



# Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

June 2008

**The Church of the Messiah**  
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***Vestry***

Rob Bader  
 Melinda Fowl  
 Debbie Maltrotti  
 Debra McKenna  
 Sarah Miranda  
 Janet Taylor  
 Vince Vanneman  
 Carol Waldhauser

***Officers***

Ira Gooding  
*Senior Warden*  
 Randy Steppe  
*Junior Warden*  
 Ruth Anthony  
*Registrar*  
 Nancy Fuller  
*Treasurer*  
 Jean Becker  
 Michele Steppe  
*Assistant Treasurers*

***Staff***

The Rev. Lee Ann Tolzmann  
*Rector*  
 James Gautsch  
*Director of Music*  
 Carolyn Janowski  
*Parish Administrator*  
 Mike Trusty  
*Sexton*

***Genesis Editor***

Phyllis Tyler

***From the Rector...***

For most of the last five years, the vestry has been operating as the committee in charge of most of the parish ministry. Finance and Building and Grounds were the only other committees that met regularly and exercised oversight - and both of those have heavy vestry involvement. Last year we decided to try to establish a group of commissions, with a vestry person co-chairing each one, to oversee some of the active ministry areas. Most of this program year, the vestry has been working on setting up these new commissions, giving them charges, and discerning who is called to lead them. It has not been easy. We have struggled at times with how to live into this model, but the structure has now been built and is ready for us to use. Our hope is for more work to be done and fewer meetings to be held. Here are the commissions and their vestry co-chairs:

Christian Formation	Debbie McKenna
Newcomers	Carol Waldhauser and Vince Vanneman
Outreach	Melinda Fowl and Rob Bader
Parish Life	Janet Taylor (other co-chair, not on the vestry is Stanley Wood)
Stewardship	Ira Gooding and Nancy Fuller

Our sixth commission is Communications, which is a service to be utilized by the other five to "get the word out." Sarah Miranda, as our webmaster, is part of this group, Debbie Maltrotti, one of our parish photographers and professional scrapbooker, is also involved. Each commission has a one page charge which spells out a goal, the relationship to the parish vision, responsibilities, operational expectations and accountability. These will be posted on the bulletin board in the Lower Hall for all to read. We recognize that this is a new way of doing things and we are willing to make changes as the needs arise. Senior Warden Ira Gooding has written some helpful introductory guidelines for commission functioning, and they conclude with these words: "We are a community led by the Holy Spirit. Risk taking is encouraged! We will intentionally tell the truth about what works and what does not. We will forgive and learn from failure, while celebrating and giving thanks for success."

The vestry invites you to join us as we pray for God to: *Empower our ministry through our commission structure and make our leadership a witness to our faith in you and our trust in and respect for one another.* Please support this effort, express your interest and direct your questions to the appropriate people, and, most importantly, offer your gifts to help us do the work we believe that God has called us to do at this time and in this place.

I hope that your summer offers time for rest, relaxation, and discernment of your calls to serve our Lord here at Messiah. We have worked hard to open opportunities for all, and invite you to join us in our faithful work.

In the name of our Servant Leader, Jesus Christ,

## ***Our Interns Are Being Ordained!***

God willing, on Saturday, June 7, at 11 AM at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Lew Bradford (2006-2007 intern) will be ordained as a vocational deacon, along with Linda Hollis, wife of Tony+, who frequently fills in at Messiah while Lee Ann+ is away.

God willing, on the following Saturday, June 14, same time, same place, Julia Fritts (2004 intern) and Martie Johnson (2005 intern) will be ordained as transitional deacons, along with Laura Brecht. They are “transitional” because they are expected to be ordained to the priesthood next year. Lee Ann+ will be the preacher at this ordination. Receptions will follow both ordinations, and all are invited to attend either or both joyous occasions! The Cathedral is air conditioned.

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## ***Summer Reading***

Unlike many church groups, the Book Club likes to meet MORE often in the summer months. Join us one, two or three times to discuss the novels listed below. All books are available in paperback and from your local library. Meetings are at Messiah, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

Wednesday - June 18 *Loving Frank* by  
Nancy Horan

Wednesday - July 23 *Gorgeous Lies* by  
Martha McPhee

Wednesday - Aug. 27 *Free Food for Millionaires*  
by Min Jin Lee

**Summer Schedule  
July 1 - August 31**

**Services at 8AM and 9:30AM**

## ***Diocesan Convention Report***

The Diocese of Maryland gathered in convention on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3 at the Baltimore Convention Center. Lee Ann+ and Messiah’s lay delegate, Heath Dewrell, were in attendance. We opened with Eucharist and were inspired by the preaching of our Bishop-elect, Eugene Sutton. Since Bishop-in-Charge John Rabb was still in GBMC recovering from surgical complications, the Chair of the Standing Committee, Scott Bellows+, rector of the St. John’s Hagerstown, presided and did a great job. We elected new members to the Compensation and Benefits Committee, Diocesan Council, the Ecclesiastical Court, and the Standing Committee. We also chose lay and clerical deputies for the 2009 General Convention. One of the new lay deputies, Jean Chapman, is just finishing her first year of college! We heard reports on the Claggett Center, Episcopal Relief and Development, and from the Treasurer and Diocesan Council. Awards were presented for outstanding ministry, lay and ordained, and four resolutions were passed, including one going on record in opposition to slot machines in Maryland.

