



# TIDINGS

The Newsletter of Christ Church – St. Michael's Parish (Episcopal)

February 2014

## Generosity of Spirit

### *An Incredibly Successful 2014 Stewardship Campaign*

Christ Church is a faith community whose parishioners display, again and again, a “generosity of spirit” that connotes a deep love and support for Christ, this Parish, and its people. In 1988-89, you rallied to raise the needed monies to repair and renovate the church building. In 2002-05, you rallied to raise the funds to renovate and expand the parish house. When we ran an operating deficit in 2003, you rallied to increase pledging from \$320,000 to \$470,000 over a four-year period from 2004-07. And, after years of flat or decreasing pledge revenue, you responded to our 2014 goals of 200 pledges and \$495,000 by, hopefully, reaching the first goal and far exceeding the second goal. As of mid-January, we have received 192 pledges for \$520,000. At its January meeting the Vestry voted to use the increased revenue to: (1) pay our full apportionment to our Diocese; (2) restore funding for Outreach & Wider Mission; (3) fully fund the new *Altars in the World* service; (4) replenish long-term cuts to our worship & music budget; (5) maintain staff health insurance benefits; and (6) provide the staff and clergy with a 1.5% increase in salary. Throughout the year the Rector and Wardens will endeavor to evaluate programs and expenses to ensure that your resources are being used wisely and in keeping with our ministry, our mission, and our core values. Thank you for your generosity!

## Our Annual Parish Meeting

### *Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM beginning with Evensong*

We are a community of parishioners who love to come together to eat and socialize—whether it is the Fall Harvest Dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Lenten series, Agape Meal, or the Annual Parish Meeting. Of course, the Annual Parish Meeting has an important aspect beyond fellowship. It is the time when we gather as members of Christ Church to elect our wardens and vestry members, delegates and alternates to diocesan convention, review our year-end statements, and present the 2014 operating budget as approved by the vestry. In some regards, 2013 was anything but predictable at Christ Church, yet we ended the year in a strong position and the 2014 annual stewardship program set a new record in dollars pledged. On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> we will gather in the church at 5 PM for Evensong with the Chancel Choir and clergy. Afterwards we will meet in Etherton Hall for libations, dinner and the meeting. If anyone requires transportation to the meeting, please telephone or email the Parish Office. Childcare is provided from 5 to 8 PM. We do hope that you will mark your calendar and plan to join us this evening.

## “Blessings Abounding: Embracing the Ministry We Share”

### 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Easton February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

In November of 2013, Bishop Shand announced his intention to retire in July of this year. Rather than call for an election of a new bishop coadjutor, Bishop Shand has asked the Diocese to use this time to discern what possibilities exist and what creative directions our Diocese might take. For example: given the small number of parishes that constitute our Diocese, as well as the Diocese's own long-term struggle with financial sustainability, would the Episcopal Church be a stronger presence on the Eastern Shore if it rejoined the Diocese of Maryland? If you'd like to be part of this conversation in exploring “What is a Diocese?” please plan to attend the plenary sessions at the Hyatt in Cambridge on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am - 12:30 pm; and 1 pm - 2:30 pm. You may also speak with one of our Parish's Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Tom & Cathy Mendenhall and Phil Parkinson, along with our clergy.

### *The Christian Vision of God* by Alistair McGrath

The new Monday afternoon  
discussion group begins on  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm in the  
Parish House's Lea Library

103 Willow Street, P.O. Box S  
St. Michaels, MD 21663  
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Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Monday-Thursday  
Weekly Service Schedule:  
Morning Prayer – 9:00 AM Mondays through Fridays  
Holy Eucharist (Londonderry) – 1:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
Sunday Services: 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

Submissions to the *TIDINGS* monthly parish newsletter are due on the  
**10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month**

Please email items for publication to  
[peterhouck@aol.com](mailto:peterhouck@aol.com)  
or leave in newsletter editor's mailbox  
located at the parish house

Newsletter editor: Peter Houck



## God-Bearers for Our Children

I remember a third floor classroom in a late 19<sup>th</sup> century house, with a bank of south-facing windows that, in my memory at least, were always awash with bright morning sunshine -- my first Sunday School classroom. I remember Bea Howerton, my first Sunday school teacher, whose arms were always ready with a hug. I remember belting out "Jesus wants me for a sunshine," and believing with all my heart that Jesus wanted *me*, and that I had something important to do for God. I remember Edna Ogg and the way she took my 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class questions seriously. I remember Fran Moody, my first children's choir director, and I remember the first song we sang the fall I joined choir; *This Is My Father's World*. I remember processing in at the beginning of

the service, and I remember the big white bow that adorned my dark red choir robe.

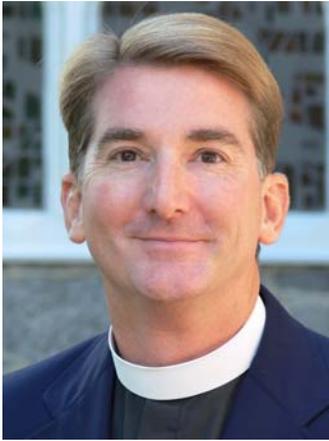
Bea, Edna and Fran, long gone from this plane of existence, are but three examples from my own life of the kind of persons whom some have called "God-bearers." In their book, *The Godbearing Life*, Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster identify the roles of families, congregations, and mentoring relationships as the "holy ground" where young people are most likely to say "Yes!" to God. Bea, Edna and Fran embodied God's love for me not only by giving of their time and commitment to the church, but by the ways in which they helped me to understand that I was a part of a larger story written by God. Because of them, and others like them, I knew myself to be a valued member of Bethesda Lutheran Church from the time I was born until the day I left home.

