

Rector's Report- September 17- October 21, 2021

Worship Online and In Person

In person/views

Sept 19* 38/112 17th Sunday after Pentecost; online+in person, Bishop visit in honor of STM's 56th anniv. Eucharist
Sept 26 6/177 18th Sunday after Pentecost; online only

In-Person begins every week starting October 3

Oct 3* 48/144 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 10 41/140 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Oct 17 47/86 (so far) 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Other worship/offices:

September 18: Funeral for Joe Fletcher- online and in-person (218 online views)

September 25: Celebration of New Ministry (AT LAST)—formal installation of myself as the 4th rector of St. Martin's with a lovely reception following by Julia Krelo and her crew! (160 online views)

October 2: Blessing of the Animals outdoors in the barking lot—for once there wasn't a cloud in the sky! Animals received blessings and treats!

October 12/13: Ministration at Time of Death (Last Rites)/Litany for Susan Richardson in her final hours before transitioning to the next life.

October 17: Prepared and gave the Invocation and Benediction at the Eagle Court of Honor for St. Martin's Scout Troop 601—three young men earned their Eagle Awards (and one of their projects benefited the garden!)

DAILY OFFICE (Compline)

Moving back to two services of compline a week in October—looking for more volunteers who are willing to support this lovely, brief service.

	Views	Celebrant
Sept 18	52	GS
Sept 25	55	GS
Oct 2	32	GS
Oct 9	55	GS
Oct 12	54	LG
Oct 16	35	GS
Oct 20	36	LG

OVERVIEW: Lots of pastoral care needs this month, programming needs, continuing to open the campus, annual giving and adult formation. Busy busy busy! Yet that is a sign that there is a LOT going on at St. Martin's that is cause for celebration!

Worship:

Choir started rehearsals for the new program year on September 1.

We are going to start having in-person and online worship every Sunday at 10:30 am. We cannot add 8 back until we get ushers and greeters signed up for that service. We are looking at the 505 as being the next service to add on, possibly in Advent 1.

Regathering Committee continues to work together in allowing more parish groups to meet, masked and distanced, if they put forth a plan and fill out a facilities use form with Janet.

With the rapidly changing situation regarding COVID, we will continue in person as we safely can, but we still need more volunteers as acolytes, ushers, greeters, readers etc.

Looking forward:

- Funeral for Ben Braley this Saturday, October 23, at 11 am. Burial will be Monday at Jefferson Barracks.
- Funeral for Susan Richardson on Saturday, October 30. Burial will be in Oklahoma.
- Bishop Deon's OFFICIAL visitation on November 14 (transferred Feast of St. Martin of Tours)—we will have some confirmations and receptions in the Episcopal Church, including a member from St. Francis Eureka who could not attend the Bishop's visitation there.

Administrative/ Programming:

Communications: Debra Matthews continues to a great job with the Beacon, and I am grateful for her help!

Page also is an absolute blessing with all the bulletins, especially for all of these funerals and special services.

Looking to get some sexton help for Lincoln.

STEWARDSHIP*/ ANNUAL GIVING

St. Martin's continues to have a growing edge in lay leadership in Stewardship. For several months now, I have been asking for the formation of a standing stewardship committee. This should be lay led and collaborative with clergy—the rector should be more able to focus on the spiritual aspects of giving rather than taking responsibility for the nuts and bolts each fall. Our dedication to the fiscal health and financial growth of St. Martin's should be ongoing rather than seasonal and should be participatory throughout our membership from our youngest and our newest to our most seasoned—each according to their ability. This would be MUCH healthier and more logical, as well as transparent, and make clear that the financial health of the parish doesn't come from anywhere but among the members rather than from the outside or from the top down. As the parish leadership, I am counting on each and every one of you all to model this growing understanding, and I really appreciate your willingness to lead in this area!

The Annual Giving campaign this year will be under the lay leadership of Mike Kelly, who has graciously offered his dedication to this task, supported by the Executive Committee members and vestry, of course as is meet and right so to do. Chuck Converse has also agreed to support this campaign. I am looking forward to having more nominations from Vestry for the campaign and for the **Standing Committee on Giving**, especially if you are unable to serve on the standing committee on giving yourself.

We will be launching the annual campaign this coming Sunday, October 24. There will be four Sundays in the campaign (the Bishop's visit will necessarily not have as much of an opportunity to talk about Annual Giving). The campaign is from TENS and is entitled "Every Good Gift." In-gathering will be on November 21—just before Thanksgiving, appropriately enough, so that we may begin the process of preparing a budget.

