



# THE CLOAK

A publication of  
**St. Martin's Episcopal Church**  
ADVENT 2018

## Preparing for Advent with Thanksgiving

Dear St. Martin's family,

We begin this season having honored those we love and see no longer on All Saints Sunday, represented by the falling leaves of Autumn, and say hello to the beauty and Glory of God in which they rest, represented in beautiful sunsets and snowcapped mountain tops of the upcoming Winter months.

Thanksgiving holiday sets the tone with preparing for Advent by taking a day to Thank God for all the Blessings of the past year; for the harvest, our food and God's love and compassion for all of us. We will celebrate this year with a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and by supporting the Lebanon Community Free Thanksgiving Dinner at the United Methodist church by contributions, preparing and serving the meal to those in our community on Thanksgiving Day.

The Episcopal Church calendar follows the seasons of the year and is in sets of three. As we prepare for Advent looking in Hope to Christmas and Epiphany, we begin year C in our liturgical year which follows the book of Luke [intertwined with selections from John and Matthew from Christmas through Epiphany] setting the ground work for both Jesus' life and ministry and our own discipleship as a journey along the way. As the book *Planning for Rites and Rituals: A Resource of the Episcopal Church* says, "...one might also think of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany along the lines of a three-movement symphony where primary motifs appear and reappear, in relation to the incarnation, in various forms throughout the three seasons."

Advent's theme follows its historical beginnings as a penitential observance, focused on God's call as redeemer and judge of all time. Advent sets our celebration of the incarnation [Jesus comes to us in human form of a baby] in the framework of the anticipation of redemption and grace. [In innocence and love for all humanity]. Therefore, we decorate the church in purple and wear purple vestments from Dec 2 – 25. I will be reading and reflecting on the Jesuit booklet: *Sacred Space for 2018-2019* as a daily reading accompaniment for Advent beginning on December 2. It can also be found online. A sample prayer For the Presence of God:

*Bless all who worship you, almighty God, from the rising of the sun to its setting: from your goodness enrich us, by your love inspire us, by your Spirit guide us, by your power protect us, in your mercy receive us, now and always.*

This time of year is one of reflection and joy in the anticipation of Jesus' coming and the celebration of his birthday at Christmas. This is where we differ from the secular world, where the preparation and anticipation are skipped, and goes directly to Christmas, after Halloween (All Hallows Eve) skipping All Saints Sunday, the season of Advent, to decorating the tree and buying of presents.

The time now - the Advent or preparing for the coming of Christ -- is a valuable time for us to reflect and take time to breathe and enjoy the coming of our Lord. We will again remember our loved ones on the Longest Night., December 21.

Dear Christian friends, nothing has changed. Christmas still comes on December 25 and Epiphany 12 days later. Thanks be to God! Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

**With Love and prayers,**

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**Rev Melodie+**

## Parishioner Profile ~ Ray Hendricks, our Music Man

Every Sunday, wonderful music adds to our worship thanks to our musician Ray Hendricks, largely unseen behind the organ and keyboard. Ray has a lifetime of music, since starting his first piano lesson at age 5 with his older brother in Portland. In addition to his great experience with keyboard, Ray became an expert saxophone player in his high school band and taught himself the organ.

Among the many highlights of his music career are his performances, teaching, and directing. He got an early start performing with the Portland High School All Star orchestra playing live every other week on the "Spotlight on Youth" television show on Channel 6 in Portland. After graduating with a music degree from Lewis and Clark College, Ray and his wife Pat moved to Sweet Home where he taught for 5 years. He's especially proud of mentoring the state champion tuba player. Next, Ray spent 26 years at Crowfoot -Seven Oak Schools teaching singing and giving children the joy of a musical start. He retired with 31 years of teaching in 1994.

Before retiring, the Lebanon community already got to know Ray for directing the Community Chorus from 1990 to 2010. He has been asked back to direct several times and will conduct the Spring Pops Concert next April, 2019. Meanwhile, Ray's wonderful tenor voice can be heard at the Winter Concert on December 16.

Ray came to St. Martin's in the late 1980's to direct the weekly choir we had at that time. In 1999, when our former rector Fr. Norcross left with his wife, Sandy the organist, Florence Christ asked Ray to play for us as well. In addition to playing on the Clavinova, Ray taught himself to play our digital organ, and on All Saints Day in 2002 Ray played his first organ service for us.

Service music is chosen each week according to the liturgical seasons. For preludes, offertories, and postludes played on the Clavinova keyboard, Ray goes through the stack of sacred music he has and often selects pieces we might not have heard for a while. If you have a favorite piece you would like to hear, talk with Ray and see if that is something he can share with us.

In recent years, Ray has added to St. Martin's worship with a Christmas Eve music program and an Easter anthem. Join in the singing and enjoy the music from Ray Hendricks, St. Martin's Music Man.



