

March 2013

THE BELL TOWER

A Newsletter from the People of St. Martin Episcopal Church



FOOD LOVERS ANNUAL VALENTINES DINNER



GOLF TOURNAMENT - FUN FUND RAISING



The Vestry of St. Martin's

St. Martin's Members Welcome You!

Our Parish Vision Statement

“St. Martin’s Vision is to serve as a bridge to Jesus Christ, embracing all people.”

-Senior Warden
Larry Norton (2014)

-Junior Warden
Marina Garrison (2015)

Joy Astrolio (2013)
Sue D'Amore (2014)
Ted Friedt (2014)
Linda Taylor (2015)
Lynne Antonucci

-Clerk

John Moore
-Treasurer

Sylvia Pecaro
-Assistant Treasurer
Jane Broderick
-Bookkeeper

St Martin's Staff

The Reverend
Bernard J. Pecaro
-Rector

Janet Privas
-Parish Administrator

Madeline Zung
-Director of Music Ministry

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

140 S.E. 28th Avenue
Pompano Beach, Fl. 33062
Phone: 954-941-4843

www.stmartinchurch.org

Building Bridges Pre-School

Edith Moore
-Director
954-545-4703

Newsletter Index

Rector's Corner (page 3)

Worship - (Page 4)

*Holy Week
About Holy Week Services*

Education - (page 5)

*REVEAL STUDY
Bible Challenge
Sunday School*

Welcome - (Pages 6 - 7)

*Pray for the McGregors
ECW News
Birthdays & Anniversaries
Acolyte Festival
Piontkowski Relief*

Church Services

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:30am Holy Eucharist with
Hymns and Sunday School

**Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday
Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist**

9:00 am in the Chapel

Thursday

**Children's Chapel, 10:00am
Healing Service & Holy Eucharist**
12 Noon in the Chapel

Chapel Hours

The Chapel of the Resurrection is
open for **prayer** five days a week
Monday through Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
Closed for Lunch
12:20pm - 1:20pm
954-941-4843

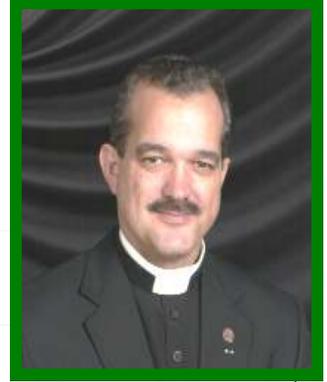
janet@stmartinchurch.org



NEED A PICK UP TRUCK?

Michael Coleman may be able to help you out. If you have the need of a truck, call the office - 954-941-4843 and let Janet know.

RECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends and Members of St. Martin,

This past Monday, I was one of four persons who participated in a religious dialogue sponsored by Florida Atlantic University. The participants represented the following faith groups: Jewish Orthodoxy, Baptist, Evangelical Christian, and, of course, Episcopal. The topics, for the hour and a half discussion, were based on each faith's views of polity, history, ethics, and worship. The title of the seminar.... "My Religion is Funnier Than Yours!"

The FAU library was sold out. I was rather nervous as I awaited our entrance and placement at the panel table. I knew I had to hold my/our (Episcopal) own with noted theologians representing their respective faith group. But, with prayer as my shield and the Holy Spirit as my weapon, I prepared my self to step onto the platform, almost undaunted by the uncertainty of what may lie ahead and would very soon take place.

Two participants preceded me, each introduced by name and title. Then I heard, "Fr. Bernie Pecaro, Rector, St. Martin Episcopal Church, Pompano Beach." I had a sense that I should step through the door and join the other panelists. But, something didn't seem right. When I got to my seat, I picked up the microphone and rudely interrupted the convener. Attired in my black cassock, with matching Zucchetta and Parson's hat I said, "Pardone'... Pardone'... My name'a is nott'a Fadda Burnie... My name'a is Fadda Guido... Fadda Guido Sarducci.... Fadda Burnie could nott'a make it tonight'a... He'a ask'a me to take'a his'a place'a..."

The fun had begun... There we were a Rabbi, Baptist Preacher, Evangelical, and the Episcopalian. The diversity of the panel itself screamed for a joke! The time flew by. The 200 person room, filled mostly with Jewish persons, was overflowing with laughter and camaraderie. The miracle of ecumenism was born that memorable night through the bonds of humor and frivolity.

The moral of this story is we are each children of the same Creator God. We are loved by God. Each of us is uniquely made, yet still belonging to the one Body of God—we call this humanity.

