

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

I recently finished reading *An American Awakening* by Courtney Cowart, who was a church historian employed by Trinity Church, Wall Street, NYC, and involved in their various grants programs. She was on site when 9/11 occurred in 2001 and then continued on with heavy involvement with those who responded, firefighters, police, and food, medical and shelter providers. Courtney saw St. Paul's Chapel move from more typical church activities and protocols to first hand attention to basic human needs. This was not without various moments of tension, both because of the grave situation and also the better known ways of conducting church affairs.

Courtney was then recruited by the Episcopal Diocese to move to New Orleans after the Katrina disaster and assume some parallel roles in that city. Here an American awakening continued not only for Dr. Cowart, but also for Bishop Charles Jenkins of Louisiana, and countless others who witnessed the devastation and the unequal and uneven responses to various elements of the population. (The book may be borrowed from St. Martha's.)

I believe that we are experiencing a somewhat parallel situation in the midst of today's stumbling economic times. We will hopefully seek to maintain our basic typical church programs and needs without a diminished concern for those most hurting. We count on the continued pledge commitments as well as helpful plate and additional contributions as we see some curtailment of renters and other vacationers in our area. We feel committed to maintain our unique efforts to reach out to the

upcoming generation in this country and abroad, most particularly:

25 youngsters are being given scholarships to attend Camp Arrowhead for a week. Most names came through our contacts with local school counselors.

Picnics provided for over 50 international students, along with helpful gift packets and gently used bikes for many.

The start up of our August drive to provide back packs with all needed school supplies for 30 boys and girls living in the Hickory Tree low income housing development outside Selbyville.

Financial assistance to Our Little Roses, an orphanage and school for 85 abandoned girls in a Honduran slum, whose start-up was spearheaded by the wife of the Episcopal Bishop of Honduras.

Food For Thought, which provides additional meals for low income students at Frankford Elementary School.

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 our church responsibilities. 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 June 15. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the minutes were accepted and treasurer's report for May was approved.

John Robbert, Senior Warden, reported on a recent meeting with PUMH, DNREC, Diocesan Trustees and ourselves. After an update on PUMH minor developments, a discussion ensued about allowing DNREC to pump dredged materials from the Assawoman Canal onto a portion of the Lighthipe property. The vestry gave tentative approval pending assurances that testing would confirm that the dredge fell within EPA guidelines. DNREC would reimburse St. Martha's in an amount at least equal to the present farm rental income.

John then suggested the formation of a group to be called "St. Martha's Ambassadors" to both reach out to recent visitors and those

within the parish who may be in times of grief or despair. He will follow up with an article.

Paul Ross, Junior Warden, reviewed a check list of recent building concerns and actions. He will seek to form a Buildings and Grounds Committee, one member who would be designated "Safety Committee Officer". He is also seeking a volunteer to video tape the church property, inside and out, as well as its contents.

There was ongoing discussion over the future role of Tom McCormick, once he is ordained vocational deacon later this year. It was stressed that the role primarily involves specific actions within Sunday services and assisting the parish to reach out to needs in our area, with special responsibility for the home repair team.

Jack Smith provided the Finance Committee with a potential discussion list of budget cuts. These were then brought to the vestry and adopted, totaling \$15,755. The Committee will be continuing to work at closing the gap between projected income and expenses.

The rector led a closing prayer at 8:55.

MESSENGER/NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB SITE

Beginning with the August Messenger, we will only be mailing copies to those without internet access. The Messenger is regularly posted on the church web site, www.stmarthasbethany.org. Go to this web site, note the listings on the left hand side, and click on Messenger.

If you do not have internet access please contact the church office and we will continue to have the newsletter mailed to you. This is one of our cost saving steps in order to

balance our budget and continue our essential programs and building needs.

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.



BIRTHDAYS – JULY, 2009

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| JULY 1 | CHRISTOPHER MUNCHOW |
| JULY 3 | NOAH WEST |
| JULY 5 | MARY ANN TRONE |
| JULY 8 | EDWARD NAZARIAN |
| JULY 9 | BARBARA SMITH |

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| JULY 11 | ALEX WEST |
| | ROSALIND GENIESSE |
| JULY 13 | BILL JARBOE, PAUL STUTTS |
| JULY 14 | MARY JANE LINDBLAD |
| JULY 15 | DOTTIE SEYFRIED |
| | ANNE PARLER |
| JULY 19 | KRISTEN MURRAY |
| JULY 20 | FRAN MARTA |
| JULY 21 | MICHAELA WATSON |
| JULY 22 | SCOTT MAXWELL |
| JULY 28 | MARY LOU DOGOLOFF |
| JULY 29 | JEAN SKINTER |
| | RON KERCHNER |
| JULY 31 | TOM REICHERT |
| | BILL MARTENS |
| | JIM MYHRE |



ANNIVERSARIES

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|----------------|------------------------------------|
| JULY 1 | MARY LOU & LEE DOGOLOFF |
| JULY 13 | LAIRD & BETHANY HARIU |
| JULY 16 | CLAUDE & BIBI TEW |
| JULY 23 | JACK & CAROLYN SMITH |

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.

