

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

I had anticipated being in the midst of construction this month. I had also envisioned, with excitement, seeing a greatly expanded outreach program funded through increased endowment income. With the pending sale of land to PUMH delayed because of the lack of a bond market, neither of these two dreams is on track. So what now?

We can still be the welcoming and worshipping community of faith that gathers regularly at 117 Maplewood Street. The worship and activities that have brought each of us here, and continue to intrigue and attract others, have not changed. Perhaps this coming Lent might be a time to reflect on all the blessings that continue to be ours and to also revisit our Outreach programs to see where each of us might be connected. The commitment of the Outreach Committee to sponsor the coffee hour once every two months, and in that context to highlight certain of their activities, might be contagious for others to volunteer in hospitality efforts and/or in even broader involvement in reaching out to those in need only a few miles from our doors.

In the midst of all this activity be mindful of those who show up to worship with us. Welcome them in the midst of distractions and planning. Help them find seats, worship folders and hymnals. Please hold our parish mission statement regularly before you. Continue to wonder how we may more fully respond to the needs and concerns of our congregation and those people who share this world with us.

I pray that we may be open to God's leading in all our decision making and interactions during

this potentially fruitful year. I welcome your suggestions as to opportunities for spiritual growth, caring for one another and needs we might reach out to in this part of God's creation.

I continue to be open to a healthy sharing of suggestions and views, and invite you to join me on an exploration of where we sense God's Spirit to be leading us. I am regularly able to communicate with many of you via e-mail, individually and with group mailings, bwickham@stmarthasbethany.org.

In Christ's accepting and affirming Spirit,

Bill Wickham

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Martha's Episcopal Church is to make God known, to welcome all of God's children, by assisting with the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of our parishioners, visitors and community through worship, love, study and service.

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

When it seemed that we would start construction this past October we began the initial steps towards a Capital Campaign to supplement the endowment interest income that would flow from the land sale to PUMH for the new CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) to be built on the larger portion of the Lighthipe property. These preliminary

actions led to pledges of \$66,250 towards a projected goal of \$500,000. In addition to help fund the total construction over a 20 year period, this Capital Campaign would then make us eligible to receive a proportional matching grant from the Diocese of Delaware. Once it became evident that the construction would be delayed, we decided not to go on to the next two steps in the campaign until we could provide detailed information to those approached on the funding and time table for construction.

Many of those who initially made pledges are following through with their intended payments. In addition, a few others, hearing of the project and desiring to show their support, have made either pledges or contributions towards the eventual construction. Dianne Burlew is the treasurer for this campaign and any contributions will be welcomed prior to the resumption of the campaign.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENTEN OFFERINGS

Two booklets are available for Lenten reading. One is the regular Forward Day by Day. The second is Peace and Compassion Meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development. Copies of both are available in the narthex on the left as you enter St. Martha's.

SHROVE TUESDAY, February 24, Mariner's UM, set-up at 10 am, meal, 5-7 pm, and clean-up at 6:45.

ASH WEDNESDAY services are scheduled for February 25 at 12 noon and 7:00 pm. Both times will include the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN WEDNESDAYS are a yearly feature of our area sponsored by the Southeast Sussex Ministerium. Each Wednesday includes a soup and salad supper

beginning at 5:00 pm with a service following at 7:00 pm. This years schedule is:

- March 4 St. George's United Methodist, Clarksville
- March 11 Ocean View Presbyterian, Ocean View
- March 18 St. Ann's Roman Catholic, Bethany Beach
- March 25 Mariner's Bethel Methodist, Ocean View
- April 1 Bethany Beach Christian with St. Martha's salads & preacher

Please note the sign-up sheet to assist on April 1st with salads and/or serving.

ADDITIONAL PLEDGES

David Carroll, Nancy Milloy and George Watson have also made pledges for 2009, bringing the total number of signed commitments to 104. Our total has now reached \$175,287, just exceeding our goal of \$175,000. We are especially thankful for this increased total and number of pledges in light of an economic time that could have provided an excuse not to respond, or to cut back. We will still need to closely monitor our spending and income, but these pledge results are deeply gratifying!

OUTREACH NEWS

- Jere Wise

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, January 13th with the following members present: Ted Radcliffe (Chair), Pauline Wise, Mary Lou Dogoloff, Mary Thormeyer, Joyce Wickham, Bill Wickham, George Watson, and Jere Wise.

Mary Thormeyer gave a final report on the Angel Tree project. The highly successful project provided Christmas presents to needy children at Hickory Tree and Lord Baltimore Elementary School.

The Outreach Committee will host a Sunday Coffee every other month following the service. The first coffee was January 11th where photos were displayed featuring the children who were Angel Tree recipients. Each Outreach-hosted coffee will feature photos of sponsored projects. The committee approved the purchase of a digital picture frame with revenue received from the Book Sales. The next Outreach Coffee will be on March 22nd.

