

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

Although we have done everything possible to bring about a major expansion of our building facilities, open parish meetings, numerous committee meetings and other group input, choice of group to sell the property to, selection of a great architect, formalizing a wonderful design and selecting a contractor, the economic free fall resulted in the closing of the bond market to CCRCs, hospitals, colleges and others. We now anticipate needing to posit a possible date 3 years hence before the various economic factors come into a new alignment, a land sale fully completed and construction can begin.

SO WHAT NOW? I have spoken to the Finance Committee, the Vestry, and the Long Range Committee urging a clear decision be made within the next two months, and visible action commence within the next five months, to address immediate needs for our Sunday School and meetings area. We have safety issues, suspicious paint and mold, as well as storage concerns that will gradually undermine our efforts to retain and build upon the energetic group of teachers, children and parents we have brought together! The two basic options seem to be to either strongly improve this area for use for three years or to rent trailers for present use and continuing through construction.

You will be hearing more about this issue in the coming weeks, including an open parish meeting. Please feel welcome to respond to this question with me or members of the vestry. This is a very significant question that calls for short term action.

May we each find ourselves in thought, words and actions seeking to extend a loving and caring presence to all who **share** in this faith community and all of God's creation. In the midst of our worship, and Sunday involvements, be mindful of assisting newer people with seats, folders and welcoming words.

I continue to welcome your open **sharing** of thoughts and ideas as we attempt to sense where the Spirit is leading us in spiritual growth, caring and outreach. Please feel free to contact me in person, via e-mail, bwickham@stmarthasbethany.org, or by phone, 539-7444.

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 MINUTES

The vestry met April 19 at 7 pm with opening prayer by Jere Wise. After discussing the Gospel for the coming Sunday, members approved the March vestry minutes and treasurer's report. John Robbert, Senior Warden, proposed a settlement with Royal Chemical, concerning winter salt that was

approved. He also suggested a TGIF informal meal for fellowship that was well received. John will come up with a suggested date after reviewing the parish calendar. A possible parish book club is also being explored. Bob Davis, Junior Warden, reported that a Spring Yard day will shortly be announced. Exterminators will be coming to deal with suspected wildlife and the crawl space is being checked for water and possible new sump pump.

Bill Wickham listed a number of meetings he has during this Spring stretch. He also shared a positive comparison between 2009 and 2010 pledge and plate income through April 18. He updated the vestry concerning the Lighthipe property, indefinite interest by PUMH/ACTS in the near future and options being considered by the Long Range committee for the next 3 years. He then went on to strongly urge consideration to do a substantial revamping of the Sunday School and meeting area within the next five months. This led to extended conversation about sustaining momentum for our Sunday School in the midst of paint and mold issues. DNREC is now using part of our property for sludge removal.

The rector's housing allowance for 2010 was formally approved as was the 2009 Parochial Report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm. with prayer by the rector.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT ST. MARTHA'S

Mary Jane Lindblad May 1 at 11 am

Barbara Reardon's father May 8 at 2:00 pm

LONG RANGE COMMITTEE

The Committee met April 26 and discussed the status of the Lighthipe property and what steps to take in the coming three years.

We will know by May 31st whether ACTS, within which PUMH has merged, is seriously interested in pursuing the Mariposa project, and thus the Lighthipe property. It appears that the present economic situation will delay receipts from a sale of the property for a price that would underwrite our construction/expansion needs. We are thus targeting a 3 year interval before construction might commence. However, Hal Barber will seek to ascertain whether there might be independent interest in a sale at a good figure. Either the diocese or St. Martha's may obtain a fresh appraisal of the land. We will also have a person who works with the state on affordable housing meet with the committee in June to see if there might be interest in that direction.

The committee wrestled with three options for the rear part of our building, where we face three issues: likely lead based paint in the southern room, mold problems and storage space. In order not to lose excitement and momentum in our Sunday School, the group discussed choosing an option by mid-June and beginning action by early September.

Option 1 would be to correct the lead based paint problem and repaint the entire back section; to address the mold and water issue and provide additional storage. Option 2 would entail renting a classroom trailer, and perhaps a second office/meeting room trailer, leaving the structure intact. Option 3 would involve demolishing the rear section and placing rental trailers on the site.

