THE LYCHGATE September 26, 2021

Parish Newsletter of The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields



From Fr. Philip

The old hymn asks the question, "Are you weary and heavy laden?" And the answer for many people, I think, this fall is "yes". We are in the midst of the fourth wave of the pandemic and as governments struggle to keep schools and businesses open, many are feeling a sense of weariness. When will this all be over? When can we return to some sort of normalcy? When can we sing in church? This weariness is the result of the physical and emotional toll exacted on people as they juggle so many competing demands while trying to keep individual and family lives together. It can be exhausting.

For me, there is also a further concern, that this physical and emotional weariness might create also a spiritual weariness. This is not difficult to understand as we all know that how we feel physically and emotionally can affect in a profound way our openness to spiritual things. For example, it is hard to focus our minds and hearts on prayer in the midst of severe and debilitating pain.

And yet, from the earliest days of the Christian Church, those who are knowledgeable of the spiritual life have sounded warnings about a dangerous tendency, something they have called "accidie." Accidie is not easy to define; however, we might speak of it in terms of a restless boredom, of an inability to focus on worship or prayer, of an inability to concentrate on the present spiritual moment. It is indeed, colloquially, a profound feeling of the spiritual "blahs." If this is something that we as followers of Christ need to be aware of and watch out for in ourselves and in the community of the Church, what can we do about it? In the great monastic communities of the Middle Ages, perseverance and manual labour were recommended as the tonic to fight accidie. Perseverance is something that we are well aware of in these long months of the pandemic. The good effects of manual labour, whether one is kneading a ball of dough in preparation for the baking of bread or getting our hands dirty in a spot of gardening, this also is something to which we can relate.

Nevertheless, it is the advice of a Franciscan writer, Brandon Dahm. that speaks most powerfully to me. He writes that the most potent antidote to accidie is the cultivation of a deep sense of wonder and gratitude. The two go hand in hand as we wonder, standing in awe before the amazing signs of God's grace — from the beauty of a single flower, to the cosmic glory of the heavens above, to the simple word of comfort and love spoken to us in our time of need. To cultivate wonder is to approach each moment, each encounter, as grace-given and grace-filled, as an opportunity to touch something of the glory of God. And, in that grace-filled moment, to turn our hearts to thanksgiving, to express our gratitude to all who bless us, to all that blesses us, to the God who blesses us from the moment of our birth to our final breath and then on into the wonder of the kingdom.

As we approach this time of Thanksgiving in both the secular and religious calendar, may we embrace the call to wonder and gratitude. May our hearts and spirits join with the stars and the angels as they rejoice in the wonder of God's love and glow with the light of thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Philip

Church Directory



The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields

151 Glenlake Ave. Toronto, Ontario M6P 1E8

www.stmartininthefields.ca

Church: 416-767-7491 Fax: 416-767-7065

Incumbent:

The Rev'd Canon Philip Hobson OGS

Honorary Assistants:

The Rev'd Canon
David Luxton
The Rev'd James
Decker
The Rev'd Canon

Harold Nahabedian The Rev'd Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan The Rt. Rev'd Victoria Matthews

Organist & Music Director:

Jack Hattey

Church Wardens:

Tim Stephenson Eilonwy Morgan

Property Manager:

Mark Kolberg

Children and Youth Ministry

Associate: Caleb Upton

About *The Lychgate* **Newsletter**: *The Lychgate* is published four times a year. Parishioners and friends are encouraged to submit news and articles to the editor, Ian Greene, at iangreene0766@rogers.com. For digital access to *The Lychgate*, including colour photos and links to web sites, go to https://stmartininthefields.ca.

NOTE: You can opt to go paperless and cancel your mailed copy of *The Lychgate*, and in future receive it by email only after the church re-opens, by emailing *The Lychgate* volunteers at <u>Lychgate1111@gmail.com</u>.

Upcoming Services

St. Martin's will continue holding services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays and Tuesdays at 10 a.m., all at limited capacity. COVID protocols are in place for all services.

For the Sunday 11 a.m. services you need to register in advance at www.stmartininthefields.ca.

