



Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

April 2008

The Church of the Messiah
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Genesis Editor

Phyllis Tyler

From the Rector

Last month I was contacted by someone who lives in our local community who was looking for space in which to begin a new program, one which would serve families in our community. She noted that she thought of us because of "the strong community role played by the Church of the Messiah." No matter what the outcome of our continuing conversation, I am so glad that she thought of us - and even more glad for the reason she thought of us.

As I write this, we are preparing to celebrate the highpoint of our liturgical year, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, commonly known as Easter. We will probably have some guests with us who are not regular members of Messiah, but, for the most part, our celebration will go unnoticed by our surrounding neighborhood. A few will know that the flower cross on our front lawn means it is Easter, but probably not as many as you might think. The Church and its calendar are no longer at the center of community life, as they were for so many centuries. To many people, we have simply become irrelevant.

In John, the gospel from which most of our Lent Sunday readings have come, Jesus talks a great deal about signs: doing signs, seeing signs, being signs. He is, and he calls us to be, a sign of our saving God's power and presence in the world. For a long time, nearly everyone in our community belonged to a church and participated in religious life in some way. Sunday services, Sunday School, and perhaps an occasional outreach project, were signs enough that God lives in this neighborhood. Today our most obvious sign in a large building, often empty or barely occupied.

The celebration of Easter begins with the discovery of an empty tomb. It ends on the day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. As God's people, we have been "called out" of the empty tomb and sent into the world with the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Opening our doors to the community, inviting them in, and going out as representatives of the Church to serve the community, as we do with our CSA program, our hosting of community meetings, and our support of HARBEL Community Organization, have become important ways to introduce ourselves - as God's people - to our neighbors. Our open doors are a sign to them of God's love and care for this part of the world, and they are a sign of new life at the Church of the Messiah. Thanks be to God!

In the name of our risen Lord,

Spirituality 101

Join us in April for a short course on Spirituality. We will meet on three Wednesday evenings for an hour and a half, in the Upper Hall: **April 9, 16 and 23, from 7pm until 8:30pm.** For the first two weeks will reflect on Christian Spirituality (what it is, what its value is, and its role in the Church) and the third week will be an Introduction to Spiritual Disciplines. The curriculum is from the same publisher who did our Lenten program on the Lord's Prayer, which was a wonderfully enriching experience. Please let Lee Ann+ know if you are interested in taking advantage of this April offering.

Praying for the World

At our February and March Adult Forums, our topic was "Praying for the World." We discussed some of our assumptions about prayer, especially as they relate to the ways in which we pray for the world. Since the Prayer Book gives us the option of writing our own Prayers of the People for Rite 2, we would like to try to use some prayers during the Easter season that are more focused on particular current issues and events. We reflected on Jesus' instruction to pray for our enemies and wrestled with the question of whether any topics are inappropriate for our corporate worship prayers. If you attend the 10:30 service and have opinions about this, please see Lee Ann+. We will try the new prayers for a portion of Easter Season, then evaluate whether and/or we might continue.

January 31, 2008 Parish

Financial Statement

Rec'd \$12,164.90 Expenses \$15,218.85
Net deficit \$3,053.95

Open Book Group

The Book Discussion Group meets to talk about a novel, chosen by Lee Ann+. All books are available in paperback and from your local library. Non-church members are welcome to join us. The only requirement to come is to read the book beforehand! We meet in the Family Room at Messiah, from 7:00 to 8:30pm. On **Monday April 28** we will discuss *The Brooklyn Follies* by Paul Auster.

LOTS of Bread of Itipini

Congratulations to Heath and Kimberly Dewrell's Sunday School class, who raised over \$550 for the Diocesan children's Lenten Project, Bread for Itipini. Thanks to all who contributed (many more than once!) and to Duncan and Finnegan Gooding for being such faithful givers and great promoters!

Christian Formation Festival

The Christian Formation Council of the Diocese is offering a wonderful opportunity for all who are interested in faith formation for people of any age. The Festival will take place from 9 AM - 1:30 pm at St. James', Monkton on Saturday April 12. If you would like to attend this day of refreshment, information, enjoyment and assistance, please see Lee Ann+ for more information, or check the diocesan website, www.ang-md.org.

Self Defense Classes Offered

On Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm beginning on April 1 and running until May 27, a free one hour self defense class will be offered to 5 pairs of mother/daughter, aunt/niece, female mentor/mentored couples - the youngest of the pairing being 13-21. The classes will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, on Harford Rd. and White Ave. Enrollment is on a first come, first served basis. Please call Michele Hax at 410-254-4602 or e-mail

budograndmom@aol.com

for more information or to sign up.


Messiah Hosts Food and Faith Workshop

A workshop entitles "Seeds of Hope: Nurturing Just and Healthy Relationships in our Food System" will be held at Messiah on Sunday afternoon April 13 from 2-4pm. All are welcome to join in the conversation about the different relationships in our lives that are affected by our food system. Topics include: how food and faith are related, and Sarah Miranda and Ira Gooding will talk about Messiah's participation in Community Supported Agriculture.

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Monday, April 7 to 410-502-7577 or ampalmer@jhsph.edu.

The Baltimore Food and Faith Project is a program of the Johns Hopkins University Center for a Livable Future.

Mandolin Orchestra of Maryland

 On Sunday, April 27th, the Mandolin Orchestra of Maryland will be performing at Fallston Methodist Church at 1509 Fallston Road, Fallston, MD. The performance is free but donations will be requested. Seating is limited. For more information see Stanley Wood or contact Fallston Methodist Church 410-877-7255.

Maryland State Boy Choir

Messiah has an MSB chorister in our midst: J. Conrad Ellis. The MSB annual spring concert will be held on Sat. 26 April, at 7:00pm. Come and hear the beautiful choral music, guaranteed to lift your heart! You'll be amazed and delighted to see and hear what the young men of the Maryland State Boychoir can accomplish under the wonderful direction of their superb music directors.

Devon Ellis

**The Maryland State Boychoir
presents its
Annual Spring Concert
Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 7:00 pm
at the Center for the Arts
3400 Norman Avenue
(St. Matthew's Cathedral)**

**Tickets range in price from \$12 - \$22
depending on seating preference. Call 410-
668-2003 for tickets and for more
information.**

**Ticket sales support the MSB's schedule of
concerts, school assemblies, programs,
services, three seasonal tours, two camps,
and the annual Baltimore Boychoir Festival
in May**

