



# TIDINGS

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

August 2009

## In the doldrums?

All in a hot and copper sky,  
The bloody Sun, at noon,  
Right up above the mast did stand,  
No bigger than the Moon.

Day after day, day after day,  
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;  
As idle as a painted ship  
Upon a painted ocean.

In colloquial usage, "being in the doldrums" refers to being in a state of listlessness, despondency, inactivity, stagnation, or a slump, as characterized in [Coleridge's \*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner\*](#). I suppose it would be another way of referring to the hazy, lazy, and maybe crazy days of summer, particularly August, when the freshness of the Spring rains is far gone, cicadas buzz, and the thermometer soars. It seems we are "As idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean."



However, the truth of the matter is that, though we might slow down because of the heat, we are neither idle nor motionless. School will be starting in a few weeks, and the program year of the church will resume soon after. Committees of the church have been hard at work making plans and implementing them, so that come kick off time, all of those important activities will be well on their way.

Again this year, the Harvest Dinner will mark the beginning of the stewardship appeal, asking members to consider what they will do to fuel the ministry of Christ Church, with materials and information supplied by the Stewardship Committee. The Christian Formation Committee has been meeting to evaluate the programs of Christian education to be offered and to put curriculum and teaching staff in place. The Welcoming Committee has been hard at work continuing their efforts to update the roles of the church and to explore ways to be more hospitable to everyone who passes through our doors. All of the ongoing ministries of the congregation continue to function, despite the vacation mentality that affects many other organizations. The breeze of the Spirit prevents the doldrums from becalming us as God's people!

Two events of note have been taking place as well. One of them has been trumpeted weekly because of its time-sensitive and critical nature. That is the Back to School Program. Perhaps some may wonder why we constantly remind you of this appeal. Obviously, it is a need that would be easy to overlook and put aside. After all, few of us in the congregation have either children in school or the inability to buy supplies. However, our efforts could spell the difference between a child succeeding or failing. These are among those whom Jesus included as "my brothers and sisters."

The second event was only noted in passing, but it is of huge importance to the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. That is the General Convention of the Episcopal Church held in Anaheim, California in July. This governing event of the Church has made decisions that affect its life and ministry at every level. Perhaps among the most prominent decisions affirm the full inclusion of all of the baptized in all the sacraments of the church. There were also decisions, just as important, addressing issues of justice and social responsibility. These resolutions will be presented and discussed at an adult forum early in the autumn.

Life and ministry continue, even during the doldrums of July and August. The vitality of Christ Church is obvious. Help keep it that way!

Faithfully ---- Paul Winters

## Dear Friends ...

One of the challenges of working in the Church is balancing living in the moment while thinking of the future. Clergy and the parish staff begin planning Holy Week and Easter right after Christmas, Advent and Christmas right after Halloween and fall programs in the first days of summer.

So, despite the allure of lazy summer days and long firefly filled evenings, we have been working on the upcoming program year for Sunday school and Rite 13. The curriculum has been ordered and the classrooms made ready. Leaders, clergy and teachers have gathered to share their hopes and dreams for the future.

One of our goals is to increase parish awareness of the activities and ministries of the children and youth of Christ Church. Mike Clark and his committee are working on developing an integrated approach for all aspects of their Christian formation and Lee Thomas will be regularly communicating with you throughout the program year. There is much to look forward to when the Nestlehutts return and summer gives way to autumn.



But until then, live and love every minute of these glorious summer days and enjoy those fireflies.

Blessings --- Mary Garner

**Christ Church – St. Michael’s Parish**  
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Office Hours: 8AM - 4PM  
 Weekly service schedule:  
 Morning Prayer – 9AM Mondays through Fridays  
 Healing Service – 10AM Wednesdays  
**Summer Sunday Services: 8AM & 9:30AM**  
**(June, July & August)**

Submissions to the *TIDINGS* monthly parish newsletter are due on the **15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month**

Please email items for publication to [kmliberatore42@yahoo.com](mailto:kmliberatore42@yahoo.com) or leave in newsletter editor’s mailbox located at the parish house

Editor: Kim Liberatore Stolz (410-745-6546)

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Docents' Guild – Linda Makosky

Christ Church has a new feature which docents will enjoy pointing out to visitors. A handsome bronze plaque, on the right wall of the entry hall, commemorates the historic character of the church site. The text, selected by our rector Mark Nestlehutt, is based on the introductory paragraph in our "Welcome" leaflet. It reads:

*Founded on this site in 1672 on the banks of what was then known as Shipping Creek, Christ Church was one of the Chesapeake Bay area's original "water churches" of the Church of England*

The plaque is a gift from the John Waller Chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames, XVII century. After funding several plaques in this region, the Chapter decided to consider Christ Church. The present church structure is not of the 17th century but the Church site qualifies, based on its founding in 1672 and the dates on gravestones in the churchyard.

