

St. Martin's Episcopal Church



Parish Life 2018

1350 Washington Valley Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-526-1350
www.stmartinsnj.org
stmartinschurch@verizon.net

Welcome

Welcome to St. Martin's. I hope you will find the information in this booklet helpful in becoming both acquainted and involved with the many ministries, programs and fellowship activities at St. Martin's. The congregation of St. Martin's is made up of people with a wide variety of creative talents, interests, and backgrounds. You are encouraged to get involved in the areas where you have interest and the desire to share your gifts.

Please take the time to read the following pages and keep them for future reference. Call or email the contact person or the church office if you have any questions.

I look forward to an exciting year and hope that you will find many ways to be an active part of the life of St. Martin's.

Father Bruce Montgomery.

Rector

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Parish Staff

Rector	Fr. Bruce Montgomery
Director of Music	Kathy Shanklin
Youth Ministry & Formation	Lizzie Wagner
Church School Coordinator	Heather Agosto
Parish Administrator & Secretary	Jennifer Fraley

Vestry

Property Warden	Todd Hendrickson
Discipleship Warden	David Persson
Treasurer	Chris Evans
Clerk	Dana Hixson

Class of 2019	Clerk	Dana Hixson
	Way of St Paul	Judy Laidlaw
	Property	Beth Hixenbaugh
Class of 2020	Stewardship	Greg Wagner
	Outreach	Len Cacciatore
	School Board	Omar Francis
Class of 2021	Finance	Gary Keyak
	Evangelism	Jim Agosto
	Fellowship	Yvonne Comeau

Sunday Services

8:15 AM	Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM	Coffee Hour
9:30 AM	Adult Forum
10:15 AM	Church School
10:30 AM	Sung Eucharist
11:20 AM	Rite 13/J2A/YAC Groups
11:30 AM	Coffee Hour

Counseling, spiritual direction and confession by appointment.

Daily Services

Morning Prayer	9:30 AM	Monday Tuesday Wednesday
Holy Eucharist With Healing	4:30 PM	Wednesday

Parish Calendar

Weekly Meetings (Parish)

Sunday	9:30 AM	Adult Forum
	9:30 AM	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	4:30 PM	Holy Eucharist with Healing (Lady Chapel)

Weekly Meetings (Community)

Monday-Friday	7:00 AM	Sunrise/Sunset AA
Tuesday	7:30 PM	Nar-anon
Thursday	7:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous

Annual Calendar

St. Martin's Annual Meeting	January
Founder's Day	February
Mardi Gras Supper	February
Maundy Thursday Liturgy/Supper	March
Easter Vigil Agape Feast	March
Canticles for Life Concert	April
Communion Class Celebration	May
Pentecost	May
Confirmation Celebration	June
Rite 13 Celebration	June
Youth Sunday	June
ASP Trip	July
Church School Kick-Off	September
Fall Social	October
Bishop's Cup Golf Tourney	October
St. Martin's Patronal Feast Day	November
Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist	November
St. Nicholas Visitation	December
Advent Lessons & Carols	December
Children's Christmas Pageant	December

Worship

Acolytes

Acolytes serve as boat (incense), torch, banner bearers, crucifer, thurifer and server. Adults may serve as acolytes and can aid in training the children. Acolytes generally serve once a month and must be at church at 10:15AM on the Sunday that they serve. Children can participate once they have completed the Communion class. Please call Randy Jandak (732-356-8735) or Mike Maloney (908-903-9364) if you or one of your children is interested in becoming an acolyte.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild prepares the Church and Lady Chapel for worship for all the seasons of the year and major Holy Days. This entails taking care of the vessels and vestments of worship and arranging flowers. Two teams work quietly behind the scenes in this ministry of love. If interested, call Fr. Bruce Montgomery (908-526-1350), Karen Birckhead (732-469-9181) or Barbara Butler (908-719-0955).

Choir

This all-volunteer choir of mixed voices sings at the 10:30AM Sung Eucharist on Sundays and at special services throughout the liturgical year. Choir rehearsals are held every Sunday at 9:30AM under the direction Kathy Shanklin (908-904-9421). St. Martin's Children's Choir sings several times during the year on Sundays and also at the Annual Christmas Pageant in December.

