



# Genesis



Messiah's Newsletter

March 2008

The Church of the Messiah  
5801 Harford Road  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
Phone: 410-426-0709  
messiah.episcopal@verizon.net  
www.messiahbaltimore.org

***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***

On Saturday, March 29, meeting at St. James Church in Baltimore, the Diocesan Convention will elect a new diocesan bishop for Maryland. All clergy who are canonically resident in the diocese have vote, and each parish, based on its size, has at least one lay delegate with vote. Technically, this is a continuation of the 2007 Convention, which was recessed rather than adjourned. Your 2007 delegate is Phyllis Tyler, and she will be casting her vote. We will vote by order (that is, clergy and lay people votes are counted separately) and to be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of votes in both orders.

I have never participated in this kind of election before and I am looking forward to see how it is done. I am trying to carefully and prayerfully consider how to cast my vote and I am sure that Phyllis is doing the same. I have read the biographical information available on the diocesan website and I will attend one of the scheduled "walkabouts" to see them in person and try to get a sense of what they are like. I know the two Maryland candidates pretty well, but the four from other dioceses are not well known to me.

Since the election is scheduled for the Saturday after Easter, the most active discernment time coincides with Lent, and there is something particularly appropriate about that. We set aside extra time for prayer and reflection during this season, and this question of who our next leader might be has been part of the mix of prayer for me. We are also called to take on Lenten disciplines and one of mine is to try to stay open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in this particular process. I imagine (and hope!) that the candidates are doing the same.

For me, Lent always holds a certain sense of the unknown. We know that Easter is coming, that it comes whether we have been successful at our Lenten practices or not, and whether we're ready or not. But somehow each year Easter is a little different for me, sometimes in ways that are surprising. What in my life, in myself, has died? What is being raised to new life? I won't know until I get there, to the day and season when we celebrate an empty tomb. Lent helps me be more aware of what God is doing in my life and what I might need to do, do less of or more of, to be more faithful in living out God's calls to me.

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I may not know for whom I will vote until I cast my ballot at convention. I am not trying to decide now, but rather prepare for that moment when I am called to decide. This intentional spending of time in the unknown is not easy, but it is an integral part of faithful discipleship. Lent, its focus, its prayers, its practices, support me in my efforts to stay in a waiting and open mode.

I ask your prayers for our diocese and for the candidates at this important time. May God's will be done.

Faithfully yours,

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***Support Bread for Itipini -  
and our children***

There is a community in South Africa of about 2,500 people who live on a garbage dump. The name of their community, Itipini, literally means "little garbage dump." The people who live there are among the poorest of the poor in the world, and about 75% of the residents of Itipini are women and children. Despite their impoverished living circumstances, they are not without hope. A program is in place in Itipini to provide its residents with education, health care, and food. During Lent, our younger Sunday School class is collecting money to buy bread and milk for the children of Itipini. Please be generous in your support of this project which furthers the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The donation box is in the Tower Room, just outside the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have questions, please see Duncan Gooding, Finnigan Gooding, Heath Dewrell or Kimberly Dewrell.

***Good Friday Offering***

Every year on Good Friday, pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Some carry a cross, to understand better the nature of the burden that Jesus bore. Others accompany them, as witnesses, as penitents, as believers. By dying on the cross at Calvary, Jesus delivered us from sin and despair. For 150 years the Anglican Church in Jerusalem has borne the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus in a special way. By helping to maintain the Christian witness in the Holy Land, by serving all of God's people there in a variety of ministries, by proclaiming the gospel and promoting justice, peace and love throughout the four dioceses in that region, the church serves us all. Since 1922, Episcopalians here have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. It is vital that we continue to share in this burden, and not let our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem carry the cross alone. All of the offering taken at Messiah on Good Friday goes to this effort.

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***Praise God from whom all  
blessings flow...***

Our total income for 2007, thanks to generous gifts received from two Messiah angels in November that greatly reduced our deficit, was \$213,506 (the budget expected income of \$167,200). Expenses were \$217,913 (the budget expected expenses to be \$222,080). Therefore the deficit for 2007 was \$4,407 instead of the expected \$54,880 budgeted! Thanks be to God!

## ***Additional Candidates for Bishop Nominated by Petition***

In addition to the four nominees resulting from the work of the Bishop Search Committee, the following two Maryland clergy persons have been nominated through the petition process. For more information on them, the other candidates and on the election, see the diocesan web page at [www.ang-md.org](http://www.ang-md.org).

### **The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Gatza**

The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Gatza has served in the Diocese of Maryland as a lay person, deacon and priest since 1981. He has been Chaplain at St. Paul's School, Associate Rector at St. Anne's, Annapolis, Rector of Christ Church, Rock Spring and Canon Missioner for Congregational Development and Clergy Deployment on the Bishops' staff.

### **The Rev. Lura M. Kaval**

The Rev. Lura M. Kaval, 45, rector of St. Christopher's in Linthicum, has served the Diocese of Maryland for more than 20 years. She has led the life-giving transformation of family, pastoral, program and corporate parishes and is the co-founder of the Katrina Episcopal Relief Maryland Impact Team (KERMIT).

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## ***Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network***

Messiah's commitment to our Baltimore Interfaith Hospitality Network ministry has deepened over the past year. We have an increasingly expanding corps of experienced volunteers for both dinner hosting and overnight coverage. We also have a deepening relationship with St. Michael Lutheran Church in Perry Hall. We remain a buddy parish for St. Michael whose space we use during our service weeks.

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St. Michael Lutheran Church is the place where BIHN families are "at home" for the week. This is where they eat dinner, do homework/personal business, relax and sleep during their stay with us. Each morning they arise before 6:00 am to catch the van to the day center where they work on their goals for housing, work and other life changes. Children go to their regular schools from the center.

Thank you as always to Messiah volunteers currently (or in the past) involved with our BIHN ministry. During the week of March 2nd through March 9th, we will be hosting dinner on Thursday and Friday evenings and providing overnight coverage for both nights, as well. Our cooks for Thursday are Carol Waldhauser, Randy Steppe and the Fowl family (thanks Liam!). Carol will host along with Melinda and Liam. Our pizza party hosts on Friday are Rob Bader, Karen Edsell and Nicholas Bader. Melinda Fowl and her son, Liam, have agreed to stay over on Thursday evening. The Bader-Edsell group has agreed to stay over on Friday (Nicholas, you are so flexible! :-)

This is a good time to reflect upon our BIHN ministry. As you read this copy of Genesis, please take a moment out and ask yourself how you and/or your family can assist. Begin with the idea of including BIHN in your prayers. We also always need cooks, hosts, overnight coverage, donations, gently worn sweatshirts and comforters. Yes, sleeping on very comfortable air mattresses on church floors is always colder than sleeping in our nice warm beds at home.

Next month watch for an update about the BIHN program, Messiah's volunteer corps, and other thoughts. Please feel free to talk with anyone presently (or in the past) doing the BIHN ministry. You may also go directly to Margaret Goode and/or Melinda Fowl at the the 10:30 service or Karen Edsell at the 8:00 service.

In closing, we wish to leave you with the following thoughts:

"The gift of hospitality is a gift of self, a gift of trust, a gift of courage. As host and guest share a mutual exchange of presence, it is a holy gift of the Spirit in their midst. Even if host or guest is not aware of the sacred aspect of their exchange, it exists nevertheless. The holy intimacy of strangers is, after all, the conversation with the Spirit that transpires inside us as much as in our external interactions." (From The Holy Intimacy of Strangers by Sarah York)

Margaret Goode