



TIDINGS

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

May 2009

The Day of Pentecost Sunday, May 31st



The Day of Pentecost has been celebrated as one of the major feast days in the life of the Christian Church since the third century. It falls fifty days after Easter Day and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Often, Pentecost is described as the birthday of the Church for, according to the *Acts of the Apostles*, it was on this day that the apostles baptized almost three thousand people as followers of the risen Christ. This year, Pentecost coincides with the beginning of our Summer Schedule, with Holy Eucharist celebrated at 8 AM and 9:30 AM, and Christian Formation and coffee hour on summer recess. Nevertheless, we will mark the occasion with balloons, processions, a birthday cake and hear the story from Acts read in many different languages. Be sure to wear red!

Celebrating Christian Formation:

Passing our Sacred Stories from Generation to Generation

One theologian of note during my priestly formation was Professor George Lindbeck of Yale, who was part of what was known at the time as the “Yale School” in his theological position and reasoning. Professor Lindbeck argued that Christianity, and all religion for that matter, was a *cultural-linguistic* construct. As such, the most important project of religion was the passing on of sacred stories and traditions from generation to generation to help propagate the faith and to help our children to understand their place in the world and how they relate to God. This passing on of the faith gets at the very heart of what we at Christ Church call Christian Formation. On Sunday mornings during the program year, from September through, May we set aside an hour for an intentional period of exploring what it means to be an Episcopalian, a Christian and a person of faith. We do this through our Church School program for children, Rite-13 curriculum for young people and the Sunday morning Adult Forums. This Christian Formation is a very important aspect of our parish life and one that is consistently prioritized by our members. The overall success of these programs, however, is dependent upon our volunteers. We are in constant need of additional church school teachers, youth group mentors and volunteers (or recommendations of volunteers) to lead our Adult forums. Sunday, May 17th, *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*, is the last Sunday of our 2008-2009 program year. It is our custom at Christ Church to recognize and thank our Christian Formation volunteers during the 10:15 AM service. Please go out of your way to thank our church school teachers, Rite-13 mentors and our Adult Forums chairperson, Doris Fink, for their passion, commitment and time devoted to these important endeavors.

Combined Service and Instructed Eucharist

Sunday, May 24th at 9 AM (Memorial Day Weekend)

On the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend we will, once again, combine our two congregations for one well-attended service of Holy Eucharist at 9 AM. This is a wonderful opportunity for both congregations to come together for worship. The service is a simplified “instructed Eucharist.” A reception follows. Plan to arrive early if you have a favorite pew because someone from the “other” service may lay claim to it.

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: 8AM - 4PM
 Weekly service schedule:
 Morning Prayer – 9AM Mondays through Fridays
 Healing Service – 10AM Wednesdays
Sunday Services: 8AM & 10:15AM

TIDINGS – Summer Schedule

The next issue of *Tidings* will be a June/July combined summer issue. The deadline for submissions is **May 15th**. August will be a full issue with information about the new program year. The deadline for submissions for the August issue is **July 15th**. Happy Summer!

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

...and for sabbatical.

On Easter Monday, I spent the day preparing my office for sabbatical. My main task was to sort through all the books and papers that had accumulated in, on and around my desk. In one of my drawers I keep letters that parishioners and colleagues send to me. Mostly they are notes complimenting, thanking, or informing me of something interesting. I keep them because I like letters (as opposed to e-mail) and because on challenging days they are good reminders of the breadth of experiences ministry has to offer. While I was organizing all of the envelopes into a box in order to empty out the drawer, I came across a letter that the first rector for whom I worked had sent to me during his sabbatical. It was written from somewhere in England about two weeks before he was due to return. He wrote: “I think about the folks back at Falmouth so much. I see people here who remind me of my fellow parishioners and feel close to them anew....I worry I won’t remember how to write a sermon or will get lost in the Prayer Book. But I also know I am bringing back a new and healthy perspective.” He went on to talk about the growth in the parish and about the roles he and I played to help make that happen.



