



# Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

April 2009

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***Vestry***

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Melinda Fowl  
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Phyllis Tyler

***From the Interim Rector:***

Yeah! Here we are now at mid-Lent, on Sunday, March 22. Traditionally this Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is called Refreshment Sunday. It is a time to relax our Lenten disciplines, perhaps even to enjoy one of our guilty pleasures, to stay up late, go to a movie, get together with family or friends and enjoy each other's company. Not really a time for wine and song, to be sure, but nevertheless, permission to sit back and remember where we have come from and to remember where we are headed.

We are headed, of course to that great festival of the Church, Easter, the Queen of Seasons. Soon, really very soon, we will walk through Holy Week, the cross on Good Friday and then into the pure joy of God's peace that overcomes despair, desolation, fear and evil of every sort. We are given the deep and abiding peace of God that over-reaches sin and death to bind us to Christ on the cross, to Christ in the tomb, yes, and then to Christ raised again. Saint Paul, in Galatians, puts it this way:

I have been crucified with Christ; and so it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (NRSV Galatians 2:20)

Just as we have shared a death like his, we share in a life like his, resurrected, ascended, and spread abroad by God's Spirit in the Church.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Our voices and our hearts  
proclaim Alleluia! Alleluia!

Now back to your Lenten disciplines! 😊

Fr. Steve Swift

## ***Lenten Service Project: “Nets for Life”***

The Sunday School classes at Messiah invite the congregation to learn about and support our Lenten Project called **Nets for Life** ([www.netsforlifeafrica.org](http://www.netsforlifeafrica.org)). The Church of the Messiah will join many congregations across the diocese of Maryland to hear about the **impact of malaria** on children and adults across Africa, in places like Liberia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana. Approximately 2 billion people, or 40% of the world’s population, live in areas threatened by malaria outbreaks. 3,000 children per day in African countries die from malaria.

But malaria is one of the deadliest **preventable diseases** on the planet. **Nets for Life** are long-lasting insecticide-treated nets that can be used around beds at night to **prevent night feeding mosquitoes from transmitting the malaria infection**. There are effective drugs that treat malaria. However, access to good health care is not available for many people with malaria. Prevention tools, like bed nets, are important to the public health response.

**\$12 will pay for one bed net.** Donations towards Nets for Life are one way we can support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are goals that the Maryland Diocese, the Episcopal Church in the US and the Anglican Communion have pledged themselves to. To learn more, you can see an MDG wall poster downstairs or visit the diocesan website. In the meantime, please listen for announcements about Nets for Life from Sunday School students and other parish members. A donation box will be available for 5 Sundays in the Tower Room, and a news table will be downstairs. **Questions?** Please see Kimberly or Heath Dewrell after the 8:00 AM service or Melinda Fowl after the 10:30 AM service.

## ***Self-Study Group Thanks You***

Thanks to all who participated in the group discussions and to those who filled out and returned the questionnaire. The survey results will be displayed at the group discussion session on April 5th. This is a very important part of the search process and many thanks are also due to the Self-Study group who worked very hard on the questionnaire and tabulating the results.

The Self-Study Committee will conduct one more group discussion and activity session on the April 5. The session will be held on Sunday morning from 9:00 - 10:00 am.

April 5th - “Looking to self and diversity in transition”

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## ***Confirmation Plans Now Set***

This year’s confirmation will be at the Cathedral Church of the Incarnation on Sunday, May 31 at 4:00 PM. Our candidates are David Steppe, Casey Steppe, Katelyn Davis, Joseph Conrad Ellis, Jeffrey Michael Brickus and Aaron Willis. At that same service we will also present Jessica Paieczynski and Catherine Hall to be received from the Roman Church. Brief biographies about each of our candidates will be in the May issue of *Genesis*. Meanwhile, keep them in your prayers. Fr. Steve will accompany all candidates to the Bishop’s Teaching Day at Redeemer (3603 N. Charles St.) on April 4 from 9AM to 3PM.

Classes for the young adults David and Casey Steppe, Katelyn , and Conrad Ellis are scheduled for Sunday afternoons at the church from 3:00-5:00 on Sunday April 26, May 3 and May 17. Fr. Steve will also instruct the adults.

