

AGENDA

ST. MARTHA'S ANNUAL MEETING

November 16, 2008

Prayer

Welcome

Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting

Distribution of written reports

Nominations for the vestry

John Robbert, Paul Ross and Jere Wise

Tellers appointed

Voting

Stewardship report

Proposed budget

Treasurer's report

Tom McCormick Diaconal Discernment Report

Junior Warden's comments

Senior Warden's comments

Long Range

Building Committee

Rector's "State of the Parish" reflections

Voting results

Opportunity for questions and comments

Closing prayer

JOHN F. ROBBERT

Although Jane and I have been attending St. Martha's for a relatively short period of time (about three years or so when we made Ocean View our home), it is hard to imagine being any place else on a Sunday morning. Like most things in life it is the relationships that matter and St. Martha's offers endless social possibilities (from those who always occupy the pew in front of you to those who share committee work) in the context of the Episcopalian tradition. If chosen to be on the vestry my goal would be to maintain the best of St. Martha's as we grow in building size, in numbers and in spirit.

On a biographical note, I am an attorney specializing in estate, tax and charitable planning and am licensed in Louisiana, Maryland and Delaware. I have been on the Endowment Committee for the past two years and have participated in numerous church activities including chief cup-cake seller. I grew up in New Orleans, went to college in Massachusetts, then spent a year teaching in Baghdad, back to New Orleans for law school and moved to Annapolis about twenty years ago --- none of which qualifies me for the vestry but that's my story and I am sticking to it. And I would be pleased to serve St. Martha and its parishioners in any way that I can.

Paul W. Ross

Johann and I have been members of St. Martha's after moving here permanently from Lancaster, PA, three years ago. We have four grown children, and four grandsons. Both Johann and I are retired. I retired from teaching Computer Science at Millersville University. We now reside in West Fenwick Island, Delaware.

Johann and I helped start St. Edward's Episcopal Church in Lancaster. In addition, I have served as Treasurer for two churches. I have served as a Lay Reader, and have been and are involved in a wide variety of church activities over the years, including Vestry membership.

I welcome the opportunity to be part of the change and expansion of St. Martha's as a member of the Vestry.

Jere Wise

My wife, Pauline, and I moved to Bethany Beach in 2002 from York, PA. I retired earlier that year after spending nearly 35 years in the Human Resources field. We have 2 married sons, one in York and one in Chicago and our daughter who resides in Philadelphia.

We were both active in the church we belonged to for nearly 40 years. One of my responsibilities was to serve as chairperson of the Staff/Parish Relations committee. After coming to Bethany, we searched diligently for a church that felt warm and welcoming. After our first visit to St. Martha's, we knew we found what we were looking for and joined in October, 2004.

Both Pauline and I are members of the Outreach committee which has been a rewarding experience. As a result of Outreach, we both mentor special needs children at Lord Baltimore Elementary School. I am also a member of the International Students Committee which has certainly been equally rewarding for me and my family. I served as a member of the Congregational Diaconate Committee which provided a great insight into the Episcopal Church. I was one of the representatives from St. Martha's who attended the 2-day Diocese Convention held this past April in Laurel, DE. I also enjoy serving as a greeter. This upcoming year will be an exciting time for all of us at St. Martha's and I am happy to be a part of it.

WARDENS' REPORT

This has been another pivotal year for St. Martha's Church. As your Senior and Junior Wardens, we have worked with all the committees and outside entities involved in selling the Lighthipe property and organizing our upcoming construction. We joined our Rector in many meetings with PUMH and the Diocesan Trustees working out the final agreement and then the amended agreement.

Jim served on the selection committee for an architect to design the additions and renovations to St. Martha's. Once the architect was hired, George has served on the Architectural/Construction Committee which has been overseeing the detailed plans. Jim worked with Land Design on all engineering prep work for the project. We also assisted the architect in getting approval from the Bethany Beach Design Commission.