It was funny to read that note from the end of his sabbatical as I was getting ready for the beginning of my own. I leave on May 1st with a grateful heart. While I am gone, all sorts of things will happen—for you and for me. When I return, there will be much to discover as well. I know that I too will think about my fellow parishioners and that people I meet and experiences I have while I am away will remind me of you. I am excited and nervous and most of all I am aware that these next 4 ½ months will be a great and wonderful adventure for you, for me and for my family.

We say grace before most meals in my house and usually it is a short sung blessing that my children learned in preschool. Maybe you know it as well it goes: “Thank you dear God, thank you dear God for our food, for our food, for our friends and family, for our friends and family and our school, we thank you, Amen.” Well for the past several weeks my children have been changing the word “school” to “sabbatical” in a way that seems so appropriate. As we begin, we are so very thankful for this opportunity. While you will not be stashed in my suitcase, you will be in my prayers. See you in September!

— Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt



Well, we're off...

One of the interesting aspects of Eastern Shore life is the migratory process witnessed on the bay. Yes, Canadian geese and other waterfowl move from north to south and back again, but I am more interested in our parishioners' movements.

Each fall a substantial number of our members begin their flight south to Florida or beyond. Every Sunday, beginning in late October, I am greeted at the door after the service with the words, "Well, we're off. See you in the spring." And sure enough, come April 1st, we begin to welcome them back into our midst. This migration creates an interesting pattern for life and for one's church membership. Parishioners often return with newsletters, Sunday bulletins or stories of what their "other" church did or is doing, and Abigail, Paul and I find these both interesting and helpful.

This past March, I had an opportunity to head south for a few days. On behalf of the Diocese of Easton I enjoyed a proverbial "bus man's holiday" to St. Kitts, Nevis and Antigua to do some advance work on our Diocese's impending companion diocese relationship with the Diocese of the North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba. It was a wonderful trip and while I never set foot on a beach or boat (with the exception of the ferry from Basseterre to Charlestown) I was given a glimpse into the life of fellow Anglicans living in a very different climate and culture. To say the least, some aspects of Lent are much easier in 78-degree weather. Nevertheless, the islands do have their challenges and most of these are directly or indirectly linked to the economy and the economic crisis that has impacted all of us. It is the hope of our Diocese that we will grow and be stretched through this new relationship and I look forward to our parish's involvement in this program later this fall.

On the first day of May, Abigail, Asa, Honor and I will be off as Abigail and I begin our sabbaticals. We will be away from May through mid-September and our travels will take us to Georgia, New Zealand, Australia, French Polynesia, Northern California and Massachusetts before we return home in time for the children to begin school. Like our parishioners who travel south for the winter, we too hope to return refreshed and rejuvenated and to bring back new ideas and experiences of how things are done. While we look forward to this extended time away from Christ Church, we also know that we will miss out on all that happens here during the next four and a half months.

Christ Church is a tremendous community of faithful and generous Christians and we will carry your story with us to all who we meet throughout the Communion in New Zealand and Australia.. Thank you for this gift of time. "Well, we're off. See you in the fall."

— Mark Nestlehutt

Thank You for a Lovely Easter Day

A tremendous thanks to all of you who made this year's Holy Week and Easter Day celebration so wonderful. A special thanks goes to our Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Choirs, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for their service during this time. A few people deserve special recognition for carrying more of the load—Helen Bower and Judy Hause, Nancy Besso and Chloe Pitard, Lee Hamilton, Bob Burger, Bill Thomas, Tim Clayton and Carolyn Finch, and Jessie Weddle. Thank you!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vestry Highlights – Alison Sanford

The March vestry meeting was opened by the Rector with a reading from Searching the Truth, by John Polkinghorne. He then recognized the four new vestry members – John Booth, Phil Parkinson, Judy Sandground, and Sherry Sutton and new registrar, Mary Ellen Olcese.

There was lengthy discussion on the proposed Habitat for Humanity Project. As background, Susan Devlin from Habitat presented a proposal about Christ Church leading the effort to build a Habitat house in St. Michaels. The vestry discussed several logistical concerns, but there was unanimous support for the project.

