

# ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

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## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

I am slowly winding down and working at turning over projects "in process" to various people. The parish momentum feels healthy as we head into a transition.

As noted in the vestry item, an Interim Rector, Mark Cyr has been selected. He and his wife live in Middlesex, between Bethany and South Bethany. He will begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please plan to welcome him and help him become familiar with St. Martha's. Joyce and I are looking forward to the party on July 25 at Bear Trap.

I will have more thoughts to share in the coming month. Please continue to offer your ideas, suggestions and questions.

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](mailto: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.

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## VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met June 21 at 7 pm with opening prayer by Joe Reardon. After discussing the Gospel for the coming Sunday, members approved the May vestry minutes and treasurer's report.

John Robbert, Senior Warden, reported that a committee of Dianne Burlew, Bob Davis, Jere Wise, and himself, has met with, and is recommending, The Rev. Mark Cyr as Interim Rector beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mark and his wife live in Middlesex and he will work on an 80% basis. The vestry approved this selection unanimously, as well as the contract that John then presented and explained.

Bob Davis, Junior Warden, and the rector, reported on actions to address water, moisture and mold underneath our building; steps to possible rent a trailer for classroom/meeting space and interim rector's office; discussions begun with Bethany Beach officials concerning this temporary rental; and possible demolition of the rear section of our building.

The vestry approved an Outreach Committee request, presented by Richard Jesneck, that \$1,000 of the budgeted funds be sent to Our

Little Roses, the orphanage and school for abandoned girls in Honduras with which we have a relationship.

Mimi Dupont, Long Range Committee chair, presented a report and recommendations for vestry consideration. Approval was given to have an updated appraisal done by Joseph Melson for \$1,500. The vestry also was supportive of a three stage approach to market the Lighthipe property. First, informally approach those groups that had previously expressed interest in a purchase. Secondly, to list the property "For Sale by Owner", and finally to work through a realtor. There is no rush to sell, but it seems prudent to test the waters. Finally Mimi reported that the committee met with representatives of MHDC, based in Milford, which specializes in building and creating affordable housing, for possible use of a portion of the property.

Tom McCormick provided an update on encouraging interest for the Camp Arrowhead work camp August 9-13 which has entailed his being gone a number of recent Sundays. He also provided good news on the various home repair projects that he and his team have undertaken. Finally he noted that the bishop will soon be relocating him to another parish in light of the rector's retirement.

The rector presented an update on comparable receipt figures for this time for 2009 and 2010, which were positive. He noted the wonderful efforts in parish community life that featured a great parish picnic organized by Joanne Levy, Barb & Joe Reardon and Ron & Tempe Steen on June 6<sup>th</sup>, trip to the Shorebirds game on June 19<sup>th</sup> set up by Ken Hooker, and the actions of both the volunteer drivers and meal prepares for those needing short term assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm. with prayer by the rector.

## MESSENGER/NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB SITE

The Messenger is regularly posted on the church web site, [www.stmarthasbethany.org](http://www.stmarthasbethany.org). Go to this web site, note the listings on the left hand side, and click on Messenger.

Also, some copies of the Messenger are available in the church narthex. 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.

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## LONG RANGE MEETING

At our meeting on June 7 we met with Dave Moore of MHDC to discuss affordable housing possibilities for the Lighthipe property. As a result of this discussion people were interested in continuing to investigate this possibility, but also wanted to pursue the possibility of a sale on the open market. A two pronged approach was agreed upon. The first step in either approach was to get an appraisal of the property. Hal Barber agreed to get a firm estimate from the appraiser who did an earlier appraisal and report back to Bill Wickham on this. The next step in Plan A was to invite Dave Moore to tour our land and continue discussions on MHDC ability to carry out development of the property. Plan B called for a series of steps to sell the property on the open market. The first step in this approach, after the appraisal, was to approach buyers/developers who might be interested in buying the land. Hal Barber and Phil Fleming agreed to develop a short list of potential buyers to approach. If this strategy for selling the property did not work the next step would be to advertise the property for sale by owner.

If this failed, the next step would be to list the property with a real estate office. The committee felt that these two approaches should be explored at the same time so as not to lose any more time.

Bill Wickham will take the above recommendations to the Vestry. He also reported that he had not heard from ACTS(PUMH).

Bill has asked Mimi Dupont to chair the committee and she has graciously agreed to do so. Jack Smith and Tom McCormick will be rotating off the committee along with me. I have been thanked generously for my service so I will refrain from thanking myself again, but I would like to thank Tom and Jack for their invaluable contribution; their comments and advice have always been thoughtful and helpful.

Dick Sprague

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## 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](mailto:bwickham@stmarthasbethany.org) or Barbara Harris at [barbharris@mchsi.com](mailto:barbharris@mchsi.com).

