



Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

December 2009

From the Senior Warden - Ira Gooding:

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Bob Hayward
Sarah Miranda
Vince Vanneman
Carol Waldhauser

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Randy Steppe
Junior Warden
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Genesis Editor

Phyllis Tyler

VESTRY CALLS THE REV. TIMOTHY GRAYSON AS MESSIAH'S NEXT RECTOR

On November 15, 2008, the vestry met with the self-study and discernment committees for a Saturday morning retreat to kick off the search for Messiah's next rector. A long and prayerful Spirit-led process ensued. The self-study committee took a good hard look at Messiah and crafted an honest and detailed parish profile. The discernment committee then worked hard to whittle down an initial list of ninety clergy to a short list of three through prayer, careful consultation, telephone interviews, and face-to-face visits. Finally, one year after that initial retreat day, the discernment committee pulled together a small group of laypeople to meet the Rev. Tim Grayson, the man they planned to recommend to the vestry. On Tuesday evening, the vestry met Tim and then acted upon the committee's recommendation by calling him to be our next rector, a call that he accepted "with great joy."

Tim was born, raised, and educated in New Zealand and attended services at his local Anglican church with his parents and siblings. He graduated with a Masters degree in English from Victoria University, Wellington, and in 1975 left home for London, where he eventually became involved in the medical publishing industry. In 1982, Tim left the UK and accepted a position as International Marketing Manager with the Baltimore-based medical publisher, Williams & Wilkins. He undertook a variety of other roles for the company over the next 21 years.

When he arrived in Baltimore, Tim joined Old St. Paul's Church and was active in outreach ministry as well as serving on two vestries. In 2002, Tim discerned a call to the ordained ministry and in April 2003 returned to New Zealand to pursue it, spending one-and-a-half years at the Anglican seminary in Auckland before returning to Baltimore in 2005 to marry Kathy, whom he met just one month before returning to New Zealand.

Tim finished his theological studies at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and for the past two years has served as assistant to the rector at St. James' Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square. Tim has three brothers and three sisters and is the proud stepfather of his wife Kathy's adult children, Tim and Lindsay. Kathy and Tim also have a Shih Tzu named Lulu, who every night successfully competes for bed space at their home in Mays Chapel, Lutherville.

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Tim and Kathy look forward very much to meeting their new church family at Messiah and in the meantime are keeping all of us in their prayers.

We are extremely grateful for Tim and for the hard, hard work of everyone on the self-study and discernment Committees. They have gone about their work with faithfulness to the Holy Spirit's leadership and with a deep commitment to fairness, honesty and integrity.

The Spirit has led us to Tim, and he to us. Thanks be to God!

From the Interim Rector:

Members and Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah - The most wonderful news: Fr. Tim Grayson has accepted the Vestry's call to be the next Rector of Messiah. (See article, page one)

As I wrote this article, we have just celebrated the last Sunday in the season of Pentecost, the Feast of Christ the King. Next Sunday, November 29 will be the first Sunday of Advent. The church prepares itself to celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation, Christmas, the first of its twelve days. While the world consumes, the church seeks in humble service to minister to the least among us, for in helping others we minister to them in Christ's name.

Note that this year we are having one service, Rite II, at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve. We hope to gather the entire community for this great feast, to enjoy our children as they put on our annual pageant, to enjoy each other's company, to embrace one another, and to recommit ourselves to the service, in humility, of others.

God bless you and your family this holiday season!

In Christ and always with hope,
Fr. Steve

Father Steve's Search

Fr. Steve has made it known that he and Amy will remain here in Baltimore with the hope that he can find his next position in the larger Baltimore area. He is in conversation with the Diocese to determine what openings there might be after the first of the year. He asks your continued prayers.

