

ST MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

Our proposed sale of 42 acres of the "Lighthipe property" to PUMH for the construction of their 5th CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) on the Delmarva Peninsula is still delayed. Although PUMH is encouraged by the interest expressed by potential residents, the economy has deflated the bond market which is essential for their borrowing of construction funds. They are presently talking with potential equity partners to be better positioned for an improved bond market and to be able to access other short term reserve funding.

The sale delay has also affected St. Martha's plans in the following ways:

Our expansion construction is on hold since PUMH payments are needed to fund the project.

Our Outreach Committee, although able to maintain the funding level of 2008, will need to put off other envisioned plans.

We will need to reduce our spending where possible since we had been counting on "reserve funds" to balance our budget each year and these funds have been largely spent on preconstruction architectural, legal, design and other expenses. We are presently looking at various options: Reduce the Sunday bulletins from 2 pages to 1, saving paper and staples.

By August, to post the newsletter on our web site and only mail copies to those without internet access. (PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ONE OF THESE)

Replace our leased Xerox printer with a newer model with fewer features.

(done)

Consider less use of A/C and heating.

Eliminate the use of colored paper.

Reinstitute the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Stop advertising in the local weeklies, perhaps in August.

Consider changes with our phone and internet providers.

Have a special, one time, fund drive.

Despite the above possible measures, please continue to be supportive of our Outreach efforts to assist those most hurting in our society and to gather with excitement and joy on Sunday mornings.

In the midst of all that we are about 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.

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for its monthly meeting on May 18. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the minutes were accepted and treasurer's report for March was approved.

The vestry approved a full audit of our books for the 2008 calendar year for a fee of \$3,450.

Outreach Committee actions were endorsed to continue funding of Our Little Roses, an orphanage and school for abandoned girls in Honduras, \$3,000 in 2009, and also for Our Souls Episcopal Church in New Orleans, \$3,000 in 2009.

Considerable discussion then ensued over how to balance the budget in light of the delay in PUMH's planned CCRC construction and the related sale of the Lighthipe property. A distinction was made between discretionary items and those, such as most of Outreach, which are funded primarily through restricted funds.

The Finance Committee will be meeting on May 27 to follow up on various financial issues.

The rector led a closing prayer at 8:45.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- Barbara Harris

As the weather changes and the warm winds arrive, so does the increase of children to our Sunday School. As we welcome our friends, grandchildren, and young people we need to meet the needs of quite a range of age levels.

We are finding a great need for more than one teacher during Sunday School for safety reasons as well as instructional concerns. We need several things. If we can have people sign up for extra coverage if there is a need, we would be very grateful. You would sign up on the sheet near the kitchen, check in with the Sunday School teacher that morning to assist and then wait to see if there is a need that Sunday. If the teacher is all set, you wouldn't need to stay.

The other concern is the need for more volunteers for teaching. This is such a rewarding opportunity. We have plans already in place and can help you with whatever you need. It would be very helpful if one person can provide coverage for the preschool age level and another for elementary age. Let us know if you'd like to talk about this possibility. Please contact Bill Wickham at bwickham@stmarthasbethany.org or Barbara Harris at barbharris@mchsi.com.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- Mary Wuslich

Our committee of 12 members met in April and May and plans are in the works to continue to collect gently used bikes for use by students. Our aim is to have a number of them ready by June 1st to give out at the 3 orientations being held by ResortQuest during that month. If you have any bikes to donate please call the church at 539-7444 or Mary Wuslich at 539-6701.

With the formation of the community sponsored organization "Quiet Resorts International Student Committee", some of the projects we took on in previous years will now be handled through them. Resulting from that, St. Martha's will sponsor two picnics this summer - one on Tuesday June 23rd and one on Tuesday Aug. 18th. They will be held on the church grounds from 5-8 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted in back of the church on May 31st for the June picnic and we would greatly appreciate any donations of fruit or vegetable salads, cookies and bar cookies.

