



TIDINGS

The Newsletter of Christ Church – St. Michael's Parish (Episcopal)

February 2011

Annual Parish Meeting *Sunday, February 20th at 5 PM*

Christ Church is a community of parishioners who love to come together to eat and socialize—be it the Fall Harvest Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Lenten series, Agape Meal or the Annual Parish Meeting. Of course, the Annual Parish Meeting has an important aspect beyond fellowship. It is the time when we gather as members of Christ Church to elect our wardens and vestry members, delegates and alternates to diocesan convention, and review the annual budget as approved by the vestry. On Sunday, February 20th we will gather in the church at 5 PM for a service of sung evening prayer with the Chancel Choir. Afterwards we will gather in Etherton Hall in the Parish House at 5:30 PM for libations, dinner and the meeting. The overarching theme for this year's meeting is "Transforming Stewardship" based on the book by the same name written by C.K. Robertson. Two committees undertaking this work—Heritage and Horizons—will make their reports during the course of the meeting. This is an exciting time in the life of our parish. We do hope that you will mark your calendars and plan to join us that evening. If anyone would like transportation to the meeting, please telephone or email the Parish Office.

Report from the Nominating Committee:

- Senior Warden (1 year term): **Jim McCloud**
- Junior Warden (1 year term): **Judy Sandground**
- Vestry Member (3 year term): **Bev Kegan**
Lesley Moyer
Linda Norris
Tony Vaughn
- Vestry Member (1 year term): **Hanna Woicke**
- Delegates to 2012 Convention: **Neil Armstrong**
Susan Armstrong
Martha Austin
- Alternates to 2012 Convention: **Bev Kegan**
Burgess Kegan
Sparrow Mahoney

For more information on the details of the dinner—what to bring, etcetera, please see inside or consult the announcement section of the Sunday morning service paper.

143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Easton

On Friday and Saturday, February 25-26, delegates and clergy from the Diocese will gather at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, Maryland for our annual convention. The theme for this year's Diocesan Convention is "archaeologists of HOPE." Our guest speaker throughout Diocesan Convention is the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. She will lead two plenary sessions on Saturday: 10 AM – 12 noon and 1:30 – 3:15 PM. Those who wish to attend the Presiding Bishop's talks may do so by registering in advance. Registration forms are available on the hall table in the Parish House.



Bishop Katharine visited Christ Church – St. Michael's Parish in October of 2007.

Christ Church – St. Michael’s Parish
103 Willow Street, P.O. Box S
St. Michaels, MD 21663
Tel: 410-745-9076 Fax: 410-745-5760
e-mail: info@christstmichaels.org

Office Hours: 9AM – 4PM
Weekly Service Schedule:
Morning Prayer - 9AM Mondays through Fridays
Holy Eucharist (Londonderry) – 1:30PM 1st & 3rd Thursdays
Sunday Services: 8AM & 10:15AM

Submissions to the *TIDINGS* monthly parish newsletter are due on the **10th of the previous month**. Please email items for publication to peterhouck@aol.com or leave in newsletter editor’s mailbox located at the parish house

Newsletter editor: Peter Houck

February in St. Michaels – Winter Wonderland?



The poet T.S. Eliot wrote that “in hell it is always three o’clock in the afternoon” (or maybe it was three o’clock in the morning). Both ring true for me at times. Well, to paraphrase, “in hell it is always like February in St. Michaels.” Yes, historically the church has spoken of fire, heat and brimstone when describing hell, but for me hell is about isolation and alienation—of being left behind, lost or abandoned.

February is, by far, the most popular month to get out of St. Michaels and Talbot County. Look around the congregation on Sunday mornings—especially at 8 AM—and you will note that many familiar faces are absent. The winter migration is underway with several individuals and couples having departed for a warmer climate. And unlike summer, when many of our folks head north to the New England coast, there are few if any tourists in town to fill their vacant pew. Once again, St. Michaels is in transition—the same transition I’ve experienced each year since arriving in 2003. February rolls around and many of the shops in town are closed for the season and will not reopen until late March or early April. Soon, some of the local restaurants—the Bistro, Town Dock and 208 Talbot—will take turns closing, leaving diners with fewer local options (thank goodness for Ava’s and Rupert’s) and reminding us just how long the ride down the St. Michaels Road into Easton can feel.