Sunday 11 am Services are Live-Streamed on St. Martin's YouTube Channel (please use the link on the parish's web site)

Upcoming Events

Save these dates:

• Wednesdays in October, 8:00 p.m.:

Christian Education Series Generosity and Thanksgiving (see article below)

- **Sundays** October 17th and November 21st: Messy Church for children 4 p.m. (Zoom)
- <u>Wednesdays in November, 8:00 p.m.:</u> Christian Education Series Saints Alive (see article below)
- Saturday November 6th: Zoom session on legacy giving, 10 a.m.
- November 26th to December 3rd: Virtual Christmas Market (see article below)

Since June 27 21, 2021, from the Parish Registers:

Weddings: None

Baptisms:

Efrem Gidey Samsom on August 29

Funerals:

Allison Turner on July 14`

Vaccination Requirement for Volunteers

By Eilonwy Morgan and Tim Stephenson, Wardens
The Diocese of Toronto now requires all volunteers
in St. Martin's, as well as clergy and staff, to be fully
vaccinated against COVID in order to carry out their
duties. We have been assigned to do the paperwork.
We will be in touch very soon with all volunteers
through their team leaders to explain the
requirements and to request documentation.

Generosity & Thanksgiving

By Peter Chauvin for the Christian Education Committee

A lot has happened since March 2020 when the world was turned up-side-down by the COVID pandemic. And St. Martin's has experienced a lot of change. Parishioners and clergy have worked hard to provide worship under changing circumstances, to introduce new technologies to help with those services and maintain connections with each other, and many have contributed in new ways. We have also maintained a good level of financial support to the church during this time. It could be argued that the very survival of St. Martin's was at stake for the last 18 months.

As we hopefully emerge from the pandemic and start to return to some new normal, we can all give thanks to all those who worked so hard and provided so much to keep St. Martin's alive.

As we speed toward Advent and the end of another church year, the Christian Education Committee invites everyone to a special four-week series entitled "Generosity & Thanksgiving," reminding us of the generosity of our parishioners and our thanks to them and our clergy. The four-part series delves into the theology and foundation of stewardship, demonstrates its importance to us, and profiles some of the behind the scenes actors who keep St. Martin's going week after week. We will also have a special guest speaker to talk about legacy giving at the 4th session and we will have a separate legacy giving zoom session on Saturday November 6 a 10 a.m. by Zoom.

The series will take place Wednesdays – October 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 8:00 p.m. by Zoom. The Christian Ed Committee looks forward to seeing you then.



September Flower in St. Martin's Garden, courtesy David McKnight

Saints Alive!

By Mary Conliffe

The Christian Education Committee has planned another year of Wednesday evening Zoom gatherings on a variety of topics and we look forward to meeting regularly to increase our faith and understanding together as we build up the community. Our plan for November is to continue in our year-long theme of "Christian Story and Narrative" by looking at the lives of the saints, including our patron St Martin whose feast day is November 11th. But we would also like to spotlight those saints who mean something to YOU. Which saint holds particular importance in your life? Who has especially inspired you in your Christian journey? Were you named after a particular saint? Did you take a saint's name at your confirmation?

We are hoping that many parishioners will want to share what they know and love about their favourite saint in a short five-minute presentation over Zoom during one of the Wednesdays in November. No Zoom skills required — although you're welcome to screen share if you wish. Anything you'd like to share about your favourite saint would be great! Please write to Mary Conliffe

(<u>maryconliffe@gmail.com</u>) if you are willing and able to participate.

Parish Profile: Prince Emmanuel Adjin-Tettey and Sheila Wadie

By David McKnight



Prince Emmanuel Adjin-Tettey and Sheila Wadie grew up in the same neighbourhood of Accra, the capital of Ghana, in West Africa, but they only met when they were both in the final year of university in the city of Kumasi, about 250 km away. He studied computer engineering and she "land economy," which includes property management and real estate. They met at a party held by a mutual friend. Prince Emmanuel, who had grown up with a strong faith, found Sheila's humility and faith attractive. Following undergraduate study, they both did master's degrees in business administration and both certified in project management.

In 2007, they moved back to Accra and, without arranging it intentionally, both got jobs for their compulsory National Service with the same telecommunications company. After the required year, Sheila moved to a different company, but Prince Emmanuel stayed on. Three years later, in 2010, they married. In Ghana, the expectation is that weddings happen in the bride's church but then the couple attends the groom's church. So, they married in the Presbyterian church and then attended the Anglican. Their first son, Prince Gerald, was born on their first wedding anniversary, in 2011. Gareth followed in 2013 and Gordon in 2017.