OUTREACH NEWS

- Pauline Wise

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, May 12th. The following members were present: Ted Radcliffe (Chair), Bill Wickham, Mary Lou Dogoloff, Dottie Seyfried, Mary Thormeyer, Joyce Wickham, Jere Wise.

Bill Wickham reported that approximately 25 students will be offered scholarships to Camp Arrowhead this summer. This is a significant increase over the 6 or 7 attendees we had a few years ago. The response from the local elementary schools has been gratifying.

The committee approved a \$3000.00 dispersement for "Our Little Roses", a school and orphanage for abandoned girls in Honduras; and a \$3000.00 dispersement for All Souls Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Both items were budgeted and will be sent to the Vestry for final approval.

Dottie reported the Bishop's Coffee sale is going well. The committee will continue to sell coffee at both services for a few more weeks.

The Food for Thought Program will be Outreach's theme for June. The need to feed hungry school children continues to increase. The possibility of establishing a separate fund for Food for Thought was discussed.

The project last month, which was the collection of children's books for Hickory Tree, resulted in 207 books so far. The Educational Club at Del. Tech raised money for the book project and will be sending a check to St. Martha's. Thanks to Kim West for coordinating this effort from Del. Tech.

Mary Lou discussed September's Coastal Clean-Up Day and how the church could possibly participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. with a prayer by Bill Wickham. The next Outreach meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 1:00 p.m.

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 convenes this group at 1:00 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in the area in the rear of the church nave. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.



BIRTHDAYS JUNE, 2009

- JUNE 1 IRENE GALLAHER**
 - JUNE 5 LINDA BARNES**
 - JUNE 7 MADISON TIPTON & MARCY LOCKARD**
 - JUNE 10 LINDA MAXWELL**
 - JUNE 16 JACK SHUBERT**
 - JUNE 18 LAWRENCE HARRIS**
 - JUNE 20 COURTNEY HAMLET**
 - JUNE 22 MACKENZIE HARD**
 - JUNE 23 STACY STRATON**
 - JUNE 24 JACKIE LIMROTH**
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JUNE 25 MARK WEST
JUNE 27 HARRY ADAMS & DANA PFISTER

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ANNIVERSARIES



JUNE 4 GARY & ANN SCOTT
JUNE 8 BILL & PAT ROWE
JUNE 11 RIC & KIM KAUTZ
JUNE 16 ED & KAY BERLING
JUNE 17 STEVE & MARY BETH MURRAY

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INQUIRERS and TRANSFERS and MEMBERSHIP

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 upon his visitation on September 28 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. Slips will be available in the narthex for individuals to indicate their interest in becoming members of St. Martha's. Booklets about the Episcopal Church are also available for reading. Whether one decides to follow through and become a member will be seen as an individual decision. The books are being made available to assist each on their spiritual journey. Conversations with the rector are also invited.
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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 are now passing this on to three other volunteers. Ken Hooker has arranged for a bus, the fee being paid by book sales earnings. Jim & Lee Moore are coordinating signups and will answer questions, 537-8051. For \$22 a person, or \$44 a household, you will have a bus ride, picnic spread, ball game, OC Air Show flyover, and fireworks. A signup sheet is posted on the kitchen bulletin board.

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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

It has been a while since I last corresponded in reference to my Diaconate preparation and I would like to bring you up-to-date. I appreciate your inquiries and interest in my progress over the past three years.

In March of 2008, I moved from that of the Aspirant category to that of a Postulant for the Diaconate. On April 22, 2009, I was notified by Bishop Wright that I had successfully completed a sufficient number of Competencies to be approved for Candidacy to the Diaconate.