Last February was an unusual month for us. In the midst of the three feet of snow that fell over a six-day period, many of us wished we’d found lodging in Florida or we chose to make the best of it. Abigail and I retrieved our cross-country skis, poles and boots from the attic and took turns skiing around St. Michaels, Environmental Concerns and Tricefields (somebody had to keep an eye on the kids). In the midst of a Saturday snowfall, we took turns skiing and shoveling snow throughout the day, even skiing over to Christ Church to see the building in its snow-covered beauty. On Sunday morning, with 26” of fresh snow on the ground, we were plowed, shoveled and prepared for Sunday services where we welcomed a small, but hearty number of our parishioners. Our Annual Parish Meeting was held as planned on Monday and the following morning we studied the weather radar as another winter storm approached bearing snow and freezing rain. Over the next eighteen hours, one foot of new snow came down and more cross-country skiing, snowball fights and shoveling followed. Of course, not everyone fared as well. Many parishioners who live at the end of long driveways lost power or were trapped at home for several days. Learning from this experience, one aspect of our *Disaster Preparedness Plan* includes reaching out and telephoning many of our parishioners who live alone during the course of these types of emergencies.

While February may not be the most desirable month to spend in St. Michaels it is, indeed, a very busy month here for us. Both our Annual Parish Meeting and Diocesan Convention occur in February and, on a more personal note, my birthday and Abigail’s birthday fall this month as well. It’s a busy time in a very short month. Fortunately, this year we do not “pile on” the Season of Lent this February. With Easter falling in late April, Lent does not begin until March 9th. So February is truly an “in between” time. We move through the Season after the Epiphany hearing the many stories from Jesus’ ministry as we anticipate the Paschal cycle of Lent, Holy Week and Easter in the coming months. Those are our touchstones as Christians.

So, enjoy this “in between” time to take on your winter projects or to dream of warmer months ahead while sitting by the fire or with a cup of tea or coffee in hand. Try to imagine God’s love filling each of us and the promise of a new spring and new life. -- Mark Nestlehutt



Each Day is Valentine's Day

As Christmas fades into memory; as we become less resolute about our New Year's Resolutions, and as the icy days and long dark nights make winter seem the longest and dreariest of seasons, February offers one bright spot of happiness and hope, St. Valentine's Day. It's an equal opportunity holiday, appropriate for the youngest and oldest among us. School children still make lopsided hearts bedecked with paper doilies, lovers still send roses, dear friends send cards and good wishes to each other. It's a day for chocolate and memories and for some of us the day is bittersweet, as we mourn those we loved who are no longer with us.

But what do all the bonbons and bouquets have to do with the man responsible for all the festivity, St. Valentine? Well, no one knows for sure. Valentine was the name of at least three martyred saints of ancient Rome. The real Valentine is lost in the mist of legend and lore. Some think that he was a priest who married couples despite Emperor Claudius's edict against marriage because he thought that single men made better soldiers. Some hold that he was an imprisoned Christian who fell in love with his jailer's daughter and wrote letters to her signed, Your Valentine. Others believe he was a bishop who was martyred for his beliefs and is buried near the Porto del Popolo, by the Flaminian Gate in Rome.

By the Middle Ages, the name Valentine was associated with romantic love, and since February 14 was around the date that birds find their mates, the rest was history. Interestingly enough, St. Valentine's Day doesn't appear in the Anglican calendar of saints, and after Vatican II it was removed from the Roman calendar. February 14 is set aside to honor Saints Cyril and Methodius, brothers and missionaries to the Slavic peoples and inventors of the Cyrillic alphabet. It's hard to imagine what Hallmark and Hershey's would do with that! But not being on the church's calendar certainly hasn't dampened our enthusiasm for celebrating the day.

Maybe if there wasn't a St. Valentine, we would have had to invent him to fill our need for a day dedicated to the idea of human love. Maybe it's very fitting that we don't really know anything about the real St. Valentine. Maybe true love of God and each other is best honored by some loss of self, identity and particularity. On some level, all love stories are the same; all lovers long for the same things -- health and happiness and to be together for a long time. Perhaps Valentine's Day can help us remember that God made us to love and that we love because God loved us first. Aren't our hearts sweetest and best when we give them away? Bless Valentine, whoever he was, for reminding us of that.

Happy Valentine's Day! -- Mary Garner

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/1 Scott Kilmon	2/17 Nancy Masone
2/2 Pat Ellis, Tom & Edie Huddleston's Anniversary	2/18 Brandon Kealy
2/3 Fiona Cooper, Mark Nestlehutt	2/20 Bill Jacoby
2/5 Ruth Suter, Ginny MacLeod, Patrick Weller	2/21 David Dunn
2/7 Chris Newberg, Tom & Janet Underwood's Anniversary	2/22 Abigail Nestlehutt, Ann Roe, Carolyn Wasdyke
2/9 Janet Bickert	2/24 Brooke Alexander, Mark Newberg
2/10 Alice Cohee, Aly Valentine	2/25 Di Kingman, Emily Miller
2/11 Molly Malkus, Kathy Norman	2/26 Jim List, Sarah Donaldson, John Scofield
2/13 Pat Patton, Eddie McCall, Katie Myers, Mason Roe	2/27 Ian Buxton
2/16 Bethany Driggs, Bill Thomas	2/28 Burgess Kegan, Jeffrey Weller, Elizabeth Newnam

