

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

Each Sunday we ask whether there are any individuals with us for worship for the first time. If so, and they then stand up, we offer them a gift bag. They are told that they are given this because they are a gift to us. How? Their presence reminds us of our claimed identity as people who are concerned for and responsive to the needs of others. In this month's newsletter you will find a report of the monthly meeting of the Outreach Committee. You will also note articles about mentors at Selbyville Elementary School, Bishop's Blend Coffee with proceeds to ER & D, volunteers for the Way Home office and welcoming events for summer International Students. If not already a part of these vital ministries, you might consider seeing what is so rewarding and exciting to the participants!

As many reach out to human needs, others are responding to the health of our creation. Ron Wuslich and Carl Mantegna are active with the Center for the Inland Bays, which is concerned with the health of nearby waterways and the air above and around them. A recycling bin outside the church encourages church recycling and reminds us to do the same at home. Low energy light bulbs might replace regular ones as needed. Note the various articles now appearing in newspapers for additional tips.

In the midst of all that we are about to 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.

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met for its monthly meeting on April 20. After an opening prayer, and discussion of the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday, the

minutes were accepted and treasurer's report for March was approved.

John Robbert, Senior Warden, discussed membership growth opportunities with a focus on ways to advertise and promote ourselves. He also noted the spring landscaping recently done. Paul Ross, Junior Warden, reported on needed roof repairs, the rector's parking sign and Sunday School room concerns.

Bill Wickham reported that PUMH is still negotiating with an equity partner, feeling hopeful about residential inquiries and hoping to go out to the bond market in a couple months.

Diocesan Convention was reported on by Jere Wise and Barbara Harris, who attended along with Patty Reichert, Tom McCormick and the rector.

The rector then gave an overview of the Diocesan approach for involvement of those, including Tom McCormick, who are preparing to be "vocational deacons". There are certain prescribed worship involvements, but the focus is to be on parish outreach enhancement. Chairing of parish committees, vestry membership and roles which would replace the involvement of other parishioners are all discouraged.

The next two meetings will include attention to the current financial times, special attention to funds needed to be held in reserve for specified purposes and means of reducing some of our operating costs.

The rector led a closing prayer at 8:45.

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 are now passing this on to three other volunteers. Ken Hooker has arranged for a bus, the fee being paid by book sales earnings. Jim & Lee Moore are coordinating sign-ups and will answer questions, 537-8051. For \$22 a person, or \$44 a household, you will have a bus ride, picnic spread, ball game, OC Air Show flyover, and fireworks. A signup sheet is posted on the kitchen bulletin board.

UNITED THANK OFFERING SPRING INGATHERING SUNDAY, May 17th

From Beth FitzPatrick, Diocesan UTO
Coordinator:

"What a joyous time in the church year! Our Savior has risen, the promise is fulfilled, and we look forward to the rest of the church year with great anticipation.

"In 2008, our Diocese was blessed with the UTO Grant that was given to *Primeros Pasos/First Steps*, the bilingual pre-school in Georgetown. Our ingathering total was significantly higher than the 2007 total. I commend you all for this increase. Now, however, is not the time for us to rest on our laurels... we must continue to work hard to meet the needs that increase daily. The current economic stresses are not unique to Delaware or the US. This recession is played out around the world and the need for UTO intervention in the lives of women and children has seldom been greater. Remember that the UTO funds every penny that we send. Our ingatherings are invested along with all the rest that are sent, and even in this time of low interest, they accumulate more funds over the course of the year."

Think about your many blessings and be thankful. Please make your checks payable to: St. Martha's Episcopal Church and note on the memo line for "UTO".

NEEDLEPOINT WALL HANGING

Have you noticed the return of the needlepoint hanging on the wall behind where the choir sits? It was repaired, cleaned and sized by Nancy Lukoski of Fancywork Finishing, LLC based in Easton, MD. Nancy is recognized for her expertise in this field and often conducts workshops and seminars on the subject. The colors are more vibrant and it is one of St. Martha's historic treasures. Stop and take a look for yourself!

An adhesive plaque that was on the wall stated that the work was organized by Agnes McNutt Kricker and stitched by herself and women of the church between 1979 and 1981. I have asked around regarding the names of those involved in this needlepoint project. This is the list I have so far:

Zola Crane	Barbara Slocum
Barbara DeRaimes	Barbara Hill
Naomi Ide	Thelma Stevens
Barbara Saulsbury	Martha Hensley
Anne Wilson	Jocelyn Fox
Betty Frank	

It would be great to have an engraved more permanent plaque produced to honor these women. I would appreciate any additional information that is available. Please contact **Dianne Burlew at (302) 537-7476 or at hburlew@mchsi.com as soon as possible.**

THE WAY HOME

The Way Home Program prison ministry is seeking volunteers to help in their Georgetown office. Contact Barbara del Mastro if you are

interested or have questions, 856-9870.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 6th at 10 AM at the church. As in previous years, we are making a request for donations of gently used bikes to be used as transportation by the students. Bikes needing minor repairs are acceptable. Please call the church, 539-7444, or Mary Wuslich at 539-6701 if you have a bike to donate.