One of the challenges of the contemporary church is figuring out how we might become God-bearers for the children in our own faith community. With family life itself full of scheduling challenges and competing demands for limited time and energy, it can be hard for our kids to be a regular presence on Sunday mornings. And yet they still need the people of the church to be God-bearers for them, for that is our end of keeping the covenant their parents made on the day of their baptism. But how to make that a reality?

Like many parishes across the nation, in our parish it is becoming increasingly difficult to do Church School in the ways we have in the past. Like many clergy across the nation, I am beginning to explore new ways that we might support the spiritual nurture of our children and families, and support families in the spiritual nurture of their children. I take seriously that kids instinctively know of God and that their spiritual lives need to be named, celebrated and nurtured by the Church. In many ways, our methods of the past do not fit the needs of contemporary families, and if we are to take both God and human development seriously, we need to be daring in our willingness to chart new paths for providing spiritual nurture for our children and youth.

Stay tuned in the coming months as the clergy begin to engage in conversations with the families of Christ Church to learn how we might most helpfully support them in nurturing the spiritual life of their children and youth. Or, to put it another way, to learn how we might become God-bearers for the kids among us.

Lynn+



## Baptismal Promises Made...

In early January, many of our parishioners renewed their baptismal vows during the Sunday morning services on *The Baptism of Our Lord*, which is the Sunday when we mark the occasion of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. In addition to promising to carry on the teachings of the church, to pray regularly, to resist evil, and to live a life that embodies the Gospel, we promise to love our neighbor as ourselves, and to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. There is nothing easy in these five promises; and the last two--the ones that call us to serve others in the name of Christ--can be daunting at times, when we move beyond one-on-one or small group encounters.

In November 2013, I embarked on a two-month sabbatical that began at New York-Presbyterian Hospital at Columbia University in New York City. Okay, it wasn't exactly the sabbatical for which I'd hoped, more of a medical leave of

absence for open heart surgery to remove a tumor from my aortic valve. I cannot say enough positive comments about the level of medical care that I received, beginning with the surgeon, the nurses, the physical therapists and other medical and administrative staff. It was about six weeks into my recovery that the medical bills began arriving in the mailbox. The first was from the hospital itself, and it was just south of \$70,000. Then the surgeons' bills arrived; another \$12,000. Add these to the medical expenses incurred during my stroke that started me down this path, and my personal medical bills for the past year approached \$100,000. That's about a year's salary and, without insurance, not easily within our means. Fortunately, I am blessed to have comprehensive health insurance, so my out-of-pocket costs are manageable. Yet, armed with this newly heightened awareness of healthcare costs, I learned that we have parishioners whose medical expenses make my own pale by comparison. While visiting one parishioner, who is a few years older than I am, I discovered that his medical bills during the past year, which involved two major surgeries, are approaching \$1 million. Another parishioner, in this case one many years younger than I, has incurred medical bills of almost \$2 million, which included a heart transplant. Fortunately, both of these parishioners have health insurance. But what of those parishioners who do not have insurance? Census data reflects that about 15.4% of Americans--roughly 48 million people--do not have health insurance. Not adjusting for demographics, in a parish of 500 people that means about 75 could be without insurance.

Not so long ago a young man who had grown up in our parish was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. He was uninsured, and his family and community rallied to raise funds for treatment. But, as you can imagine, in a society in which medical bills can quickly reach into the six figures (and occasionally seven figures) auctions, bake sales, and concerts fall short. Treatment depends on finding a hospital or clinic that will treat you as a charity case. In January this year, legislation took effect that was meant to make health insurance more accessible for those 48 million uninsured, and the thought is that most Americans will be responsible and obtain hopefully affordable and comprehensive health insurance. From my own perspective, I don't see healthcare coverage as a political issue, even as I have watched politics and ideology shape this debate for decades. I do wonder where our country might be now if President Nixon had managed to implement a national comprehensive healthcare system during his attempts to do so in 1971 and 1974. On Feb. 6, 1974, President Nixon addressed these words to the U.S. Congress:

*In the last quarter century, we have made remarkable progress toward that goal [of assuring every American an equal opportunity to lead a full and productive life], opening the doors to millions of our fellow countrymen who were seeking equal opportunities in education, jobs and voting. Now it is time that we move forward again in still another critical area: health care. Without adequate health care, no one can make full use of his or her talents and opportunities. It is thus just as important that economic, racial and social barriers not stand in the way of good health care as it is to eliminate those barriers to a good education and a good job.*

In our modern, international economic system, we have become a people entranced by the metric of Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). It has, in many regards, become our new social ethic. Yet, as Pope Francis has reminded the world, markets alone do not value people as people, as people created in God's image, which is why it is so important to remember our baptismal promises when we think of our neighbors. So, what does our baptismal promise "to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being" mean for our society today?

--Mark Nestlehatt

## PARISH LIFE

### The Annual Parish Dinner, Feb. 9th – Bev Kegan

Every year the Vestry hosts our Annual Dinner, which provides an opportunity for parishioners to get together in fellowship to review the past year and plan for the new year. This year, our Annual Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 9, beginning with Evensong at 5:00, followed by dinner at 5:30 in Etherton Hall. Please plan on joining us for this important event, when we will review our 2013 financial statements and the 2014 budget, and vote for our new wardens, vestry members, and Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates. The vestry will provide the beverages and grilled chicken. You can help by bringing: **A–G** (dessert); **H–O** (side dish); **P–Z** (salad).