From the Parish Register

Baptism: Ava Grace McKay, Jan. 9, 2011

Burials: Edward T. Atkinson, Jan. 7, 2011

Grace Foster Watkins, Jan. 15, 2011

Margaret Bridges Kemp Tyler, Jan. 22, 2011

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Special thanks to all who participated in the Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols and the dinner that followed. Whether you brought a dish to share, helped to serve the King Cake, or stayed to wash dishes, your contributions are appreciated. Blessings to Mary Riedlin who quickly and competently managed to change water into wine -- a true expression of Epiphany spirit! -- Mary Garner



ECW Celebration of St. Brigid's Day

All women of the parish are invited to the Diocesan ECW's celebration of St. Brigid's Day on February 5 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at Trinity Cathedral in Easton. Lunch will be served. The Reverend Mary Garner will be the celebrant and preacher; please see her for more information.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Jan. 2nd Children's Christmas Pageant (*and More to Come*) -- Lee Thomas

We hope you enjoyed our pageant on January 2nd. It was a fun way to celebrate Epiphany and start off the New Year! ☺ Many thanks to the children and to the parents who helped with last minute staging and getting everyone in costume. In January we shared early New Testament lessons about Jesus growing up, and in February we'll be reading about some of his miracles. During the Winter program, we have lots of fun craft activities for the children for Valentine's Day and the upcoming Youth Sunday on February 27th. Visiting children are invited to join us upstairs in Etherton Hall from 9:15 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings – and grown-ups are welcome too!



Children and Youth Sunday, February 27, 10:15 AM -- Mary Garner

Our parish family is made up of people of all ages. On Sunday, February 27, Children and Youth Sunday, the later service will highlight our children and youth as they serve as greeters, ushers, acolytes, lectors and Altar Guild assistants. A Rite 12 member will deliver the sermon. Afterwards, cider and refreshments will be served **upstairs** in Etherton Hall. All are warmly invited to tour the classrooms and the Children's Chapel. Come upstairs and learn more about the Church School and see the beautiful art projects done by our children. If you've never been upstairs in Etherton Hall, or if it's been years since you have, this is the perfect opportunity!

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Note: The Docents' Guild column will return in the March issue of TIDINGS.

The Men's Breakfast Club will meet on Saturday, Feb. 12, at 8:00 AM in Etherton Hall. Efforts are underway to line up a guest speaker, who is to be identified in the church bulletin on Sunday, Feb. 6. In the meantime, Chairman Leo Foulds, 410-745-6153, would **welcome** any suggestions as to potential speakers.



Ministry Areas of Christ Church

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Forum	Carl Widell
Adult Inquirers	Mark Nestlehutt
Church School:	
Ages 3-Grade 4	Lee Thomas
Rite 13	Mark Nestlehutt
Youth Confirmation	Mark Nestlehutt

OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION

Back to School Project	Gillian Whyman, Judy Sandground
Children's Home Found.	Nance DuPont, Dianne Shaw
Environmental Issues	Margie Steffens
Episcopal Relief & Dev.	Pamela McCloud
El Hogar Project	Ned McCall
Grants Committee	John Hunnicutt
Habitat for Humanity	John Hunnicutt
Honduran Dental Mission	Jim Campi
St. Michaels Food Bank	John & Nancy Masone
United Thank Offering	Carol Carlson

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Coffee Hour	Fritz Riedlin
Covenant Churches	Mary Garner
Docent's Guild	Joan Frey
Episcopal Church Women	Alice Utterback
Kitchen Committee	Mary Riedlin, Nancy Sipe
Layweedeers	Kay Perkins
Lea Library	Robert & Marilyn Barrett
Lemonade/Cider in Hall	Cathy Mendenhall
Men's Club	Leo Foulds
<i>Tidings</i> Newsletter	Peter Houck
Welcoming Committee	Jim McCloud

PASTORAL CARE

Care Circle	Joan Zwemer
Eucharistic Visitors	Jessie Weddle
Flower Delivery	Martha Austin
Prayer Chain	Mary Garner
Stephen Ministry	Mary Garner

STEWARDSHIP

Annual Campaign/2011	Rick Morgan
Finance Committee	Cathy Mendenhall
Property	John Booth, Sal Simoncini
Transforming Stewardship Coordinator	Fritz Riedlin

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Acolytes' Guild	Lee Hamilton
Altar Guild	Helen Bower, Judy Hause
Choirs:	
Chancel & Youth	William Thomas
Handbell	Bernice Walk
Euch. Ministers & Readers	Chloe Pitard
Flower Guild	Nancy Besso
Greeters/Oblation Bearers	Sheila Vaughan
Ushers	Robert Burger