The theme of the convention was “Together in Christ We Can” and there were three theme presentations on ministries that can be done “on a shoestring.” Featured were: a child custody transfer station at St. James Mount Airy, a Literacy Marketplace at St. Bartholomew’s Baltimore, and our diocesan Latino Ministry, which is supported by a clergy exchange program with Honduras. Be sure to ask Heath or Lee Ann+ if you have any questions about convention.

## ***Volunteers Needed for 2008 CSA Pickup Site***

The Church of the Messiah's 4th season distributing organic produce as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Pickup Site with One Straw Farm begins on Monday, June 2nd and runs through mid November .

The CSA Pickup will operate each Monday from 4:30 to 7:00PM. We especially need help from 4:30 to 5:00 with setting up, which involves helping the farmer unload the produce from the truck and onto the pickup tables. We also need helpers to greet and sign-in shareholders during the pickup time and produce helpers to keep the boxes full. Then, we need helpers to break down the tables and put away the remaining produce. Sarah Miranda and Elise Meyer-Bothling will deliver the produce to the Senior Center on Tuesday mornings and would welcome help then as well.

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## ***Pilgrim's Path***

We are replacing the sidewalk around the close that runs from White Ave. to Harford Rd. Inscribed bricks will be sold for \$150 each to be set in the concrete. There will be two bricks placed in each 4ft. square of cement sidewalk. The red bricks will be approximately 4"X8" and will be etched and highlighted in black. Inscriptions will be limited to 15 spaces per line with a three line maximum. Inscriptions may be in memory of someone, thanksgivings or special moments. There are order forms in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Vince Vanneman or Randy Steppe.

## ***Gifts for Our New Bishop***

God willing, Eugene Sutton+ will be consecrated the fourteenth Bishop of Maryland on June 28. During the service, symbols of his office will be given to him. Following Maryland custom, the clergy of the diocese will give the new bishop his episcopal ring, while the congregations will give the other symbols of office. These items include a pectoral cross, new vestments (rochet, chimere, cope, stole, chausuble, miter) and the crozier (the "shepherd's crook") which will be used by our new bishop throughout his ministry with us. Messiah has made a contribution on behalf of the parish towards these gifts, but if anyone would like to make an individual donation, send a check to the Diocese of Maryland, 4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21214. Checks are to be made out to the Diocese of Maryland with "consecration gift" noted on the memo line. Gifts in excess of funds needed to pay for the gifts will be placed in the bishop's discretionary fund.





## **Arts & Ideas Elementary Opening At Messiah**

The vestry is very pleased to announce that a small alternative school will be operating in our building beginning in September. Lauraville residents, Caroline Chavasse and Danny Mydlack, are the driving force behind Arts & Ideas Elementary, and they have been meeting with the vestry and Building & Grounds to discuss their plans and secure approval. You may have met them on Sunday mornings or during our recent Spring Cleanup Day, where Danny labored long and hard in the garden. They are both professors: Caroline at MICA, and Danny at Towson.

The school will operate on a democratic model that emphasizes creativity and personal responsibility. The model was pioneered 40 years ago by the Sudbury School in Massachusetts and has been adopted by many others around the country. Danny has worked at Fairhaven Academy, a similar school in Upper Marlboro, where he also filmed a documentary entitled “Voices from the New American Schoolhouse.”

The school will primarily occupy the upper parish hall, and they are planning to make some much-needed renovations to the space. The vestry believes that this relationship constitutes faithful stewardship of our facility in a manner that is consistent with our parish vision. In fact, the vestry sees our relationship with Arts & Ideas Elementary as part of our ministry of hospitality and community relationship-building. We are now in the process of crafting an agreement that will govern our relationship with the school; our goal is to offer the school the liberty it needs to be successful without negatively affecting the parish property and ministries.

Caroline and Danny have already done the necessary bureaucratic legwork to ensure that the school and the facility meet the state and municipal standards, and they are ready to begin enrolling students and performing renovations as soon as the agreement is finalized. This is a very exciting development in the life of our parish, and it is the vestry’s hope that the relationship between the school and the parish will be positive and uplifting for everyone involved.

If you have any questions about Arts & Ideas Elementary, please speak with a warden or a member of the vestry.