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## BIRTHDAYS – JULY, 2010

<b>JULY 1</b>	<b>CHRISTOPHER MUNCHOW</b>
<b>JULY 2</b>	<b>DANA SCHAEFER</b>
<b>JULY 3</b>	<b>NOAH WEST</b>
<b>JULY 5</b>	<b>MARY ANN TRONE</b>
<b>JULY 8</b>	<b>EDWARD NAZARIAN</b>
<b>JULY 9</b>	<b>BARBARA SMITH</b>
<b>JULY 11</b>	<b>ALEX WEST</b>
	<b>ROSALIND GENIESSE</b>
<b>JULY 13</b>	<b>BILL JARBOE, PAUL STUTTS</b>
<b>JULY 15</b>	<b>ANNE PARLER</b>
<b>JULY 20</b>	<b>FRAN MARTA</b>
<b>JULY 21</b>	<b>MICHAELA WATSON</b>
<b>JULY 28</b>	<b>MARY LOU DOGOLOFF</b>
<b>JULY 29</b>	<b>JEAN SKINTER</b>
	<b>RON KERCHNER</b>
<b>JULY 31</b>	<b>TOM REICHERT</b>
	<b>BILL MARTENS</b>
	<b>JIM MYHRE</b>




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## ANNIVERSARIES

<b>JULY 1</b>	<b>MARY LOU &amp; LEE DOGOLOFF</b>
<b>JULY 7</b>	<b>PAUL &amp; MARGARET STUTTS</b>
<b>JULY 16</b>	<b>CLAUDE &amp; BIBI TEW</b>
<b>JULY 18</b>	<b>DON &amp; CAROL BOEBEL</b>
<b>JULY 23</b>	<b>JACK &amp; CAROLYN SMITH</b>

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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 convenes 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. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.



This summer's hymn sing for the 2010 summer season will be on Wednesday, July 7 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

## OUTREACH NEWS

The meeting was held on June 8 and began with a brief prayer as Mary Thormeyer brought the proceedings to order. Ted Radcliffe, her co-chair, was unable to attend as he prepared for back surgery. Attendees included Bill and Joyce Wickham, Frank Bell, Martha Field, Mary

Davis, June Thompson, George Watson, Jere and Pauline Wise and Dennis Rhodes. In addition, the new class of members, Lynn Watson, Richard Jesneck, and Wally Watson attended.

After a reading and approval of the minutes, the Old Business began with a discussion of this summer's Camp Arrowhead program sponsored by joint support from the Diocese and St. Martha's. Each party will pay half of the \$470 fee. Participation will be strong this summer at 42 youth. Rufus Miller deserves credit and thanks for gathering extra funds from a Wilmington parish and from St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church in Bethany Beach to aid in the greater than anticipated participation.

Mary Davis reported that the Committee has had some success in collecting funds for bottled water to help the volunteers at the Dover Air Force Base Mortuary. This collection will continue throughout the summer.

In order to familiarize the incoming Committee members with our finances, Bill explained the sources of our funding and our current disbursements. Following Bill's information, Joyce Wickham shared information concerning one of our on-going international activities, Our Little Roses. Moreover, a local Outreach activity, the Way Home, was explained. It would be possible for Outreach members to participate in a fall tour of the 3 homes maintained for male and female former inmates of the Sussex County Correctional Institution. Several members showed interest in this field trip.

New Business included a discussion of the possibility of seeking new sources of income by selling 10% discount coupons for Grotto's Pizza Restaurants. In addition, there was discussion of forming a Food Subcommittee to gather and disseminate news items about nutritional needs in our community.

Since Dennis Rhodes will assume the duties of Committee co-chair with Mary Thormeyer, a new co-secretary was appointed. Martha Fields will alternate with June Thompson in taking notes and writing the minutes.

The summer Backpack Project was slated for late July. A special meeting for planning this effort was set for Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

As the meeting drew to its end, Bill took a few moments to share a few thoughts concerning the work of the Committee and its future. He called attention to a concern of the Long-range Committee to promote affordable housing in the shore area. Habitat for Humanity and other like-minded organizations plan to build homes on donated lands. He expressed his hope that the Committee would maintain a focus on local, national and international needs. He said that St. Martha's would benefit from keeping an eye on the "big picture". He continued that he is happy with the growth of scope and financial support of the Committee. He found a group with a budget of \$1,000 and in the past few years it has grown to funds of +/- \$20,000. George Watson, an out-going member, joined Bill in expressing his desire to see the growth of the Outreach Committee's funding every year. Joyce Wickham added that she valued the fellowship of the Committee that combines serious purpose with many moments of laughter.

Jere Wise noted that the interim rector, The Rev. Cyr, would need a copy of the agenda each month.