What divide us are our own individual, self-serving perceptions of right and wrong, good and bad. These thought processes are given life by many internal and external factors. They are most especially born from our own, personal insecurities. These in turn give rise to our fears. Ultimately, our fears unleash the negative emotions and actions of prejudices, absolutes, judgments, aggressions, violence, oppression and, eventually, spiritual death.

The Lenten Season helps us to prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, from the dead. This act of God shows to all humanity the loving nature of God and that God can, does and will continue to destroy the works of Darkness and Death. Darkness and Death spring from the heart. Yet, something else as well springs from the heart. Love. Love. Love is what God is all about. Love is what we are supposed to be all about. The Agape! We must ask ourselves, "In which do I more involve my self? Are they the attitudes of Darkness and Death, or Love?" I hope you know...

If it takes the common, human, experience of humor and laughter to break the barriers that divide us and to build the bridges of love that unites us, then I chose to laugh with my sisters and brothers every day!

In God's Eternal Humor,

Fr. Bernie+

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bernard J. Pecaro+". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holy Week, Holy Saturday, Easter

Holy Week and Easter are filled with Grace through worship at St. Martin. Please avail yourself of the many opportunities to give thanks and praise to our loving God and His Son, Jesus Christ, who has died and rose again! The following is our Holy Week and Easter Schedule:



Tuesday, Mar. 26 th :	Blessing of the Oils at the Cathedral, 10am
Wednesday, Mar. 27 th :	Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist, Chapel, 9am Stations of the Cross, Church, 5:30pm
Maundy Thursday, Mar 28 th	Holy Eucharist & Healing Service, Chapel, 12pm Holy Eucharist & Sermon, Church, 7pm Washing of the Feet Stripping of the Altar Procession to the Altar of Repose Vigil before the Altar of Repose, Chapel, 9pm-12am
Good Friday, Mar. 29 th :	Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, Chapel, 7am Good Friday Liturgy, Church, 12pm-1pm Good Friday Meditations, Church, 1pm-3pm
Holy Saturday, Mar. 30 th	Family Service, Release of the Butterflies & Easter Egg Hunt, Church, 5pm
Easter Sunday, Mar. 31 st :	Sunrise Service, East Lawn, 6:30 am Holy Eucharist & Hymns, Church, 8am Solemn High Mass, Church, 10:30



About Holy Week Services

Blessing of the Oils: At this Service the diocesan clergy and laity join with Bishop Frade for fellowship and worship. During this Service we share in Holy Communion and our Bishop also blesses the oils we use for the Sacrament of Blessing, or Anointing.

Stations of the Cross: This half hour Service of meditation and reflection allows for us to join with Jesus along the Via Delarosa, the Way of the Cross. It is a very moving time and it helps us to better feel the Heart of Jesus' suffering.

Maundy Thursday: This beautiful Service speaks to us of servant ministry. It allows the worshiper to experientially understand why Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Jesus tells us, "If you love me, you must become a servant of all." As the feet of the congregation are symbolically bathed, so is the concept of servant ministry made poignantly real. The stripping of the altar and sanctuary of all vessels and vestments transport us into the solemnity of Christ's passion, his arrest, trial and beating.

Altar of Repose: After the Maundy Thursday Service, we move to the beautifully appointed Altar of Repose. There, we are asked to watch and pray, as Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Mass of the Pre-Sanctified: Early in the morning we gather for a short Communion Service. Together we consume the remaining Sacraments of Christ's Body and Blood. A very solemn moment is shared.

Good Friday Liturgy: The Book of Common Prayer Service of Good Friday includes prayers, a homily, hymns, and the procession and veneration of the Cross. The Reverend Canon Nancy Platt, The Reverend Robert Beicke, and Fr. Bernie will offer brief meditations on the Passion Psalms. The meditations will be interspersed with organ anthems and silence.

(continued on next page)

Holy Saturday Family Service: Our first celebration of our Lord's Resurrection includes a Service designed for our younger families and youth. It includes the release of butterflies and an Easter Egg hunt.

Easter Sunrise Service: This contemplative style Service is celebrated on our East Lawn. We begin the Service in silence with the lighting of the Paschal Fire and the candles held by the congregation. As the Service progresses we witness the dawning of a new day! The day of our Lord's Resurrection! An awesome worship experience.

Easter 8am Service: Our Service will celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and will include Easter hymns.

Easter Solemn High Mass: This Solemn celebration of our Lord's Resurrection is filled with liturgy that is transcendent in its beauty and mystery.