We will also provide child care and transportation. Please phone the parish office at 410-745-9076 if you would like to request either of these. **Above right:** participants in the 2013 Annual Dinner were **L-R:** Phil & Diane Dinkel, Beth Eckel, Sparrow & Charles Rogers, Judy Hause, Howard Eckel, and Helen Bower. Photo by Jim Proctor.

## Winter Light

Slow down and celebrate Epiphany, the season of God's "showing forth" and following a winter star, by spending one hour a week with your fellow parishioners as you read and discuss the book, *The Christian Vision of God* by Alister McGrath. Led by Lynn Hade, the seven-week series begins on Monday, February 3rd, at 1:00 pm in the Lea Library. Please contact Lynn at [lynn@christstmichaels.org](mailto:lynn@christstmichaels.org) or 410-745-9076 to order a copy of the book.

## Disaster Preparedness – Linda Norris

Thanks so much to all of you who responded to the Disaster Survey. We are very pleased with the response from 61 people. We now have specific information regarding talents, needs, experience and resources of those who responded. This information can be very useful for many situations that may arise within the Parish, and not just during a disaster.



**Right:** Snow emergency photo was provided by Google Images.

Here are results from the survey:

**Equipment available** -- 12 four-wheel drive vehicles, 11 boats, 5 VHF/Ham radios, 10 air compressors, 5 tractors, 2 generators, 11 trucks / vans.

**Expertise/skills** – 5 persons in health care, 3 in mental health, 3 in construction, 3 in psychological first aid (this is the most pervasive problem associated with disasters), 3 language translators, and 9 with disaster relief experience.

We also have 21 people who would like to be contacted concerning their status around the time of a disaster. Information and the ability to communicate, in addition to having the right tools are key to functioning well during a disaster. Having the information from this survey is a great start to being prepared.

If you did not respond to this survey, don't worry. At the approach of a potential disaster or in its aftermath, we will hopefully be able to use the weekly e-blast to request information needed to respond to specific needs.

## 2014 Nominees for Warden and Vestry Positions – Carolyn Wasdyke

The following list presents the slate of nominees to stand for election at the February 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting. If elected, they will serve 2014 – 2016. Photos were made by Jim Proctor.

**George Dixon - Senior Warden.** George and Tellie Dixon moved from Northern Virginia to St. Michaels, MD in January 2005. George has a married son in Atlanta and a married daughter in Kansas City, with two grandchildren. He is currently the Junior Warden of Christ Church and is the Vestry representative to the Diocese of Easton 2014 Convention. George co-chaired the 2012 and 2013 stewardship campaigns and has served on the vestry since August 2011. In October 2012, he became chairman of the Christ Church Men's Club. He is a past president of the St. Andrews Society of the Eastern Shore and is board director of the MRYC Foundation. George is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel; he next retired from Lockheed Martin in 2004, and retired from his defense consulting practice in 2013.



**Pat Martin – Junior Warden.** Pat became a St. Michaels part-timer in 1989, drawn to this area after years of boating in the surrounding waters. In 1998 it was time to retire from the Christina School District in Newark, Delaware. Her 37-year career included experiences as an elementary teacher, special education teacher, coordinator and principal. She has been a member of Christ Church for 16 years. Church activities include ECW Second Vice President, First Vice President and currently incoming President. Pat has served on the flower guild for six years. She has participated in various study groups for seven years. Community activities include serving as the President of the Woman's Club of St. Michaels 2006-2008. She has been active in Christmas in St. Michaels committees for seven years and currently holds a Board position. Areas of interest are caring for her pet, Soleil, reading, bridge, theater, and golfing.

**Pamela McCloud - Christian Formation.** Pamela is originally from New York and was educated at Southern Connecticut University and NYU, majoring in international relations and history. Her career, which began as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran, was spent in international development with overseas posts to Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt and major consultancies in Pakistan, Yemen, Libya and Palestine. Pamela and her husband Jim have been members of Christ Church since 2004. She is and has been engaged in a number of church outreach activities including the Community Food Pantry board and volunteer coordinator; Episcopal Relief and Development; serving on the Christ Church (CC) Grants Committee; VP and CC Coordinator for Talbot Interfaith Shelter; a delegate to Diocesan Convention; Member of Diocesan Council; and chapter member of Trinity Cathedral.



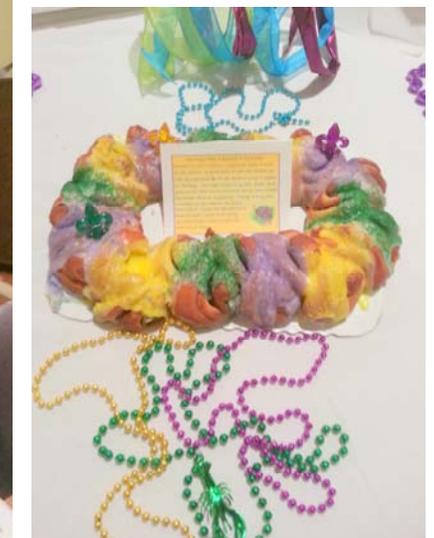
**Judy Parker – Parish and Community Life.** Judy was born in New York City and attended St. Agnes Academy Boarding School and Marymount College. She worked for the Clairol Division of Bristol Myers as convention coordinator. Most of her career was spent in advertising, however, and she became vice president of human resources at E.B. Wilson, before retiring and moving to St. Michaels in 2001. Judy lives with her husband Larry and their two Labrador retrievers. They have four children. Judy has been an active member of the S.M. Community Pool Committee as well as Christmas in S.M. Larry and Judy joined Christ Church in 2001 and became active in the newly formed Welcome Committee. The warmth and comfort of the Church community has led Judy to “give back” to Christ Church for all she has received over the last 13 years.