I have now successfully completed Competencies in the following areas: Practical Training & Experience, Theory and Practice of Diaconal Ministry, Human Awareness & Understanding, Ethics & Moral Theology, Spiritual Development & Discipline, Liturgy, Church History, and Theology & the Book of Common Prayer. I have recently submitted Competency #9 (Scripture), and am now waiting for an oral review with the priest responsible for Scripture, which should be successfully completed by the end of May. In the meantime, the required psychological and

criminal investigation have been completed; the physical exam is scheduled for mid June. Reports of the completed exams will be submitted to the Bishop. Upon notification from the Bishop, letters of acceptance of my Candidacy will be requested from Saint Martha's rector and vestry, and from me. No official date has been set for Ordination. The remaining time line is at the discretion of the Bishop Wright.

Two recent voluntary experiences have given me a deeper understanding and reference of support in becoming an Episcopal Deacon. They are EFM (Education for Ministry), and the Palestine of Jesus Course at St. George's College, Jerusalem. I have just completed the second year of EFM, in a study of the Old and New Testament.

The Jerusalem Course was held January 21 to February 4, 2009. Susanne and I traveled to Saint George's, Jerusalem with four other folks from the Delaware Diocese. We joined twenty-four other priests and laity from England, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Texas, North Carolina, Ohio, and Massachusetts, and together we journeyed throughout the Holy Land on a fourteen day pilgrimage. We studied the life and ministry of Jesus in their historical contexts, exploring more fully the roots and traditions of Christian faith. We prayed, worshiped, and shared reflections, as a family of friends, in the classroom, in churches, at Saint George's Cathedral, in the dessert at Masada, Qumran and on a hill overlooking the Mount of Olives, name a few. We renewed our Baptismal Promises on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, and we carried the large wooden cross to inside the walls of Old Jerusalem, where we walked the Way of the Cross. Our interactions with the Palestinian and Israeli people was quite refreshing, as they strive for what we all seek Freedom and Peace.

On a brick column at the drive-in gate of Saint George's, to my surprise was an old plaque commemorating monetary support of Saint.

George's from All Saints Episcopal Church, Concord, N.C., where I was confirmed in 1960.

Tom McCormick
Candidate for the Diaconate

MENTORS

MENTORS are needed at Phillip Showell Elementary School in Selbyville. If you might be interested in learning more, contact Noel Tuck, 541-0421, or see the notice board by the kitchen.



HYMN SING

LIMBER UP YOUR VOICES

Our first summer hymn sing will be on Wednesday, July 8 at 7:00 pm. Forms

to pick your favorite hymns will be placed in the service booklet later in June. There will also be forms by the church office door.

As in other years, the hymns do not have to come from any hymnal that we use. If you have a favorite hymn that you sang in another church or that you remember from your childhood or any other time, write the title down and I will attempt to find it.

You can also email me with your choices if that is easier. My email address is kaybr6@aol.com. Please put 2009 Hymn Sing on the RE line so that I know it is not spam.

The hymn sings usually last about an hour and there are refreshments for thirsty and hungry singers afterward.

Kathleen B. Rhodes
Parish Musician



JULY BOOK SALE

We originally scheduled our July book sale for July 3. However, we have

discovered that the Bethany Beach July 4th parade is on Friday, July 3. Therefore, we have changed the date to July 4th. If you are confused, join the crowd. To be clear, the July book sale is now on July 4th.

We sold a lot of books at the first sale and we need to replenish the supply. If you missed donating to the first sale or have more books, we will be accepting books all summer.

Kathy Rhodes

July Book Chair

THE WAY HOME

The Way Home Program prison ministry is seeking volunteers to help in their Georgetown office. Contact Barbara del Mastro if you are interested or have questions, 856-9870.

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.

A special thank you to Wally Watson who is always volunteering to assist the office when needed.

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.

GROUPS & MEETINGS – JUNE

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	July 20	4:30 pm
Finance	June 10	3:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	9:00 am
Long Range Planning	TBA	7:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Sundays	7:30 pm
Outreach	2 nd Tuesdays	1:00 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Prison Bible Study	3 rd Thursdays	5:00 pm
Strategic Planning	TBA	7:00 pm
Vestry	3 rd Mondays	7:00 pm
Way Home	2 nd Monday	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	August 19	4:00 pm



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