

# ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

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## OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

I invite you to join us at the various offerings as we near the end of Lent and approach Holy Week and Easter.

Thursday, April 2

6:45 pm Bible Study

Palm Sunday, April 5

8:00 am Liturgy of Palms & Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Liturgy of Palms & Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 9

7:00 pm Foot- Washing & Holy Eucharist

Good Friday, April 10

12 noon Good Friday Liturgy

1:00 pm Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Sunday, April 12

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:30 am Choral Holy Eucharist with bells

10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 am Choral Holy Eucharist with bells

In the midst of all that we are about 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](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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## OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Jere Wise

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The following members were

present: Ted Radcliffe (Chair), Dottie Seyfried, Mary Thormeyer, Joyce Wickham, Dennis Rhodes and Jere Wise.

Much of the meeting was devoted to a budget review. The review included item-by-item re-examination and discussion. This was necessitated in light of the current economic times. Further budget review will take place later in the year. The committee approved a \$1,000.00 donation to the Food for Thought program. The Frankford School is in drastic need for food due to reduced funds. This allocation was a budgeted item.

Bill Wickham is accepting applications for Camp Arrowhead for this summer. Six applications have been submitted to date.

A new, smaller project was approved by the committee. Dottie Seyfried was familiar with "Bishops Blend Coffee Project". When purchased, there is 15% of the sale remitted to the ERD Fund (Episcopal Relief and Development). More details will follow in the near future.

As previously announced, the Outreach Committee will sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour every other month. At each coffee, we will share information regarding a current project. The March Coffee was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We remind everyone that March is our Book Drive. Books are needed for pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children who reside at Hickory Tree. A bin is located outside the church office. All books should be received by no later than Easter Sunday. The next Outreach – sponsored coffee will be May with the Food for Thought program as its theme.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. with prayer by Bill Wickham.

The next Outreach meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

## VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for its monthly meeting on March 16. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the minutes were accepted and treasurer's report for February was approved. Mark suggested a couple of format changes. Signatories for the Master Fund A diocesan mutual fund were approved – John Robbert, Paul Ross and Mark Hopkins.

John Robbert, Senior Warden, reported on the highlights of the annual endowed parishes conference which again was helpful. He also updated the vestry on the evolving relationship with PUMH. PUMH is in discussions with a potential equity partner with Mariposa prior to pursuing a bond market offering.

Patty Reichert announced that the copies of the new Church Directory have arrived. Jack Smith reported that we have decided not to install the ACS financial and membership software as it does not seem to be helpful for our needs. He also received approval to purchase a check scanner for use by the tellers. Barb Harris mentioned attention needs to be given to a more thorough cleaning of the Sunday School area.

Jere Wise reported for Outreach that we will be selling 100 packages of Bishop's Blend coffee with 15% of the proceeds to go to Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). The vestry approved a second payment of \$1,000 to the Frankford Elementary Food For Thought program to subsidize additional meals for low income students.

A final payment of \$1,220.21 for the refurbishing of the needlepoint wall hanging behind the choir was approved.

Approval was given for the wardens to authorize leasing agreement for a new office

copier. Our yearly costs will drop from around \$6,000 to about \$4,000.

The rector led a closing prayer at 8:40.

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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 meetings will be April 1 & 15. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

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## VOLUNTEER CALENDAR CONFLICTS

Every two months we send out a calendar of dates for various Sunday morning responsibilities. If you are aware of dates that you will not be available in May or June, please contact one of these coordinators:

<b>Readers or chalicists</b>	<b>Tom McCormick</b>
<b>Prayers of the people</b>	<b>Tom McCormick</b> <b>(537-4516)</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Lois Radcliffe</b> <b>(537-6069)</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Church Office</b> <b>(539-7444)</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Don Clarke</b> <b>(539-3702)</b>
<b>Tellers</b>	<b>Jack Smith</b> <b>(436-9080)</b>

As always, we appreciate your willingness to serve and the way you arrange to switch with one another when other calendar conflicts arise.

We also welcome additional volunteers for each of these roles.

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## BOOK SALES MEETING

There will be a meeting on Thursday, April 30 at 11:00 am to update plans for our yearly book sales. These sales have helped publicize the presence of St. Martha's, removed piles of previously read books from our homes, offered inexpensive reading for many and provided funds for hospitality (Shorebirds game), music ministry needs, Sunday School and various outreach programs.

Bill Wickham invites all to come and help develop plans for 2009, including a calendar of sales dates, potential use of this coming year's income, and how many of us may pitch in as volunteers.