Joan Frey and Barbara Sheridan, both members of the Colonial Dames local chapter, worked together to carry out the project. It had to be approved first by the Colonial Dames headquarters in Washington, D.C. and then by the Christ Church vestry. Although the plaque was installed on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the dedication has been planned for later in the fall, so that Reverend Mark can be present.

Our sincere thanks to the Colonial Dames for their generosity and to Joan and Barbara for their efforts in making the idea a reality.

The Docents' Guild welcomes new volunteers at any time; call Sue Kilmon at 410-745-3141 or Faye Shannahan at 410-745-9373. They will be happy to help you get started.

### Updating The Christ Church Directory - Timely Reminder – Jim McCloud

In June, a mailing was sent to all Christ Church families, requesting that they update and correct information for use in the new Christ Church Directory. The response to date has been excellent, but we are still missing a number of forms. So, if you haven't sent in your updated directory information, kindly do so as soon as possible and no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need a copy of the form to complete, please call church secretary Carolyn Finch at 410-745-9076, and she will mail you a new one.

Updating the directory information in our database will be followed by taking photographs of our parish families. This is expected to begin in October. The directory will be printed and ready for distribution in January, 2010. It's a wonderful resource for all of us to stay in touch with one another, please help us make it complete by getting in your directory information.

Many thanks, Jim McCloud, Chair, Welcoming Committee

### The Adult Christian Formation Group – Doris Fink

Following is our September schedule.

September 13<sup>th</sup> "A Fond Farewell" Come celebrate Reverend Mary Garner's last Sunday as we recognize the many gifts that she shared during the Nestlehutt's sabbatical.

September 20<sup>th</sup> "Meet & Greet" We look forward to welcoming everyone. Plan to meet and greet friends.

September 27<sup>th</sup> "A Recommended Diocese Reading" The Bishop recommends that his churches engage in Christian growth through reading. The clergy will provide specifics during this group reading process.

Coffee Hour at the parish house begins at 9:00 AM. The Forum presentations begin promptly at 9:15 AM and conclude by 9:58 AM.

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION



### Come to the Quiet - Eugenie B. Drayton

Contemplative prayer is simple, but not easy, ancient, but not antiquated, and is found in many faith traditions. Contemporary prayer is intentional quiet time with God, although it may get a little noisy. It's a time when the Martha activities on our to-do list are put aside and we sit at the Lord's feet just like Mary. It's a time when we thank and share with God all the graces that we're recognized between times, a time when we allow God to transform and prepare us for what is next in our lives and where we come into a deeper trust in God, a deeper relinquishing of our lives to his plan for us.

Contemporary prayer has many forms that help prepare us for our time of being and listen to God. We would like to invite you to explore these forms by joining us this October for "An Introduction to Contemplative Prayer". The sessions will start with an introductory time on **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – 12Noon** followed by **six Thursday evening sessions from 7PM 8:30PM**. A detailed description of this offering will appear in the September issue of Tidings.



### Christian Formation for Children and Youth – Lee Thomas

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."  
Matthew 19:14

The Church School program at Christ Church is preparing for the new 2009/2010 school year. We welcome the children and youth to attend beginning on the first Sunday after Labor Day – September 13<sup>th</sup>. In the weeks prior to the date, we'll be spending some time planning and getting organized: providing support for our program leaders, reviewing the curriculum, cleaning the classrooms, replenishing supplies, coordinating registration, and communicating with parents and their families.

In early August, we'll host an informal orientation and planning session with the clergy, Church School and Rite-13 program leaders and assistants, and members of the Vestry's newly formed "Children and Youth" sub-committee. One new emphasis during our program year will be to demonstrate the important role that children have in our Parish and to encourage positive interaction between our youth and the 'young at heart'.