**Jim Fulton – Pastoral Care.** Jim and his wife, Terry, came to St. Michaels by boat in 2011 and were so charmed that they bought a house in the Historic District and moved here in 2012. They had long been active in their former parish in Virginia. At Christ Church, Jim is a Eucharistic Visitor, Eucharistic Minister, Lay Reader, and Intercessor. Terry is a docent; and together, they are ushers. Jim is a member of the St. Michaels Historic District Commission. He has BS and MBA degrees from Drexel University. Following a career in information systems development and management, he retired in 2008. Jim and Terry have a son and daughter and five grandchildren. When not working on renovating their house, Jim enjoys sailing and working on their boat.



**Don Buxton – Worship and Music.** Don studied at Wilmington College of Ohio, University of Cincinnati, and the Juilliard School of Music. He is currently Executive Director of Chesapeake Chamber Music, an organization he helped to found and the parent of numerous festivals, family concerts and educational programs. He was associate conductor of the Talbot Chamber Orchestra in the mid-1980s before becoming music director of the Dover Symphony in 1989, a post he still holds. Founding artistic director/conductor of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony from 1997 to 2005, Don frequently guest-conducts orchestras throughout the U.S. He recently retired from the faculty of Washington College and serves on numerous non-profit arts boards. He has served on the vestry of Christ Church and sung in the Chancel Choir for many years. Don and his family have attended services at Christ Church since his marriage to Merideth 29 years ago. Both of his children were baptized, confirmed, and grew up in Christ Church.

## Scenes from the Feast of Epiphany – Photos by Blake Rogers and Bev Kegan



**Above:** some of the jolly participants in the Epiphany Dinner, including Asa, Abigail & Mark Nestlehutt, Dick and Judy Tanczos, standing; and Lisa Felts with her sister. **Right:** one of the three King Cakes served as dessert.

### ***Planned Giving -- An Ounce of Prevention...*** -- Judy Sandground

Part of our planned giving ministry is providing helpful information to support the financial health and security of our parishioners. The recent theft from Target of customers' personal and credit card information makes us all realize how vulnerable our financial security can be and how reliant we are on the firewalls of the places we shop and bank. There are, however, steps we can take to protect ourselves from identity thieves. Following are ten tips for avoiding identity theft:

1. **Password protect** your computer, phone or tablet so that only you can access the information stored there. This will help protect you if your device is ever lost or stolen.
2. **Safeguard your personal financial information.** Don't save passwords, account numbers, Social Security numbers or answers to secret questions on your mobile devices or computer. Shred all unneeded documents containing account numbers or other personal information.
3. **Never provide personal information unless you initiate contact** with your bank or other financial institution. Financial institutions should not request account numbers, Social Security numbers or other sensitive information through email or text messages. Never share personal information or card numbers when someone calls you; end the call and contact the 800 number on the back of your card. Similarly, if you receive a voice message, call the number on the back of your credit card not the number the caller leaves.
4. **Check your credit card statements** carefully. Thieves often start with small purchases that they hope will go unnoticed and work their way up to the widescreen television, so it is important to review all charges carefully.
5. **Check your bank statements** each month.
6. **Don't stay "auto logged in"** to your accounts. Even though it's convenient, it increases the risk that an unauthorized user will access your accounts.
7. **Delete old texts** from your bank so that your text message history (containing alerts, balances and recent transactions) cannot be accessed.
8. **Always log out completely** when you are finished with your online banking session.

9. **Keep your computer, phone, tablet and mobile apps updated** to make sure the latest security protections are installed.
10. **Report lost or stolen devices immediately** to your wireless provider and financial institutions.

Next month, look for information on preventing investment fraud.

## Views of the December 22nd Caroling – Photos by Bev Kegan



**Below:** The carolers assembled in Etherton Hall; **Right:** Beginning to sing



### February Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

2/1 Tellie Dixon, Scott Kilmon  
 2/2 Pat Ellis  
 2/3 Fiona Cooper, Mark Nestlehutt  
 2/5 Caroline Church, Ginny MacLeod,  
 Ruth Suter  
 2/7 Chris Newberg  
 2/9 Janet Bickert  
 2/10 Aly Valentine  
 2/11 Molly Malkus, Kathy Norman  
 2/13 Mason Roe  
 2/15 Julie Hart

2/16 Beth Driggs, William Thomas  
 2/17 Nancy Masone, Charles Rogers  
 2/18 Brandon Kealy  
 2/21 Shannon Wyant  
 2/22 Abigail Nestlehutt, Ann Roe,  
 Carolyn Wasdyke  
 2/24 Brooke Alexander, Mark Newberg  
 2/25 Di Kingman, Emily Miller  
 2/26 John Scofield  
 2/28 Burgess Kegan, Jeff Weller  
 2/29 Jim Fulton



#### Anniversaries

2/2 Tom & Edie Huddleston; 2/7 Tom & Janet Underwood; 2/12 Bill & Lesley Moyer; 2/25 Jim & Terry Fulton; 2/28 Neil & Susan Armstrong

