

# ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

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## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

The New Year will be ushered in for the vestry with its retreat on Saturday, January 14, at the Salt Pond Club House. The arrangements were handled by Bob and Mary Davis. The Rev. Mark Cyr, who is working with a parish in Md and consulting for the Diocese of NY, while now residing in Middlesex, near South Bethany, will be our convener. We will be reviewing the past year, take account of areas of our strength as a parish, consider matters to be addressed in 2010 and identify priorities.

Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Saturday, February 13, beginning at 4 pm. Barb Reardon and Ron Steen will return as chairs of the event. Costumes are optional, sodas and coffee will be provided, BYO favorite wine and bring a dish to pass. Spread the word that a great time was had by all last year!

The sale of the Lighthipe property, and the building of Mariposa, the CCRC, continues to be an involved process. On December 22, Bob Davis, Richard Sprague and I from St. Martha's met with two Trustees of the Diocese of Delaware (the legal owners of the property), PUMH and ACTS, the 19 CCRC operating entity with which PUMC is becoming an affiliate. PUMC and ACTS will be finalizing their relationship this month and ACTS will then submit a proposal for the Lighthipe property by March 31. We do not know when, under what conditions, a final agreement will be reached, nor when any actual construction may begin. We will be having our Long Range Committee meet in February to begin looking at various options concerning the sale of the property and

future building construction/expansion on Maplewood Street. In any case, it appears that major developments are a number of months away.

I foresee our healthiest approach during the interim period while the land sale process drags on is to primarily focus on continuing to do well in those areas of life and ministry that invigorate this parish community for ourselves and those who appear in our midst. Our welcoming approach to visitors through initiating conversation and providing helpful worship materials is one, along with friendly coffee hours. Secondly our broad based commitment to Outreach inspires both new and old-timers in our midst. Our musical offerings and involvements inspire, and recently attracted a couple of newcomers. Which of these areas might you continue to support, or become part of?

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](mailto:bwickham@stmarthasbethany.org).

In Christ's accepting and affirming Spirit,  
Bill Wickham

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## 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.

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## ADDITIONAL PLEDGERS

In addition to those listed in the last newsletter, pledges have been received from Christine Auldrige, Tim & Koraly Edgar & Robert Lowe. Are there one or two who would like to be added to the list and put us over the top?

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## VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for their regular meeting on December 21. After opening prayer by Dianne Burlew, some time was spent discussing the Gospel reading for the following Sunday. The minutes for the November meeting were approved with corrections and also the monthly treasurer's report, which shows a drastic drop in visitors plate offerings. The Stewardship campaign ended with 105 pledges for \$177,732 versus 101 pledges for \$173,787 for the previous year.

Senior Warden John Robbert spoke of our plans for the vestry retreat on January 16 and mentioned an opportunity for vestry members and others to meet with the bishop on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Middletown. Bob Davis, Junior Warden, reported on a great yard crew spearheaded by Hank Rojewski that did extensive outside work. This effort frees us to

end our paid landscaping service and save money.

Bob Davis, Junior Warden, Richard Sprague, Long Range Chair, and the Rector met

with Diocesan Trustees and representatives from PUMH and ACTS on December 22 to continue deliberations over the future sale of the Lighthipe property.

The vestry voted to approve cancellation of Sunday services if the Governor declares state of emergency for Sussex County. Tom McCormick reported on his role as a deacon and the ongoing home repair program that he oversees. Frank Bell has become his assistant for that program.

The proposed budget for 2010 was thoroughly discussed after explanations from Mark Hopkins, Treasurer, and unanimously approved.

Barb Harris and Patty Reichert were elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention and Mimi Dupont as alternate.

The meeting ended with prayer by the rector.

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## SUNDAY COFFEE HOURS

Sunday coffee hour helps us to welcome one another and engage with newcomers and other visitors. Every Sunday the question is posed, "Are there any persons for whom this is your first visit to St. Martha's?", then Bill reminds us of our mission at St. Martha's as a welcoming place that strives to share the love of Christ with all.