Bill Wickham reviewed the current status of the PUMH transactions which impact the Outreach 2009 budget. Due to the uncertainty of revenue, the budget for this year will, for the time being, follow the 2008 budget guidelines.

Books are desperately needed for the children residing at Hickory Tree. These are books for pre-school through the 5th grade. The Outreach Committee will sponsor a book drive at St. Martha's during the month of March. It is suggested that each parish member bring to church 1 or 2 appropriate books new or used (in good condition). When making your selection, you are reminded that some of the children are from diversity cultures or backgrounds. A book suggestion list will be posted on the bulletin board at a later date. More details regarding this project will follow.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:00 p.m. The next Outreach meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 1:00 p.m.



Dennis and I would like to extend a thank you for all the cards and offers of assistance extended to us in the last month since Dennis' knee replacement surgery and subsequent rehabilitation. In particular, thanks to Lynne and Wally Watson, Mary Lou & Lee Dogoloff,

Bill & Joyce Wickham, Lee & Jim Moore, Pauline & Jere Wise, and Mary Thormeyer for the prepared (and I might add delicious) meals for Dennis and Alex while I was in NJ. Thanks also to Wally for being chauffer for various appointments when I or Alex were not available.

So much help was offered that we could not accept all of it, but we appreciate all the efforts by the parishioners of St. Martha's in trying to make our life easier.

Kathy and Dennis Rhodes

MARDI GRAS

A Mardi Gras celebration and Pot Luck Supper will be held at St. Martha's on Saturday, February 21, at 4 pm. This is the time you can dress up in costume if you wish. The entrée will be a honey baked ham. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the kitchen for you to indicate the dish of your choice to complete the meal. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided and you are invited to bring wine to enjoy with your meal. If you have any questions please call Ron Steen, 539-9160.

EPISCOPAL WORKCAMP

An Episcopal Work Camp is scheduled for June 7-13 at Camp Arrowhead outside Rehoboth Beach. Volunteers will eat and sleep at Camp Arrowhead and then go out in teams to area worksites to provide repairs for those unable to make or pay for the repairs themselves. See the bulletin board for details or contact Tom McCormick, 537-4516, mccormick50@aol.com

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

We will be offering a Bible Study on the Thursdays during Lent at 7:00 pm, beginning

February 26. The sessions will be led by Dana Sears Schaefer. Those attending do not to be bible scholars, or even regular scripture readers, but simply desire to read, discuss and learn more. For more information you may contact Dana, 829-8539, or the rector.

WORSHIP ROLE OPPORTUNITIES

As our congregation continues to grow, and as we provide an 8:00 am service beyond the summer season, additional assistance is sought from both newer and longer term participants. Might you be a candidate to:

Read the first lesson at 8:00 or 10:00

Contact Tom McCormick: 537-4516

Usher at either service

Contact Bill Wickham: 539-7444

Acolyte

Contact Bill Wickham: 539-7444

Assist with communion at 8:00 or 10:00

Contact Bill Wickham: 539-7444

Lead the Prayers of the People

Contact Tom McCormick: 537-4516

Join the Bell Choir

Contact Kathy Rhodes: 841-4398

Serve on the Altar Guild at 8:00 or 10:00

Contact Lois Radcliffe: 537-6069

Greet arrivals at 8:00 or 10:00

Contact Don Clarke: 539-3702

Sing in the Choir

Contact Kathy Rhodes: 841-4398

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for its monthly meeting on January 19. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the minutes were accepted and treasurer's reports for November and December were approved. John Robbert, Senior Warden, suggested all reports be distributed for review prior to the meetings. He

will follow up with Jim Moore to consider new web site software. John also asked that appreciation be given to the Outreach Committee for the informative Angel Tree Project display at the recent coffee hour. Paul Ross, Junior Warden, submitted a list of recent actions and proposes a revised list of security contacts.

Barbara Harris reported on Sunday School activities. Patty Reichert told members that proofs for the new Church Directory have arrived. Jack Smith reported that 104 pledges have been received for a total of \$175,267, exceeding our goal by \$267. He also updated the vestry on the initial steps to install the new ACS financial and membership software.

Bill Wickham explained the revised construction schedule and the updated Purchase Agreement with PUMH for 42 acres of the Lighthipe property for a CCRC facility. Due to the uncertain economic picture the closing will be delayed, and thus funds will not be available to start church construction when planned.

The vestry voted to have our delegates to Diocesan Convention be Jere Wise and Barb Harris, with Patty Reichert as alternate. Approval was given for Outreach to send \$1,000 to Food For Thought at Frankford Elementary School as the first installment for 2009.

The rector led a closing prayer at 8:40.



ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

- 3RD MARY LOU & LEE DOGOLOFF
 - 5TH DOTTIE & ED SEYFRIED
 - 12TH MARY PERKINS &
KEN HOOKER
 - 14TH JANE & JOHN ROBBERT
-



BIRTHDAYS—FEBRUARY, 2009

February 1	Ron Steen
3	Jere Wise
6	Jeffrey Socorso
7	Marie Hogsten
10	Penny Hopkins
12	Paige Steen
14	Barbara Del Mastro
15	Joe Citro
17	Bob Murray
19	Dennis Rhodes & Pierre Shostal
22	John Whitney
23	Pauline Wise
25	Wally Watson
29	Patricia Jones

CAREPARTNERS

Carepartners is the name for a gathering of people from St. Martha's and the local area who have ongoing care concern and responsibility. This might involve a parent, a spouse, a child or someone else who has continuing health issues. Bill Wickham has convened this group at 1:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the area in the rear of the church nave. Next meetings will be February 4 & 18. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

As we become more active as a congregation meeting space needs to be reserved in advance. Please call the church office,

539-7444, ask to speak to Lynne Watson, to request times and dates for meetings or for your activity. We are glad to have our space used but want to insure that we do not double book desired areas.

The large calendar at the top of the bulletin board next to Lynne's desk list the monthly activities already scheduled.

Please check this calendar for available dates & times before scheduling an activity or meeting with your group.

SELBYVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

A food bank in Selbyville is supported by the Southeast Sussex Ministerium and has been given \$500 from the Book Sales proceeds. Located at Salem United Methodist Church, the Pantry is open on third Saturdays each month. Volunteers are needed to help carry food to cars beginning at 8:45 am. Food donations are also welcomed.

GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Adult Choir	Wednesdays	7:00 pm
Bell Choir	Thursdays	7:15 pm
Endowment	February 9	4:30 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	
Long Range Planning	TBA	
Outreach	2 nd Tuesdays	1:30 pm
Prison Bible Study	3 rd Thursdays	5:00 pm
Vestry	3 rd Mondays	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	February 18	4:00 Pm
AA	Mondays	8:00 am
	Tuesdays	8:00 am
	Wednesdays	12:00 pm
	Thursdays	8:00 am
	Fridays	8:00 am
Strategic Planning	TBA	7:00 pm
Bariatric Surgery Gp	3 rd Thursdays	7:00 pm
Cub Scouts	Wednesdays	6:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm

Narcotics Anonymous	Sundays	7:30 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Way Home	2 nd Monday	7:00 pm

INQUIRERS and TRANSFERS

How does one become a member of St. Martha's Church?

This is a commonly asked question. Options are:

- 1- Request a transfer from the congregation where you are presently a member. Lynne Watson can request these from Episcopal Churches or you may contact the church on your own.
- 2- Be presented to the Bishop at his visitation in September for confirmation, or for Reception if previously with the Roman Catholic Church. Speak to the rector about your desire or questions.
- 3- Write out your full name, place and date of birth, and place and date of baptism and give this to the rector or parish secretary for entry into the parish register.

ALSO, Bill Wickham will be offering a series of information and discussion sessions for those toying with the possibility of joining St. Martha's and/or being confirmed or received by the Bishop. These will be held on Sunday mornings, 9:00 – 9:45 am. The tentative dates are April 19 and 26, and May 3, 10 and 17. The specific focus for each Sunday will be publicized in advance of the series.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteer Mary Wuslich coming in on Tuesdays and Lorraine Carr on Fridays, to both

answer the phone and assist with certain projects. Additionally, Harry and Ruth Adams, Don and Carolyn Clarke, Archie & Ruth Ellis, Joanne Levy, and Pauline & Jere Wise help with folding, labeling and putting stamps on newsletters, Christmas & Easter letters, and stewardship mailings.

If you might help, please contact either Lynne Watson or Bill Wickham. All volunteers are periodically away and substitutes are very important as well.



AN INVITATION

The Chancel Choir is beginning rehearsals again in February. I would invite anyone that would like to join us for Lent and Easter to come to our rehearsals which are regularly scheduled for Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. They are usually an hour in length and we would welcome any additions, especially sopranos and altos.

Hope to see you there.

Kathleen B. Rhodes
Parish Musician

CASA BROWN BAG PROJECT UPDATE

Many thanks to those of you who have been participating in the Casa Brown Bag Project. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those who receive your food donations. As the holidays approach, participation becomes even more important.

The following statistics are taken from the Casa San Francisco newsletter: From July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007...

- 151 individuals were housed in the shelter for 3,036 nights.
- 351 households received 871 bags of emergency food.
- 94 individuals attended 98 English as a Second Language classes.
- 180 Individuals received 5,698 hot meals.
- 250 households received 55, 726 pounds of food through the Brown Bag program.
- 195 households received \$43,071 of emergency financial assistance.

As you can see, wonderful and valuable work is being done in the community and we at St. Martha's are helping out tremendously. But the work is never done. So, once again, you are urged to take a Brown Bag from the narthex with a list of suggested foods, shop, fill the bag, and return it to the church. Regular deliveries of donations are made to Casa.