At its early June meeting the committee will clarify a suggested course of action for vestry approval. There also will be discussion of

rotation of membership, with the possible nomination of three new members. Is anyone interested?

UNITED THANK OFFERING SPRING INGATHERING MAY 23rd

Spring has arrived and we have much to be thankful for: flowers are blooming, the trees are in bud, there are ever increasing daylight hours and we are alive to enjoy all of God's many blessings.

It is time once again to acknowledge in a spiritual and physical (fiscal) way the accumulation of our prayerful thanksgivings to God for all that we have and to share our bounty with others.

For we are ---

UNITED with other Episcopalians in giving
THANKS for our many blessings by daily
OFFERING our prayers and our "least coin"

as we share our treasures with those who are less fortunate at home and around the world.

Every cent of the monies received from the United Thank Offering Ingatherings is given away through grant requests. The administrative costs are covered by designated endowment funds.

Checks should be made payable to: **St. Martha's Episcopal Church** & noted for

"UTO". Designated envelopes are available at the church for your convenience. Thank you for your generosity.

Dianne Burlew
United Thank Offering Parish
Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Student Committee met on April 7. Two picnics are again being planned, the dates being June 22 and August 17, both beginning at 5:30 pm. We will use the pattern of grills, tent and outdoor games that have served to make these much enjoyed occasions for nearly 50 of the college students coming from abroad to work in local businesses. Our menu will be similar to last year as we have discovered many of their likes and dislikes during the year. We were happy to learn they like St. Martha's method of preparing and eating food - The Kiss Method. Any questions regarding this picnic, please call Mary Wuslich at 539-6701.

Those who might be interested in being involved are invited to come to the next planning meeting on May 12 at 9:30 am. These young people greatly appreciate the opportunity to interact with Americans and share their stories. We seek to have their time here to be a positive one for them to remember.

Bikes will again be sought that are used, but in good condition.

PASTORAL VOLUNTEERS

A recent meeting convened by the rector led to organizing our response to two areas of pastoral care.

Carolyn Smith, 436-9080, assisted by Dennis Rhodes, 841-4396, and a team of 7 other individuals/couples, are available for parishioners who need a ride to appointments.

Nancy Gallons, 539-2554, and Mary Thormeyer, 541-5511, assisted by Sue Mantegna, 829-8298, and a team of 5 other individuals/couples, are ready to provide meals for parishioners who would appreciate having home cooked dinners brought to them.

Please feel free to contact any of these caring individuals if you might appreciate their assistance, or if you know of someone who might be helped. Also, if you might be an additional volunteer to either drive or bring a meal, please contact one of the people listed.

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks for all the help with the shopping, table setting, serving, parking and clean-up at the Lenten Soup & Salad Supper we hosted with Bethany Christian Church on March 24th. Over 125 people enjoyed delicious soups, salad and bread, and we received many compliments.

Our team included the following: Christine Auldridge, Hal Barber, Jean & Frank Bell, Mary & Bob Davis, Nancy Gallons, Susan & Carl Mantegna, Jim Moore, Lois Radcliffe, Hank Rojewski, Grace Rush, Bibi Tew and Mary Thormeyer.

Dottie Barber and Lee Moore, Co-Chairs.

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 in October 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.

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 May 5 & 19. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

DRIVERS NEEDED!!!

The CHEER CENTER in Ocean View has established a new route for Meals on Wheels and is in need of more drivers. Drivers deliver meals once every 2 weeks. It takes about an hour. If you are interested, or need more information, please call Janet Skibicki at 539-8053 or Mary Thormeyer at 541-5511 or marythormeyer1@yahoo.com.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteers Lorraine Carr, Martha Fields, Susan Mantegna and Mary Wuslich assist with weekly projects. Additionally, Don & Carolyn Clarke, Archie & Ruth Ellis, and Pauline & Jere Wise, help with office projects.

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.

OUTREACH NEWS

- Dennis Rhodes

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, April 13. Ted Radcliffe called the meeting to order by distributing copies of the newsletter where last month's minutes were printed. After review by the members, Bill Wickham, Joyce Wickham, Jere Wise, Pauline Wise, Martha Fields, Mary Davis, June Thompson, Frank Bell, co-chair Mary Thormeyer, George Watson and Dennis Rhodes, the minutes were approved and accepted.