Jim McCloud, chair of the welcoming committee, shared ideas concerning the new parish directory and introduced “the church paparazzi”, a team of photographers who will take photos at church events. Sal Simoncini, property and grounds, proposed installing two new ramps to allow better access to the church – one ramp would replace the deteriorated step at the Lych gate and the other would be at the narthex entrance. Lee Thomas has volunteered to serve as administrative coordinator for the Church school.

As a reminder, Rev. Mary Garner will be assisting Rev. Paul Winters, who will be serving full-time, while Mark and Abigail are away on sabbatical.

Thank You – Mary Thomas

You cannot imagine how very much I appreciate the many cards, calls and prayers I have received since my recent bout with COPD.

I enjoy looking at the cards over and over again and I can physically feel the prayers surround me – real proof that prayer does work! Much love and thanks to all of you – Mary Thomas.

Church School Brunch

On May 17th there will be a thank you brunch celebration for the church school teachers. All teachers and families with young children in the church will be treated to brunch in Etherton Hall following the 10:15 service.

For more information please contact Carolyn in the Parish office at Carolyn@christstmichaels.org.

WW2009 Women's Weekender: "Peace: Strong Women Building a Gentle World!"

The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women invite all women to the first "Women's Weekend" from May 28th -30th at Camp Wright and Christ Church, Kent Island, Maryland. Registration is for one, two, or three days. Children four years and up are welcome. There will be planned activities for the children. Meals, lodging, pool and fellowship are included with your registration. Activities will include prayer time, hymn singing, yoga and several workshops to enrich your life. Massage will be available onsite for an additional fee.

Reverend Melody Sutherland will lead the weekend activities. Discussion Book--*In fidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (or bring your favorite book to share.)

Pre-registration and payment is required by May 15th. Make checks payable to Episcopal Church Women Diocese of Easton. Cost: \$33.00/day, \$99.99/weekend. Registration forms are available on the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofeaston.org. Registration contact: Eleanor Hairston (410-822-4042) or wehairston2@verizon.net. Questions: Ramona Eller (302-834-3074) or eller1214@dol.net.

Flyer: Christ Church Bulletin Board

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS ...



Agape Meal Snapshots



Save Paper and Mailing Costs

If you have not yet visited the church website, you really should check it out at www.christstmichaels.org. It tells our story, welcomes friends and invites visitors to join us. In addition, you may read the *Tidings* newsletter on the website and print out any or all of it as you wish. So that the church can reduce paper and mailing costs, if you choose to view the newsletter online on an ongoing basis, please call Carolyn at 401-745-9076 and she will remove your name from the newsletter mailing list.

GROUP & CLUB NEWS



Attention all Women of Christ Church – Sheila Vaughan

Proposed ECW Bylaws Change

Article VIII--Nominations and Elections, Section 2.

Current: Installation of officers shall take place at the ECW Annual Meeting.

Proposed: Installation of officers shall take place at the January ECW meeting.

Rationale: According to ECW bylaws, voting on the budget and election of officers must take place at the Annual Meeting in November.

The installation of officers would be moved to January to provide a smooth transition for incoming officers. Voting on the proposed change will take place at the ECW picnic/luncheon on June 9th, 2009.

Important Reminders:

There will be no ECW luncheon/meeting at Christ Church this month. Instead, those who signed up will join the St. Luke's Women's Fellowship for a luncheon in their hall on Tuesday, May 12th at 11:30 AM. The executive board will meet at 10:30 AM in Christ Church.

Many thanks to Betsy Taylor for her excellent insight into the life and gardens of Beatrix Farrand at this month's meeting.

Our June picnic/luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 9th at Londonderry Manor House at 12:30 PM. We had so much fun last year that we're going back!