Finances

(For the year ended Dec. 31, 2010)

Revenues

Actual – Current Month**	\$107,320
Budget – Current Month	\$54,196
Over/(Under) Current Month	\$53,124 Favorable
Actual – YTD	\$584,832
Budget – YTD	\$508,150
Over/(Under) YTD	\$76,682 Favorable

Pledges

Actual – Current Month	\$49,986
Budget – Current Month	\$30,350
Over/(Under) Current Month	\$18,636 Favorable
Actual – YTD	\$459,632
Budget – YTD	\$410,000
Over/(Under) YTD	\$49,632 Favorable

Expenses

Actual – Current Month	\$41,006
Budget – Current Month	\$41,789
Over/(Under) Current Month	\$ (783) Favorable
Actual – YTD	\$517,047
Budget – YTD	\$541,159
Over/(Under) – YTD	\$(24,112) Favorable

Revenues Less Expenditures

Actual – Current Month	\$ 66,314
Budget – Current Month	\$ 12,406
Over/(Under) – Current Month	\$ 53,908 Favorable
Actual – YTD	\$ 67,785
Budget – YTD	\$ (33,009)
Over/(Under) YTD	\$ 100,794 Favorable

**December revenues include a distribution of \$37,000 from Permanent Endowment Fund and distribution of investment income of \$9,930 from vestry-designated, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted funds.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7 PM Middle Convocation Meeting	2 10 AM Staff Meeting 5 PM St. Andrew's Society of the Eastern Shore Dinner 6:30 PM Youth Choir Practice 7 PM Chancel Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 1:30 PM Holy Eucharist at Londonderry 8 PM AA Meeting	4 4 PM St. Michaels Elementary School Daddy/Daughter Dance	5 10 AM ECW St. Brigid Day Celebration at Trinity Cathedral in Easton
6 5 Epiphany 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum/Church School 10:15 AM Parish Family Eucharist 11:30 AM Warden's Meeting 3 PM Youth Group Meeting 5 PM Evensong	7 9:30 AM St. Michaels Art League 7:00 PM Inquirer's Class	8 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 11:30 AM ECW Executive Meeting 12:30 PM ECW Lunch & Meeting 7 PM Vestry Meeting 7 PM Safeguarding God's Children	9 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Choir Practice 7 PM Chancel Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting <div style="text-align: center; color: red;"> <u>DEADLINE</u> <u>For TIDINGS</u> <u>Articles</u> </div>	11	12 8 AM Men's Breakfast
13 6 Epiphany Boy Scouts Sunday 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum/Church School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist/Children's Chapel	14 9:30 AM St. Michaels Art League 7:00 PM Inquirer's Class	15 9 AM Stephen Ministry Supervision 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	16 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Choir Practice 7 PM Chancel Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 1:30 PM Holy Eucharist at Londonderry 8 PM AA Meeting	18	19
20 7 Epiphany 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum/Church School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist/Children's Chapel 12 PM Worship & Music Meeting 3 PM Youth Group Meeting 5:00 PM Evensong 5:30 PM Libations & Dinner 7 PM Annual Meeting	21 Washington's Birthday <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> 9:30 AM St. Michaels Art League 5 PM Christmas in St. Michaels Meeting	22 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	23 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Choir Practice 7 PM Chancel Choir Practice	24 St. Michaels Art League Banner Judging 9:30 AM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 8 PM AA Meeting	25 Diocesan Convention at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD	26 Diocesan Convention at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD
27 8 Epiphany Children & Youth Sunday 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum/Church School 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 12 PM Prayer Chain Meeting	28 7:00 PM Inquirer's Class	Notes: <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> Morning Prayer Monday – Friday 9 AM </div>				

Staff

The Reverend Mark S. Nestlehutt, *Rector*
The Reverend Mary Garner, *Associate Rector*
Mr. William R. Thomas, *Director of Music*
Ms. Carol A. Osborne, *Parish Administrator*
Mr. George E. Short *Sexton*
TBD, *Nursery Director*

Vestry

Robert Burger, *Senior Warden*
Sherry Sutton, *Junior Warden*
Larry McCanna, *Treasurer*
Mary Ellen Olcese, *Registrar*

Jim McCloud 2011
Linda Norris 2011
Sal Simoncini 2011
Joan Zwemer 2011

John Booth 2012
Cathy Mendenhall 2012
Philip Parkinson 2012
Judy Sandground 2012

John Masone 2013
Rick Morgan 2013
Fritz Riedlin 2013
Carolyn Wasdyke 2013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**CHRIST CHURCH
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 5
St. Michaels, MD 21663-0570**

DATED MATERIAL