Why "Prince"? Prince Emmanuel relates that his father was very devout and decided to name his first son after the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel. Throughout

his life, he has never shortened it. When their first son was born, Prince Emmanuel and Sheila decided to continue the tradition of using "Prince;" Gerald is a name loved by Prince Emmanuel's mother. (In Canada, teachers have been known to use just "Gerald".)

In 2018, a friend living in Alberta urged Sheila and Prince Emmanuel to move to Canada but they were conflicted. They had a comfortable life in Ghana, with a house and cars, and they knew very little about Canada. They prayed about it. About the same time, the company Prince Emmanuel was working for closed and he and Sheila decided that they would apply to emigrate. Prince Emmanuel applied for a program called Express Entry which required a test of English but that did not worry him — he had spoken English his whole life. He was surprised and disappointed to learn that, although he passed the Listening, Speaking, and Reading sections, he missed the Writing section by half a point. He was ready to give up, but Sheila was not! She felt that it was God's will that they move the family to Canada. He retried the exam, sadly with the same result — half a point short on the Writing Section. This time he was very discouraged, but again Sheila persisted. For a third try, he gave it more effort and, fasting and praying, asked for God's help. He felt that the format that put the writing section at the end of a long day was part of the problem as he was exhausted by the time they got to that section. He prayed that the format might change but was told it was never different. Imagine his delight when at the start of the exam the invigilator announced an "unprecedented change in format" — the Writing section came first! Prince Emmanuel passed.

But the hurdles were not over. Prince Emmanuel turned 35 the day after his exam result arrived and the program was supposed to be for those under 35. Thinking it was not to be, after a career so far in telecommunications, he got a job in Information Technology. Three months later, he got an invitation from the Ontario government wanting to sponsor IT professionals. The family now qualified.

In the midst of COVID, they arrived in Canada in August, 2020 and had to undergo quarantine. Initially, they lived in an Airbnb, booked for one



month, on Glen Gordon Road, a short walk from St. Martin's. During that month, they looked for nearby apartments because they liked the area — and wanted stay near the church. They found a place they liked on Oakmount Road, but the rental agent was reluctant to rent to immigrants who had not secured work. The family prayed and the next morning, the agent phoned to say she changed her mind and would let them rent.

Both Prince Emmanuel and Sheila have jobs now
— again with the same company — and are working
remotely from home. The children are enjoying
Keele Street School and the two older boys have
discovered and are doing well in baseball, a game
Gordon, Sheila, Prince Gerald, Gareth and Prince Emmanuel

not played in Ghana. All three children are thriving. The family has become fully involved in St. Martin's. Prince Emmanuel is on the livestream team and is the IT member on Management Board. Sheila is on the Faithworks committee and has been busy with preparations for the Walkathon.

There is another coincidence. Prince Emmanuel applied to York University to the Master of Public Policy, Administration and Law program and asked Ian Greene if he knew about it. Ian did: he was the founding director of the program! Sheila has also

enrolled in a master's program in Management Practice. Both started their remote learning mid-September.

Prince Emmanuel and Sheila say that their faith has grown through this experience and they give thanks. Prince Emmanuel says that God's way may be like a maze with unexpected turns, but He gets you where you need to be.

2021 FaithWorks Walkathon

By Judith Kidd



We did it! Sixteen dedicated trekkers crossed to the Toronto Islands on September 12th. This group has to be the most optimistic group of individuals, if not in the city certainly in the parish. The weather forecast predicted rain, and an 80% probability of a thunderstorm with high winds for 4:00 pm when we would likely be close to St. Andrew's by the Lake.

And, oh, it was worth the uncertainty. The mainly overcast skies provided a pleasant temperature for walking and because of the ominous weather forecasts, there were few other visitors to the island. We walked along the beach to see new engineering approaches for heating and cooling the downtown area. Although we were not able to get into the church for our evensong service, it was even more meaningful under the tree canopy. And, for sure, the best ice cream treat is at the Ward's Island outlet.

What made it most special was the commitment of the sixteen trekkers to complete the walk on behalf of all of you who have sponsored the group or individuals to raise funds for FaithWorks. What a congenial, enthusiastic and determined group –



particularly the five boys who added much energy to the group.

