

ST. MARTHA'S MESSENGER

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE RECTOR

These notes are being written prior to Palm Sunday and you will probably see them just before or after Easter. The services are noted in another article for Holy Week and Easter. I look forward to **sharing** them with you.

The word **sharing** is a key word for these days, and for me. If we are open to the mood of these special days we will find ourselves **sharing** the feelings of Jesus and those who were in his presence during that time. This openness to **sharing** can be a powerful experience. Being in that frame of mind and emotion will truly speak strongly to us.

Sharing is also essential within our community of faith in a couple of ways. One is to share openly and fully our hopes, concerns, suggestions and doubts with one another. If we see each of us as a work in progress we will be able to **share** all of these thoughts and feelings with a sense of humility. Such **sharing** is most valuably done directly with those both responsible and of likely help. Third party **sharing** does not have us really present to be either helped or to be of help. A community of such open **sharing** is a powerful and meaningful people. This is pointedly expressed where we hear that the early Christians had all things in common.

Sharing additionally exists when what we have is offered not just to those near us, within our range of influence and power, but freely to those beyond ourselves who are in need of what we possess. It is a real expression of giving a gift when we give to another with the freedom to utilize it as the other deems best, even if it is not how we

would choose. Our involvement in CEEP, Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, helps us with this understanding as it has led us to expand our world view, while also continuing support of local programs such as Food For Thought, The Way Home Program, Hickory Tree and Camp Arrowhead scholarships. We have been led to **share** with the orphaned girls of Our Little Roses in Honduras and in the creation of All Souls Church in the devastated 9th Ward of New Orleans.

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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday
Holy Eucharist and stripping of Altar,
7 pm**

**Good Friday Liturgy, noon & 7 pm,
Stations, 1 pm**

**Easter Holy Eucharist, 8, 9:30 & 11 am,
Egg Hunt, 10:30 am**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

- June Thompson

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, March 9th. Ted Radcliffe opened the meeting with a prayer at 1:00. Frank Bell, Mary Davis, Martha Fields, Dennis Rhodes, June Thompson, Mary Thormeyer, George Watson, Jere and Pauline Wise were also present. A motion by Frank Bell to accept the minutes of the February meeting was approved.

Old Business:

The next item under discussion was Rotating Membership on the Outreach Committee. Members will still rotate off of the Committee by longevity. But there was a question of when new members would be installed. There were two suggestions: either install new members at the June meeting or the September meeting. These were discussed and a motion was made approving the installation of new members at the June meeting. The vote was 7 approving, 2 opposing and 1 abstaining.

Food For Thought:

Questions about changes, accountability and enlargement of the Food For Thought Program were the next order of business. Ted Radcliffe presented an accounting of the expenditures by Frankford School. Most of the committee were confident that the school was utilizing the money granted for the program wisely but would like an account statement and/or a report from the school on a regular basis. We discussed expanding the program to include Showell Elementary in the program when the funds become available. The idea of raising funds for Food For Thought was presented. After discussion, the committee decided not to entertain the idea at this time.

The Outreach coffee hour was held on March 21. Joyce Wickham was the hostess with the help of volunteers Mary Thormeyer and Mary Davis.

New Business:

Jere Wise reported from the Vestry meeting. The vestry asked for the Outreach Committee's ideas on helping to improve Public Relations and thereby increase membership at St. Martha's. We discussed some of the ongoing church activities at which we could distribute some positive PR, but we returned to the lack of facilities at St. Martha's to house new programs. We would, however, be willing to participate in a larger effort by the Church to enhance St. Martha's image. Mary Davis was asked about the Consortium Conference and felt that it was worthwhile. There was a discussion of the possibility of changing the number of delegates next year, but no motion was made to pursue it.

Mary Thormeyer suggested that St. Martha's might want to participate in the ongoing Meals on Wheels program at the Ocean View Cheers Center. They need volunteers to drive and deliver meals. She will report back to the committee next meeting.

VESTRY NOTES

The vestry met March 15 at 7 pm with opening prayer by Paul Ross. After discussing the Gospel for the coming Sunday, members approved the February vestry minutes and treasurer's report. Bob Davis, Junior Warden, reported on various building repairs. A Spring Yard Day will shortly be scheduled.

