and friends. These faithful praying members of the Prayer Chain become open channels for God’s healing grace to flow through them to those in need. There are three groups for this confidential prayer ministry: 1) the Urgent Prayer Chain, 2) the Cancer Prayer Chain, and 3) the Chronic Illness Prayer Chain.

The Urgent Prayer Chain exists for emergency prayer requests. Anytime there is an urgent need for prayers, the women and men of St. Martin’s Prayer Chain pray daily for parishioners, relatives and friends. That urgent need may be sudden illness, emergency surgery, an accident, an emotional crisis, or any life-threatening situation. This list of prayer requests is constantly changing. Linda Huheey, LAHuheey@sbcglobal.net, 636-532-9574, leads the Urgent Prayer Chain.

The Cancer Prayer Chain exists for parishioners, relatives and friends who are living with cancer. The members of this Prayer Chain faithfully pray once a day for those who are living with cancer. This prayer list does not change often since cancer needs are usually long-term. The “Pray-ers” receive an updated list of prayer requests four times a year or as new people are added or the situation changes. Daryl Norman, 636-394-3677, leads the Cancer Prayer Chain.

The Chronic Illness Prayer Chain prays for parishioners or their immediate family who are living with chronic illness and/or chronic pain. These prayer chain members pray once a week for those who have a chronic illness. This list rarely changes, that being the nature of chronic diseases. Virginia Noel 636-779-2888, leads the Chronic Illness Prayer Chain.

Although the Prayer Chains never meet as a group, there is a sense of community as we pray for the members of St Martin’s and their relatives and friends.

All prayer requests are confidential.

If you would like to become a member of any of these Prayer Chains contact Linda Huheey.
To make a prayer request, contact the stated leader listed above.

Sunday Prayers of the People List

The above confidential Prayer Chain ministry is separate from the parish Prayer List, maintained by the office staff, which provides the names read in the Sunday Prayers of the People. This office curated list becomes part of the Eucharistic Prayers of the People. It is printed weekly and placed on the table in the Narthex for the benefit of those who would like to include these needs in their daily prayers or as a reminder to send a card or note. Names remain on the POP Prayer List for 30 days unless the need subsides first. Renewal for another 30 days may be requested.

To be added to this Sunday Prayers of the People list, submit the name of the person to the church office. Emailing the request makes it easier to get spellings correct: stmartin@stmartinschurch.org, or call 636-227-1484.
What’s the cure for those Monday morning blues?

**Why it’s Monday Morning Bible Study**

That’s right folks Monday Morning Bible Study is sure to chase those Monday morning blues away. So give us a try. Hop on down to St. Martin’s on Monday morning and make sure you’re there before 10:30 because it’s the hottest ticket in town and there’s “standing room only” if you’re late.

If this doesn’t sound like your normal bible study invitation then you got the right idea. In fact, Monday Bible study is anything but normal. We ask all the questions you’re afraid to ask. And we don’t always agree on the answer or even have an answer. But we do share one thing in common, we all love and care for each other; unconditionally!

There are ten souls in our group with plenty of room for more. This past year we spent a lot of time reading the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday so that we were prepared to raise our hands during the sermon and say: “Excuse me...excuse me, I have a question about something you just said.” Of course none of us ever had the courage to do that but that really wasn’t the point. The point was to dig deeper into scripture and like Jacob wrestling with the angel we wrestled in finding meaning for our lives. So if you’re looking for love in all the right places then you've come to the right place – Monday Morning Bible Study at St. Martin’s at 10:30. Peace.

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**Saturday Morning Bible Study**

So you finally made it. You made it to the end of another week. The boss has been in a bad mood; the customers demanding; and now there’s shopping, car washing and of course the lawn to tend to in the afternoon. So why in the world would you want to get out of bed and go to yet another “meeting” to discuss Jesus? The answer of course is you wouldn’t. But then again maybe you would. You see, you’ve got this hole – right there – you know where it is, but no one can see it. And no matter what you do or how much you ignore it, it simply won’t go away. But you see you’re not alone, we’ve all had that hole. And we’ve found a way to fill it. Twice a month we get together and do “God talk”. Yes, we have an agenda but more often than not we find ourselves going “off script” and talking about the search for God in our lives. We used to call this group “Men’s Bible Study” but that’s long gone. We have and welcome both men and women.