As the co-ordinator for the walk, I want to thank all those who participated, and all those who wanted to participate and couldn't but sponsored one of the walkers. It's not too late to be part of 2021 FaithWorks Walkathon! You can contribute by cheque, by e-transfer to St. Martin-in-the-Fields, or through CanadaHelps – in all cases noting in the memo line/field that the donation is for the Walkathon.



Children and Youth Ministry Associate Caleb Upton

By Tim Stephenson



Caleb Upton joined St Martin's as the Children and Youth Ministry Associate on September 1, and he has been reaching out to parents and children for their input on what can be offered during the pandemic. This article introduces all of us to Caleb and the gifts he is bringing to this role.

Caleb's parents are both Evangelical non-denominational Christians who raised him with a strong love for the Bible, a deep understanding of the love of God, and the importance of loving one's neighbour. For 25 years, David Upton, Caleb's father, led an outreach ministry to families torn apart by religious cults, a ministry inspired by the pain of his own family's experience. With his father such a devoted lay minister for the Gospel, Caleb was early on exposed to Christian apologetics, the teachings of other religions, and philosophy.

Living in their apartment just north of Islington station in the Mabelle area, Caleb's early schooling was largely with new Canadians, so the majority of his friends growing up were from a variety of different countries and faiths, especially Hinduism and Islam. Of great importance in Caleb's early faith life was his baptism, by his father, at age nine . This occurred in front of his friends who were from families of other religious backgrounds, so that they could see Caleb give witness to his life in Christ.

When Caleb began high school at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, it was a shock to be exposed to more affluent white and nominally Christian kids. During this period, his intellectual aptitudes began to blossom, as well as his inclination for volunteering especially in the pursuit of justice. He was inspired by such books as *The Irresistible Revolution* by Shane Claiborne. Invited by a friend, Caleb joined the youth group at Kingsway Baptist Church from which he not only gained his first group of Christian friends, but also opportunities to serve, preach, and grow alongside a strong peer group.

In 2009, Caleb began his studies in the Christian Origins program at Trinity College at the University of Toronto, which contributed greatly to the intellectual support of his faith as he aspired himself to become a Christian apologist—someone who would defend the rationality of the Christian faith in the public square. During his undergraduate degree he continued pursuing preaching and serving. Of particular interest for parents at St.Martin's, it was during these years that Caleb gained substantial experience in children and youth ministry at Kingsway Baptist Church. He ran summer vacation bible school camps, hosted a local summer soccer club in a neighbourhood park, and volunteered with Recess, a non-profit ministry of respite care for parents of children with special needs. In the summer of 2013, he also led a group of tutors for children in the Islington and Dixon neighbourhood who were largely New Canadians. However, despite the variety of his ministries, he still felt that he was called to the academic life. His academic pursuit eventually led to completing a Master of Theology in Biblical studies at the University of Edinburgh. During this time in Scotland, as he got involved in the student and homeless ministries, it became clearer to him that his future would be in a pastoral rather than an academic role. The stark difference between his academic pursuits and his burgeoning pastoral role in Scotland was demonstrated by how

much more joy Caleb experienced sharing a meal twice a week with the homeless and speaking about the love of Christ than in the boredom and despair of explaining one more conjugation in Greek!

Returning to Toronto after this revelatory year in Scotland, Caleb pursued ministry in his former home contexts—other Baptist and evangelical churches. After a couple of years of struggle, he became a student chaplain in Montreal with the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship at Concordia University. At Concordia, he continually found joy in mentoring students, in creating volunteer groups for the student co-op kitchens, and even sharing his love of hip-hop music with those with whom he was sharing the Gospel.



August Flowers St. Martin's Garden courtesy David McKnight

While in Montreal, Caleb attended St. Peter's Anglican church—his first exposure to Anglicanism—in this case a more low church, prayer book parish. Having the chance to compare student ministry and parish ministry, Caleb felt further called to step outside of what he had known as his faith context—biblically-centred evangelicalism—to find a new way to be a Christian himself, one more deeply rooted in history, tradition, and especially prayer. After a year in Montreal, Caleb chose to pursue a Master of Divinity degree at Trinity College

with a prayer to find a better way to be a minister of the Gospel. On a providential encounter with a priest at Trinity, he was directed to St.