LAP TOPS

Last summer we purchased three lap top computers with internet access for planned use by the international students that we assist in various ways. However, due to most of them having access to the internet through friends,

other sites or by purchasing ones to take back home, our computers were not used. After considering other possibilities, we have decided to sell them for \$325 each and have the funds available for other Outreach Committee needs. You may contact the church directly, or if you have specific questions, please speak with Dennis Rhodes, deeper219@aol.com, 841-4396. .



This summer's first hymn sing for the 2009 summer season will be on Wednesday, July 8 at 7 pm. There is a form in the bulletin for favorite hymns. We sing as many as we can fit into an hour. The hymns do not have to be from any of the hymnals we use. You may remember one from sometime in your life that is a favorite with you. I can usually manage to find the hymns requested. Light refreshments will be served afterward. We will need to wet our whistles after all that singing.

Kathy Rhodes
Church Musician

**FYI the 2nd Hymn Sing will be
Wednesday, August 5.**

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 20 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.

OUTREACH NEWS

- Joyce Wickham

The Outreach Committee met on June 9th with the following present: Dottie Seyfried, Pauline Wise, Jere Wise, Dennis Rhodes, Mary Lou Dogoloff, Mary Thormeyer, Ted Radcliffe, George Watson, Bill Wickham, Carl Mantegna, and Joyce Wickham. Chairperson Ted opened with prayer.

The committee enjoyed cake (baked by Mary Lou), ice cream, and coffee as we said good-bye to Dottie Seyfried who, with Ed, will soon be moving to Lewes. We are grateful to Dottie for her years of service to the Outreach

Committee, and wish the Seyfrieds well in their new home. We are expecting that they will be frequent visitors to St. Martha's after they're settled. They will be missed.

Dottie reported that almost all of the 100 bags of the Bishop's Blend coffee has been sold. Each bag of this delicious free-trade coffee nets Episcopal Relief & Development 15%. Thanks to all who purchased the coffee.

Thanks also to the congregation for its generosity in supporting donations for the "water fund" for the USO at Dover Air Force Base. We were able to send the USO a check for \$238.00, with which they'll purchase bottled water for the workers and families served at the mortuary service at the base. They are most appreciative and we plan to restart this campaign again in July.

We're happy to say we have had 28 applications to Camp Arrowhead from local children and their parents outside of the St. Martha's community. St. Martha's and the diocese split the cost of each scholarship to this camp in Rehoboth. It is another example of outreach to the community beyond ourselves, and is most appreciated by the children and their families who might not otherwise be able to afford a camping experience.

George Watson shared the sad news that the Sussex County Aids program is closing its doors on June 30th. This group helped patients and their loved ones struggling with Aids. We will follow up in future newsletters with information on any plans in the area to help this population.

International Students' picnics hosted at St. Martha's took place on June 23rd and another one scheduled for August 18th. Food sign-ups and suggestions are available on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Discussion continued regarding the following:

- expanding the Food For Thought program in local schools. We hope to have the co-founder of this program, Linda Maxwell, Ted and Lois Radcliffe's daughter, speak about this program at church in July.
- discussion of possible nominations to fill Dottie's place on the Outreach Committee, with a decision to be made in September.
- Bill Wickham shared his contact with the woman who directs a local effort to raise money for a "Playgrounds in Palestine" non-profit. The committee will further investigate this organization and discuss it in September.
- Bill also shared information about a national organization called Angel Food Ministries. Locally the group works through The River Church Wesleyan Methodist and distributes a full week's supply of groceries to those paying a minimum of \$30 each. The organization encourages payment above the \$30 amount, if possible, and the extra amount goes to subsidize those who can't afford the whole \$30 minimum. Food is distributed weekly at the Indian River High School with the help of volunteers. Call The River Church Wesleyan if you would like more information about this program.

Outreach adjourned, with prayer, for the summer. The next meeting will be September 8th at 1PM.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteers 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, Edith Adkins, Archie & Ruth Ellis, 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, 539-7444. All volunteers are periodically away and substitutes are very important as well.