More information about the program: leaders, class schedules, activities, and registration is forthcoming. September is almost here!

### New Disciple Bible Study – Christopher Whyman

"Invitation to Genesis"

"In the beginning . . ." These first words in Genesis may be among the most familiar words in all the Bible. Many readers of the Bible recognize Genesis as a book that describes the beginning of all things: the Creation. This is certainly true but is only part of the story—the creation of the world only takes up the first two chapters of a fifty-chapter book. What are the other chapters about?

This study approaches the Book of Genesis not simply as a story of the beginning but as a story of beginnings from start to finish. Through the study, participants will be invited to listen afresh to the witness of this opening book of the Hebrew Bible and to understand more clearly God's purpose in beginning to form a people with the likes of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, and Jacob and Esau.

This 10 week study will commence on Monday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and will last for 10 weeks. The study is video based and will be led by Chris Whyman. Participants will require a Bible and will need to purchase the Participant Book (\$10).

The group is limited to about 12 persons and sign up is with Carolyn in the church office.

## REACHING OUT



### Back to School – Judy Sandground

Please take a few moments to put yourself in another person's shoes – to walk their path and to experience their struggles.

Imagine that you are a teacher at Tilghman Elementary School. Eight of the eighteen students in your class are unable to fully participate because they don't have markers or paper or scissors. They must borrow yours or another student's. You make the decision to shop after school to make sure these students have the necessary supplies. You don't really have the extra money but the current situation is interfering with learning in your classroom and you have nowhere else to turn.

Next imagine you are a parent of a student at St. Michaels Elementary who brings you the list of supplies needed for school next year. Money is scarce and you can barely afford food and utilities let alone all the things on this list. How will you tell your child that you can only provide some pencils and paper? How will you tell her that she won't have the brightly colored folders and the markers, pencil holders and backpacks that are on this list? You feel badly knowing you will send your child to school unprepared but you have no other option.

Now, go way back in time and pretend that you are a young child bringing the school supply list home to your mother. You see the look of concern on her face and you know that she is worried. But you are worried too. You don't want to go to school without the things you need – you don't want to keep asking others if you can borrow paper or glue or an eraser. You would like to have your own backpack filled with all the things on the list. And you would like to go on field trips with your class instead of waiting in the library for your classmates to return. You don't want to be left out and alone. You just want to be like the others.

Thankfully there is a safety net for those who need help in our schools – the Back to School program at Christ Church. The need this year is great. Please make your checks payable to Christ Church and write 'Back to School' on the memo line.

With your help, all those in need will find that they have the required supplies and the money for field trips. Teachers can focus on teaching, parents can apply their scant resources to other family needs and children will confidently arrive at school that first day with filled backpacks ready to focus their energies on learning.

### St. Michael's Community Food Bank

The Community Food Bank provides nutritious, non-perishable foods for needy families of the Bay Hundred area. Located in the Parish House, across from Lea Library, the Food Bank is open between 9 AM and 4 PM, Monday through Friday and is operated by volunteers. Before Thanksgiving and Christmas, additional volunteers make up baskets of non-perishable goods and frozen turkeys. Members of Christ Church and St. Luke's Methodist Church provide additional support. Also, food and monetary donations are made by the St. Michaels' Food & Wine Festival and by citizens and other organizations in Talbot County.





**Finances (as of June 30, 2009)**

**Income**

Current Month	\$27,453	“Poor”
Budget YTD	\$293,250	
Current YTD	\$284,457	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<8,793>	“Poor”

**Pledges**

Current Month	\$25,979	“Fair”
Budget YTD	\$252,000	
Current YTD	\$251,688	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<312>	“Fair”

**Expenses**

Current Month	\$50,900	“Poor”
Budget YTD	\$287,188	
Current YTD	\$274,320	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<12,868>	“Good”

**Income less Expenditures**

Current Month	\$<23,527>	“Poor”
Budget YTD	\$6,062	
Current YTD	\$10,137	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$4,075	“Good”

