

## Rector's Report to Vestry 2012

Great are the works of the Lord - and we certainly see the blessings of God's Works at St. Martin's. What a year has just passed. A year of growth in Spirit, in numbers, in ministries and in faith. We need never doubt God's faithfulness, because we see that faithfulness, God's grace, in every aspect of our Church Family.



There were a number of new initiatives this past year that required both the dedication of volunteers and personal reflection on the part of each parishioner. The Natural Church Development Survey (NCD), challenged us to look at eight critical areas of church health - Empowering Leadership, Gift-oriented Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Inspiring Worship, Needs-based Evangelism, Functional Structures, Holistic Small Groups and Loving Relationships - and assess where our strengths and growing edges were. While scoring well in most areas, our lowest was Passionate Spirituality, which is about recognizing God's purpose and sharing the Good News in an intentional way with those around us. We've been focusing on this area of our 'health' and the next survey on March 4<sup>th</sup> will reflect how we've done. God willing, we will show growth and a rising comfort level in sharing our faith. Sincere thanks to the NCD Committee for their great work.

Our next challenge was a financial one as we looked to support the future of the Anglican Church in our Diocese and beyond. In the Our Faith - Our Hope Campaign, St. Martin's target was \$170,000 pledged over five years - an amount we felt was all but impossible. Talk about great works - we passed our goal by \$100,000 as parishioners showed how committed we are to ministering to the needs of those around us. I give thanks with my whole heart for the generosity and compassion of this Church Family and for the tireless work of the Executive Committee and other willing volunteers.

2011 saw improvements in the Church building, with the construction of our new kitchenette. What a great addition and convenience. Thanks to the professional work of Peter Davidson and Chris Mackay our coffee hosts no longer have to run up and down stairs. The windows in the stairwell have not only beautified our church but have cut down on the drafts and leaks,

reducing our heating costs. The new carpeting has made a tremendous difference in how new eyes see our church as well as giving us renewed pride in how we keep God's house. I give thanks to the Milne Family who generously donated \$5,000.00 in memory of Hazel Milne to support this project. Peter Davidson gathered a group of hard working volunteers who ripped out the old carpet and underlay saving us a lot of money. Peter and Chris Mackay worked most of the night widening the step into the nave of the church, making access safer. Handrails were placed on the back pillars, also for safety. St. Martin's has a whole new look and not before it was time. Thank you to each one who sweated in the summer heat to make these projects a reality and who helped us remain good stewards of the contributions entrusted to us. As we combine the gifts God has given us, we are able to accomplish wonders!



Worship and study have continued to strengthen us as followers of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Every ministry at St. Martin's is well supported by volunteers who are always willing to take not only their turn, but to cover for those who are away for one reason or another. From the Greeters at the door to the Altar Guild, Choir, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessor's and Chalice Bearers each ministry is carried out with dedication to the call we are given in Christ. Our Sunday School teachers give freely of their time to ensure that our children come to know the Lord and grow in God's word. Our nursery volunteers offer loving care to the youngest members of our congregation. we can't forget our counters either! This is a wonderful Church and I am so thankful that God's people are here for what they can give, rather than motivated by what they can get. Through giving of ourselves and our resources, we are blessed in ways too numerous to count.

♪ Music is a big part of worship and I am thankful to Elizabeth and the choir for their hours of practice and faithful attendance at services. By thoughtful reflection on the readings and theme for the day, hymns and anthems are chosen to amplify God's Word. Liz and I make every effort to choose a wide variety of sacred music to satisfy both contemporary and traditional tastes. While we can't please everyone all the time - we aim to make worship up-lifting and meaningful. ♪

Our Committees and Groups provide a structure for our ministries and activities. When we look at the number of events taking place throughout the year, it's no wonder time flies! Our newest ministry, Social Justice, has brought recognition to St. Martin's as a community that cares about justice, fairness and God's righteousness. Seeking ways to give a hand-up and a voice to the poor, those pushed to the margins of society and those who are unable for various reasons to help themselves, we have raised awareness for others. Through education and interaction with politicians we are learning more about how we can make a difference in our world. Special thanks to Scott Riley and the committee for initiating this important ministry and seeing it through when the direction was unclear. St. Martin's is a strong advocate for Outreach, making a great difference through our contributions to FaithWorks as well as other initiatives. As Betty Baker Chairs the group, causes are weighed and needs are determined. Our Youth have come on board through their activities in support of different causes. Funds raised through the Pancake Supper and other means have been distributed to the benefit of those in need. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of my brother and sisters, you do for me." We are doing our best to live his words. Helping Hands, Prayer Shawl Plus and Food Bank contributions and volunteers make an amazing difference in the lives of the poor, the ill and the hungry. God's Word - in print and in life - guides us in the way we're meant to go.