Docents' Guild – Linda Makosky

At recent docent meetings, one topic of discussion has been our church history records. Our retiring Historian, Alice Cohee has written the leaflet "Welcome to Christ Church", which we often give to visitors. She also created the more complete reference booklet, "In the Beginning", which is available for purchase. Alice's passion for learning our own church's interesting history motivated her to organize the Docents' Guild so that others might share the knowledge with visitors. Her search for Christ Church vestry minutes led her to the historical records collection in the library of a church in Baltimore. Alice and a team of researchers made many trips to that library to read the old minutes of Vestry meetings. A friendly priest-librarian helped them to make copies. It was an exciting and rewarding experience, delving into the church life of the nineteenth century. However, due to an unfortunate mistake, all their notes were lost.

In the past few years, miscellaneous other records have been found and added to our collection. A new historian was needed to organize them and continue the work begun by Alice. At the March 14th Docents' Guild meeting, it was announced that Guild member Ryland Chapman will take on the task. He has collected material and background information from Alice and plans to identify the places where records and documents are stored. Ryland would like to collate and bind the various records. He will be the resource person for those who have questions about Christ Church history.

We thank "Chappie" for accepting the historian's responsibilities and wish him success in this important mission. Thanks also to Alice Cohee whose efforts initiated the project.

It is not too late to join the Docent's Guild. To volunteer, call Faye Shannahan at 410-745-9373 or Sue Kilmon at 410-745-3141.

The Men's Group – Leo Foulds

The final Breakfast Meeting before the summer break will take place at Etherton Hall at 8 AM on Saturday, May 9th. The Guest Speaker will be announced in the Church Bulletin. Election of Officers for next year will also take place. Any new member wishing to attend, please contact Leo Foulds at 410-745-6153 by May 6th and book your attendance at the breakfast. A phone call is a \$10.00 donation and a commitment.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Church School for Children

At Christ Church, we believe that making room for children is one of our most important ministries. In the Gospel stories we read several accounts of Jesus engaging with children and know that without children in our midst, we are an incomplete representation of God's family. Church School at Christ Church is held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10 AM on the second floor of the Parish House for children ages 3 and older.

Our two younger classrooms (3 year olds to kindergarten and 1st to 4th grades) use an engaging and flexible curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*. It is a lectionary-based curriculum that conveniently follows the lessons and liturgical calendar of the church year.

Our youth in 5th to 8th grade, participate in *Rite-13* a part of *Journey to Adulthood*, a faith formation program based on two key concepts: Womanhood and Manhood are gifts from God; and Adulthood must be earned. Additionally, our youth enjoy monthly community-building events.

Any and all new students and adult volunteers are welcome to share in our children's Christian Formation program. The Church School year begins on the Sunday after Labor Day and ends the Sunday, before Memorial Day weekend. If you wish to enroll mid-year, please telephone the Parish Office, 410-745-9076.

The Adult Christian Formation Group – Doris Fink

We look forward to having you join us each week. Following is our May schedule.

May 3	Introducing a New Clergy
May 10	Teaching the Old Testament as it applies Presenter: The Reverend. Paul Winters
May 17	Recognizing Forum Volunteers/ Planning for Next Year

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

We'd love to have you join us and feel free to bring a friend as well. Everyone is welcome! We invite all adults to experience these unique Adult Forums sessions.

REACHING OUT



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.



Mississippi Mission – Camp Coast Care

In the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast and devastated the city of New Orleans and parts of Mississippi and Alabama, our Diocese began an ongoing relationship with the Diocese of Mississippi to provide materials and volunteers to help rebuild along the coast.

The seventh trip to Camp Coast Care began April 20th -24th and April 27th – May 1st. On this trip, the Diocesan of Easton crew worked on the Huff House in Waveland, the area worst damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

We hope that many people in the diocese can be involved for one (or more) of these mission trips. The next trip (Mississippi Mission 8) is scheduled for September 13th – September 18th and September 20th – September 24th. If you are not able to participate, please consider a donation for building supplies or to assist someone to attend. For updated information, please check the website www.campcoastcare.com.

Back To School Project

For a significant portion of families with children at St. Michael's Elementary School, it is a struggle to afford school supplies. Each year, beginning in the summer months, Christ Church solicits funds from our Sunday morning congregations. The generous donations from members of Christ Church help ensure that no child is without the necessary tools of learning.