We have wonderful coffee hours at St. Martha's where people are engaged and sharing with one another. In order for this to happen we need volunteers to make the coffee, put out the snacks and clean up. It can be as modest or elaborate as you choose, but

please remember that this is coffee hour, not lunch. Contact Nancy Rojewski with questions or to help, 537-0495, [rojoreid@mchsi.com](mailto:rojoreid@mchsi.com)

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## OUTREACH NEWS

- June Thompson

Ted Radcliffe opened the meeting with a prayer at 1:10.

### Old Business :

The Angel Tree -- The angel tree was a success. We had many compliments. The committee thanked Dennis Rhodes especially for his work in preparing the angels. The angel gifts were delivered on Tuesday, December 22.

The Thanksgiving Baskets- The food baskets were well received. In addition to the parishioners' Thanksgiving food bags, The Sposato landscape employees gave a \$52 gift card and an extra personal check for \$50 for the Thanksgiving project at Hickory Hill. It was also noted that Pauline and Jere Wise donated two turkeys to Lord Baltimore School families. The guidance counselor, Nancy Ward, wrote St. Martha's a note thanking us for our contributions.

Outreach Budget -There were several questions about the amounts given to the various programs. The Food for Thought program at the Frankford school was brought up by Ted Radcliffe as being especially needy. Dennis Rhodes suggested we set up a meeting with the principal to discuss if funds are needed and how they can be distributed.

There was a question about the funds given to outreach from the book sales this summer. It was reported that a sum of \$2000 was allocated to Outreach. In our budget there was a question by Jere Wise about the allocation of \$725 for water for the USO volunteers at Dover

Air Force Base that is supposed to be a donation from the parish.

There was a question about Ellen Dupont's request for Mariamma Children's home last

year of \$750. It was decided that it would not be feasible this year.

There was a motion for acceptance of the Budget by George Watson but it was tabled by the group because of various questions.

### New Business:

The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be January 12th. The next coffee hosted by the Outreach Committee will be on the 7th of February.

We'll keep in mind suggestions by June Thompson about Pennies for Hunger or a Walk for Hunger for next year.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Ted Radcliffe at 2:35 pm.

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays in the area in the rear of the church nave. Next meeting will be January 6. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

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## ANGEL TREE UPDATE

The Angel Tree project was an outstanding success thanks to the generosity of the St. Martha's angels. Thank you so much for your

support of this project. There was much excitement in children's eyes as they saw and then opened their gifts! Thank you for making such a difference in the life of a child!

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## 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 upon his visitation in the fall 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.
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## A VERY GRATEFUL THANK YOU

The Chancel Choir earns a much deserved thanks

for all their work during the Advent and Christmas season. The Chancel Choir will have a vacation from rehearsals during the month of January but will continue to lead the music during the service.

I wish to thank Clem Edgar and Claude Tew for representing St. Martha's at Tom's ordination by singing in the choir comprised of choir members from the participating churches. I appreciate them giving up their time to attend two rehearsals and perform at the service.

I also appreciate the time the choir soloist gives to rehearse and perform at various times during the Church year.

I am grateful to the Handbell Quartet for their willingness to put in the extra time to perform during the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service and to perform our public 'gig' at the St. Martha's Christmas luncheon.

Thank you to Sue Lemons & Kristin Jones who in their voluntary roles of Music Librarians keep the nuts and bolts of the operation moving along so that I could concentrate on the music.

Also, thanks to Dianne Burlew who serves as our "sunshine lady".

All in all, the music program is a cooperative effort by everyone who participates and for that I am extremely grateful.

Kathleen B. Rhodes, Parish Musician

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## THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Please accept my sincerest thanks and endless gratitude for your support the past four years in my pursuit to become an ordained deacon. Reaching this special ministry of servant hood as an Episcopal Deacon has been a long desired goal. Many of you were involved in my journey, and your interest and encouragement gave me strength to continue.

For those who attended the ordination at Saint Stephen's in Harrington on December 5<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed to witness and participate in the most beautiful and glorious of Episcopal

Services. How proud we were to have Noah West carry in the procession, the new Saint Martha's banner, skillfully made by our friend and past parishioner of Saint Martha's, Bernie Whitney.