Jim represented St. Martha's at the Diocesan Annual Meeting of Wardens and Treasurers. He assisted Rev Wickham in scheduling projects for our summer intern, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly. Jim also continued as our webmaster.

George attended the annual meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes in St. Louis. He is also a member of the International Student Committee and worked with the treasurer and Jack Smith on selecting ACS Technologies' software to handle financial, parishioner and parochial reports. George also oversaw on-going maintenance concerns, replaced staff parking signs that were stolen and replaced the screen door on the Sunday School room which was damaged during a hurricane.

Jim Moore, Sr. Warden

George Jones, Jr. Warden

2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT

Name of Committee/Ministry: AA

Name of Chairperson: Gary

Activities/Accomplishments of Last Year: AA meetings are held every day of the week. A new group has started meeting here on Monday and Friday from 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. with 5-10 participants.

Tuesday and Thursday meetings are 8:00 – 9:00 A.M. and are non-smoking. It is a discussion group with approximate attendance of 25 people.

Wednesday meetings start at 12:00 noon – 1:00 P. M. and is an open 12-step meeting with attendance of 15-30 people. There is an increase in attendees during the summer months and also when anniversaries in recovery are celebrated.

The groups include people of all ages and years of sobriety. People from other 12-step groups such as Ala-non are welcome. Friends and relatives of AA members, and those wanting to find out more about alcoholism, are welcome to attend. Many people have dual addictions.

Meetings close with the group reciting the Lord's Prayer and offering a pledge to "Keep Coming Back".

St. Martha's Altar Guild
2008 Annual Parish Meeting Report

Chairperson: Lois Radcliffe

Purpose:

To prepare the altar for Sunday and special-occasion services.

To provide proper care of linens, vessels, pulpit hangings and candles used in worship services.

To provide assistance to the rector as needed.

Activities/Accomplishments:

Linens and supplies continue to be purchased as needed.

All church flowers (special occasion as well as regular Sunday services) are now the responsibility of a newly formed Flower Guild, incorporating guidelines formed by Susanne McCormick when she was solely responsible for this.

Consideration is being given to the temporary relocation of the sacristy during church renovation.

Plans:

There continues to be a need for more Altar Guild members and all are welcome. With training and our up-dated guidelines, all new members will be able to comfortably respond to the duties assigned to the dedicated men and women of St. Martha's Altar Guild.

THE BETHESDA GATHERING BIBLE STUDY AT SUSSEX CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

Coordinator: Dottie Seyfried

Purpose: Sharing God's love and word with our brothers who are in prison and affirming them as God's People.

Thanks to the steadfastness of our volunteers and the cooperation of Sussex Correctional Institution, the Bible Study within the walls of the prison continues. The ten men welcome us with joy, and we, in turn, gain much from them. Their faith and hope behind razor wire give the volunteers support and increase our faith. Over the last three years at least ten members have been released and moved on to independent, self-supporting living. Most have chosen to enter The Way Home Program.

Volunteers from St. Martha's are: Ken Battles, Mimi Dupont, Susanne McCormick and Dottie Seyfried. Andy Favrette, Joe Kane and Hugh O'Neill from St. Anne's Catholic Church, and The Reverend Max Wolf, of All Saints, Rehoboth are very active members.

The men describe us as people who are faithful, accepting and caring. They frequently remind us that God Loves Us. They have great respect for St. Martha's commitment to Prison Ministry and for those from other faiths and churches who are an integral part of the group.

Activities over this past year:

Participating in an Ash Wednesday Eucharistic Service celebrated by The Reverends Dave Archibald and Max Wolf.

Reverend Wolf celebrated a Eucharistic Service during Bible Study at Christmas time.

Organizing the purchasing and sending of Christmas gifts to children in the lives of men in the Bible Study by St. Martha's Parishioners.

Birthday and cards for other occasions are sent regularly. Often this is the only mail some prisoners receive.