Greeters

Greeters welcome visitors and parishioners to St. Martin's. They help visitors to become acquainted with the members as well as the facilities. They serve at the 10:30AM service. For more information call Karen Bockus (908-526-7661)

Intercessors

Lay people, appointed by Father Montgomery, lead the Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings. Father Montgomery coordinates this group.

Lectors

The lectors are lay people who read the lessons at both services on Sunday. They are appointed by Father Montgomery, who oversees this ministry.

Eucharistic Ministers

Father Montgomery also leads and appoints this group of lay people who administer the chalice at both Sunday Eucharists.

Ushers

Ushers assist the congregation at Sunday services and functions held at the church helping to seat the congregation, passing out bulletins and collecting the offering. Ushers generally serve once a month. Please call Carl Picazio (908-369-6884) for the 10:30AM service or Jane Linn (908-725-5781) for the 8:15AM service if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

Liturgy Team

This committee evaluates and plans the way we worship. If you have suggestions that would aid the committee in their task, please call the group's coordinator, Father Montgomery.

Daily Prayer

Morning Prayer is offered every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30AM in the Lady Chapel. Father Montgomery officiates at Morning Prayer.

Labyrinth Ministry

The goal of the Labyrinth Ministry is to promote, guide and encourage the use of the labyrinth as a way of prayer in an outdoor setting of beauty, quiet and peace. To work toward that goal, we will be developing guides for users, inviting both parishioners and the wider community to utilize the labyrinth in their spiritual journeys, developing workshops, planning special events, and protecting and enhancing the beauty of the labyrinth itself. For more information, please call Marilyn O'Regan (908-369-7609).

EDUCATION

Adult Education and Spiritual Life

Adult Forums

Adult forums are held from 9:30AM to 10:15AM on Sunday mornings September through June. The forum speakers and videos aid in the discussion of current topics and issues facing our lives with particular emphasis on faith, spirituality and theological reflection. For information, contact Marilyn O'Regan (908-369-7609) or Jane Linn (908-725-5781).

Childcare is provided.

Adult Education

Adult education classes and Bible Studies are offered during the week in the season of Advent (December) and Lent (March/April). For more information please contact Fr. Montgomery (908-526-8611).

Book Study

In the season of Lent, St. Martins offers a Tuesday morning book study from 9:30-11:00 AM and during Advent offers a Monday evening book study from 7:30-9:00 PM. All are welcome.

Wednesday Afternoon Eucharistic Fellowship

Each Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 PM parishioners and friends of parishioners gather in the Lady Chapel to celebrate the Eucharist with Healing and then enjoy a time of fellowship after the service. All are welcome.

Christian Education for Children

Heather Agosto, Coordinator

(908-534-9778)

Crying Room

Newborn through age 2 ½ year children may be brought outside the service to the Lady Chapel if the need arises. The service is broadcast in the Chapel. **A parent must accompany the child at all times.**

Sunday Church School

St. Martin's uses Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in our Sunday Church School. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is an approach to the religious education of children. It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Its purpose is to nourish joy and nurture the existing relationship between God and the very young child. The CGS has been evolving and improving since 1954 and is being used around the world in many Christian traditions. St. Martin's began using CGS in 2004 with children ages 2½ to 5. We now have three atriums, or classrooms in place for children ages 2 ½ through 4th grade. St. Martin's is the only Episcopal Church in New Jersey to have all three levels of the CGS program.

LEVEL 1 is for children ages 2 ½ through kindergarten. The guiding parable for these younger children is The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-5). Children in the Level 1 atrium are wrapped in Jesus' love for them. We also spend time learning the story of Jesus' life, and introduction to the liturgy of the church and the geography of Israel at the time of Jesus.

LEVEL 2 is for children in first through third grades and also the Solemn Communion class (those of any age). Now that the children are older, they are introduced to the moral teachings of Jesus, especially the parable of The True Vine (John 15:1-11). Typically, St. Martin's offers Solemn Communion preparation to children in first grade, although interested children of any age are welcome. The preparation class begins in September and culminates with a Solemn Communion Celebration in the spring.