You will notice some changes in terminology that I am going to ask us all to utilize. I have noticed that the term "pledge" makes several people with whom I speak each year skittish

and even anxious. “Stewardship” also creates some cloudiness emotionally and intellectually, interestingly enough. Thus, we are going to use the term **“Annual Giving Campaign”** and **“Giving Estimate”** (in lieu of “pledge”) to help our members understand that they can make an estimate, and revise it upward at any time (the converse is also true). This should help people commit without reservation. We also will continue to talk about budgets as being targets (COVID certainly taught us that lesson abundantly) and also—and this is crucial—that **the budget is a statement of our mission and priorities as a parish**, and a very revealing one, at that. This understanding will take time to develop, but the message needs to be consistent.

I am looking for volunteers to either write a reflection on how they are impacted/involved in the work and ministry of the parish or to give a brief testimonial at announcement time during the campaign. Each of you is welcome to volunteer or to help me get volunteers.

Now that we are coming back in person, and having more groups in our building during the week as well, expenses will be increasing. That is an unvarnished truth. Therefore, we have to get our annual giving into a more visible rhythm after COVID changed so many things.

Formation:

Preparing to start confirmation classes on Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30 for those wishing to be confirmed or received during the Bishop’s visitation.

Loretta Go’s discernment committee completed its work, and finished their report. Tonight we as the leadership and the vestry need to signal our support for Loretta’s postulancy for the Diaconate so that we can send in that paperwork to the diocese.

Have asked the Rev. Shug to work on a speaker series for adult formation, possibly to take place on a weeknight over zoom with a speaker. Our first one is going to be on November 7, and will be amazing!

The bishop visits for his annual visitation in November, and I would like to get confirmed all those who had prepared before COVID and anyone else who would like to be confirmed. We will offer Zoom classes for those who have not attended class.

Monday morning adult Bible study is resuming in person in the Library! Grateful for John Lange’s resumption of this wonderful program!

Outreach/ Garden/ etc:

Second Laundry Love outing was wonderful on October 12!! Thanks to all the volunteers and donors of quarters!

Our garden is winding down....

Great news! Mike Kelly is the new leader for the Peace Meal volunteer program at St. John’s Tower Grove. Thank you, Mike!!!

Pastoral Care:

Spent much time with Susan Richardson and members of her family during her final weeks, and administered the sacraments of the Church/ Ministration at Time of Death before her passing on October 13. On October 13, supported the family and officiated the litany at the time of the body leaving the home as she was received by the funeral home. The Sunrise staff all formed an “Angel Walk” in the foyer as she and the family left for the final time—it was very moving.

Checked in on parishioners at the Fountains and especially Virginia, who was close to Susan. We have had a lot of illness and funerals the last few weeks. Let's hold each other close in prayer.

Self-Care:

Still have vacation and retreat time I have not used.... Took three days in October for moving to our new house; meant to take another 3 days, but a parishioner's end of life care forced a postponement of that.

I will switch my day off this week to Tuesday due to Ben Braley's burial on Monday. Thank you to all of you who try to protect my day off.

Diocesan:

Diocesan Clergy Conference was September 28-30 at the Pallotine Center in North County. I attended all three days and supported the worship music component, although sadly not with my new guitar.

Preparing for diocesan convention next month.

On October 19, the majority of the general convention delegation met with the President of the House of Deputies (which includes clergy and lay persons) Gay Clark Jennings to prepare for the 80th General Convention, which will be held this summer in Baltimore. I am a clergy delegate, and Shug is currently a clergy alternate. This means we may both be gone in July 2022—the convention is scheduled to run from July 7- 14.

Building and Grounds:

Lincoln continues to keep on top of our ever-interesting facilities challenges.

Steve Brunkhorst is looking over options to expand the columbarium as Capital Campaign Chair

Appreciation:

Thank you to all of you for my incredible new resonator guitar, which was a gift from the parish at our Celebration of New Ministry!

Thank you to Gail Schneider for taking back on the scheduling of Worship volunteers! This is a VITAL task, and Gail does it with aplomb!

Thank you to Tom Allen for his leadership of Loretta Go's discernment committee and his excellent work on ReGathering as well as helping corral ushers during our reopening from COVID shutdown and reading. So many talents! Tom gives so generously of his time and talents, and we all owe him a huge thank you.

Page Andersen also continues to be the most giving, alert support person for so many clerical and communications tasks—and she does them with an open heart! Thank you so much, Page!

Thank you to Bill Scoopmire, Scott Scoopmire and the Broadcast crew for being available to broadcast special services such as funerals—it means so much to the families.

Webmaster Scott Scoopmire continues to add features to the website--- and he has accepted a position as an engineer after graduation (he is a senior at the University of Kansas in architectural engineering! Thanks be to God!

Thank you to Anne Fischer, Dana Griggs, and the Outreach Committee for their successful launching of Laundry Love and for a wonderful second outing—very exciting new ministry!

Thank you to Mike Kelly for his willingness to lead the Annual Giving Campaign this year AND the Peace Meal.

Denise and the choir have been gracing us with especially amazing music. It has been so long, and it just gives my heart a lift each week!