Bartholomew's in Regent's Park. At one of the first services he attended, the sermon was based on Matthew 6: don't worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. However, one of the families there had lost a son to gun violence that week. It was at this point Caleb saw what a comforting role that the church could play in the lives of suffering people. While the high church Anglo-Catholicism of St. Bart's was foreign, the love of Christ in that parish was not. Here God had answered the prayer Caleb made when leaving Montreal, and he has not looked back since.

Having recently completed his M.Div., Caleb has had the opportunity to serve at a number of parishes including his beloved St. Bart's, All Saints Kingsway (with the Rev. Patrick McManus), St. James Cathedral, and at St. Mary Magdalene's just before joining St. Martin's. Caleb's ministry and academic experience have been tremendously varied, so coming into the role of Children and Youth Ministry Associate, he is bringing skills such as technological expertise (like creating YouTube videos) as well as a deep understanding of biblical theology.

What most excites Caleb about this role is trying to do children and youth ministry in the context of the Anglican Church, especially the deep tradition of the Anglo-Catholic liturgy. Caleb admires St. Martin's commitment to including children and youth in the liturgy and hopes to add to such a prosperous ministry. Lastly, Caleb has a great desire to teach, including the task of preparing youth for Confirmation, and to be able to mentor, guide, prompt, and question these burgeoning young adults at such a formative stage when they decide whether they will continue to go forward with the baptismal promises made by their community. This will be Caleb's great privilege.

The Christmas Market

By The Market Mavens – Roseann Barrie and Kathie Wagg

Summer is over – at least according to the calendar. We know, the current weather tells another story,

but we're here to tell you that it really is over and the Christmas season is fast approaching. That means that St. Martin's Virtual Christmas Market is also fast approaching. Yes – virtual. We're just not sure what effect Covid's 4th wave will have on us all, so we are making sure that we keep all of you safe and healthy while we also raise much needed funds for the operation of the parish, as we did so successfully last year, thanks to each and every member of our Parish family and others as well!

The Market this year will take place from 6 pm on Friday, November 26 to 6 pm on Friday December 3rd. The weekend of December 4th to 5th will be the delivery and pick-up weekend. We are hoping that we won't be as restricted regarding numbers of people in the garden and in the basement as we were last year. If we are less restricted, we will have more in-person activities on those days. We will communicate these activities closer to the date once we know what restrictions we will face. Keep your eyes out for informational emails, Bulletin announcements, Facebook posts, and web page updates over the next two months.



September Flowers St. Martin's Garden Courtesy David McKnight

What we do know is that our virtual sale will have five "booths" available on the St. Martin's Facebook page:

1. **The Silent Auction** led by Susan Goddard: susan.educan@gmail.com; 647-444-2272

- As local businesses are suffering from Covid closures, help them by purchasing and donating gift cards
 - Make a beautiful, useful gift basket
- How about donating unused or very gently used equipment/appliances
 - Donate Event tickets, etc.
- 2. **Jewelry and Accessories** (Purses, scarves, gloves, etc.) led by Maggie Knight: maggieknight46@yahoo.ca; 905-409-4797
- Go through your jewelry and accessories and set aside some good quality new or nearly new pieces that you have not used in some time.
- 3. **Put a Lid on It** led by Roseann Barry: roseannbarry336@gmail.com; 1-905-570-6527
- Any reusable container made of any materials (wood, china, pottery, glass, metal, cardboard) empty or full with a lid or closure, of course. We are looking for new or nearly new items or possibly vintage. Many kinds of gifts fall into this category!
- 4. **Handicrafts and Christmas décor** led by Helen Kolberg: helenkolberg@gmail.com; 416-588-4903
- If you are crafty or know someone who is make or knit some personal items or home décor items and, of course, Christmas decorations.
- 5. **The Pastrycook** (Bake Sale) led by Kathie Wagg waggfamily@bell.net; 416-439-2171
- In addition to pies, cakes, etc., you could make some extra jars of jams, jellies, and other preserves.

You can see that there will be loads of opportunities to donate to all of these portfolios. We're sure you have all been collecting items to donate already.