#### From the Parish Register

**Baptisms:** James Lewis Battmer and Vivian Claire Battmer, December 29, 2013

## PARISH and COMMUNITY LIFE

### A Lenten Quiet Morning

-- The Rev. Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” These are the words that will mark

the beginning of our Lenten journey. On Saturday, March 1st, 8:30-11:30 am, there will be a quiet morning at All Faith Chapel in Tunis Mills that will set the stage for a holy season of self-examination and prayer. The morning will be organized by The Reverend Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt and Ms. Eugenie Drayton. The Reverend Karen Larson from Grace Lutheran Church in Easton will lead the opening meditation. Please email [QuietMorningSeries@gmail.com](mailto:QuietMorningSeries@gmail.com) to register or for more information.

### Lift Every Voice: Echoes of the African-American Community on the Eastern Shore, Feb. 15th at 5:00 pm

-- An evening to celebrate the contributions of historic figures in the local African-American community to the life of the region, state and nation, and to remember the tragedies suffered by that same community. This will be a time for history, music and honoring, followed by a “traditional soul food dinner with all the trimmings.” **Where:** the Union United Methodist Church, at Railroad Ave. and Fremont. -- Rev. Lynn Hade

## REACHING OUT

### Empty Bowls Dinner Raises Funds for Food

**Pantries** – Susan Handy duPont, co-chair, Talbot County Empty Bowls Committee

The annual Empty Bowls community dinner benefits food pantries serving those in need in Talbot County. This year, every penny raised from ticket sales and donations will be distributed to nine food pantries, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Ashbury Methodist Church, Scott's United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, the Neighborhood Service Center, Tilghman Food Pantry, CarePacks of Talbot County, Union United Methodist Church and the St. Michaels Food Pantry. **Below:** Mimi Sanford, Zoe Thomas and a friend painting empty bowls last year at this time.

Here's how you can help:

**Come to the Empty Bowls community dinner on our sixth Sunday, February 23, 2014, 5 pm to 7 pm, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Route 50, Easton.** (In case of inclement weather the event will be held Sunday, March 2.) Tickets: \$20 per person, includes a dinner of delicious soup and the hand crafted bowl in which it is served. Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance: 1) by mailing a check to the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, 102 E. Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601. Make checks payable to Mid-Shore/Empty Bowls; include a phone number on the check. 2) by purchasing tickets online at [www.mscf.org](http://www.mscf.org), go to the Events button at the bottom of the page.



**Make a donation** through the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, 102 E. Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601 or online at [www.mscf.org](http://www.mscf.org), go to the Events button at the bottom of the page. **Paint a bowl** at Clay Bakers in Easton through February 17. Clay Bakers will donate the decorated bowl and a portion of the studio fee to Talbot County Empty Bowls. For more information, call 410-770-9091 or visit [www.theclaybakers.com](http://www.theclaybakers.com). **Follow us on Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/EmptyBowlsEastonMD](http://www.facebook.com/EmptyBowlsEastonMD).

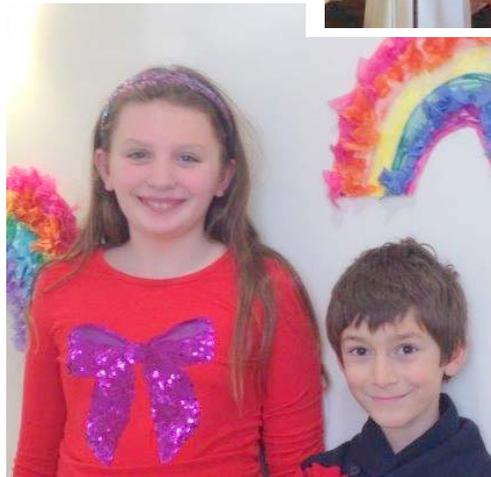
# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## Christian Formation for Children -

- Lee Thomas (text and photos by the author)

In early January, our Beulah Land story was of David and Goliath, and we talked about monsters and moments in our lives that test our faith. The story of the prophet Elijah was a bit of a challenge later in the month – it was confusing. In February, our lessons tell the stories of Esther and of Daniel, and we’re planning a “Purim Party” on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Our Youth Sunday is now scheduled for March, so we’ll be preparing a new altar frontal for use during that service. We hope all of the children will join in making one this year to add to our collection. Enjoy a few pictures of the children taken during rehearsals for our Advent program in December.

**Center:** The Youth Choir rehearsing and performing the Light Before Christmas, Dec. 15; **Top row, L-R:** Annie Sanford, Adison Parish & Mariana Parkinson, Spencer Parish; **Bottom row:** Will Donald, Fiona Cooper & Logan Rogers, and James Parkinson.



## **re:form**

### ***Christian Formation for Tweens and Teens***

Our Sunday morning Youth Group “re:form” continues to meet and is open to all young people in grades six through nine. It meets in the Conference Room, off the Lea Library from 9:15-10 AM. The program uses a DVD format to generate discussion and is led by Mark Nestlehutt, Gena Newberg and Alison Sanford.

