



Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

January/February 2008

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Genesis Editor

Phyllis Tyler

From the Rector

We are now in the season after the Epiphany of our Lord. This is a season that varies in length, as does the season after Pentecost, depending on when Easter falls. The longer the season after Epiphany is, the shorter the season after Pentecost is, and vice versa. This year Easter is March 23rd, nearly as early as it can be (the earliest it can be is March 22nd), so this "Season of Light" will quickly pass by. It is tempting to just put the Christmas things away and then go right away to preparing for Lent, especially for those of us who have to plan ahead, but we would be missing out if we do that.

We only celebrate the feast of the Epiphany if January 6 falls on a Sunday, as was the case this year. We left the crèche set up and moved the figures of the three wise men from the back of the church, where they spent Christmas, waiting, up to the manger. Matthew's Gospel tells us that these men, who were probably astrologers, set out on their journey after spotting a new star in the heavens. The star guided them, after a brief detour to Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, where they worshipped the Christ child.

I invite you to take this short season and reflect on where your star may be guiding you this year. Has God done something new in your life? Is this new thing calling you to set out in an unknown direction? Can you trust God to guide you along the way? "Wrong turns" are sometimes part of our journeys. The wise men, interpreting their star as a sign of a new king, went first to Jerusalem, which was where kings were supposed to be. I guess they stopped following the star because they thought they knew their destination. When they resumed following the star, they were guided to Jesus, whom they immediately recognized as worthy of worship and praise.

Matthew says that the wise men returned home by a road different from the one by which they had come. When we follow our stars, our calls, we are changed, even if we eventually return home. Is there a star for you in 2008? Have you thought about what God may be doing in your life in this new year?

May it be a year and a journey filled with blessings for all of us.

Three Ash Wednesday Services

Services of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes will be offered three times on Wednesday, February 6. **Last year we added a 7AM service, and we will continue that.** We will have services at noon and 7PM as well. The 7PM service will have organ music and choir.

Lenten Program Begins Wednesday February 13th

For our Lenten study this year, we will use a program called *Reflections on the Lord's Prayer*. The goal of this study is for all of us to deepen our understanding of the Lord's Prayer and pray it with new energy. We will meet on five Wednesday evenings from 6PM until 8:30PM from February 13th - March 12th. We will begin with a light dinner and end with Compline (prayers for the end of the day). To sign up for this program, please email or call the office.

Parish Register

Welcome our newest member of God's family:
Baptism

Clare Frances Elliott January 13, 2008

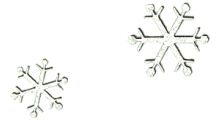
Raised to new life in Christ:

Dolores Mae Myers
Died November 29, 2007
Burial December 3, 2007

Mary Emily Davisson
Died December 4, 2007
Burial December 8, 2007

Bad Weather Policy

During winter months, we may **very occasionally** cancel events or worship services at Messiah due to snow or ice. If you have a question about whether something is cancelled, please call the church at 410-426-0709 and listen to the message - if something is cancelled it will say so. If the message does not include a cancellation message, then assume things will happen normally. You can also check the website ***www.MessiahBaltimore.org***



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 at Messiah, from 7:00 to 8:30PM. On **Monday February 25th**, we will discuss *Golden Country* by Jennifer Gilmore

**"A Muslim, A Jew, and a
Christian walk onto a stage...."**

Find out what happens next!

Interfaith Comedy Show

Saturday, March 1, 7:30 PM at the

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation

7401 Park Heights Ave.

To benefit Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity

Interfaith Build: PEACE BY PIECE

Tickets: General admission \$20

Student admission \$10

To receive information, purchase tickets or donate to the Interfaith Build visit:

www.chesapeakeehfh.org

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Church of the Messiah, Tuesday
February 5, 2008
from 5PM to 7PM

Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and beverages will be served. For only \$12.00 your entire family can enjoy this wonderful event together.

Individual tickets are only \$5.00 for anyone age 12 and older, or \$2.50 for children ages 6 to 11. We welcome children under 6 years to eat free. Be sure to bring along your appetite and enjoy this traditional beginning to the Lenten season!

See Nancy Fuller if you are able to help



Making Candy 2008!!

We're trying some new ways to make an old stand-by even better this year! Because Christmas-time is so hectic for most of us we decided to try a new



time for candy-making - this year we'll have Easter candy! We are also going to try to make it less taxing for those who help prepare the candy by

spreading it out over two weekends - **March 8th and March 15th** for making the candy and the packaging and distribution on **March 21 and 22**. We will be taking orders again. This helps us to know how much to make and what kinds of candy to make but we will still have a few pounds put aside for sale on Saturday March 22.

I would like to have a meeting of all interested in working on this project after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 27, in the Lower Hall. This is all new except for the wonderful recipes we use and our candy will be wonderful as always. Your suggestions will be welcome.