Plans for the Coming Year:

Our plans and activities are under the control of the prison and the Chaplain. We have an opportunity to add to our group. It would be wonderful if more St. Martha's parishioners would join us. I am also contacting other churches in the area. It would be a blessing if anyone feels called to visit individual prisoners or be **pen pals**. If you'd like to do this please see me. You don't have to use your return address so privacy is assured.

SUMMER BOOK SALES 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 Summer Book Sales:

For the summer of 2008, St. Martha's volunteers conducted six book sales on the dates listed below with the following sales totals:

- Saturday, May 3rd - \$699
- Friday, May 23rd - \$338
- Saturday, May 24th - \$214
- Saturday, July 5th - \$1,336.50
- Saturday, Aug. 2nd - \$651
- Saturday, Aug. 30th - \$624

Summer Total: \$3,862.50 (Volunteers will meet 12/11 to discuss 2008 funds)

How did 2008 compare with 2007? –

For the summer of 2007, our total sales came to \$4,769.80.

Funds from the sales were disbursed as follows:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Volunteer luncheon held at the church | \$105.00 |
| • Tom McCormick's House Repairs Projects for the needy: | \$1000 |
| • Don Clarke's Worship Committee Projects: | \$500 |
| • Sewanee Conference for Kathy Rhodes: | \$1000 |
| • Purchase of a hand truck: | \$68.86 |
| • Ad for St. Martha's in <i>Coastal Point</i> Church directory: | \$325 |
| • Bus for St. Martha's Shorebirds Outing | <u>\$595</u> |
| Total: | \$3,593.86 |

The remainder of the 2007 funds in the amount of \$1,175.94 was earmarked for future building needs of the fellowship hall.

Our 2008 summer book sales netted \$907.30 **less** than the 2007 summer book sales, but that is no surprise considering the current economic conditions.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members:

Rev. Bill Wickham
Mary Lou Dogoloff
Carl Mantegna
John Robbert
Ken Marta
Ed Seyfried, Chair

Meetings: Meetings are held “on call” of the Chair, usually quarterly.

The year was a progression of learning with some action on providing funds for both the Outreach effort and parish In-reach under the vestry approved policy of funding.

This policy allows for 5% of the value of the Endowment Fund at the beginning of the year to be shared between Outreach Activities (2 ½%) and Parish In-reach (2 ½ %).

During the current year, \$14,800 was allocated to Outreach and \$14,800 was provided for internal operations on items associated with architectural and engineering cost connected with the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Church Building and participation at the annual meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes.

As the year passed it became apparent that we would not receive the total proceeds from the sale of the Lighthipe Property to Peninsula Methodist United Homes. The renegotiated payment calls for \$500,000 to be paid by January 30, 2009 and monthly interest payments at 5.25% with the balance due by next June 30, 2009.

We look forward to an active and challenging 2009.

Respectively,

Ed Seyfried, Chair

2008 - Greeters Report for the Annual Meeting

Name of Committee: Greeters

Name of Chairperson/Representative: Wincy Jackson

Purposes or Goal of Committee/Ministry:

Our purpose is to welcome guests attending services at St. Martha's as well as welcoming church members. We engage our guests in conversation trying to learn if they are new to the area, full-time or weekend residents, in the area visiting friends or family, vacation, or just passing through. We encourage guests to sign the guest register, make sure they are made to feel welcome at coffee hour, introduce them to others and answer their questions regarding St. Martha's.

Activities/Accomplishments of Last Year:

- There are currently 27 greeters who have made it possible to have 2 greeters at the 10am service and 1 greeter at the 8am service throughout the year. During the winter months we lose a few greeters to Florida, but so far they return in the spring.
- A tri-fold brochure was developed in 2008 which lists the church leadership, various weekly meetings, volunteer opportunities and a place for comments. The brochure is in the weekly service folders as well as the "welcome bag".
- Welcome Bags are given to each person/family who is attending St. Martha's for the first time. This project was started in April 2008 and approximately 150 bags have been given out this year. We have had many positive comments from those receiving the bags and they have helped parishioners identify

New Greeters: Paul Stutts joined the Greeters during the past year.

