

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

We have just entered into the season of Lent. Our revised purple worship folders have a more somber tone, with penitential selections and no use of alleluias. Many of you are using the Peace and Compassion Lenten Meditations provided by Episcopal Relief and Development. These booklets alternate between days with suggestions for quiet personal reflection and others that bring to mind the needs and hurts of others. The Millennium Development Goals referred to are:

- 1- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- 2- Achieve universal primary education for children
- 3- Promote gender equality and empower women.
- 4- Reduce child mortality.
- 5- Improve maternal health.
- 6- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.
- 7- Ensure environmental sustainability.
- 8- Create a global partnership for development.

Perhaps by reflecting with this booklet, you might find one of these goals speaking to you in a personal and unique manner. If number 7 catches your attention, you might want to pick up a copy of Carbon Fast from the narthex. If Bible Study feels like a desire, consider attending on Thursday evenings. There is no one right way to observe Lent, so prayerfully consider what might center you in your personal spiritual life and allow you to more fully enter into the life and people and concerns that surround you.

In the midst of all that we are about to 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.

LENTEN OFFERINGS

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 includes:

March 4	St. George's UM, Clarksville
March 11	Ocean View Presbyterian
March 18	St. Ann's Roman Catholic
March 25	Mariner's Bethel UM
April 1	Bethany Beach Christian w/St. Martha's

Copies of Forward Day By Day and Peace and Compassion Meditations from Episcopal Relief and Development are available in the narthex for Lenten prayer and reflection.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Our worship offerings from April 5 – 12 are as follows. **Please note the Easter services.**

Palm Sunday, April 5th

8:00 am	Liturgy of Palms & Holy Eucharist
10:00 am	Liturgy of Palms & Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

7:00 pm	Footwashing, Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar
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Good Friday, April 10th

12 noon	Good Friday Liturgy
1:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy

Easter, April 12th

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:30 am	Choral Holy Eucharist with bells
10:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am Choral Holy Eucharist with bells

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for its monthly meeting on February 16. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the minutes were accepted and treasurer's reports for January was approved. Jeff announced that the proceeds from the golf tournament, \$2,232.00, will be turned over to the Outreach Committee. The vestry then celebrated Jeff's 6+ years as parish treasurer with an ice cream cake!

The vestry next elected Mark Hopkins to treasurer beginning March 1st, and Paul Stutts as assistant treasurer. John Robbert, Senior Warden, reporting for the Endowment Committee, proposed that an initial allocation of \$10,000 be made, to be split equally between Outreach and Inreach. The vestry approved this motion with an understanding that additional funds might be allocated later in the year depending upon the market. Paul Ross, Junior Warden, submitted a list of recent actions and proposals, including a review of contracts for landscaping, mowing, cleaning and the office copier.

Patty Reichert told members that proofs for the new Church Directory have been reviewed and returned for printing. We probably will not install the ACS financial and membership software as it does not seem to be helpful for our needs.

Bill Wickham explained the continuing discussions with PUMH for the 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 until at least late in 2009. Dianne Burlew, construction treasurer, was authorized to repay part of the

funds borrowed from the diocese, and thus free up some monies for parish outreach programs.

The vestry voted to approve the use of \$1,800 from proceeds of the book sales for our musical program as recommended by the book committee.

Paul Ross was elected as the vestry member of the Architectural & Construction Committee.

The rector led a closing prayer at 9:00.

OUTREACH NEWS

- Joyce Wickham

The Outreach Committee met on February 10 with the following members present: Ted Radcliffe, Jere Wise, Mary Lou Dogoloff, Dottie Seyfried, George Watson, Bill Jarboe, Dennis Rhodes, Joyce Wickham, Mary Thormeyer, and Bill Wickham. Ted opened the meeting with prayer.

Outreach opened with discussion regarding the 2008 and 2009 budgets. The 2009 budget will be very similar to that of 2008 due to current economic constraints.

Ted shared the good news that he and Lois's daughter, Linda Maxwell, a teacher at Frankford Elementary School, was named Teacher of the Year there. Congratulations to Linda, Ted, and Lois. Linda spoke at St. Martha's not too long ago about the Food For Thought Program, which Ted started at the Frankford school, and which Outreach supports each year. It is a very successful program that provides extra food for children at the school who might otherwise go without.

The Outreach Committee is launching a Book Drive for the Hickory Tree after school program. This low income housing project in Selbyville is one St. Martha's has supported with the September backpack project and the

Angel Tree. Our efforts have been greatly appreciated. The Book Drive will provide the children with new books to read after they've finished their homework. A bin is available in the narthex for the books, along with suggested Reading Lists if you need help with your selections. Also, the two Bethany Beach bookstores-----Bethany Beach Books and the Atlantic Bookstore-----will have copies of our suggested lists. Thanks for your help with this project. We ask all books be in by Easter Sunday.