If we are to do good works and Glorify God, we also need a balance. That balance comes through our social activities. From Robbie Burns' Night to Movies and Pot Luck Dinners, we get together to eat, laugh and have fun. These social events provide an opportunity to get to know each other. As we form relationships within the community, we are more likely



to join in the ministries that define St. Martin's. Brent Levy and the Social Committee do an amazing job of putting together a varied slate of affordable, entertaining activities. We owe them our thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

My thanks to our Wardens, Rob, Kathy, Chris and Gillian. Rob and Kathy have been serving for a number of years and have a strong, working knowledge of the Diocesan guidelines required. Chris and Gillian have come to the team more recently, with enthusiasm and a willingness to serve. Due to work conflicts, Gillian is unable to continue and we give thanks for her ministry, knowing she will help where she can. Huge thanks to Janis Lynch for her financial expertise in keeping us good stewards of all that we possess.

When our secretary, Lucy Urso has been off for a break, I especially realize how valuable she is! Her attention to detail, her love of her work and the easy relationship we have, makes it a joy to have her in the office. We are blessed by her commitment to St. Martin's. Thanks to Alison Scanlon and her family for their care of God's house. Knowing the church will always be clean and tidy means a lot.

Finally, I give thanks to Cliff for the many ways he shares in my ministry. His work with our website gives us worldwide visibility and lets others know the great things that can happen when we serve the Lord. We have a wonderful partnership and I thank God for that.

Thank you to each and every member of St. Martin's who hears God's word, obeys, God's will and joyfully responds to serve Christ's Church!

With God's Blessing

*Rev. Millie*



## *Wardens Report 2011*

2011 has been a very full and successful year for St Martin's as the Church celebrated forty-six years of spiritual guidance and service to our Pickering community.

The continued generous financial support by our faithful congregation provided the opportunity to undertake major improvements to the church during the year. Led by Peter Davidson, a new kitchenette, lighter tables, carpeting, skylights, painted lines in the parking lot and wider steps with handrails in the center aisle, have improved the safety and enhanced the presence of the Church.

Through the great success of the OUR FAITH-OUR HOPE Campaign, plans are now underway for a new front entrance with an awning; replacement of the remaining skylights; together with a new sign to improve the Church's visibility to the public. With a five year return period on our contributions, projects will be spaced out to allow for sufficient funds for each job. All these initiatives and improvements demonstrate how a congregation, working for the Lord, can achieve so much.

Under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Millie, who continues to guide and inspire us, the Wardens have again worked well with the Advisory Board. Our many and varied ministries demonstrate a strong level of commitment and faith in our parish as we keep God in our day every day. Please take a few minutes to read each of their reports to learn more about the great work being done by our parishioners. We would like to make special mention of the Social Justice Committee, a new initiative under the capable leadership of Scott Riley, which has made great strides this year. FaithWorks has also been hugely successful, as we contribute to assist those less fortunate than ourselves, both in our Community and in distant lands.

The passing of Fr. John McNab after a long illness was a sad time for all of us. Millie arranged for two beautiful tapestries to be hand made by Joan Vermeersch. After being blessed at a Church service, the banners were sent to Fr. McNab's home Diocese in Jamaica as a memorial to his long and faithful service to the Church.

Our participation in the Natural Church Development Survey produced very positive results for St. Martin's and demonstrated that we know what it means to "be church". The follow up meeting showed that Passionate Spirituality is our weakest link and we are looking at ways to improve this aspect of St. Martin's.

For Back to Church Sunday, this year we focused on the "invitation". We need to go "boldly" and invite our friends and family to come and experience God's love at St. Martin's. We are not to be worried about receiving a "no". Our mission is to ask and then let the Holy Spirit work. Remember, it may take more than one invitation, so keep trying.

We give thanks for a very successful year and look forward to the exciting and fulfilling New Year ahead. We invite every member of our congregation to join and/or participate in the many ministries that make up our wonderful church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Cann

*God in our day - everyday!  
We're seeking your purpose, Lord!*