LEVEL 3 is for children in fourth through sixth grades. With a solid understanding of Jesus' life and teachings, we spend these years focusing on what we can do to answer God's invitation. We also take this time to go deeper into the liturgy and sacraments of the church and the plan of God from creation through Parousia.

Practically speaking, Sunday School starts at 10:15AM on each Sunday beginning the Sunday after Labor Day in September and ending on Father's Day in June. Registration is not required. Children may join an atrium at any time of the year, although Solemn Communion class closes in December.

Youth Ministry and Formation
Elizabeth Wagner
(973-432-7819)

Journey to Adulthood: Formation of Youth Grades Six through Twelve

The curriculum used with our teenagers at St. Martin's is entitled "*Journey to Adulthood.*" It is specifically designed for Episcopalian youth and the program is divided into groups as follows:

- Rite 13 – grades six and seven
- Journey to Adulthood (J2A) – grades eight and nine
- Young Adults in Church (YAC) – grades ten, eleven, twelve

During this six year cycle, young adults meet to discuss a variety of topics related to their faith and faith formation. These programs all operate within a systematic curriculum which includes in-depth exploration of the realms of Self, Spirituality, Society, and Sexuality/Gender. Some of the topics covered are prayer and meditation, Bible study, human sexuality and the church, making life decisions, faith and trust, listening skills, society, understanding ministry and vocation, love and marriage and leadership.

The curriculum is designed to follow the imperatives of our Baptismal Covenant. Since Christian formation is a life-long process, we are dedicated to giving our young people a firm foundation on which to build.

We deal with the theological underpinnings of the journey from childhood through manhood and womanhood to adulthood by developing these themes:

- The goodness of the gift of creation and our partnership with God
- The development of the whole person
- The liturgical celebration of rites of passage
- The task of the community in this important ministry

The program celebrates the amazing creative power and potential of these young people and creates a safe haven in which it is possible to explore new ideas, new interests and new abilities.

Throughout the six year cycle, the youth are invited to design and participate in activities both inside and outside the church that will help them mature and be formed into Christian adults who take on increasing roles and responsibilities in the world around them. Some of these activities include visits to churches of the same or other denominations, fundraising for domestic and international ministries such as the *Communities of Shalom* or local food banks. The youth are encouraged to participate in ministry in their communities such as spring planting and cleanup of church grounds or those of disabled neighbors. The youth also engage in fellowship activities that include picnics, bowling and other recreational activities that help them learn about the importance of building community with themselves and others.

We are blessed with youth leaders who are committed and devoted to youth formation through their own experience. Our youth leaders presently are: Dan and Terri DellaPiazza lead Rite 13, Howard and Tina Stamato lead J2A, and Denise Okonsky leads the YAC group. Each leader team moves through the entire six year cycle with the same group of youth providing stability and continuity for each community of youth.

St. Martin's Episcopal Montessori Day School
Children 1 ½ Years through Kindergarten
Omar Francis, President of School Board

St. Martin's Day School

The day school offers a quality Montessori education for children 1 ½ years through Kindergarten age while also providing the optional Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. The school's website is www.stmartinsschoolnj.org and the school's administrators are Shyamala (Sam) Subramanian and Nimali Matos. The school's phone number is 908-526-2722.

Action Ministries

Evangelism

The goal of this team is to invite, greet, orient, incorporate and involve newcomers in ministry so that St. Martin's can more fully live out its mission. The team is working to attract non-members to visit St. Martin's for the first time as well as encouraging non-members to return after their first visit. They are responsible for placing on-going activities into newspaper articles and for maintaining the church website. Jim Agosto (908-534-9778) chairs this committee and welcomes new ideas.

Stewardship

The Stewardship team plans and administers a year-round stewardship program of information and interaction to encourage all parishioners to give of their time, talent and treasure for ministry. Activities culminate each year on a Fall Sunday of Celebration and Commitment. Greg Wagner (973-432-7819) is the Stewardship Team Leader.