In the absence of our rector, Bill Wickham, who was at a daughter's wedding, it was an honor to be presented for ordination by three former priests and mentors who served at Saint Martha's since my arrival in 2000. Presenting me were The Reverend Anne Monahan, The Reverend Dorothy Hartzog, and The Reverend, Dr. James E. Morris.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks for the many inspirational cards and congratulatory messages. The monetary contributions from Saint Martha's church members and other friends, provided funds to purchase three deacon stoles, in seasonal colors, to be worn throughout the church seasons. The collected purse will also fund my attendance at the National Deacon's Convention in Chicago, in the summer of 2010. For all these gifts, I humbly thank you.

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon Tom McCormick

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## 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 Jim Moore: 537-8051

### 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 Jim Moore: 537-8051

### 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



## BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY, 2010

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| JANUARY 2 | ED SEYFRIED                               |
| 3         | KIM WEST                                  |
| 5         | JOYCE WICKHAM & KEN BATTLES               |
| 8         | JOSIE KINGSLEY                            |
| 10        | KRISTIN TIPTON                            |
| 12        | RUSS MELRATH                              |
| 14        | DAN SHIRLEY, ART SCHULTE, & JANET SPRAGUE |
| 15        | CARL MANTEGNA                             |
| 19        | BOB POETSCH                               |
| 25        | JOE REARDON                               |
| 26        | MARTHA FIELDS                             |
| 27        | JACK GENIESSE                             |

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## ANNIVERSARIES

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| JANUARY 1 <sup>ST</sup>  | BILL & JOYCE WICKHAM                             |
| JANUARY 16 <sup>TH</sup> | DAN & BEVERLY SHIRLEY<br>NOWLAND & BETTY ELLISON |
| JANUARY 30 <sup>TH</sup> | TOM & CATHY BRUNKOW                              |

DAVID & JACKIE LIMROTH

ROBERT & JANE LYONS



**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**  
**Thank you! Thank you!**

There are a number of people who quietly serve their Lord and St. Martha's week in and week out by volunteering their time and expertise. Especially during "holy days" time with extra activities and services, our volunteers get us through it all!

We want to say a BIG thank you to the following persons or groups who helped with extra efforts during Advent and Christmas:

- \*Lois Radcliffe (altar guild)
- Ted Radcliffe (Christmas Tree decorator)
- Deb Kerchner, Joanne Levy & Lee Moore (flower committee)
- \*Mary Wuslich (working every Tuesday in the office and helping with odd jobs)
  - \* Carolyn & Don Clarke (monthly schedules & greeter bags)
- \*Lorraine Carr (helping every Friday with finalizing the Sunday folders and Christmas bulletins)
- \*Sue Lemons & Kristin Jones (music librarian)
  - \*Barbara Harris our nursery/SS worker
  - \*Dianne Burlew & Lynne Watson (Christmas Luncheon)
- \*Jim Moore (web-master & monthly schedules)
- \*Our faithful altar guild, greeters, ushers, readers, servers, acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, choir members
 

**....and last but not least,**

  - \* Our previous wardens, all vestry members (general support and availability, plus odd jobs!)

**AND....**

  - Our staff, Lynne Watson, parish secretary
  - Kathy Rhodes, parish musician

**MARDI GRAS**

A Mardi Gras celebration and Pot Luck Supper will be held at St. Martha's on Saturday, February 13, at 4 pm. This is the time you can dress up in costume if you wish. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the

kitchen for you to indicate the dish of your choice. Soft drinks and coffee will be provided and you are invited to BYO wine to enjoy with your meal. If you have any questions please call Ron Steen, 539-9160.

**GROUPS AND MEETINGS**

|                           |                           |          |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| AA                        | Mondays                   | 8:00 am  |
|                           | Tuesdays                  | 8:00 am  |
|                           | Wednesdays                | 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 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays | 7:00 pm  |
| Bell Choir                | Thursdays                 | 7:30 pm  |
| Brotherhood of St. Andrew | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays  | 7:00 pm  |
| Endowment                 | Jan 20                    | 4:30 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 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays  | 1:00 pm  |
| Pastoral Care             | TBA                       | 9:00 am  |
| Prison Bible Study        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays | 5:00 pm  |
| Vestry                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays   | 7:00 pm  |
| Worship                   | Feb 10                    | 4:00 pm  |

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!**