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## MEDITATION GROUP

A meditation group meets at St. Martha's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 4-5 pm. Cyndee Trower, who has led yoga and meditation groups, is the leader. Contact Dottie Seyfried, 537-2286, for more information.

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## SHOREBIRDS

The past couple of years have been exciting for a large number of St. Martha's members who have taken a bus, sponsored by Book Sales proceeds, to see a Delmarva Shorebirds game in Salisbury. Mark and Kim West have taken care of all arrangements in the past, but would now like to pass this on to a couple of other volunteers. Ken Hooker has offered to arrange for renting a bus. Might you be willing to work with him? The date is Saturday, June 6.

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## INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Every year the Bishop makes a visitation to each parish. The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright will next come to St. Martha's on Sunday, September 20, 2009. As part of that service individuals may be presented to be confirmed

in the Episcopal Church, to be received from the Roman Catholic Church, welcomed from the Lutheran Church or to reaffirm an earlier confirmation.

If you might be thinking about formalizing membership at St. Martha's, please consider attending the Inquirers' Classes offered by the rector on Sunday mornings, 9:00 – 9:40 am, from April 19 – May 17. These sessions are appropriate for those considering membership as well as others who seek to broaden or update their understanding of this branch of the Church. Bill Wickham will publicize an area of focus for each week but also provide opportunities for various questions from those attending.

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## EPISCOPAL WORKCAMP

An Episcopal Work Camp is scheduled for June 7-13 at Camp Arrowhead outside Rehoboth Beach. Volunteers will eat and sleep at Camp Arrowhead and then go out in teams to area worksites to provide repairs for those unable to make or pay for the repairs themselves. See the bulletin board for details or contact Tom McCormick, 537-4516, [mccormick5o@aol.com](mailto:mccormick5o@aol.com)

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## SELBYVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

A food bank in Selbyville is supported by the Southeast Sussex Ministerium and has been given \$500 from the Book Sales proceeds.

Located at Salem United Methodist Church, the Pantry is open on third Saturdays each month. Volunteers are needed to help carry food to cars beginning at 8:45 am. Food donations are also welcomed.

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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, Harry and Ruth Adams, Archie & Ruth Ellis, Joanne Levy, and Pauline & Jere Wise, help with folding, labeling and putting stamps on newsletters, Christmas letters, and stewardship mailings.

A special thank you to Wally Watson who is always volunteering to assist the office when needed.

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.



## BIRTHDAYS – APRIL, 2009

- April 3 Bill Wickham
  - 4 Betty Ellison
  - 5 Patty Reichert
  - 6 Benjamin Parsons
  - 7 Rick Goodman and Barbara Harris
  - 9 Johann Ross
  - 10 Lorraine Carr and Joanne Levy
  - 12 Christine Aldridge
  - 13 Kris Spinney
  - 15 Freddy Munchow
  - 18 Dottie Barber
  - 23 Joyce Tuck
  - 28 Dick Samworth
  - 29 Beverly Shubert
  - 30 Louise Cerino
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**ANNIVERSARIES**

April 16 Harold & June Thompson  
 Mark & Penny Hopkins  
 20 Bill & Edwina Martens  
 27 Mark & Kim West



**RING THOSE BELLS!**

It is a growing tradition in many churches for parishioners to bring hand-held bells to church on Easter Sunday and ring them during festive hymns at the beginning and the end of the service to accompany the singing of each "Alleluia". We did it last year and it was so well received we will be repeating it again this year. So dust off your bells and make a joyful noise on Easter Sunday.



**ATTENTION!**

**CHANCEL CHOIR  
 NOW HIRING!**

**ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

**NEAT UNIFORMS**

A lovely blue with white overlay

**GOOD WORK ENVIROMENT**

Wonderful people, great work space

**APPRECIATIVE BOSS**

God loves a joyful singer

**APPLY NOW!**

When: Wednesday nights at 7pm  
 Where: Choir area at St. Martha's

**GROUPS & MEETINGS – APRIL**

Adult Choir	Wednesdays	7:00 pm
Bell Choir	Thursdays	7:30 pm
Endowment	April 27	4:30 pm
Finance Committee	May 19	2:00 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	9:00 am
Long Range Planning	April 14	7:00 pm
Outreach	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays	1:00 pm
Prison Bible Study	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	5:00 pm
Vestry	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	May 20	4:00 pm
AA	Mondays	8:00 am
	Tuesdays	8:00 am
	Wednesdays	12:00 pm
	Thursdays	8:00 am
	Fridays	8:00 am
Bariatric Surgery Gp	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays	7:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Sundays	7:30 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Way Home	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	7:00 pm

