

Saint Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CANTON, OH



The Lion's Pause

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
CANTON, OH



Greetings!

In the brief "Farewell and Godspeed" liturgy that we use when it becomes necessary to bid farewell to treasured members of our parish, there is a congregational response. It reads,

As members of our family, you have given much. As members of your family, we will miss you. Yet we know that you have much to give the members of your new church family. And so we wish you farewell and Godspeed.

I will ask you to join me on Sunday in offering Godspeed to Rhonda and Norm Warren. Given their many multi-faceted contributions to St. Mark's, this is difficult—and the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic make it even more so. But the words of the congregational response remind us that we are not simply saying farewell to the Warrens. We are sending them forth not only to a different state (Florida) but to new ministries.



Please consider carefully the questions posed in the survey that is being distributed this week by the church office. The vestry, your wardens, and I will be guided by your views in planning for the summer and the fall. There are few easy choices these days, but in our scheduling of services at St.

Mark's we are fortunate to have several positive alternatives: a beautiful sanctuary "in the woods," a serviceable shelter on the other side of the church, and a nave large enough to accommodate the people of St. Mark's in safe compliance with state and diocesan policies.



Guided by state and diocesan policies, we hope to resume regular mid-week office hours on Wednesday, July 15. Both the interim rector and the office manager will be present. Requiring no reservation, the hours will be 10-2.

In the meantime, office hours will continue to be available by reservation on Sundays from 10 to 12. If you wish to speak with Fr. Gaston or to reserve time alone in the sanctuary, please call Katie at 330-499-2662 or email her at office@stmarks-canton.org no later than noon on Saturday.

(1) You may make an appointment for 30 minutes or for 1 hour.

(2) Only two visitors may visit at a time—though exceptions can be made for members of the same family. All visitors must wear masks. Fr. Gaston will wear a mask as well.

(3) Discussions with Fr. Gaston will take place in the library, which will be sanitized following each visitor. No one should enter the church office.

We hope that it will be possible to relax these limitations in mid-July. We will provide clarification early next month.

Fr. Paul

Third Sunday after Pentecost:

[Read This Week's
Lessons](#)

Join us Sunday at 9:00am for Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary in the Woods.