Tom McCormick, deacon, shared news of the home repairs team and his participation at Diocesan Convention. Patty Reichert and Barbara Harris also gave news of their participation at Convention.

Bill Wickham reported that nearly \$2,000 was contributed through ERD for Haitian relief efforts.

The value of attending the CEEP conference of endowed parishes was explained, especially in the areas of maintaining intact the principle of the endowment and in focusing on outreach with much of the income. He also reported that the sale of the Lighthipe property through PUMH/ACTS probably will not occur. Additionally there is presently no market for such property for projects either, unless the price essentially was to be lowered to a give-away figure.

The Tuesday Bible study will continue at least through the month of April.

Barbara Harris shared thoughts from a group that met to discuss how our Sunday School is going and what we might think about for the future. We have a good core of volunteers with a relatively few children. We will need more assistance during the summer with the influx of visitors. We hope to build upon the nucleus of children presently attending. The area used for our class needs some upgrading.

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

SCHOOL MENTORS

Mentors are needed in the local schools, with or without prior teaching experience. If interested, some present mentors are:

Frankford Elementary - Lois Radcliffe, Barb & Joe Reardon, Jeff & Wincy Jackson and Mary Thormeyer

Lord Baltimore - Jere & Pauline Wise

Phillip Showell - Nancy Rojewski, Noel Tuck and Wally Watson

MEMORIAL SERVICES at St. Martha's

Richard deRaismes April 17 at 10:00 am

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

Mary Jane Lindblad To be scheduled

DEACONS in the DIOCESE of DELAWARE – Part III

By Tom McCormick

CAN A DEACON BECOME A PRIEST?

The answer is 'yes.' However, one cannot become a priest via this program. This program in the Diocese of Delaware is intended for those called to be "permanent" or "vocational" deacons.

WHAT IS A DEACONS TITLE?

Most recently, they are addressed as simply Deacon. They may be addressed as The Reverend Mr. or Mrs. (followed by name)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A 'VOCATIONAL' DEACON?

To serve the needs of the world and communities where they live.

To teach, encourage and support others as they serve.

To bring the needs and concerns of the world and local communities to the church where it worships.

To provide a sacramental focus to the ministry of service and prayer.

To be part of the church visible order, taking their place along with lay people, priests and bishops.

To participate in worship by proclaiming the Gospel, setting the Table and dismissing the assembly.

To offer their ministry as a sacrificial gift. They do not seek to be paid by the church

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 April 7 & 21. If you have questions please call Bill at 539-7444.

BOOK SALES MEETING

There will be a meeting 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 2010, including a calendar of sales dates, potential use of this coming year's income, and how many of us may pitch in as volunteers.

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.

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, 2010

April 3 Bill Wickham
 4 Betty Ellison
 5 Patty Reichert
 6 Benjamin Parsons
 7 Barbara Harris

- 9 Johann Ross
- 10 Lorraine Carr and Joanne Levy

- 12 Christine Auldridge
- 13 Kris Spinney and Terry Watson
- 15 Freddy Munchow
- 17 Robert Gallagher
- 18 Dottie Barber
- 23 Joyce Tuck
- 29 Beverly Shubert
- 30 Louise Cerino

ANNIVERSARIES



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



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 AND MEETINGS

AA	Mondays	8:00 am
	Tuesdays	8:00 am
	Wednesdays	8:00 am
	Wednesdays	12:00 pm
	Thursdays	8:00 am
	Fridays	8:00 am
	Saturdays	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	April 14	4:30 pm
GA	Mondays	7:00 pm
Long Range Planning	March 29	7:00 pm
NA	Sundays	7:30 pm
Over Eaters	Fridays	7:00 pm
Outreach	2 nd Tuesdays	1:00 pm
Pastoral Care	TBA	9:00 am
Prison Bible Study	3 rd Thursdays	5:00 pm
Vestry	3 rd Mondays	7:00 pm
Worship	May 19	4:00 pm