**August Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- Aug 1 Rhonda Sisk McNamara, Martha Nelson
- Aug 4 Nance DuPont, Michelle Roark, Harry Hause
- Aug 5 Lily Sanford, Sherry Sutton, Arianna Campi
- Aug 6 Doris Fink
- Aug 8 Donald Reeser
- Aug 9 Bill Ginder
- Aug 10 Carol Armstrong
- Aug 11 Pat Barbis, Linda Spire
- Aug 13 Fred Snyder, Eleanor F. Kilmon
- Aug 14 Walter Suter
- Aug 15 Beth Eckel, Mary Hyatt, Wendy Turnbull  
Jim & Frances Maffitt (anniv)
- Aug 16 Brandon Kerrigan  
Wally & Joanie Doolin (anniv)
- Aug 17 Mary Len Trippe, Jack Shannahan, Sr.
- Aug 18 Ann Loflin
- Aug 19 Cyrus Knowles, Bill Corba
- Aug 20 Donald Buxton  
Lonnie & Molly Malkus (anniv)  
Jim & Linda Stedman Montague (anniv)
- Aug 21 Bill & Elaine Magrath (anniv)  
Harry & Judy Hause (anniv)
- Aug 22 Joni Doolin  
George & Pat Barbis (anniv)
- Aug 24 Gale Bless, Nathan Blythe, Natalie Finch
- Aug 25 Vivian Brown, Virginia Hopkins
- Aug 26 Lane Wroth
- Aug 27 Erv Brown, Kathie Middleton
- Aug 28 Kim Weller, Jack Magee
- Aug 29 Edgar Nash  
Bob & Joann Holden (anniv)
- Aug 30 Asa Nestlehutt, Vivian Bond, Sophia English
- Aug 31 William & Mary Lou McAllister (anniv)

**Ministry Areas of Christ Church**

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Adult Forum	Doris Fink
Adult Inquirers	Mark Nestlehutt
Church School	Lee Thomas
Disciples Program	Christopher Whyman
Youth Confirmation	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

**OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION**

Back to School Project	Gillian Whyman, Judy Sandground
Children’s Home Found	Nance DuPont, Dianne Shaw
Commun. Youth Initiative	Mark Nestlehutt
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	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt
Docent’s Guild	Joan Frey
Episcopal Church Women	Peggy Orem, Sheila Vaughan
Final Fridays	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt
Kitchen Committee	Mary Riedlin, Nancy Sipe
Layweeters	Kay Perkins
Lea Library	Robert & Marilyn Barrett
Lemonade/Cider in Hall	TBD
Men’s Club	Leo Foulds
Tidings Newsletter	Kim Liberatore-Stolz
Welcoming Committee	Jim McCloud

**PASTORAL CARE**

Care Circle	Gillian Whyman
Eucharistic Visitors	Jessie Weddle
Flower Delivery	Molly Malkus
Knitting Group	Linda Spire
Pastoral Visitors	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt
Prayer Chain	Doris Fink
Stephen Ministry	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Clergy Liaisons: Clergy Team**

**Vestry Liaisons: John Booth, Robert Burger, Sal Simoncini & Carl Widell**

Annual Campaign	Carl Widell
Finance Committee	Robert Burger
Property	John Booth, Sal Simoncini

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Acolytes’ Guild	Lee Hamilton
Altar Guild	Helen Bower, Judy Hause
Choirs: Chancel	William Thomas
Handbell	Bernice Walk
Youth	William Thomas
Euch. Ministers & Readers	Chloe Pitard
Flower Guild	Nancy Besso
Greeters/Shepherds	Tom Mendenhall
Ushers	Robert Burger

## Staff

The Rev. Mark S. Nestlehutt, *Rector*  
The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Paul D. Winters, *Assistant Rector*  
The Reverend Mary Garner, *Assisting Priest*  
Mr. William R. Thomas, *Director of Music*  
Ms. Carolyn Coyle Finch, *Secretary*  
Ms. Dominique P. Sturgis, *Nursery Director*

## Vestry

Christopher Whyman, *Senior Warden*  
Alison Sanford, *Junior Warden*  
Ed Sipe, *Treasurer*  
Mary Ellen Olcese, *Registrar*

Michael Clark 2010  
Clyde Sisk 2010  
Sheila Vaughan 2010  
Carl Widell 2010

Bob Burger 2011  
Jim McCloud 2011  
Sal Simoncini 2011  
Joan Zwemer 2011

John Booth 2012  
Philip Parkinson 2012  
Judy Sandground 2012  
Sherry Sutton 2012



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Newsletter Editor

CHRIST CHURCH - ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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