Sunday Live Stream

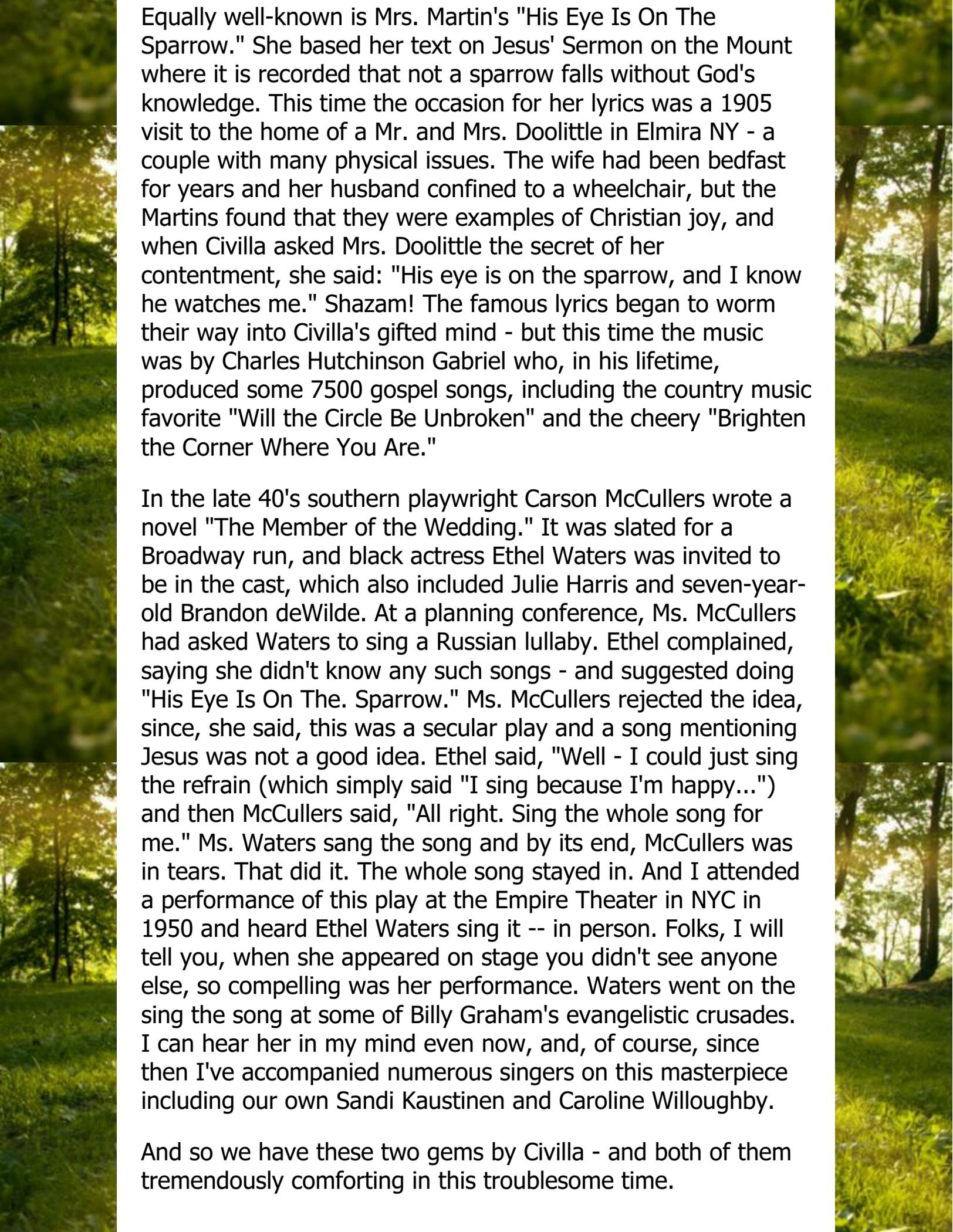
On Sunday we will live stream Morning

Prayer from the Sanctuary in the Woods. You will be able to access the stream by visiting our [Facebook page](#) (an account is not required.) Our video content will be the first posted content in the videos section and should indicate that we are "live".



A Note from Mr. Bob Morrison:

Two by Civilla: Civilla Durfee Martin is best remembered today for the lyrics of "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" and, as I wrote about last week, "God Will Take Care of You." She was born in Nova Scotia, taught Sunday School and music before marrying Walter Stillman Martin, a graduate of Harvard and a popular Baptist preacher. His friend John Davis was compiling a Gospel songbook and asked Martin for editorial assistance. To that end, Rev. and Mrs. Martin spent some time in Lestershire NY at a Bible school. The town is located near Binghamton on the north side of the Susquehanna River. In 1916 it was re-named Johnson City in honor of Endicott Johnson who established a thriving shoe factory. While there, Martin was asked to preach at a church at some distance from the school, but as the day approached, Civilla became ill, and Martin thought it might be well to cancel his preaching engagement, whereupon their young son said, "Father, don't you think that if God wants you to preach today, he will take care of mother while you're away?" Agreeing, Martin kept his preaching appointment - and - thankfully - when he got home he discovered Civilla on the mend - in fact, feeling so good she had written the hymn we know so well, "God Will Take Care of You." That very evening Martin composed the tune and the next year it appeared in *Songs of Redemption and Praise* and was soon a favorite of Christian people everywhere. Curiously enough, my mother told me that, in her Baltimore home, about the turn of the century. Mr. and Mrs. Martin were guests, and spent the evening singing hymns. My mother must have been quite young, because she said "they sang the whole hymnal through."



Equally well-known is Mrs. Martin's "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." She based her text on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where it is recorded that not a sparrow falls without God's knowledge. This time the occasion for her lyrics was a 1905 visit to the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle in Elmira NY - a couple with many physical issues. The wife had been bedfast for years and her husband confined to a wheelchair, but the Martins found that they were examples of Christian joy, and when Civilla asked Mrs. Doolittle the secret of her contentment, she said: "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me." Shazam! The famous lyrics began to worm their way into Civilla's gifted mind - but this time the music was by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel who, in his lifetime, produced some 7500 gospel songs, including the country music favorite "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" and the cheery "Brighten the Corner Where You Are."