GROUPS & MEETINGS – JULY

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| AA | Mondays | 8:00 am |
| | Tuesdays | 8:00 am |
| | Wednesdays | 12:00 pm |
| | Thursdays | 8:00 am |
| | Fridays | 8:00 am |
| | Saturdays | 8:00 am |
| Adult Choir | Wednesdays | 7:00 pm |
| Bariatric Surgery Gp | 3 rd Thursdays | 7:00 pm |
| Endowment | July 20 | 4:30 pm |
| Finance | July 14 | 3:00 pm |
| GA | Mondays | 7:00 pm |
| Long Range Planning | TBA | 7:00 pm |
| NA | Sundays | 7:30 pm |
| Over Eaters | Fridays | 7:00 pm |
| Outreach | 2 nd Tuesdays | 1:00 pm |
| Pastoral Care | TBA | 9:00 am |
| 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 Mondays | 7:00 pm |
| Worship | August 19 | 4:00 pm |

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, to request times and dates for meetings

for your activity. We are glad to have our space used but want to insure that we do not double book desired areas.



CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR BOOK SALES

The response of used books has been fantastic. The prior sale was very

successful, we sold a lot of books and we had great support from the parishioners.

Please consider volunteering for this summer's book sales. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board by the kitchen. The book sales allow St. Martha's to add to already established committees' efforts, as well as fund activities that are not covered in the annual budget. Also, it is a great opportunity to "advertise" St. Martha's to the community!

Upcoming sale dates: July 4th, August 1, and September 5.

ACCEPTING BOOK DONATIONS FOR THE SUMMER BOOK SALES

To make our summer book sales successful, **we are taking books that are in good condition without mold or dust.** Books can be in any genre, fiction or non-fiction. We also accept children's books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games, and "large-print" books.

We ask that you do not contribute textbooks, Reader's Digest, or encyclopedias since we have found that they do not sell.

Please bring your donations to St. Martha's on Wednesdays through Fridays

from 9am to noon or place your donations in the storage box on the front porch.

Any questions can be directed to Sue Mantegna, 302-539-8750 or Kathy Rhodes, 302-539-7444.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES

We have additional copies of the Pictorial Directory which was recently produced. If you did not receive a free copy for having your picture included you may obtain one of these copies. We suggest a contribution of \$5 to assist us with our tight parish budget. These may be found in the entrance hall (narthex).

DID YOU GET YOUR NOTE CARDS?

Thanks to parishioner, Don Clarke for designing note cards with the image and name of St. Martha's on the front of the cards. In

the narthex, packs of eight cards with matching envelopes can be purchased for \$5. Don Clarke is generously adding the proceeds from the sale of note cards to the book sales profits.

CONCERTS AT THE BEACH- DID YOU KNOW?

As part of our involvement with the community, St. Martha's church building is host to the summer series of "Concerts at the Beach." These concerts are made possible from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Delaware Division of the Arts. Enjoy

"Iona" on July 25th, "Patricia Miller & Francis Conlon" on August 22nd, and "Sunrise Quartet" on August 8th. All concerts begin at 8pm, and tickets are \$18/adult and \$5/child.

For tickets, please call 302-539-2963. (Please note: St. Martha's is the *host* for the concerts, but is not affiliated with ticket sales. Please call "Concerts at the Beach" with any questions: 302-539-2963.)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMMITTEE

- Mary Wuslich

With the June picnic behind us we are putting out a plea this month for gently used bikes. Our community as a whole in addition to St. Martha's is somewhat short on the supply this summer, so if you have any in your garage that need minor repairs please consider donating them by calling the church at 539-7444 or Mary Wuslich at 539-6701.

Coming up on August 18 will be the second picnic from 5 to 8 PM Your generous donations for last months picnic were appreciated by our committee and enjoyed by the students.

SUCCESSFUL SEASON



The Bell Choir has had a good year for 2008-9. Two new people came in to the choir. We are on vacation until September when we will resume practice.

My thanks to all who participated.

Kathleen B. Rhodes

Parish Musician

ST. MARTHA'S TRAVELERS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

Our trip to Scotland a year ago this month was a huge success. Several of the travelers indicated an interest in taking a trip to France in September of 2010 with our much respected and humorous tour leader, David Wood. We have been in contact with Richardson and Gray, who arranged our trip to Scotland, and they have told us they would be happy to plan an itinerary for us.

One of the tours we are considering is a fourteen day itinerary which includes Nice, Monte Carlo, Aix-En--Provence, St. Remy, Avignon, Carcassone (highly recommended by David Wood and a must see for anyone going to France), the Dordogne and ending up in Paris. This itinerary is not set in stone and can be amended to suite our wishes.

At this time we have no estimated costs. We are just letting you know that this trip is in the making, and if you are interested, starting to "stash away" a few dollars. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Should you have any questions at this time, please feel free to call Bill Jarboe at 537-5091 or e-mail him at billde1@verizon.net (That is the numeral one in the address, not the letter "l".)

Au revoir for now.