Helen Neborsky's Celebration of Eternal Life

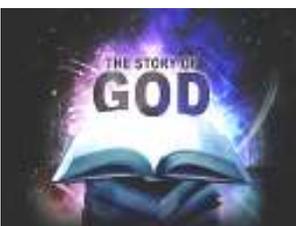
On Thursday, March 7th, we celebrated Helen's entrance into eternal life with a requiem mass. Helen and Stephen have been members of the St. Martin family for many years. They were faithful in Sunday worship and support of our ministries. Indeed, Helen will be missed by all of us. May her soul and the souls of the departed rest in peace.



The REVEAL Study

The REVEAL Study, a national Episcopal Church endeavor to strengthen the spirituality of our parishes, is off to an excellent start at St. Martin!

Our parishioners and friends have responded graciously to the completion of the Spiritual Life Survey. Our final return of participants is 98. This equates to 60% of our average Sunday Attendance. This response is way above the national average of parishes who have participated. Thank you!! We are now awaiting the return of the evaluations and the recommendations for our continued spiritual growth into the Heart of God. We are organizing workshop teams who will evaluate the recommendations of the survey reports. You are most welcome to join with us. Please speak with Larry Norton, or Fr. Bernie.



The Bible Challenge

As of Ash Wednesday, the Bible Challenge is underway. Many of our parishioners have joined with Episcopalians worldwide in the reading of the Bible in one year. Some of us are in study groups. Others are joining folks on line, while others are doing their study independently. It's not too late to begin! Call the parish office, or Sue D'Amore, for more information.



Youth Sunday School

Our youth Sunday School is underway beginning at 10:30. We offer our children the experiential, hands on, bible study called Godly Play. Godly Play is based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. All they lack is the appropriate language to help them identify and express it so it can be explored and strengthened. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. The children meet in the Sunday School room located inside the same building where the choir meets. After their explorations, the children will join with their parents at the time of the Offertory.

W
E
L
C
O
M
E

2
0
1
3

The McGregors After the Cyclone Haruna

(From Bishop Todd McGregor) Just a quick update. I'm still without electricity but the victory hotel has a generator so I have come over here to respond to emails. I'm charging up my computer and telephones while here. Electricity is being restored in some areas but we have heard the lines near our place have been stolen so it may be awhile before we have electricity.

I drove up north yesterday to see a few of our churches and to be an encouragement for our workers and parishioners. The one church in Andranovory (Christ Church) has lost its roof. The old church which they used for Sunday school was completely destroyed. They have lost most of their crops as well. One older woman came running into the church and knelt down. She then started weeping and asked for a blessing from me. She then began to share with me her story about the cyclone coming and destroying her house. She said she had to go to the corner of the house to survive. She stayed there for hours praying that that corner would not fall on her. I asked her if she was scared and she said "NO" because she trusted in the Lord God to protect her. I saw her house and the destruction which was done. What little faith I have and what great faith she has. My heart went out to her. The eye of the storm went through Andranovory. Lots of houses have been damaged or destroyed.

Then I traveled through Mahaboboka and saw the huge trees across the road and others on houses. I was just thankful we had not built the school at this place yet. It could have been in vain given the destruction there. Sakaraha was hit hard also. We lost a small part of the church roof, but the roof of the sacristy was totally lost. The old rectory collapsed completely. We are still waiting to hear about Betaola which I'm guessing was hit really hard. This is between Andranovory and Mahaboboka. Hopefully, I will have a report from them within a week.

The Ambohitsabo church on the north side of Toliara, where all the flooding was (the dyke burst) has been hit the hardest. I tried to go out yesterday but not possible by car. My priest, Rev. Noely said it looks like a church on stilts. The ground around it has been eroded from the floods from the dyke breaking. He said he didn't have a key to get inside but lots of mud was inside from the sand being washed inside. The inside was flooded. It sounds like there may need some reinforcement for the foundation and walls. Not sure how much damage to the furniture. This sounds very serious at this point.

Regarding our church in Morombe where the cyclone came ashore. We rent the building, so we thank God for that. The church part of the building was fine but the back side where the evangelist lives was partially destroyed. His furniture and belongings were damaged or destroyed.

The rectory in Ankilifaly had damage as well. There were lots of leaks from the roof. Not sure how much was from old age or from the cyclone but the priest moved out most of his belongings and put them in the guesthouse next door. The rectory will need repairs, especially the roof. It may be best just to rebuild a whole new rectory. Our administrator, who's home was under construction, has now lost everything.