## **New to Christ Church? - *Try the Adult Inquirers' Class***

When was the last time you gave much thought to what it means to be a Christian, or how the Episcopal Church may differ from other denominations to which you may have belonged? Beginning in late January, we will provide an opportunity for people exploring their faith and connection to Christ Church to meet for conversation and discussion. This is an excellent opportunity for adults who are new to Christ Church, or are considering becoming a member, as well as those considering baptism, confirmation, or being received into the Episcopal Church. **We will meet in the Lea Library from 7 - 8:30 PM on Mondays, January 27<sup>th</sup>; February 10<sup>th</sup>; February 24<sup>th</sup>; and March 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Our primary texts will be *The Book of Common Prayer* and *Welcome to the Episcopal Church* by Christopher Webber. For more information, or to register, please email or telephone Mark at: [mark@christstmichaels.org](mailto:mark@christstmichaels.org) or 410-745-9076 x302.

## **Mark Your Calendar Now -- *Adult Forum's Guest Speaker: Dr. Clayton Railey***

In October of 2013, Dr. Clayton Railey gave an wonderful presentation on the topic “*A New Pope; A New Direction?*” examining Pope Frances and his Jesuit background. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Clay will speak on the topic “Exploring Christian Ethics,” by examining Jesus’ teachings about God, relationship with neighbor, and how these shape our faith. Clay spent 20 years as a Jesuit priest in the area of education before resigning his vows and leaving the order. Clayton now serves as Dean of Delaware County Community College.

## **Lenten Series: Popcorn Theology -- *2014 Theme: Relationships Lost and Found***

Mark your calendars now for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Popcorn Theology Lenten film series, which begins on March 10<sup>th</sup>! This year’s films explore loss of relationship and community and the joy of discovering new relationships and communities. The films are: **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** (2012); **Lars and the Real Girl** (2007); **The Intouchables** (2011); **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2011); and **Quartet** (2012). Movies begin promptly at 7:00 pm and are followed by a half-hour discussion of the moral, ethical and theological themes of each film. We have an excellent surround-sound speaker system, large projection screen and comfortable seating. Popcorn and sodas are provided, but you may bring your own candy and alternative beverages. For more information, speak with our Rector, Mark.

## **The S.M.A.S.H. Program and Jan. 12th Adult Forum – A SMASHING Success!** – Judy Sandground

The first semester St. Michaels After School Help program (SMASH) and the January 12 Adult Forum were exactly that – smashingly successful! At the Adult Forum, the individuals who have designed, promoted and implemented this after school intervention and enrichment program were there to explain how it was started, how it works and what is needed for it to continue. 100% of the 22 children in grades 1 through 4 who have participated have improved their reading levels and have demonstrated improvement in their other subjects.

Sherry Sutton, Talbot County Schools Curriculum Coordinator, Tracy Elzey, Principal of St. Michaels Elementary School and Lori Eutsler, Lead Teacher for SMASH were there to inform us of the in-kind support provided by the Talbot County School Board, share the metrics of the results and provide insights into the way the after school time is structured and the benefits of the strong bonds that have developed between teachers and students. School buses transport each student home at 5:00 when the program ends.

Parishioner Mary Lou McAllister (shown below in a photo by Jim Proctor) spoke of the importance of this program



to the students and their families. Many of the children are living at or below the poverty level and without this help would continue to fall behind in school. Mary Lou also advised that there will be classroom volunteer opportunities starting in February. These volunteer positions are being defined by the school and will be provided to those expressing interest. If you are considering this wonderful opportunity and did not sign up at the Forum, please contact Judy Sandground 410-745-5118.

The School Board has supported SMASH by providing classroom facilities, administrative support, access to computers, curriculum software, materials and snacks. Our Grants

Committee has also provided some funding. Additional community support is needed to fund teacher time and bus transportation costs. All donations are going through the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, a public 501(c)(3) charity located at 102 East Dover Street, Easton, MD 21601. Checks should be made out to Mid-Shore Community Foundation; be sure to write 'SMASH' on the memo line. Linda Seemans is the Treasurer for SMASH. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Bev Pratt 410-745-5032.

## Mid-Week Adult Christian Formation:

### Saving Jesus Redux

*More* CHRISTIAN FORMATION for ADULTS

For the past several years we have offered a variety of programs that endeavor to help us to grow and mature as Christians--what we speak of as Christian Formation: the *Disciples* courses, *DOCC* and *Living the Questions*. Last year we began another new program, *Saving Jesus Redux*. This is a 12-session DVD-based small group exploration of how we may understand Jesus in our own time. Presenters include: Diana Butler Bass, Brian McLaren, Amy-Jill Levine and Robin Meyers, among others. This winter, beginning in February, we are offering the second six sessions of *Saving Jesus Redux* on Tuesday mornings. The program is co-facilitated by Chris Whyman and Mark Nestlehutt. For more information or to register, please email or phone the Parish Office.

### Unit Two: Tuesday Mornings from 10:30 AM - 12 Noon Beginning on Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

- 2/4 Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God
- 2/11 No Class - ECW
- 2/18 Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
- 2/25 Who Killed Jesus?
  
- 3/4 The Atonement
- 3/11 No Class - ECW
- 3/18 The Resurrection of Christ
- 3/25 Why Jesus is Worth Saving



## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

**The Men's Club, 8:00 am,  
Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014** – George Dixon



Our speaker for February 8 is Dr. William C. “Bill” Boicourt, seen at left, Professor at Horn Point Laboratory of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences. Bill will speak on the expected impact of climate change/global warming on the Delmarva Peninsula and what we can do about it. He is an expert on the Chesapeake Bay and the impact of climate change and holds three degrees from Johns Hopkins and Amherst. Dr. Boicourt has been a researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Chesapeake Bay Institute at Johns Hopkins and has written numerous scientific papers and received many awards and grants. Join us in this timely discussion of our environment, led by a true authority. (Photo of Dr. Boicourt courtesy of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences)

Make your reservation now! Call George Dixon at 410-745-6307 or e-mail at: [georgedixon@mindspring.com](mailto:georgedixon@mindspring.com)

Join your fellow parishioners. Bring a friend to join you. Have a hearty breakfast for only \$12 and listen to a great speaker. (Yes, after nearly ten years, we have raised our price to \$12. The objective is to offer a quality breakfast every time, and food costs have gone up.) Again, we will meet Saturday, February 8, at 8:00 am in Etherton Hall.