The Committee turned its attention to Old Business, namely the rotation of members to take place in June. Three new members will replace Joyce Wickham, George Watson and Ted Radcliffe. A sub-committee was formed to vet applicants to fill the three positions. Three Committee members, Mary Thormeyer, Jere Wise and Dennis Rhodes, volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. The vacancies will be announced at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, in the Sunday bulletins, as well as in the *Messenger*. It was agreed that prospective members are not required to be church members. A close relationship to St. Martha's and the ability to attend the Committee meetings regularly are the main qualifications.

Following the arrangements for new members, the Committee turned its attention to the input that the Vestry requested concerning public relations and our contribution to making St. Martha's known in the community. Ted Radcliffe represented our input to the Vestry: family services, praise services, more publicity before and at the summer Book Sales, improvements to the website, notice of our services in the local papers and improved

facilities for Sunday School and other activities. We also suggested that our International Student activities might be featured in the newspapers. The International Student Committee might also sponsor a Sunday morning coffee hour to publicize one of our important programs. Bill Wickham shared the good news that plate offerings are beginning to increase. Some of this extra offering might be used to resume our church notices in the newspapers.

Bill Wickham made a brief presentation of our current budget status. The discussion of the budget included information concerning Camp Arrowhead. Bill pointed out that camp brochures are available. We expect to sponsor 25 children to the Camp this summer. One half of the cost of attendance will be paid by Outreach Committee funds. The second half will be handled by the diocese. May 15th is the cut off date for applications. He also discussed our use of endowment monies as they are provided by the Endowment Committee. One half of this dedicated money will go to Outreach for its ministry to both local needs and the needs of persons and groups outside of our shore area. It is clear that the way we spend these monies affects the outlook of St. Martha's, reminding us that our neighbors are not just next door.

The second half of the endowment funds goes to support Inreach. Probably the most important concerns of Inreach at this time are our facilities. We need to make our Sunday School safe and welcoming for the children who come to our church.

Moving on to New Business, the Committee was made aware of service opportunities for our parishioners. The first opportunity is the *Meals on Wheels* program. Participants deliver meals once a week, every other week. They use their own vehicles; a participant's mileage is tax deductible. Meals are picked up for delivery at the Ocean View Cheer Center.

All Soul's Church, a mission church in New Orleans, was proud to announce that a choir of their youth participated in the Bishop of New Orleans' retirement dinner.

Bill spoke about another opportunity for service. On April 22, at 10:00 AM, a committee will be organized to help out members of our parish who are experiencing difficulties due to illness or other problems. People who wish to serve on this committee will prepare meals and/or provide transportation to doctor appointments.

Following these items, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer offered by Ted Radcliffe.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



I wish to thank the Chancel Choir, the handbell ensemble and soloist Kristin Jones for all their efforts during Holy Week. It takes a lot of prep to do extra services and they rose to the challenge.

Thanks also to the participants in the congregation who rang those bells with wild abandon during the Alleluias on Easter Sunday. (See, bell ringing is fun).



WARM UP YOUR VOICE

HYMN SING

This summer we will once again do one hymn sing. The first one will be on Wednesday, July 7th. Be thinking of your favorite hymns. More information will be coming in the next month.



BIRTHDAYS – MAY, 2010

- MAY 1 SUSAN BOEBEL ALIS**
MAY 2 TOM MCCORMICK
MAY 6 KEN MARTA
MAY 8 CAROLYN SMITH & HOPPS ELLISON
MAY 10 SUE LEMONS
AUDREY SAMWORTH
MARY WUSLICH
MAY 11 ELLEN DUPONT
MAY 12 TEMPE STEEN
MAY 15 DON TRONE
MAY 17 JIM HOGSTEN
MAY 18 PAUL ROSS
MAY 19 PHIL FLEMING
MAY 20 DAVID MOORE
MAY 22 PAT ROWE & LYNN WATSON
MAY 23 BARBARA REARDON & MICHAEL SCHAEFER
MAY 27 BERNIE WHITNEY
MAY 29 KEATON BURKE
MAY 30 PHYLLIS MIKOLAITIS



ANNIVERSARIES

- MAY 9TH LYNNE & WALLY WATSON**

GROUPS & MEETINGS – MAY

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	7:00 pm
Endowment	July 14	4:30 pm
Finance	July 15	2:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	June 24	10:30 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
Worship Committee	May 19	4:00 pm

.