Phyllis Tyler

Moveable Feast

Our ministry to those who are ill and confined to their homes is coordinated by Carol Waldhauser. The second Sunday of each month is designated as "drop-off" day for desserts that are donated to **Moveable Feast** for their clients. Desserts may be left in the kitchen on the second Sunday. Please package them in single serving sizes and clearly mark for Carol. Cookies or brownies work best!

If you can't shop locally, please consider using



Over \$170 Raised for Church of the Messiah through iGive.com

Many of us are committed to shopping locally when at all possible, but many also find that limitations of time, opportunity, or physical ability make it difficult to go out to shop, and we find ourselves increasingly doing our shopping online.

Now there's a great opportunity for Messiah members who shop online from home to have their purchases make a local impact – in fact, to even help our church! The Church of the Messiah is registered as a charity with **www.iGive.com**, a “shopping portal” or “online mall,” whose mission is to enable the economic power of individuals to benefit their chosen communities. iGive.com has raised over \$3 million so far for its registered causes, and its vision for shopping is of a near-future where all consumer transactions will contain a percentage that benefits non-profit causes close to home.

That percentage is determined by the individual vendors listed with iGive.com and can range anywhere from 0.4% to 26%. Many of the merchants you already use participate in this program—including Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, FTD, Kohl's, Linens 'n Things, Office Depot, Petco, Sears, Toys R Us, Under Armour, and on and on. Over 680 merchants work with iGive, so chances are, the company you were thinking about shopping with anyway is probably listed in the iGive.com “shopping mall.” Many have specials, coupons, and sales on top of the percentage given to your chosen charity, so you can save money as well as help your cause.

To register with iGive, simply go to **www.MessiahBaltimore.org**, scroll down the home page, click on the “**iGive.com**” button, and you'll be directed to the iGive.com website with “Episcopal Church of the Messiah” already listed as your cause. Every time you shop through the iGive.com website a certain percentage of your total purchase will be given to the church with no extra cost passed on to you. Best of all, Messiah will receive a one-time donation of \$5.00 if you join and shop within 45 days.

Just 8 supporters designating The Episcopal Church of the Messiah as their cause have raised over \$170 for our church so far! Imagine how much more badly-needed money could be raised if more members were to alter their online shopping habits to give iGive.com a try.

Summertime Thoughts and the 2008 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Season Go Hand in Hand...

...along with fresh organic strawberries, lettuce, kale, corn, and, of course, big juicy heirloom tomatoes. And even though it's the middle of winter, planning is already under way for the Church of the Messiah's 4th straight season as a Community-Supported Agriculture pick up site for One Straw Farm of Whitehall, Maryland.

The CSA season is 25 weeks long this year (instead of the usual 24), but even so, One Straw's Joan and Drew Norman have managed to keep the price of a share the same as last season's: \$475 if paid in full before March 1st; \$525 if paid between March 2nd and June 1st; and \$23 per week if one joins at any time during the growing season, prorated until the end of the season. This year's pickup at Messiah starts on Monday, June 2nd and runs through Monday, November 17th.

So what is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)? A quick description is that it creates a direct partnership between farmers and local consumers, eliminating supermarket middlemen and restoring the connection between a community and the source of its food. It also protects our "foodshed" by ensuring farmers an income throughout the growing season.

Here's how CSA works: people buy "shares" of a farmer's harvest ahead of time and pick them up every week from June through most of November. A share is 8 units of produce and is designed to feed a family of four the vegetables they would need in a week. Many families split the cost of a share and still have enough produce to serve their weekly needs, so the price of a share, divided over 25 weeks, is very reasonable, especially in light of sharply rising supermarket food costs. Since the price of a share hasn't gone up this year and there's an additional week, the savings are especially good. There's plenty of information on Messiah's website, www.MessiahBaltimore.org, and on One Straw Farm's website, www.onestrawfarm.com

Why does the Church of the Messiah participate as a CSA pick up site? By operating a pickup site for One Straw Farm, Messiah reaps a harvest of our own that we use to help people in our community: the Normans title one share to Messiah for every 10 signed up at our site, which we distribute to the Harford Senior Center and to others in need. We also donated some of our produce to the Caroline Center while they were using our kitchen last fall to train women for jobs in the food service industry. As well as being able to help the community by donating the food we earn by hosting the pick up site, Messiah is also committed to environmental justice. By addressing some of the issues surrounding the problems with our food distribution system, we hope to help build momentum both locally and globally as well: part of our CSA planning this year includes using one of our shares to raise money to contribute toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Church of the Messiah is also participating in a new initiative called the Food and Faith Project sponsored by The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

More shareholders signed up at our site means more produce for us to distribute in the community. We hope you'll consider participating in this year's CSA season by becoming a shareholder, spreading the word, and/or by volunteering at the pickup site once the season begins. **We'll be holding a "Meet the Farmer" meeting at Messiah for the public on Monday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m.**, when Joan Norman of One Straw Farm will give a presentation about her farm and how the CSA program works. She'll be available to answer any questions you may have. Light refreshments will be served, so if you'd like to bring something or to help with the set-up, please let me know.

~Sarah Miranda