### Men's Club Meeting on January 11th

On Saturday morning, January 11th, the Men's Club heard Dr. Barbara Viniar, president of Chesapeake College, describe the college's position as a gateway either to higher education in four-year colleges or to successful vocations in fields such as nursing, truck-driving and welding that serve the needs of communities on the Eastern Shore.

She also described some of the challenges the college faces, such as gaining more funding from the State and the five local counties it serves, and from private donors as well. Another challenge is dealing with the large percentage of new students from the five-county area who lack adequate preparation in math to perform college-level work. In this area, she said, Chesapeake College is conducting its own remedial programs and is reaching out to the various school districts to work with them to upgrade their math programs. In response to a question, Dr. Viniar said the college would welcome the assistance of individuals who would like to provide tutoring in mathematics. (Dr. Viniar's photo above is courtesy of the *Star-Democrat*.)



Some of her comments were stimulated by probing questions and comments from the audience, one of which noted the low math and science scores of high school students across the United States. Another member commented on the difficulty of finding qualified plumbers and electricians on the Eastern Shore, leading to discussion about the absence of Eastern Shore apprenticeships in those vocations, the lack of formal training opportunities, and the overall lack of interest among Americans in entering those fields. Dr. Viniar noted that there is strong demand for graduates of some of its programs, such as welding and nursing. In the case of welding, she said, Chesapeake's graduates are invariably rewarded with employment, which is more than can be said about many graduates of professional programs, such as law, who nowadays cannot find jobs in that profession.

## More CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### The Docents' Guild – Linda Makosky

There is a moment, after the docent first welcomes a visitor or before the visitor departs, when he or she is invited: "Please sign our Guest Book." The Guest Register becomes a record of the hundreds of individuals who come to see, to pray, to admire, to meditate, to remember, to enjoy a unique experience.

Once a year, when the docent duty season has ended, the recorded names are tabulated and the various origins of our visitors are revealed. The patient researcher is Carol McCanna. She goes through the ledger line by line and page by page, to analyze the information in time for Chairman Army Webster to include it in her annual report to the Vestry in January.

Here are some of the highlights from Carol's analysis:

The total number of visitors in 2013 was 1,664. They came from 19 countries and 45 U.S. states. The largest number of foreign visitors came from Germany (24), followed by England (19), and Canada (10), with other nations only 6 or fewer. The most distant country represented was Australia (2).

The results from individual states are not surprising: Maryland (502), Pennsylvania (288), and New Jersey (128) were the only triple-digit totals. One guest came all the way from Hawaii!



The statistics may seem boring but the numbers tell us why docents continue to enjoy greeting visitors. Every shift holds the promise of an interesting encounter, an unexpected conversation.

All Christ Church parishioners are welcome to become docents and experience the pleasure of greeting visitors to our beautiful church. Our Handbook gives us the answers to frequently asked questions. The duty is light, just two hours one afternoon a month from May through October.

If you are interested, please call our scheduler, Lillian Watts, at 410-745-9999, or email her at [lilliw@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lilliw@atlanticbb.net) for an introduction to this rewarding ministry.

*Coming next month-* The Docents' Guild Spring Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, at 10:00 am in Etherton Hall. *Please mark your calendars.* We will discuss the new season and our Handbook revision. Interested parishioners are welcome to attend.

~ February 2014 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Morning Prayer Monday – Friday 9:00 AM</b>						1
<b>2 4 Epiphany Souper Bowl Sunday</b> 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum: Church School; Youth Group 10:15 AM Parish Family Eucharist 11:30 AM Cider in the Hall	<b>3</b> 1 PM Book Discussion	<b>4</b> 10:30 AM Wardens Meeting 10:30 AM 'Saving Jesus Redux' Part II 2:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 6 PM St. Andrew's Society of Eastern Shore Potluck Dinner	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Welcome Committee Meeting 11 AM Book Discussion 12 PM Women's Club Meeting 6:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 1:30 PM Holy Eucharist at Londonderry 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>7</b>  <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  6 PM St. Michaels Elementary School Daddy/Daughter Dance	<b>8</b> 8 AM Men's Club Breakfast
<b>9 5 Epiphany Boy Scouts Sunday</b> 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum: Church School; Youth Grp. 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Cider in the Hall 12 PM Worship & Music Meeting 5 PM Evensong 5:30 PM Dinner 7 PM Parish Annual Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>Deadline for the Tidings</b> 1 PM Book Discussion 4 PM Pastoral Care Team Meeting 7 PM Adult Inquirer's Class	<b>11</b> 11 AM ECW Board Meeting 12 PM ECW Meeting 2:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 11 AM Book Discussion 6:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>14</b>  <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 6 Epiphany</b> 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum: Church School; Youth Grp. 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Cider in the Hall 12 PM Prayer Chain Meeting	<b>17 President's Day</b>  <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9 AM St. Michaels Art League Meeting 5 PM Christmas in St. Michaels Meeting	<b>18</b> 10:30 AM 'Saving Jesus Redux' Part II 2:30 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 11 AM Book Discussion 6:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 1:30 PM Holy Eucharist at Londonderry 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>21</b>  <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  Diocesan Convention at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD  Boy Scouts Dinner	<b>22</b>  Diocesan Convention at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD
<b>23 7 Epiphany</b> 8 AM Holy Eucharist 9 AM Coffee Hour 9:15 AM Adult Forum: Church School; Youth Grp. 10:15 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Cider in the Hall 5 PM 'Altars in the World' Service 5 PM Empty Bowls Dinner, Immanuel Lutheran Church	<b>24</b> 1 PM Book Discussion 7 PM Adult Inquirer's Class	<b>25</b> 10:30 AM 'Saving Jesus Redux' Part II 2:30 PM Staff Meeting 4 PM Christmas in St. Michaels Board Meeting 5:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>26</b> 11 AM Book Discussion 6:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 8 PM AA Meeting	<b>28</b>  <b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	