*Ray says what he values about St. Martin's is that the people here are so friendly, they enjoy music, and he feels he fills an important space in our church life. That is so true!*

## Christmas Music Program

Get Ready to Sign up for  
**Singing!**  
**Readings!**  
Talk to Ray Hendricks



## Celebrating Thanksgiving!

St. Martin's will again help at this year's Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner held at United Methodist Church, Airport Road & 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

See the Sign-Up Board for a list of **food** items needed. There is also a "**Help Wanted**" list of times and tasks for volunteers. Please phone Joyce Barber 541-258-7819 or 541-409-3823 or email Joyce at [barber3953@comcast.net](mailto:barber3953@comcast.net) for a time to work.

## Blessing of the Animals on October 7



Remembering our Deacon, the Rev. Helen T. Richard, who has been part of the St. Martin's family for 63 years and who passed to Heaven on November 3, 2018

Helen's life at St. Martin's – and her life as an Episcopalian -- started on Easter Sunday in 1953 with Fr. David Gordon celebrating Holy Eucharist. Helen was a new young teacher in Lebanon, and she came with her friend Susan and found herself at home here with God. After she married John Richard in August 1955, Helen and John were confirmed together at St. Martin's. That's 63 years Helen has been with us at St. Martin's! She has assisted at Communion, preached, taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, and started many outreach ministries.

The next year, 1956, a few weeks before Helen's first child Terrisa was born, Fr. Gordon asked Helen to start a cooperative Kindergarten at St. Martin's because there was not yet any public-school kindergarten in Oregon, which she did for five years. Her students have vivid memories of those years.

In 1966, when Fr. Bernie Lamer arrived at St. Martin's, he asked Helen to be trained as a Stephen Minister, a lay person helping ministry. After the training, Helen led a Stephen Ministry two-year program with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, much larger than St. Martin's.

In 1983, the Diocese of Oregon started a school for Deacons at Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis, and Helen enrolled, aided by St. Martin's next priest, Fr. Don Wilson. Some of the training took place at Bishop John Thornton's Tau Cross Farm in Scio, which started their long friendship. After passing her exams, Helen was ordained a deacon by Bishop Ladehoff at St. Martin's on All Saints Day, Nov 1, 1987.

Drawing on her deacon work with St. Mary's Soup Kitchen (Albany), Helen and John helped found the Lebanon Soup Kitchen and were stalwart volunteers. Later she started St. Martin's Personal Care Kits ministry at the Soup Kitchen, which continues to this day.

In 1991, with the urging of Fr. Steve Norcross, Helen created St. Martin's outreach program Learning Perch, an after-school reading program in our parish hall, which later moved to Riverview School and finally Sand Ridge Charter School, ending in the spring of 2018.

When Fr. Norcross left in the summer of 1999, Helen worked with various supply priests keeping St. Martin's going until 2002 when Rev. Carol Sedlacek answered the call at St. Martin's. Helen also served as chaplain at Lebanon Community Hospital. After retiring officially as a Deacon in 2013, Helen continued to preach, proclaim the gospel, and assist at Holy Eucharist as long as her health would allow, working at last with Rev. Melodie Kimball, the ninth rector of St. Martins she has worked with.

Helen's memorial service will be held soon at St. Martin's, and her ashes will be placed in St. Martin's Memorial Garden, created in part with memorial donations when her husband, John, died in May of 2008.



Helen's Cake for her 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Deacon, 2017



Helen Blessing Cookie-Do, 2014

## **STEWARDSHIP – Pledging Time, Talent, and Treasure**

Stewardship talks encourage us to prayerfully consider how we can keep our church going. If you did not get a pledge card, we will mail one to you.

Vestry meetings are Nov 14 and Dec 19 at 6 pm. All are welcome. Full Vestry minutes are posted on the bulletin board

## Helping the Needy – Personal Care Kits



St. Martin's wonderful 2018 "Sweet & Spicy" convention basket helped raise funds for the Diocesan Commission on Poverty and Homelessness which helps fund our Personal Care Kits Ministry. Thanks again for wonderful donations

We enjoyed another successful Lebanon-Icon Gaming Convention Fundraiser with **Many Thanks** to Roger Munk for organizing and to all the volunteers who provided FOOD and clean up!



We invite you to join us in Worship  
Sundays at 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.  
Holy Communion & Healing Prayers  
Children's Sunday School at 10 am.

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### ECW NOTES:

There will be a brief ECW meeting on November 17 at 10 AM to discuss Advent Activities and Greening of the church.

### "One Buck Seminary",

our lively monthly discussion group led by Bishop John Thornton, resumes in January. All are Welcome. Watch for the date and reading packet.

Thanks to **St. Martin's Men's Group** for adopting Coffee Hour one Sunday a month and for assisting with some heavy lifting Altar Guild work.

**130<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention** of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon was held at Seaside, on Nov 1-2-3.

Convention highlights were presented during church on Nov 4, including references to some changes to canon law and votes taken on social justice issues. For more specifics see the delegates. The full convention info is online on the diocesan website.

Thanks to Rev. Melodie+ and Delegates Patty Linn and Kay Young. Amy Ramsdell was an alternate, and Doug Young acted as a Teller.



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