The first ISC picnic is set for Tuesday, June 23rd from 5PM to 8PM. 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.

ENJOY SOME DELICIOUS COFFEE AND HELP ERD

BISHOP'S BLEND COFFEE is a Fair Trade, and organic coffee. Since 15% of the purchase price of **\$10.00** goes to Episcopal Relief and Development, the Outreach Committee thought it appropriate to offer this coffee to the parish. It will be available at a table in the Narthex on Sundays after Easter. ERD is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States which provides emergency assistance in times of crisis such as Hurricane Hazel and rebuilding in times of disasters. Their programs work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Both de-caf and caffeinated will be available as well as a printout of other options - especially

for those who prefer flavored coffee or grind their own beans. There is no shipping charge for orders of 4 or more packages.

Please think of purchasing this coffee for your own use and for gifts. It's a win/ win situation. Enjoy your coffee and help those suffering from poverty and disaster in this country and around the world.

You may pay by cash or check. If by check make your check payable to **Dorothy Seyfried, not to St. Martha's.**

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 September 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.
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LAST CALL

Contributions towards our recent organ replacement are still short \$862.40. Last minute pledge payments and extra donations will be welcomed.

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 considering 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 address an area of focus for each week but also provide opportunities for various questions from those attending.

MENTORS

MENTORS are needed at Phillip Showell Elementary School in Selbyville. If you might be interested in learning more, contact Noel Tuck, 541-0421, or see the notice on the board by the kitchen.

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 6 & 20. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

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.

OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach met on April 14 with the following members present: Ted Radcliffe, Carl Mantegna, Mary Thormeyer, Mary Lou Dogoloff, Bill Jarboe, Jere Wise, Pauline Wise, Dennis Rhodes, Bill Wickham, and Joyce Wickham. Ted opened the meeting with prayer.

Discussion opened regarding the role of Outreach in emergency situations. This will be an ongoing discussion, given the increase of requests for help in these hard economic times. It was agreed that Outreach should not become a referral agency, but that individual committee members should familiarize themselves with resources, such as the Pyle Center, available in the area.

Dennis Rhodes reported on his contact with Crystal Timmons of the Milford Food bank.

Outreach and the congregation of St. Martha's received a thank you from Ellen Dupont on behalf of financial support sent to the Children's Home in India. They were most appreciative.

Thanks to Gerald Hocker who donated 100 grocery bags for our Casa San Francisco efforts. Food and small toiletries donated to this feeding program can be left in the church narthex where volunteers will take them up to Milford each week. There is also a suggested list of foods needed by the program, which can be picked up in the narthex, along with a grocery bag for your next shopping trip.

Thanks to the congregation for their generous support of donations for water at Dover Air Force base. This water is need by workers and families helped at the mortuary when the bodies of service men and women killed in the line of duty are returned to the base and escorted to their final resting places.

During May and June "Bishop's Blend" decaf and regular fair tade coffee will be for sale for \$10.00 a bag. Proceeds go to the Episcopal Church's Bishops' Relief Fund. See Dottie Seyfried or an Outreach member for details. Outreach members who have sampled the coffee report it is very good.

Applications for Camp Arrowhead in Rehoboth Beach, a ministry of the Episcopal churches in

Delaware, are way up this year. At last count we've received 19 applications for this summer camp, and they are continuing to come in. St. Martha's contributes \$230, with the diocese adding an additional contribution of \$225 for each child sponsored by St. Martha's.

Next month we will have a final report on the Hickory Tree Book Drive. So far, we have been given over 200 books, with a few more expected. Thanks to all for your generosity! The next meeting of Outreach will take place at 1 pm on May 12th.

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

This summer we will once again do two hymn sings. The first one will be on Wednesday, July 8th and the second on Wednesday, August 5. Be thinking of your favorite hymns. More information will be coming in the next month.

SOUTHERN DELAWARE CHORAL SOCIETY

The Southern Delaware Choral Society spring concert featuring the works of Haydn will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at Epworth United Methodist Church on Holland Glade Road in Rehoboth Beach, DE at 7:30 pm. The concert will feature Haydn's "Mass in Time of War," including the "Te Deum" and his "Lord Nelson Mass." In between the parts of the two masses, letters will be read to the audience from Delaware's soldiers who have served, or are currently serving, in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for students and are available from choir members George Watson and Clem Edgar or they may be purchased on-line at sdchoralsociety.org.



BIRTHDAYS – MAY, 2009

- 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**
- MAY 23 BARBARA REARDON**
- MAY 27 BERNIE WHITNEY**
- MAY 29 KEATON BURKE**



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	7:30 pm
Endowment	July 20	4:30 pm
Finance	May 19	2:00 pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Mondays	7:00 pm
Lay Pastoral Care	TBA	9:00 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
Way Home	2 nd Monday	7:00 pm
Worship Committee	May 20	4:00 pm