



Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

January 2009

The Church of the Messiah

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Vestry

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Vince Vanneman
Carol Waldhauser

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Junior Warden
Ruth Anthony
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Sexton

Genesis Editor

Phyllis Tyler

From the Interim Rector:

What a wonderful and blessed Christmas season we enjoy at Messiah! Note Wreaths, garlands, candles, flowers and the Bethlehem star heightens the traditional beauty of the sanctuary. The choir and handbell choir lead the raising of our voices to God in praise, joy and awe of God, of his son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I sincerely hope that you and yours enjoyed Christmas and the New Year holidays.

January 4, 2009 is the Second Sunday after Christmas. The Christmas season lasts 12 days just as the song says. December 25 through January 5. The beginning of the secular New Year reminds us of our liturgical change of seasons from Christmas to Epiphany which begins on January 6. Epiphany includes up to as many as nine weeks, depending on the date of Easter. This year the last Sunday of Epiphany is February 22. Note that Ash Wednesday occurs Wednesday, February 25th. Other dates of note include Palm Sunday, April 5; Easter Sunday, April 12; Confirmation and the Bishop's visitation, April 26th; and Pentecost, May 31st (Memorial Day is May 25th.).

In addition to maintaining liturgical and pastoral and routine parish life, Interim ministry focuses on five areas of a congregation's life. These are the history of the congregation's relationship with previous clergy, making room for new leadership, connecting with the wider church, developing/implementing the congregational vision, and, of course, committing to new ordained ministry. Messiah is well along on some of these tasks.

Working with the Vestry, and its committees and commissions, I will present to the Vestry a comprehensive plan at its January 20th meeting, a plan that will orient our common life throughout the interim period right on up to the calling of your next rector. Beginning with the February issue of Genesis I will write a column about my approach to interim ministry which incorporates the principles of "family systems" into leadership development. Working with those already exercising leadership and those who would like to strengthen their leadership abilities we will together search for those reservoirs of life and energy promised by God for His people who seek him earnestly and fervently.

Ships are safest in the harbor. But they are made for the open sea.

In Christ,

Interim Treasurer Needed...

As most of you know, our previous treasurer has resigned her position and so Messiah is in need of a new treasurer. We are asking anyone who has basic bookkeeping or accounting skills to consider serving Messiah in this capacity. At this point we are just looking for an interim treasurer to cover the first six months of 2009 while we seek someone to serve the next term as permanent treasurer. The interim treasurer will have the full support of the Finance Committee, as well as our parish administrator, Carolyn.

The position of the treasurer is voluntary and the primary duties are to generate monthly financial statements to present to the vestry, to make general ledger entries to reflect bi-weekly payroll transactions (payroll is done by an outside source), to send heating apportionment statements to Arts and Ideas Elementary, and to attend the finance and/or vestry meetings monthly.

If you have any questions about the responsibilities of the treasurer, feel free to ask someone on the Finance Committee. Anyone interested in serving as Messiah's interim treasurer should submit his/her name to someone on the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

In His service,
The Finance Committee

Vince Vanneman
Carol Waldhauser
Jean Becker

Keep those home fires burning!

Did you see it? Did you see the awesome little "furnace" in the Tower Room as you walked into the church? Thanks to Randy Steppe's handiwork we have the perfect little vehicle in which to gather your contributions to our **FURNACE FUND**. In order to ensure heat this winter, the Vestry has had to authorize \$14,000 for emergency repairs, so we really need your help. You can just drop your loose changes into the "chimney" and listen to the beautiful sound it makes as it enters the tin can inside! The Gooding twins were generous enough to demonstrate this for us during announcement time in December. If you prefer to make a larger cash donation or to write a check, you may use the pink envelopes located on the side of the "furnace." Put your name on the outside and drop it into the chimney or into the offering plate. Donations made this way will appear on your next statement. We are already off to a great start -- in just one week we collected \$1,051.70 toward our \$14,000 goal. You can check our progress by the "thermometer" on top of the "furnace." Let's get that temperature rising!!

New Books in the Church Library...

Prayer-Conversing with God by Rosalind Rinker - Just that, talking to God simply - no special words or formulas needed.

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver - "finding intimacy with God in the busyness of life."

Battlefield of the Mind by Joyce Meyer - winning the battle in our minds against the negative thoughts that plague us - worry, doubts, confusion, condemnation ...A blessing of a book!