

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

The New Year was ushered in for the vestry with its retreat on Saturday, January 16, at the Salt Pond Club House. 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, was our convener.

The vestry highlighted three areas of parish life as of particular delight and effectiveness. These are Outreach, Fellowship and Worship. We see the need to continue to make sure that we do these well, both for our parish spirit and as an attraction to those who visit St. Martha's. The members then considered areas that might be seen as priorities for attention in 2010. The three selected were: Resolve issues of timeframe and budget for church building expansion; Organize a Christian Education Committee to oversee possibilities for children, preteens, teens and adults; Pull together in-reach and respond to concerns of pastoral care and evangelism.

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 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?

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.

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 16, 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 17 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 St. Martha's will be at Bethany Christian Church on March 24.

OUTREACH NEWS

- June Thompson

The Outreach Committee met on January 12 and present at the meeting were Mary Thormeyer (co-chair), Frank Bell, Mary Davis, Martha Fields, Ted Radcliffe, Dennis Rhodes, June Thompson, George Watson, Joyce & Bill Wickham, and Pauline and Jere Wise.

Mary Thormeyer opened the meeting with a prayer at 1:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

Angel Tree Reports:

Mary Davis reported that all of the gift cards from the angel tree had been sent. She made the suggestion that next year the gift cards be placed in simple envelopes or a Christmas card to make them more uniform and easier to deliver. Mary Thormeyer, Dennis Rhodes and Martha Fields remarked that the children at Hickory Tree were excited about the gifts from the angel tree. They were very much appreciated as demonstrated by the banner that the children made for St. Martha's. Jere Wise read a thank you note from Lord Baltimore Elementary School that expressed their appreciation for the gifts we gave to them.

Angel Tree Program Evaluation: It was suggested that a committee be formed to work out the logistics next year. Ted Radcliffe said that he stored the angel tree at the church together with its topping and the angels. Mary Thormeyer announced that she had sent an E-mail about Ellen Dupont's thank you. It was decided at the last meeting that we would not follow up with another donation to this orphanage this year.

The February 7th Outreach Coffee Hour will have Joyce, Mary D. and Pauline to plan it and Dennis volunteered to get more sugar free cookies.

Budget Discussion:

Bill Wickham clarified a number of budget issues that were brought up at the last meeting. He explained that restricted funds looked at 4 sources: golf outing, book sales, escrow funds and individual gifts. The Consortium expenses were clarified as well as the USO/Soldiers water monies. Some clarification of the New Orleans All Souls

Church expenditures was made. We learned that a new church has been started using an

old department store facility. We felt that we should continue to support this program and that it looked like a long term commitment.

We discussed changing the budget to show actual expenses for two years. Frank Bell was ready with an example of how this new budget would look and handed it out to the committee members. We also discussed adding administrative expenditures as a new category where needed. Bill Wickham gave us a breakdown in expenditures on local programs vs those further away. We discovered that almost 66% of our monies are spent on our own local programs, the rest is spent on other Delaware programs 3%, nation outside of DE 13% and World outside of USA take up 17%.

Ted Radcliffe gave a detailed report on how the Food For Thought monies were being spent. There are 563 children at Frankford Elementary. The number of children receiving free lunches daily is 364; 27 children receive reduced lunches and 88 pay for their own lunches. In addition 378 children receive breakfast. Ted feels that the monies from St. Martha's Outreach is being used well and that we should actually increase the amount. The committee was in agreement and felt that this program is very viable. It was suggested to go to local businesses in order to raise more money. A committee was formed consisting of Martha Fields, Dennis Rhodes and Ted Radcliffe to deal with the issues.

Ted Radcliffe suggested that we accept the budget as written. Mary Thormeyer seconded it. The budget was unanimously approved. Mary Thormeyer reminded the committee of the \$200 that Noel Tuck requested for the Food For Thought at Phillip Showell. The committee approved that this be sent.

NEW BUSINESS:

There is \$5,800 budgeted to send approximately 25 students to Camp Arrowhead. It was suggested that a cap be put

on that number of participants because of the popularity of the camp.

Mary Davis suggested we participate in the Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday on February 7th. There is a meditation book that Bill Wickham said he would order and Mary Davis will check into the specific areas we could contribute to.

Mary Thormeyer closed the meeting at 2:30 pm with a prayer.

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. 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.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Bill Wickham will be offering an opportunity for Bible Study and sharing on Tuesday mornings beginning February 2 at 10:30 am. Those attending are asked to read chapters 1 & 2 of the Gospel of Matthew for the first session. The times will begin with some explanation by the rector followed by readings by section and then questions, comments and insights will be shared. The sessions are intended for people of all levels of biblical understandings. Whether a person can attend every time, or only periodically, all will be welcomed.