Bill Wickham announced that the Camp Arrowhead brochures are available in his office, or on the parish bulletin board. If you know of a child who could benefit from a wonderful camp experience at this Episcopal camp in Rehoboth Beach, please pick up a brochure. Scholarships are provided through a combined effort of the diocese and Outreach. There will be an Open House at Camp Arrowhead on April 5th from 2 to 4PM.

Meeting adjourned, with prayer, until next meeting March 10 at 1 pm.

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 of the month. Next meetings will be March 4 & 18. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

MEDITATION GROUP

A meditation group will meet at St. Martha's on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 4-5 pm, beginning March 10th. Cyndee Trower, who has led yoga and meditation groups, will

be the leader. Contact Dottie Seyfried, 537-2286, for more information.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study is meeting at St. Martha's on Thursdays at 7:00 pm during Lent. Those attending each week will be reading and discussing parts of the Gospel of John. Please consider joining others for this informal discussion, even if you can only make some of the sessions. Dana Sears Schaefer is leading the study.

SHOREBIRDS

The past couple of years have been exciting for a large number of St. Martha's members who have taken a bus, sponsored by Book Sales proceeds, to see a Delmarva Shorebirds game in Salisbury. Mark and Kim West have taken care of all arrangements in the past, but would now like to pass this on to a couple of other volunteers. Bill Wickham has copies of the relevant information, and Kim & Mark would be able to clarify details. Might you and a friend be willing to take this on?

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, mccormick5o@aol.com

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.

EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting of the Delaware Chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship will be Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Pine & Academy Streets, Georgetown.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteers Lorraine Carr, Martha Fields, and Mary Wuslich assist with weekly projects. Additionally, Harry and Ruth Adams, Archie & Ruth Ellis, Joanne Levy, and Pauline & Jere Wise help with folding, labeling and putting stamps on newsletters, Christmas letters, and stewardship mailings.

If you might help, please contact either Lynne Watson or Bill Wickham, 539-7444. All volunteers are periodically away and substitutes are very important as well.

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, our parish secretary, can request these from Episcopal Churches or you may contact the church on your own.
- 2- Be presented to the Bishop upon 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.



BIRTHDAYS – MARCH, 2009

- MARCH**
- 1 GEORGE WATSON
 - 3 BUD PALMER
 - 5 JERRY MCCLURE
 - 7 Elizabeth Reichert
 - 11 Diann Nazarian
 - 12 Ed Berling & Gregory Pfister
 - 15 Edith Adkins
 - 16 Pam Wenninger, John Robbert, & Buck Smith
 - 17 Rebecca Brewer & Dick Sprague
 - 20 Claude Tew
 - 21 Jane Battles
 - 22 Jim Moore
 - 24 Michelle Parsons
 - 27 Randy Miller & Ken Hooker
 - 29 Mary Beth Murray, & Don Boebel
 - 30 Cathy Smith



ANNIVERSARY

MARCH 15TH KEN & FRAN MARTA



Last month I neglected to thank Joanne Levy for her lasagna dinner for Dennis and Alex. That's what happens when you try to do something from memory.

Kathy Rhodes



RING THOSE BELLS!

It is a growing tradition in many churches for parishioners to bring hand-held bells to church on Easter Sunday and ring them during festive hymns at the beginning and the end of the service to accompany the singing of each "Alleluia". We did it last year and it was so well received we will be repeating it again this year. So dust off your bells and make a joyful noise on Easter Sunday.

GROUPS & MEETINGS – MARCH

AA	Mondays	8:00 am
	Tuesdays	8:00 am
	Wednesdays	12:00 pm
	Thursdays	8:00 am
	Fridays	8:00 am
Adult Choir	Wednesdays	7:00 pm
Bariatric Surgery Gp	3 rd Thursdays	7:00 pm
Bell Choir	Thursdays	7:30 pm
Endowment	April 27	4:30 pm
Finance	March 17	2:00 pm
GA	Mondays	7:00 pm

Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	9:00 am
Long Range Planning	March 2	7:00 pm
NA	Sundays	7:30 pm
Outreach	2 nd Tuesdays	1:00 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Pastoral Care	TBA	
Prison Bible Study	3 rd Thursdays	5:00 pm
Strategic Planning	TBA	7:00 pm
Vestry	March 16	7:00 pm
Way Home	2 nd Monday	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	May 20	4:00 pm