## Ministry Areas of Christ Church

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Forum	Ray Wasdyke
Adult Inquirers	Mark Nestlehutt
Church School:	
Ages 3-Grade 4	TBD
Youth Group	Mark Nestlehutt
Youth Confirmation	Mark Nestlehutt

### OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION

Back to School Project	Gillian Whyman, Judy Sandground
Children's Home Found.	Nance DuPont, Martha Austin
El Hogar Project	Bill Corba
Environmental Issues	Margie Steffens
Episcopal Relief & Dev.	Pamela McCloud
Grants Committee	TBD
Habitat for Humanity	John Hunnicutt
Honduran Dental Mission	Jim Campi
St. Michaels Food Pantry	Beth and Howard Eckel
Talbot Interfaith Shelter	Pamela McCloud
United Thank Offering	TBD

### PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Coffee Hour	Mike Clark
Covenant Churches	Mark Nestlehutt
Disaster Preparedness	Linda Norris
Docents' Guild	Irmy Webster
Episcopal Church Women	Lynn Freeburger
Lay Weeders	Lin Clineburg
Lea Library	Robert & Marilyn Barrett
Lemonade/Cider in Hall	Carolyn Houck
Men's Club	George Dixon
Parish Paparazzi	Jim Proctor
<i>Tidings</i> Newsletter	Peter Houck
Welcoming Committee	Cathy Mendenhall

### PASTORAL CARE

Eucharistic Visitors	Jessie Weddle
Pastoral Care Team	Mark Nestlehutt
Prayer Chain	Mark Nestlehutt, Lynn Hade
Stephen Ministry	Lesley Moyer

### STEWARDSHIP

Finance Committee	Tom Orem
Property	Elizabeth Foulds, Phil Dinkel
Stewardship	Jim Vail, Lisa Felts
Teller	Larry McCanna

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Acolyte Guild	Sparrow Rogers, Ann Roe
Altar Guild	Judy Hause
Choirs:	
Chancel & Youth	William Thomas
Handbell	Lynne Phillips
Euch. Ministers & Readers	TBD
Flower Guild	Susan Armstrong
Greeters/Oblation Bearers	Carolyn Houck
Ushers	Robert Burger

## Finances for 12 Months Ended Dec. 31, 2013

### Revenues

Actual – Current Month	\$ 78,560
Budget – Current Month	67,473
Over / (Under) – Current Month	11,087
Actual YTD	552,484
Budget YTD	546,000
Over / (Under) – YTD	6,484

### Variiances

Favorable  
Favorable

### Pledges

Actual – Current Month	38,929
Budget – Current Month	50,327
Over / (Under) – Current Month	(11,398)
Actual YTD	443,715
Budget YTD	470,000
Over / (Under) YTD	(26,285)

Unfavorable  
Unfavorable

### Expenses

Actual – Current Month	56,008
Budget – Current Month	53,151
Over / (Under) – Current Month	2,857
Actual YTD	592,079
Budget YTD	595,128
Over / (Under) YTD	(3,049)

Unfavorable  
Favorable

### Excess of Revenues over Expenses or (Expenses over Revenues)\*\*

Actual – Current Month	22,552
Budget – Current Month	14,322
Over / (Under) – Current Month	8,230
Actual YTD	(39,595)
Budget YTD	(49,128)
Over / (Under) YTD	9,533

Favorable  
Favorable

\*\* Amounts are before transfers from other funds, including distribution from endowment fund.

## Staff

The Reverend Mark S. Nestlehutt, *Rector*  
The Reverend Lynn A. Hade, *Associate Rector*  
Mr. William R. Thomas, *Director of Music*  
Ms. Carol A. Osborne, *Parish Administrator*  
Mr. George E. Short, *Sexton*

## Vestry

Carolyn Wasdyke, *Senior Warden*  
George Dixon, *Junior Warden*  
Larry McCanna, *Treasurer*  
Nancy Besso, *Registrar*

Bev Kegan 2014  
Lesley Moyer 2014  
Linda Norris 2014  
Tony Vaughn 2014

Elizabeth Foulds 2015  
Tom Orem 2015  
Sparrow Rogers 2015  
Hanna Woicke 2015

Bill Corba 2016  
Phil Dinkel 2016  
Pat Martin 2016  
James Vail 2016

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 5  
St. Michaels, MD 21663-0570**

**DATED MATERIAL**