It is my intention to have some figures by the beginning of next week regarding our Anglican community. This will include estimates long term for reconstruction of properties (church and personal) and short term such as food, materials and etc. One bright spot through this all, the Anglican church in the south has pulled together. Where ever I have traveled over the last few days, I have found homeless people living with our clergy or other friends from the church. Where ever I have traveled the church people have been out repairing the church properties. This brought me tremendous joy to see the maturity of the new diocese working together as the body of Christ.

Another bright spot was that people generally were upbeat and happy. They were thanking God they were still alive. I certainly thank God that I'm still alive given when the window blew out in the Kitchen. I could have been seriously injured but God by his grace has spared me. Praise the Lord. We will get through this and God will be glorified. Thank you for your partnership in Christ. Serving Christ Together, +Todd

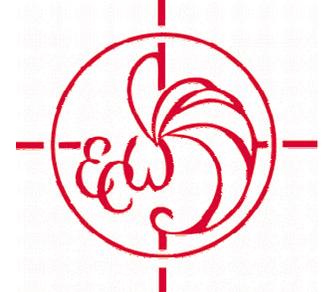


MARCH BIRTHDAYS

James Stanfield	03/01
Becky Fogleson	03/05
Marge Evans	03/06
Alex Peschl	03/07
Jill Johnson	03/08
Christine McCulloch	03/08
Jonathan Wesolowski	03/08
Keith Dozier	03/09
Donald Henderson	03/10
Alexander Azar	03/11
Frank LaVrar	03/12
Hamid Hashemi	03/14
David Russell	03/17
Alvin Garrison	03/18
Laura Campbell	03/19
Shirley Beck	03/22
Macy Doyle	03/23
Celina Garrison	03/25
John Werren	03/26
Barbara Wheeler	03/26
Patricia Bianchi	03/28
Joan Engskow	03/28
Bill Keating	03/31

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Marina & Alvin Garrison	03/05
Laura & Thomas Campbell	03/16
Rose & John DeLeo	03/19
Babs & Jim Kall	03/29
Helen & Steve Neborsky	03/31



ECW News - On Sunday February 3rd the officers for the year 2013 were installed: President - Sandy Tucker
Vice President - Sue D'Amore
Treasurer - Janice LaVrar
Recording Secretary - Lena Norton
Corresponding Secretary - Jerri Weller

The Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon was held on March 9th and details will be published in the April edition of the Bell Tower. Please note, We will not have an ECW meeting this month.



2013 Acolyte Festival - Trinity Cathedral, Miami - This year's theme is "The Acolyte Bible Challenge" Beginning at 9am Saturday April 27th and ending at 3pm. During the lunch portion of the Festival, various baked goods will be available for \$1 each, the proceeds will be designated to "The Great American Bake Sale", a campaign to stamp out child hunger. Several bands will play and workshops will interest everyone. Please let Father Bernie know if you would like to attend. We will need parents to drive and chaperone.

Piontkowski Family Relief Fund

The surrounding community of Cypress Creek is a part of the St. Martin Parish. Our neighbors, although they may not call themselves Episcopalians, or attend our worship Services, are still a part of our "parish". Therefore, when they are in need, we are called to respond.

Such is the case of the Piontkowski family. Dan and his wife Pat raised their children in their home, south of the church, around the bend on 28th Avenue. Several weeks ago that house was obliterated by fire. Dan Piontkowski, survived the fire, but due to his illnesses of Colon Cancer and Alzheimer's disease, he was unable to maintain personal or property insurance. He is in need of financial aide to remove the remains of the house from his property.

On Saturday, March 23, from 2pm-8pm, at the American Legion Post #162, there is being held a fund raising event. The address is 820 SE 8th Avenue. Please attend this event to help raise needed monies for Dan. Also, the church office is selling raffle tickets which will be selected for a variety of prizes, donated by local stores and shops. Please assist this family as you are able.

A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a minute."

**Saint Martin's Episcopal
Church**
140 S.E. 28th Avenue

GO ON LINE TO:
www.thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org

**RECEIVE YOUR SCHEDULE FOR
DAILY BIBLE
STUDY AND ORDER YOUR GUIDE
BOOK,
"The BIBLE CHALLENGE"**



"CATCH THE SPIRIT THROUGH

**TAKE
THE BIBLE
CHALLENGE**

**READ THE
BIBLE IN ONE
YEAR**

**JOIN US
FOR THE BIBLE CHALLENGE MEETING
AND STUDY
SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**BIBLE
CHALLENGE**

**BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY FEB-
RUARY 13TH**