## ***It is Tea Time Once Again!!***



**The Spring Tea Fellowship  
Saturday, April 18th at 3:00 PM**

Come enjoy tea-time with friends and wonderful food in the Lower Hall. Its a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon! Ruth Anthony and Devon Ellis will be hosting this tea and request that you sign up by April 5th. To sign up either see Ruth or Devon, or call the parish office by April 5th.

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**The next Parish Pot Luck Lunch will  
be April 5th following the 10:30  
service**

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### ***Open Book Group: April 22nd***

The Open Book Group meets seasonally (and monthly during the summer) to discuss a novel available in paperback or in the local library. This spring we will be discussing "*Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal*" by Christopher Moore, on Wednesday, April 22nd in the downstairs Family Room from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

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### ***New at the Messiah Library***

*Organizing Magic* - Sandra Felton

*Happily Ever After* - Kristin Armstrong - walking with peace and courage through a year of divorce.

*Way of the Wild Heart* - John Eldredge - discovering the secret of a man's soul.

*Sharing Easter Faith with Children* - Carolyn Brown.

## ***Treasurer Needed.....***

But thankfully, **Mike Dowd** has graciously volunteered to be our interim treasurer!

We still need someone for the permanent position.

If you have any questions about the responsibilities of the treasurer, feel free to ask someone on the Finance Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

In His service,  
The Finance Committee

Vince Vanneman  
Carol Waldhauser  
Jean Becker  
Michele Steppe

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# THANK YOU!!

**Due to the generosity of the  
Messiah family we have met our  
Furnace Fund goal of \$14,000!!  
Thank you to all who contributed  
to keep those "home fires  
burning!"**

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### ***Year to Date Parish Financial Statement***

Amount Received	\$29,454.55
Expenses	\$38,710.85
Net Deficit	-\$9,256.30

## ***The 225th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland***

This year's Diocesan Convention will be held on May 1st and 2nd at the Marriott Hotel in Hunt Valley. The organizing committee has selected "Building Upon A Sure Foundation" as the theme of this 225th annual gathering of clergy and laypeople. Messiah's vestry has elected Heath Dewrell to serve as our Primary Delegate and Phyllis Tyler to serve as Alternate Delegate should Heath be unable to attend. Fr. Steve will also be attending to represent Messiah at this important event. Information about the convention is available at [www.ang-md.org/convention.php](http://www.ang-md.org/convention.php) where more information about resolutions and activities will be posted as it becomes available. Please pray for our Delegates and the entire Convention as they go about the important work before them.

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### ***April Moveable Feast Desserts Due April 5th***

*(Note: Moveable Feast desserts are usually due the 2nd Sunday of the month. However, the 2nd Sunday of April is Easter. April's desserts will be collected on April 5th)*

Members of the Church of the Messiah's Moveable Feast Baking Team bake scrumptious desserts and bring them to the church for people who have AIDS or who have cancer. Carol Waldhauser, the program's coordinator, gathers and delivers these desserts to Moveable Feast, a nonprofit organization that serves nutritious meals to its homebound clients in Central Maryland. This happens on the second Sunday of the every month, so interested bakers may leave their individually wrapped, homemade offerings - labeled "For Moveable Feast" - in the Lower Hall kitchen on Sunday morning. This month only - the first Sunday, April 5th.

## ***Maryland State Boychoir to Perform Annual Spring Concert***

The Maryland State Boychoir, under the direction of Frank Cimino, Stephen Holmes and Patrick Bourkel, will perform their annual Spring Concert on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 4:00PM, at the Maryland State Boychoir Center for the Arts (3400 Norman Avenue, Balto. MD). The concert will feature the Changed Voice, Concert, Tour, Treble and Handbell Choirs performing a variety of music, including classical and contemporary, masterworks, gospel, spirituals and folksongs. This concert is open to the public. Tickets are between \$12 and \$22, depending on seating preference.

The Maryland Boychoir is dedicated to providing talented boys, regardless of race, religion, or socio-economic background, with a holistic and diverse musical education in the tradition of the great European choir schools. Boys in the choir are given opportunities to perform professionally and a chance to grow socially.

Messiah's **Conrad Ellis** is a member of the MSB and will be performing in the concert on April 19th.

For tickets or additional information call 410-554-8644.