The meeting ended with a short poem and snacks. Everyone expressed their thanks to the out-going members, George Watson, Ted Radcliffe and Joyce Wickham, who have served faithfully for several years.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Rhodes

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## **PASTORAL CARE TRANSPORTATION TEAM**

A team of 10 volunteers are available to provide transportation to medical appointments or other needs. Call if we can help. Carolyn Smith, 436-9080, Dennis Rhodes, 541-4697, or the church office, 539-7444.

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## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

As our congregation grows we are helped by having volunteers Lorraine Carr, Martha Fields, and Mary Wuslich assist with weekly projects. Additionally, Don & Carolyn Clarke, Archie & Ruth Ellis, Joanne Levy, and Pauline & Jere Wise, help with folding, labeling and putting stamps on newsletters, Christmas 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.

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## **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 3, August 7, September 4 and October 9.**

## 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, 302-829-8298 or Kathy Rhodes, 302-539-7444.

## 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

"Romance on a Summer's Night" on July 17<sup>th</sup>, "The Eclectic Guitars" on July 31<sup>st</sup>, and "Terzetto" on August 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 17 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 2009-10. We have made progress this year and our final performance

was on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We are on vacation until September when we will resume practice.

My thanks to all who participated.

Kathleen B. Rhodes  
Parish Musician

## HOME REPAIRS LEADERSHIP

Tom McCormick assumed oversight of the Southeast Sussex Ministerium Home Repair program over three years ago when the previous person left. This outreach effort was part of the preparation expected as Tom entered into the deaconate training program. The program evolved into essentially a St.

Martha's endeavor with nearly 20 members of the parish participating. Tom has done a very good job of providing the leadership needed and helpful for these volunteers.

With Tom's imminent relocation by the bishop to another congregation, in conjunction with the rector's retirement, it was necessary for Tom to end his involvement with this St. Martha's group.

With Tom's assistance, Frank Bell and Bill Richardson have been prepared to assume leadership of the program. They have just recently begun their new roles in helping to identify work sites in coordination with RD & C, which succeeded the Ministerium in oversight of the project, and lining up volunteers for each site with the needed materials. Joe Reardon continues as the group's treasurer. We greatly appreciate the leadership of Tom, as well as the willingness of Frank, Bill and Joe to continue to assist with these very needed home repairs for local low-income individuals.

## DIOCESAN DEACONS

When the Bishop began conversations with those about to be ordained as deacons, he reminded them that they serve the diocese, not just their sponsoring parish. Thus deacons may be relocated by the Bishop depending upon diocesan needs and local parish situations. One of the situations concerns when a rector moves.

During the interim process it is deemed best for deacons to be moved to another congregation. This is to insure that the Interim Rector, Vestry and Search Committee will be seen as those responsible for parish leadership. History has shown that in circumstances where a deacon remained in place that there was a general tendency to turn to that person for informal leadership, thus creating confusion and separate groups within a congregation.

Recently the Bishop has met with two deacons, one being our deacon, Tom McCormick, to initiate their moving as a result of the retiring of their parish rectors. Presently Tom and the Bishop are exploring where Tom will shortly be relocated. We have appreciated his efforts at St. Martha's and wish him well in his new setting.

## AS YOU HAVE PROBABLY NOTICED

As you have probably noticed, there are many more cars on the roads recently and the parking lots of the local restaurants seem to be full most of the time. This will only increase over the next few weeks.

What you have probably not noticed is the need for food to be distributed by Casa San Francisco in Milton to the needy of Sussex County is also on the increase. They need us now more than ever.

Please help by taking a brown bag with a list of suggested items from the narthex. Fill the bag and return it to the narthex and we will see to it that it get taken to Milton.

They are so grateful every time we make a food delivery. We haven't been able to make a delivery for a few weeks and they are probably wondering what happened to St. Martha's. Let's show them that we are still here and continue to want to help.

Your Outreach Committee thanks you for you participation.

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## GROUPS & MEETINGS – JULY

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 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	7:00 pm
Bell Choir	Thursdays	7:00 pm
Endowment	TBA	4:30 pm
Finance	TBA	2:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	10:30 am
Long Range Planning	TBA	7:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Sundays	7:30 pm
Outreach	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays	1:00 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Prison Bible Study	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	5:00 pm
Vestry	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	Aug 11	4:00 pm

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## MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels drivers are needed! The CHEERS Center in ocean View needs more people to deliver meals in the Ocean View area. The delivery time takes about one hour. People are scheduled in teams of two one day

every two weeks. If you are interested, please call Janet Skibicki at 539-8053, or contact Mary Thormeyer at 541-5511, [marythormeyer1@yahoo.com](mailto:marythormeyer1@yahoo.com)