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MORE REACHING OUT...



United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering – Carol Carlson
Sunday, May 24th

There are two reasons to be in church on Sunday May 24th. One is to worship together as a single congregation; another is to celebrate with thankfulness in mind. The United Thank Offering spring ingathering will be collected at that service and once again our offering will be used to directly impact the lives of women and children.

Since 1889 through UTO, the Episcopal Church has collected monies for specific purposes to benefit the needs of parishes around the world. These offerings are always our thanksgiving prayers in action.

For years, the blue box has been the traditional collection symbol of our thanksgiving offerings. Here at Christ Church, the twice yearly ingathering special collections - spring and fall - give all of us the opportunity to express our gratitude.

UTO supports projects:

- That are expended during the twelve months following grant award;
- That are significant in nature;
- That are new work or an expansion of existing work;
- That give special attention to women and children;
- That are a part of provincial or diocesan planned mission strategy; and
- In which the UTO participation is clearly identifiable

Below is an accounting of last year's grant monies. Blessings to one and all who made this possible.

In 2008, the United Thank Offering Committee received 198 grant applications, totaling \$7,923,979.05.

The Committee funded 91 grants, totaling \$2,401,906.70

The Committee awarded 17 international grants, totaling \$782,011.81.

The Committee awarded 4 companion diocesan relationships grants, totaling \$84,200.00.

The Committee awarded 70 domestic grants, totaling \$1,535,694.90.

* UTO web page

Finances (as of March, 2009)



Income

Current Month	\$39,892	Fair
Budget YTD	\$182,569	
Current YTD	\$166,065	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<16,501>	Good

Pledges

Current Month	\$36,958	Good
Budget YTD	\$153,000	
Current YTD	\$153,763	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$763	Good

Expenses

Current Month	\$39,018	Good
Budget YTD	\$146,341	
Current YTD	\$133,965	
Over/(Under) YTD	\$<12,376>	Good

Income less Expenditures

Current Month	\$874	Good
Budget YTD	\$36,228	
Current YTD	\$32,102	
Surplus/(Deficit) YTD	\$<3,126>	Poor?

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Audrey Noyes
- 2 April Hall, Larry Parker, Evan Moseley
- 4 Betty Jacoby
- 5 Ceili Betsch
- 7 Carolyn Finch
- 8 Kelleigh Middleton, Maura Olcese
- 9 Bob Statkiewicz
- 10 Paul Winters, McKenzie Finch
- 11 Larry & Alison Sanford (Anniv.)
Andrew Brannegan, Timothy S. Magee, William A. Morrison
- 12 Jack & Martha Austin (Anniv.)
Phil & Dianna Betsch (Anniv.)
- 13 Greg Wemmer, Edward Young, Ashleigh Middleton
- 14 Fred & Linda Tompkins (Anniv.)
Molly Taylor
- 16 Carol Carlson
- 17 Jim Campi
- 18 Natalie Richardson, Vance Strausburg
Duke & Linda Blythe (Anniv.)
- 20 Connie Wagner, Norman Shannahan III
Joan Boggess Zwemer, Harper Elizabeth Melton
- 23 Michael Wemmer, Megan Patrick
Robert & Georgene Thompson (Anniv.)
- 26 Alison Sanford, Shirley Gooch, Melissa Richardson
- 28 Bill Hughson
- 29 Don Bickert, Nancy Besso, Adison Parish
- 30 Leigh Nash, Ryleigh Kealy, Robert Ziegler
Jack & Fay Shannahan (Anniv.)
- 31 Josephine Crouch

Ministry Areas of Christ Church

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Forum	Doris Fink
Adult Inquirers	Mark Nestlehutt
Church School	Ann Roe
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*
Mr. William R. Thomas, *Director of Music*
Ms. Carolyn Coyle Finch, *Secretary*
Mr. Tim Clayton, *Sexton*
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

CHRIST CHURCH – ST. MICHAEL’S PARISH
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