Dinner Groups: We are continuing our Fall and Winter Dinner Clubs for the fourth year as a way to not only meet new people at St. Martha's, but to also help everyone get to know others at St. Martha's outside of the church setting. Our This year has been a wonderful success with over 66 people joining the 2008 winter groups and 79 the 2008 fall dinner groups.

Plans/vision/goals for coming year: Also, I would like to see the greeters make more contact with new members of St. Martha's. We will need to work closely with our Rector and the office so that we are aware of those that have joined St. Martha's, but have not spoken to a greeter.

I would like to express my thanks to the Greeters who have faithfully shown up week after week in 2008 at their appointed time.

Lorraine Carr, Kris Spinney, Edith Adkins, Dan Hill, Tom McCormick, Carolyn Smith, Bill and Pat Rowe, Patricia Jones, Ken and Naomi Staley, Ruth and Harry Adams, Jere Wise, Paul and Johann Ross, Don and Carolyn Clarke, Carl and Susan Mantegna, Paul Stutts, Joanne and Bob Levy, Bob and Mary Davis and Patti Mason,

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT REPORT 2008

PURPOSE –The International Student Committee was formed four years ago to reach out to our foreign summer students and help them adapt to living here by assisting them with finding housing, jobs, local customs, transportation, etc. and for St. Martha's to be faithful ambassadors.

We meet approximately every three weeks between April and August and on occasion, in September. Members of this committee are Martha Fields, Clem Edgar, Phil Fleming, George Jones, Dick Sprague, Mary Thormeyer, Mary Wuslich, Ann Scott, Father Wickham, Fran Hasson, Jere Wise and Bob Parsons from Mariner Bethel. We have a diverse range of talents however large or small and share our thoughts and ideas freely with one another. Our accomplishments are always rewarded by the students appreciation for our efforts while they are away from home and family and us making new friends by the end of summer.

This year we helped several students find housing, supplied them with bikes, made 50 welcome bags for distribution along with a tip sheet containing pertinent information regarding banks, emergency room treatment, bus transportation, maps, beach rules, etc. and hosted a picnic at the church grounds for 45 students. We had the help of Peter, a Polish student living with the Pauline and Jere Wise this summer, and he assisted in suggesting several ideas on what the important needs were and also came to a few meetings.

The unique experience of having our summer seminarian, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, on our committee was extremely helpful. She contributed by observing St. Martha's ministry with the students for six weeks researching their needs, interviewing business persons, churches, chambers of commerce, and met with the organizers of established outreach committees in Ocean City and Rehoboth. She provided us with an extensive report on the programs created in those areas, our challenges ahead, lessons learned from others and provided recommendations for Bethany Beach's future coalition.

Members from our own committee attended Outreach meetings in Rehoboth gathering information on expanding and forming a permanent coalition, and more recently two others from St. Martha's attended a seminar in Ocean City.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2009 - St. Martha's would like to host two picnics next summer as they have been successful and more were requested from the students.

St. Martha's has been laying the groundwork this fall to involve more churches, businesses, organizations and individuals by forming a permanent coalition in getting our summer workers acclimated when they arrive.

The first meeting was held in Sept. at the Ocean View Police Station. Thirteen people attended and we had the Ocean View Police Chief and representatives from Mariner Bethel and St. Anne's. This was an enthusiastic group and we then set the Oct. 28th

meeting to follow up. That recent meeting was also well attended and we had representatives from Ocean City Outreach, Chambers of Bethany/Fenwick and Rehoboth/Dewey, Resort Quest and a gentleman from MTA providing information on monies available for bikes and repairs.

This is a good start and we hope and pray our efforts will continue to grow and provide valuable support to the international students.

Mary Wuslich
Chairperson

