



This Sunday: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Greetings from Pastor Collier!

I would like to take the next few weeks to answer questions about the Interim time. The first question I often hear is:

Why does it take so long to get a new pastor?

The answer is that you need to take some time. Being the pastor is a combination of being the CEO of your church, and being a friend who shares the most important emotional events in your life.



You look to your pastor for leadership of your congregation. And every congregation is different. The needs, the challenges, the opportunities of this congregation are not the same as other churches in your area. In many ways you are unique. An important part of finding a new pastor is considering what gifts and abilities you need this time.

Your last pastor brought his gifts to you, and you have benefited from them. Now you need to consider what different gifts and abilities you need next. This takes a little time. It is best not to rush this, or you could be dissatisfied with the new pastor you find.

Being the pastor is also an emotional position. The pastor is with you from baptism, to the growing and educating of your children, graduations and weddings, illness and hospitalizations, and the death of loved ones. You and your pastor have shared some emotional times. Are you really ready to jump into a new relationship right away? It is often best to give things some time.

Remember, a pastor is not hired or fired. A pastor is Called. You are inviting someone to come and share in your ministry. This makes the work of ministry different from almost any other position. The pastor is not your employee or your boss. The pastor is here to be a shepherd; someone to walk with you, to comfort and guide you on your journey through life. Our second installment from Pastor Collier.

Annual Congregation Meeting this Sunday, January 26



Annual Congregation Meeting
Sunday, January 26 at 11:30 am.

Please plan on attending the Annual Meeting of our congregation this Sunday. We will be presenting our budget for 2014 and information regarding a new Legacy Giving program we are establishing. We will also be electing two people to the council to replace Tom Johnson and Frank Durham who will be finishing their three year terms. The congregation will also formally elect Ron Goplin to the council for a one year term replacing Mary Kay Knipfer who resigned due to personal reasons. Ron has been serving the past three months, per request of the council. A special thank you to Tom, Frank, and Mary Kay for your services. I also I would like to thank Ron for agreeing to serve the past three months.

Church Council Election

At Sunday's Annual Meeting two candidates will be running for two Council positions due to expiration of terms. The two terms that are expiring are Frank Durham and Tom Johnson. Up for election will be Karen Windels and Mark Blaha. Please make sure to attend the annual meeting as it is important to vote and keep our church business moving forward.

Council Election Candidate Mark Blaha

Mark Blaha, wife Julie and sons Max, Porter and Roman have been calling Cross Plains home for the past nine years. Mark is an Engineer managing the Construction program at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Madison. Prior to moving to Wisconsin, Julie and Mark worked in Italy. Mark grew up in Virginia Beach and Julie in Fond du Lac.



Council Election Candidate Karen Windels

Karen, husband Bill and children Katherine and Michael live in Cross Plains and have been St. Martin's members since 2003. Karen has continually served in a variety of capacities at St. Martin's to include; Worship Planning Team, Children's Christian Education, Liturgical Arts Coordinator, Prayer Garden Planning Team, member of three Pastoral Call Teams, choir, song leader, and the list goes on. Karen's energy and interests have always been based on family, church and quality education. Karen was a school psychologist and educator for 42 years. She has just recently retired. Karen's ministry goals include focusing on family engagement in church to enrich their spiritual lives.

TGIF Night Out

Parents take advantage of a night out while caring providers care for your awesome kids free of charge! Our ministry provides free child care on Friday nights on the last Friday of each month for families in our community who need a night out. Our groups are comprised of infants to children about 10 years old.



Our next event is scheduled for Friday, January 31 from 6 to 10 pm.

Please sign up by Wednesday, January 29 by contacting Sharon at om@stmartinscp.org or 798-2777.

2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, Feb 2 from 8 am to 12 pm. Boy Scout Troop 87 and the Knights of Columbus will hold their 2nd Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast at St. Francis Xavier Fellowship Hall. The breakfast supports



the local Boy Scout Troop with equipment needs for their fun outdoor activities. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 children 5-11, free for children under 5. Come and enjoy all you can eat pancakes on Super Bowl Sunday! Any questions, please contact Mike Kalvin at 798.1041 or mkalvin@yahoo.com

Sign Up for the Mission Trip

Limited spots available, be sure and sign up soon for the Mission Trip to Moore, Oklahoma on June 28 - July 6. In May 2013 an F5 Tornado plundered through this area leaving devastation. This trip will be a life changing experience for all. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. Please contact Tim Knipfer at timmyk65@yahoo.com with any questions.



If you have a 15 passenger van that can be utilized for this trip, please contact Tim.

