



THE CLOAK

A publication of
St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Epiphany / January 2019

Epiphany is The Season of Light

On one visit to Seattle over the Christmas and New Year Holidays, while looking through family photos and a few remaining boxes, I found the Morse code key used by my father. This has since been passed on to a friend of mine who is a ham radio operator and is the emergency contact for Mukilteo in the event of a disaster.

My father, who is originally from Portland, Oregon, was a light ship operator in the Coast Guard enlisting before WW2. This job no longer exists since the automation of lighthouses and buoys. These light ships used to anchor in dangerous waters to warn other ships to not enter the area. After serving his active duty he worked as a civilian for the 23rd Naval District (in the Admiral's Office) Aids to Navigation stationed in Seattle, retiring after 42 ½ years.

Part of his job was to physically go out and check the lighthouses and buoys that were operational in Washington State. He also wrote an article called "Aids to Navigation." Whenever I go to Newport, I go by the Yaquina Lighthouse, I think of him.

The lighthouse is still a symbol of hope to those who sail on the seas, and buoys are still needed for boats so they do not enter dangerous waters. Without these lights in the world to warn us, we may have disastrous outcomes with a boat or ship.

As Christians we are often the symbolic lights to the world, helping to keep others from crashing into the rocks. We are to be the place of stability and support helping each other out of dangerous waters now and then. Our own service of the Longest Night, held on the 21st of December at St. Martin's each year is an example of how light in the midst of grief brings comfort. We are now in the season of Light – Epiphany -- beginning Sunday, January 6.

I am reminded of an email from a friend in Australia who has survived the floods there, titled: **You and the Whale....**You are never alone... *"The Whale...If you read a recent front page story of the San Francisco Chronicle, you would have read about a female humpback whale that had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yard of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth. A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallon Islands (outside Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help.*

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her. They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around as if she was thanking them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The man who cut the rope out of her mouth said her eyes were following him the whole time, and he will never be the same. "

May you, and all those you love, be so blessed and fortunate to be surrounded by people who will help you get untangled from the things that are binding you. I pass this on to you, my friends in the same spirit of Love. Wishing you blessings in the season of light.

Parishioner Profile ~ Jim Rutledge:

Homecoming for someone with deep Oregon roots

Jim Rutledge, who came to St. Martin's in the summer of 2014 with his wife Loyce, has reconnected with his deep Oregon roots. Jim was born in Eugene, and lived there and in Roseburg until he was eight. He spent summers during his high school years with his grandparents in Salem (his grandad was Assistant State Forester) where he picked beans, strawberries, and cherries to earn money for school clothes. They helped to keep him grounded despite the constant moves his dad made in the Army; Jim attended 15 different schools in 17 years. Maybe that's how he developed his confidence as a public speaker. Jim is an active member of the Lebanon Toastmasters, which meets at noon on Mondays at Gillott's Realty. His speaking skills are on display Sunday mornings as he delivers parish announcements. Jim has served on the vestry and as Senior Warden. Thanks, Jim!

After a long and varied career in science-related positions - teaching, healthcare administration and running a Blood Center in Texas - Jim has returned to Oregon, where his daughter and grandchildren live.

Jim's connection with the Episcopal Church grew from his father's mid-life career change; after 26 years in the Army, *Father Ted* enrolled in the Episcopal seminary in Austin, Texas. His parents later moved to Tillamook, not far from where Jim's mother was born in Nehalem. Jim's father served as assistant rector at St. Alban's in Tillamook until his death in 2015.

Jim's love of singing started at a very early age, being raised in a family that loved music of all kinds. He remembers singing in his aunt's wedding when he was probably five or six, and standing on the street corner in front of his grandparent's house in Eugene singing Christmas carols. "I remember running into the house one day to show off the nickel someone passing by gave me." Before moving to Lebanon, Jim sang in the choir at St. Andrew's in Amarillo as well as in the city's Master Chorale; singing opportunities here were key reasons to choose the Willamette Valley (along with golf courses). Jim lends his strong baritone voice to the Lebanon Community Chorus, Festival Chorale Oregon (based in Salem) and St. Martin's Christmas and Easter choirs.

The main thing Jim and Loyce love about St. Martin's is that *"everyone knows everybody; it has become an extension of our family."*



STEWARDSHIP – Pledging Time, Talent and Treasure

**What
Commitment
can you make
for 2019?**

**What Ministry
calls to you?**

Talk with Rev.
Melodie+ about
these ideas... and
more!

**Editor of THE
CLOAK** – get to
know the parish
better and help
others know St.
Martin's better by
writing notes,
combining material,
and working with
Rev. Melodie+.