In the late 40's southern playwright Carson McCullers wrote a novel "The Member of the Wedding." It was slated for a Broadway run, and black actress Ethel Waters was invited to be in the cast, which also included Julie Harris and seven-year-old Brandon deWilde. At a planning conference, Ms. McCullers had asked Waters to sing a Russian lullaby. Ethel complained, saying she didn't know any such songs - and suggested doing "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." Ms. McCullers rejected the idea, since, she said, this was a secular play and a song mentioning Jesus was not a good idea. Ethel said, "Well - I could just sing the refrain (which simply said "I sing because I'm happy...") and then McCullers said, "All right. Sing the whole song for me." Ms. Waters sang the song and by its end, McCullers was in tears. That did it. The whole song stayed in. And I attended a performance of this play at the Empire Theater in NYC in 1950 and heard Ethel Waters sing it -- in person. Folks, I will tell you, when she appeared on stage you didn't see anyone else, so compelling was her performance. Waters went on to sing the song at some of Billy Graham's evangelistic crusades. I can hear her in my mind even now, and, of course, since then I've accompanied numerous singers on this masterpiece including our own Sandi Kaustinen and Caroline Willoughby.

And so we have these two gems by Civilla - and both of them tremendously comforting in this troublesome time.

Prayer

Concerns

Paul Welch, Ken McPeek, Billie Robertson, Emilie Korosi, Joan Werren, Ron and Peg Hill, Conley Family, Briggs Family, Susan

Family and Friends: Don, Corbin Angeli, Thelma (friends/family of Jan Hudson), Suzy Clark (friend of Hixons'), Stacy Biglin (acquaintance of Derek Gordon), Autumn (granddaughter of Kerry and Zev), Bob Patterson (friend of Diana Cornell), Adriana (Pam McCarthy's daughter's friend), Jacobo-Quijada Family (Mandy Pelger's Student), Lynn McBride (father of Beth Crawl), John Grandage (Kim Nadel's brother), Monica McGrath (cousin of Katie Cerroni-Arnold), Kellie Shuman (family of Giammarcos'), Baby David (friend of the Schaub's), Rose and Brian Gregory (friends of Ten Gall), Linda Kendrick, Marianne L. (friends of Kieslings'), Amara (granddaughter of Ken Jaeb), Conrad Family (friends of the Rands), Nancy Sauer and Helen Carnahan (friends to Diana Cornell), Will Disman (friend of Sandy Paradis' son), John Russell, Erin Barr, Baby Hudson, John Streb (friends of the Mulls), Pastor Marilyn Roman (friend of St. Mark's), Lynnda Hoefler (friend of Sue Little), Linda Gibson (sister of Bobbi Gordon), Katie Campbell (friend of Boyds'), Johnny Willoughby, Bobby Guerin (friend of Pam McCarthy), Jim Mesko (friend of Jim Weaver), Michelle Gibson-Garber (friends of the Gordons) Donald Pentz (friend of the Rands)

For all those serving in the armed forces.

For all those who have died.

Please share updates with Bobbi Gordon.

PRAYER CHAIN:

St. Mark's has a group of prayer warriors who pray for specific needs of those on the prayer chain. If you would like to place yourself or a loved one on the prayer chain, please contact Bobbi Gordon at ggordon24@sbcglobal.net

Please note, prayer requests may be placed on the Prayer Chain, in the Prayer Concerns list appearing here and in the Sunday bulletin, or in both places. Please let Bobbi know your preference.

Online Giving



To facilitate stewardship during this difficult time, the Diocese has launched an online giving resource. Simply set up your one-time or recurring gift and select your parish from the pull-down menu (Canton, St. Mark's). The Diocese will transfer

your gift to St. Mark's.

You can add instructions to your donation. (IE: operations, mask initiative, restoration, etc.) If you have questions on this, please contact the [office](#).

We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

[Designate a Gift to St. Mark's](#)



515 48TH ST. NW CANTON, OH 44709
330.499.2662 | OFFICE@STMARKS-CANTON.ORG
WWW.STMARKS-CANTON.ORG

We seek to unite all people with God and each other in Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and service.

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