Quilting Group Request



The quilters are in need of fabric for the beautiful and warm quilts they donate so generously. No knits, polyester, wool or corduroy, all other materials are appreciated.

7 Practices For Receiving God's love

These practices were shared and enjoyed by many on Sunday, January 19 when Guest Pastor Jack Finney was here at St. Martin's. Many worshipers requested to see these in print so they could refer to them and share with others.

7 Practices For Receiving God's love

When you wash your face, take a bath or shower, or jump in a pool or lake remember the waters of your Baptism along with the message given to your then and now: You are my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased. You are my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

Try praying with your hands open and receptive rather than folded so you are able to receive the gifts God wants to give to you.

Think of the people, living or dead, who have given you glimpses of God's unconditional love. Imagine they are sitting in a circle with you. Look at one at a time. Do they speak loving words to you, touch you, hug you, or lovingly gaze into your eyes? Move to the next person. Receive their love with your mind, heart, and all the cells of your body.

Breath Prayer. Look at a cross, a picture of Jesus, or imagine one in your mind. When you breathe in hear Jesus say, "I love you." When you breathe out say to Jesus, "I love you." Repeat as often as you'd like. You can do this anytime and anywhere because your breath is portable.

Write a love letter to yourself from God. If you wonder if that is you or God writing this, the answer is Yes. It doesn't matter.

Carry a verse of Scripture with you throughout the day. Say the words in the same way you would suck on an all day sucker. Even suck the sweetness out of the stick. A possible verse to carry with you: You are my beloved son in whom I am well please. You are my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased. Another might be Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Sing Jesus Loves me. Some people substitute the word mother, father, or teacher in place of the word Bible because they may have heard this before they could read the Bible. Even sing it to people who are unconscious. You never know what they

might be able to hear.

To summarize the whole message: Remember whenever anyone gives you a gift or a compliment, including God, just say THANK YOU!

Middleton H.S. Choral Booster Country Breakfast



The Middleton High School Choral Boosters invite you to attend the 20th Annual Country Breakfast on Sunday, February 2, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the MHS Student Center located at 2100 Bristol Street. Tickets are \$10 for Adults and \$5 for Seniors/Children (10 and under), and can be purchased at the door. The breakfast is not only for enjoying wonderful pancakes, but for enjoying the incredible high school talent showcased all day long

from four MHS choirs, and individual solos and ensembles from some of your own students including Haley Joyce. Check out the schedule posted at <http://tinyurl.com/mrmielke> to see when your favorite MHS singer is performing! Don't forget the silent auction! All funds benefit the MHS choral music program. Stop by before or after church services! Your support is most appreciated!

Church Calendar for January 26 - February 1

Sunday, January 26

7:45 a. Choir Practice S
8:30 a. Traditional Blend Worship
9:45 a. GIFT Christian Ed FH
10:15 a. New Rhythm Worship
6:00 p. God & Life FH

Monday, January 27

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
7:00 p. Soul Purpose S

Tuesday, January 28

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
6:30 a. Men's Bible Study
7:00 p. Boy Scout Troop 87 FH

Wednesday, January 29

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
10:00 a. Staff Meeting
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
6:30 p. Confirmation Game Night S
7:30 p. Choir Practice MR

Thursday, January 30

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart
6:00 p. New Rhythm Band Practice S
6:30 p. Sr. High Youth Group YR
7:00 p. Women's Bible Study L

Friday, January 31

9:00 a. 4K Kids Arrive
11:30 a. 4K Kids Depart

Saturday, February 1

9:00 a. Overeaters Anonymous

S—Sanctuary; L—Library; B—Building; _MR—Music Room; FH—Fellowship Hall; CR—Choir Room; OS—Off Site; N—Nursery; PG—Prayer Garden; GLC—Gunderson Life Center; YR—Youth Room



Worship Participants for Sunday, January 26



Acolytes (8:30) Tess Postle (10:15) Jack Tibbetts

Jr. Usher (10:15) Nicole McCue

Nursery Remington Lockwood

Counting Team 2

Altar Guild (8:30) Deb Goplin

(10:15) Deb Goplin

AV (8:30) Phil Fish (10:15) Bill Windels

Coffee Doris Fish

Presiding Minister Pastor Rich Collier

Accompanist & Musicians (8:30) Mary

Vassalotti (10:15) New Rhythm Band

Song Leaders (8:30) St. Martin's Choir

(10:15) New Rhythm Band

Lectors (8:30) Doris Fish (10:15) Jen

Niesen

Communion Assistants (8:30) Doris Fish

(10:15) Jen Niesen, Shawn & Deb McCue

Ushers (8:30) Doug Fowell & Bev Brunner

(10:15) Darlene & Ralph Schulenberg

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