Property

The committee is responsible for keeping the Parish and Rectory buildings and grounds in good working condition. The team arranges for periodic inspections of property and recommends necessary maintenance measures to the Vestry. Todd Hendrickson (908-725-1030) and Beth Hixenbaugh (732-563-9337) oversee this important ministry.

If gardening interests you, consider helping to keep the church grounds beautiful. This group weeds, prunes, plants and organizes the Parish Workday.

Vestry

The Vestry is an elected body of lay people charged with overseeing finances and property while sharing the leadership and responsibility of the Church's mission with the Rector. Three people are elected each year as a Vestry member for a three-year term. One person is elected each year as a Warden for a two-year term. If you wish to contact the Vestry, please call one of the Wardens; Todd Hendrickson (908-725-1030) or David Persson (908-393-6887) or Father Montgomery (908-526-1350).

Executive Committee

The Rector, two wardens and an outgoing warden form this group. They meet monthly between vestry meetings to pray, evaluate, plan and provide leadership for St. Martins

Finance

The finance committee serves two purposes: to develop a budget for Vestry approval and to research, analyze and recommend any other matter regarding financial issues at the request of the Vestry. Gary Keyak (908-996-2874) heads this committee.

Pastoral Care

Caring Ministry – Father Montgomery and lay persons visit the sick and those in crisis. If you lean toward the caring end of ministry, consider joining this group. St. Martin's has *L.E.M.'s* – Lay Eucharistic Ministers, who are licensed to take Communion to the sick after the Sunday Eucharist.

New Life & Emergency Meal Ministry – This group reaches out to those who are pregnant, have a new baby, or are in crisis by delivering meals, helping with support, referrals and information. If you would like to help, call Deb Williams (908-534-2356).

Fellowship

The fellowship committee seeks opportunities to broaden fellowship and sharing in St. Martin's through current communications channels and committees with a goal of building and deepening relationships. The fellowship committee provides coffee hour goodies after the services on Sunday as well as coordinating special events throughout the year. Yvonne Comeau (908-431-9114) leads this group.

Communications

St. Martin's Messenger is a weekly update of happenings and/or needs within the Parish. Jennifer Fraley distributes this (908-526-1350).

St. Martin's Social Media

The website (www.stmartinsnj.org) is designed for the use of parishioners as well as people looking for a church of interest in the area. It includes the Rector's Message, service times, and driving directions to St. Martin's as

well as pictures of church activities, special events and our beautiful building and grounds. The website falls under the Evangelism committee and the current “WebMaster” is Diane Lester (908-256-0222). Find us also on **Facebook** (St. Martin’s Episcopal Church Bridgewater) and on **Instagram** (@stmartinsepiscopal).

Outreach

Outreach is mainly a compilation of individual efforts to help people in need: in the community, within our parish, or wherever a need is recognized. The Outreach team led by Len Cacciatore (908-781-1921) coordinates hands-on involvement and the distribution of parish Outreach funds. We are currently involved in the following projects and ministries:

- Somerset County Food Bank
- Appalachia Service Project
- Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Christmas Gift Distribution to children of inmates at the Somerset County Jail

Other ways to help include:

- Making ziti for S.H.I.P.
- Donation of Toiletry items for indigent inmates at the Jail
- Donation of Peanut Butter and Tuna for the Somerset County Food Bank
- Donation of clothing in the Fall and Spring to Family Resource Associates
- Christmas Angel Tree Gift Donations for needy children in the Somerville area.
- Sweatshirt donations led by the youth of St. Martin’s and donated to teens of families using the Food Bank
- Episcopal Relief and Development Offerings to those in crisis around the world.

Additionally, the Outreach team identifies specific groups to support with financial contributions. These include: Somerset County Food Bank, Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County, S.H.I.P., Chaplaincy to the Elderly,

Appalachia Service Project, an Orphanage in India for children affected by 2004 tsunami, and our fair share of the Diocesan Mission that supports the diocese and Episcopal missions in the world at large.

We also host local substance abuse support groups within our building on a daily basis.