Raffle Coordinator
for 2019 –encourage
signups and help
with this great Fun
Fundraiser – runs
September to June.

New Year, New Look....

Did you notice anything different with the bulletin on Sunday? We are trying a new Order of Service template with weekly handouts for the readings and the announcements and prayers. This will save St. Martin's money for paper and ink, save on the environment with less trash, and save much time in the office, working around the lectionary variations each week.

You can take home the readings and the prayers/ announcements, and leave the basic Order of Service tucked into the book rack for next week. Each season, such as Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, a new Order of Service will be created.

Special thanks to Kay Young for getting us started. She puts in many, many hours making service materials for our worship.



A Service of Lament and Blessing

Last October, the *Christian Century* magazine published a blog post entitled “The church’s response to sexual assault survivors” written by Gay Clark Jennings with the subtitle-- “We should not be surprised when Christian men belittle and ignore women who speak out. Biblical heroes of the faith do the same.”

One of many examples from the Bible is the story of King David and Bathsheba. Jennings writes: “...Since Christine Blasey Ford came forward to tell her story of being sexually assaulted by new Supreme Court justice Brett Kavanaugh when the two were teenagers, many female clergy have been logging long hours listening to stories of sexual abuse and harassment from women they know, and sometimes women they don’t....

“...Plenty of clergy are doing heroic work providing support and care for women reliving trauma, and many are doing so while struggling themselves with memories of abuse. But the institution of the church has little to offer abuse survivors in the way of liturgy, public prayer, or formal acknowledgement of the pain that has seared their lives...”

Earlier, the August 1, 2018 issue of *Christian Century* has 2 articles on sexual assault in the Bible, including the rape of Dinah in “The Bible’s #MeToo stories.”

In response, Canon Julia McCray-Goldsmith of the Diocese of Oregon, offered **A Liturgy of Lament & Blessing** in October at Trinity Cathedral “for women who have suffered abuse and sexual violence,” sometimes even at the hands of clergy with the invitation to “Please join women and their allies, from around the diocese and Portland Metro Area, as we remember and pray for women who have suffered from harassment and sexual violence. The service will begin with lament, prayers and blessings, with an opportunity to stand in support of vulnerable woman. It will be followed by a Eucharist of special intention for victims and their allies. Episcopal clergywomen will be available for pastoral support.” See links below.

St. Martin’s is currently working with local churches to hold a similar service here.

We recognize that many men have also been victims of abuse and harassment, yet we agree with Canon Julia that separate services for women will provide them with a place they can feel safer to heal.

LINKS: <https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/guest-post/church-s-response-sexual-assault-survivors>. <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/women-bible-say-metoo>; <https://www.diocese-oregon.org/event/a-liturgy-of-lament-and-blessing-for-women-who-have-suffered-abuse-and-sexual-violence/>



King David watches Bathsheba

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.

No Sunday School 1st Sunday of the month

**Remember the needy
& give them a Valentine with
Personal Care Kits**

Our first visit in 2019 is Feb 22.

Coming Events!

Annual Meeting Jan 27

Our once a year gathering of all members is a combined meeting and potluck for all the family.

Each year St. Martin's holds an all parish meeting to review the past and plan for the future. We will thank those who have worked hard to keep the church going all year, review the budget, update bylaws, and elect new vestry members and delegates to the 2019 convention.

This is your chance to participate, lend your voice and your vision.

This is also an important time to see what commitment you can make for the coming year. Consider standing for vestry or Convention delegate. What do you want to do?

A delicious potluck brunch will be served, hosted by St. Martin's Men's Group.

Come join us to keep the St. Martin's family strong.

FAMILY FUN FRIDAY NIGHT

January 25, 6 pm
Potluck and BINGO!



Join in the fun

"One Buck Seminary", our lively monthly discussion group led by Bishop John Thornton, resumes on January 19 at 8-9:30. **All are Welcome.** Reading packet with selections from Karen Armstrong's writings is ready to pick up.

ECW NOTES:

Women's Fun Lunch on Friday, January 11 at 12:30 at Barsideous Pub Café on Main Street in Lebanon

The meeting to elect officers and plan our Spring Tea Fundraiser will be rescheduled because Saturday Feb 9 we are likely hosting a reception for the service for longtime ECW member Jean Abbott.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church
257 E Milton Street, Lebanon, OR 97355
Phone: 541-451-1159

Find & Like Us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St.Martins.Lebanon>

Visit our Webpage

<http://www.stmartinslebanon.org/>

Use our Email

stmartinslebanon@gmail.com

THE CLOAK A publication of
St. Martin's Episcopal Church