This new year we’ll discuss “How Jesus Became God”. At least that’s the title the author of the study guide uses. In reality it should be titled “How the Revelation of God in Christ came to be known. That’s a little more mundane but also a little more accurate.

So here’s the deal. Currently there are seven of us (both men and women) that meet twice a month on Saturday morning from 7:30 to 9 a.m. So if you’re interested in “scratching that Spiritual itch” that simply won’t go away then contact John Lange (jlange424@gmail.com) for more information. Peace.
LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch ministry began in February, 2008 at the suggestion of long time St. Martin's parishioner, Phyllis Duff. Phyllis now lives in Iowa with her daughter and family. So, here we are in our tenth year, still going strong and always looking to welcome new members to our happy group!

If anyone has the time and interest to join us, please just show up at 11:30 A.M. in Park Hall on any fourth Thursday of each month. Bring your sack lunch. Dessert, coffee, or tea is always available, courtesy of the person(s) hosting that month.

Here is what we do: After we have lunch, there is a short business meeting where we discuss any suggested activities by the membership. The person suggesting the approved activity makes the arrangements, i.e. finds the cost, if any, makes reservations if needed, suggests time to depart and whether-or-not to carpool, etc., and most importantly, plans where we will have lunch!

Some of the places/activities we have done in the past year:
- Began our Blanket for kids in distress ministry (Linus Project)
- Science Center Omni-Max & lunch at Zia's
- Chandler Hill Winery
- Botanical Gardens Glass Exhibit
- Arrow Rock for a stage play and overnight at a casino in Booneville
- Stage play of "Church Basement Ladies" at Westport Playhouse
- Tour of Historic Herman Farms owned by Dierberg's family
- Science Center for King Tut exhibition
- Holiday Brass Concert
- Sheldon Christmas Concert

Our outreach program continues to be preparing the blankets for the children, Peace Meal preparation at St. John's Episcopal Church, and taking shifts for the Pumpkin Patch in the Fall. Many of us also participate in the Eggs For The Homeless ministry. We are always looking for ways to be helpful to others and welcome any new suggestions.

Please come and join us!

Mary Pomeroy
Garden Ministry

In 2017 St. Martins completed its second year in garden ministry. In October we celebrated our year with a worship service of Thanksgiving at the 5:05 and then we all retreated to Park Hall for some pot luck and “good natured roasting” of our garden committee members. Dare we say: “a good time and many laughs were shared by all.”

Last year we nearly doubled our production to 1,450 lbs. of fresh vegetables delivered to Circle of Concern. This coming year we hope to improve on that performance. We are also proud of the congregations increased interest and involvement in this ministry. With our two fund raisers this past year we were able to raise nearly $700. Your generosity went a long way in helping us expand our garden and bring much needed water directly to our garden.

When we started this project with the “seed of an idea” three years ago we had a committee of 5; today it’s grown to 18. But that doesn’t mean that we don’t need more volunteers. In fact we do. We need people who can water once a week; or drive to Circle once a week. Our motto is simple: Do what we can; when we can. So if you’re interested in joining us then contact any one of the people listed below; they’d be happy to give you more information.

Again, thank you St. Martins for all your kindness & generosity.

St. Martins Garden Committee Members

Mark & Cindy Warren  Bob & Mary Pomeroy  Scott & Leslie Pattengill
Leslie Lenz          Stacy Bendl           John Lange
Jonathan & Chelsea Raiche  Lincoln Drake  Dan Patterson
Gail Schneider  Jim Fisher  Nancy Sinclair
Jim Hankemeyer  Reuben Rigel.
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