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

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

The wonderful times of the Christmas season are now carried in our memories and New Year's resolutions have been made - and probably some broken. Your Outreach Committee wants you to consider making one more resolution for 2010. If you have been participating in our Casa Brown Bag Program, we ask that you resolve to continue doing so. If you haven't yet participated, we ask that you resolve to do so in the coming year.

Take a bag with a list of suggested items from the Narthex, fill the bag and return it to the narthex. We make regular runs to Casa in Milton with these bags. Every time we take food, they offer profuse thanks as the need never decreases, in fact it has increased dramatically.

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for a Saturday retreat on January 16 at the Salt Pond Clubhouse, with the Rev. Mark Cyr as the facilitator. After opening prayer by Mark Cyr the members offered 1-2 things they each really liked about St. Martha's and 1-2 things they hoped might be accomplished.

The rector then reported on the meeting that Bob Davis, Junior Warden, Richard Sprague, Long Range Chair, and he had with Diocesan Trustees and representatives from PUMH and ACTS on December 22 to continue deliberations over the future sale of the Lighthipe property. The sentiment was that probably the project will eventually go through but that it is not apt to be soon. An offer is promised from ACTS by March 31. Bill stressed the necessity to concentrate on what we are doing well and note what matters need to be addressed without being bogged down by questions or guesses about the land sale.

Members then mentioned past, present and future highlights of St. Martha's. Roles and responsibilities were reviewed. Ministry effectiveness at St. Martha's was then discussed and goals and priorities considered.

The vestry voted to approve the minutes for the December meeting, but deferred action on the monthly treasurer's report until the February meeting. Richard Jesneck proposed that the Long Range Committee be asked to propose back up plans if the land sale is much delayed for the May vestry meeting. The vestry approved the motion.

The meeting ended with an evaluation and then prayer by the rector.

DEACONS IN THE DIOCESE OF DELAWARE- PART ONE

By Deacon Tom McCormick

Over the course of the next three monthly issues of Saint Martha's Newsletter I will attempt to briefly provide answers to questions most frequently asked concerning Deacons in the Diocese of Delaware.

HOW LONG HAS THE CHURCH HAD DEACONS?

Deacons have been in the Church since New Testament times.

A few of the most well-known deacons are Stephen, Vincent and Francis of Assisi. Early documents date to Rome, c.215, with early ordination prayers, recorded by Hippolytus.

The 1968 Lambeth Conference affirmed the Diaconate for the Anglican Communion and the 1970 General Convention of the Episcopal Church revitalized the diaconate for the church in today's world. This role may be fulfilled by women and men.

WHAT DOES THE WORD 'DEACON' MEAN?

The word 'Deacon' derives from the Greek word **diakonos** meaning servant or minister.

WHO IS A DEACON?

Any Christian who has been through the discernment, training and ordination to the Order of Deacon.

In the March issue we will take a brief look at what training is required to become a Deacon, and what is a diaconal congregation?



ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

3RD MARY LOU & LEE DOGOLOFF
12TH MARY PERKINS &
KEN HOOKER
14TH JANE & JOHN ROBERT



BIRTHDAYS —FEBRUARY, 2010

February 1	Ron Steen
3	Jere Wise
6	Jeffrey Socorso
7	Marie Hogsten
10	Penny Hopkins
12	Paige Steen
17	Bob Murray
19	Dennis Rhodes & Pierre Shostal
22	John Whitney
23	Pauline Wise
25	Wally Watson

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.

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 on October 3 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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteer Martha Field coming in on Thursdays and Lorraine Carr on Fridays, to both assist with certain projects. Additionally, Harry and Ruth Adams, Don and Carolyn Clarke, Archie & Ruth Ellis, and Joyce & Noel Tuck 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

PICTORIAL AND NEWS HISTORY

Audrey Samworth has volunteered to resume collecting photographs, newsletters and

clippings for insertion into the scrapbooks in the bookcase in the rear of the church. Anyone

having any photographs of activities at St. Martha's please place them in the designated album for 2010 or you may pass them on to Audrey.

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 rd Thursdays	7:00 pm
Bell Choir	Thursdays	7:30 pm
Endowment	April 14	4:30 pm
GA	Mondays	7:00 pm
Long Range Planning	Feb 22	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
Vestry	3 rd Mondays	7:00 pm
Worship	Feb 10	4:00 pm