In person activities on the Market weekend may include:

- Gayne Braun's Grab Bags
- Children's activities coordinated by Caleb Upton, our Children and Youth Ministry Associate
 - some baked goods if regulations permit
- and possibly BBQ back bacon on a bun by Glen and Lindsey if regulations permit

We are also considering an earlier drop-off date for all booths (except the bake sale) at the end of October – likely Saturday, October 30. We will provide more details about this date soon by email and other means.

We're sure you realize that this will only be a success if YOU participate by donating things, making things, baking things, and buying things, as well as sharing the Facebook page so your friends and family can also buy things, and, finally, by volunteering to help on the Market weekend, December 4th & 5th. Remember – TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

Please keep an eye out for further communications on the topic **St. Martin's Christmas Market**.



Garden Banner enhanced by Ingrid Whitaker

Project Swallowtail and St. Martin's Garden

By Ingrid Whitaker

For several years now, the trend in gardening is to use more native Canadian and North American plants. The reasons for this are both practical and beneficial: practical because native plants are adapted to our climate and can generally withstand harsh winters and hot, humid summers without the need for the constant care and watering of more delicate plant species. Beneficial because native plants attract our native bees, pollinators, and other insects. Much as we may dislike some insects, they provide food for birds thus helping the ecosystem. By using our own plant species, we help to restore nature. The natural world has been destroyed in many cities and the drive is on to help to restore our own very particular part of the natural world so that we can live in harmony with it, rather than trying to eradicate it.

Living in harmony with nature is very important in an urban and suburban environment where tarmac, concrete, and lawns dominate. Lawns, while pretty, do not help and often harm the environment. The Monarch Butterfly, for example, needs to feed on milkweed and this is not usually to be found in many suburban or urban lawns and gardens. Milkweed however can be found at St. Martins. We have a nice patch of it in the area behind the church and in the upper beds. We are part of an emerging Monarch Butterfly corridor in the west end of Toronto emanating from High Park and leading through Parkdale and west end neighbourhoods.

Project Swallowtail is a community network of friends and neighbours in the west end who hope to create habitats for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators here in the city. To this end they have been propagating, selling, and donating native Canadian plants in our area. Our own Patty McKnight is a part of this group.

St. Martin's is a Community Garden with Project Swallowtail and as such is the lucky recipient of a donation of many natural plants for our garden. We hope that as these plants grow, our garden will attract and feed more birds, bees, and butterflies and so help our own little ecosystem.

Of course, we still have a large lawn which is useful for church events and the Scouts and Guides events supported by St. Martin's, but by continuing to plant and use more native plants in our flower beds we hope to amend and restore nature in our little patch of green space.



Pollinator Garden Sign Photo courtesy David McKnight

Anyone visiting our garden in the spring or summer will see the full flourishing of nature as many bees buzz around the flower beds. By attracting bees, birds, and other pollinators to our garden, we are doing our part for the environment and continuing to restore our own natural Canadian ecosystem.

Mtr. Alison appointed to St. Andrew-bythe-Lake

By Ian Greene



In August, Mtr. Alison Hari-Singh assumed her position as priest-in-charge of St. Andrew-by-the-Lake Anglican Church on Toronto Island. This historic church dates from 1884.



Collage presented to Mtr. Alison by St. Martin's

Mtr. Alison's last Sunday at St. Martin's was on July 25, when she was presented with a collage of photos with memories of St. Martin's.

Mtr. Alison, Jeff and Ava will be greatly missed at St. Martin's, and we look forward to keeping in touch either with their visits to us, or ours to them on the Island.

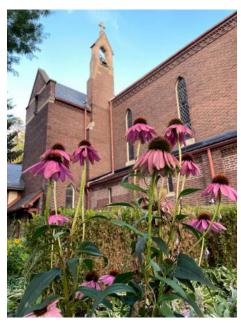




September photos in St. Martin's garden courtesy David McKnight







Hot off the press: Caleb Upton, our Children and Youth Ministry Associate, is in the process of putting together a short play about the life of St. Martin in which he hopes to involve the young people and others in mounting this fall, using digital means. If interested contact Caleb at: Calebdupton@gmail.com (don't forget the 'd' in between the names!).



NOTICE: St. Martin's is advertising to hire an **Office Administrator**. Please see the link to the job posting at the top of the St. Martin's web page.