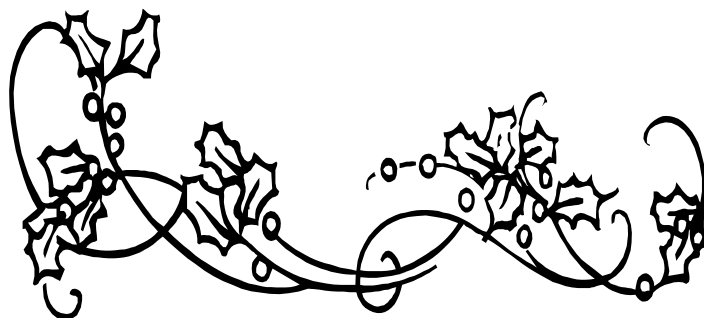
Birthday Cards

Grace White celebrated her 102 birthday last November 14 with Fr. Steve and Allan and Mary DeGray. She would enjoy receiving birthday and/or Christmas cards. Address them to Grace White, 415 Market Street, Rm. 102, Havre de Grace, MD 21078.

Another member who would like to receive Christmas cards is Lillian Keys, c/o Dulaney Manor Care, 111 West Road, Towson, MD 21214.

Whether you know them or not, just a card and a note of well-wishes would be appreciated by both of these long-time members.

Merry Christmas



New Vestry Members Elected

At Messiah's Annual Meeting on November 22nd, the congregation elected four people to serve on the vestry beginning January of 2010.

Debbie McKenna, Heath Dewrell, and Brian Jenkins were elected to three year terms. **Jean Ash** was elected to a two year term. We are grateful for their commitment to Messiah, and we are looking forward to their leadership as members of the vestry.

Grateful thanks were given to **Sarah Miranda, Vince Vanneman and Carol Waldhauser** for their service on the vestry and especially to **Randy Steppe**, who completed his five year term as Junior Warden.

Rehearsals for Christmas Play - calling all people and other animals as players!

On Sunday, Dec. 5th at 9:00 am, you're invited to meet in the sanctuary for our **1st Christmas Play rehearsal**. It's a play in 5 scenes: **Prophecy, Annunciation, Arrival in Bethlehem, The Shepherds' Scene and Adoration Scene**, a final scene where we sing a medieval carol called "The Friendly Beasts." Last year's handbell choir will be sorely missed this year for the Christmas lullaby, but we hope to hear them again next year when the rehearsal room has been repaired. Meanwhile, we will have a range of speaking parts that can be spoken by memory, or not. We have simple instrumental parts (recorders? flute? stringed instrument?). We have sound effects, costumes and simple props to design or re-create this year. Our dress rehearsal is on Sunday, Dec. 20th in the sanctuary at 9:00 am. Bring your theatrical selves and make merry with us on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 9:00 am. We'll expect the unexpected :-). Please see Melinda Fowl or Elise Meyer-Bothling if you have questions, suggestions or shepherds' jokes. Cheers!

Connect with Messiah on the Web

Don't forget that valuable information about Messiah is available on our parish web site: www.messiahbaltimore.org. Sarah Miranda is our heroic volunteer webmaster, so please let her know if you would like to see information about a particular activity included in the site.

You can also connect with fellow Messiah parishioners on Facebook by joining the Episcopal Church of the Messiah Facebook Group.

Messiah's Community Supported Agriculture Ministry Wraps Up Its Fifth Season.

For the 5th year in a row, Messiah has hosted a community-supported agriculture (CSA) pick-up site under the maple on the church close. Every Monday evening from early June to mid-November, members of the congregation mingle with neighbors from the surrounding community as folks arrive to collect their weekly shares of fresh, organic produce from One Straw Farm.

Messiah was an instrumental early partner for the farm's CSA program, which has grown to include more than 30 pick-up sites. Thanks to the growing popularity of the local foods movement, One Straw Farm has gotten a lot of attention this year, including an article in Martha Stewart Living, and Messiah's pick-up site was featured in an article on Episcopal Like Online. We are very proud of Messiah's CSA ministry of providing a source for fresh and wholesome food here in Northeast Baltimore.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of many volunteers, including Bob German, Ira Gooding, Kristen Vanneman-Gooding, Margaret Goode, Janet Taylor, Karen Edsell, Bryan Gardiner and Barbara Swanson. Special thanks go to Sarah Miranda for her leadership and to Elise Meyer-Bothling for her dedication.