

# The Messenger



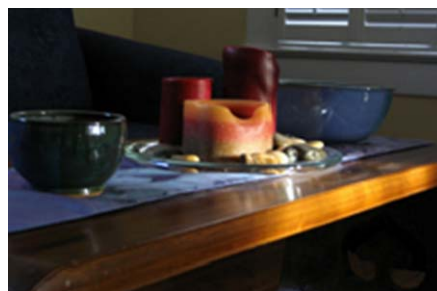
## JULY—AUGUST 2010

### HOME: A PLACE OF WELCOME

I have been musing about home and places of welcome. Recently, I spent three weeks at Virginia Theological Seminary doing one of two summer residencies for my Doctor of Ministry degree in Ministry Development. During that time, I had the opportunity to visit two different parishes for Sunday worship—one in Virginia, one in DC. I did not dress in clericals, and I had never even been inside one of the churches before this visit. It was an interesting experience to walk into a strange building, knowing virtually no one as a *visitor* in church (I did know three of the clergy, but no parishioners.)

We were greeted warmly at the door. People politely shook hands with us at the passing of the Peace. Lemonade was served right out front on the sidewalk after church, and we found lots of “welcome” literature on a big portable kiosk. However, other than the clergy who enthusiastically greeted us, **no one else** approached us to ask whether we were visitors or if we might like to have some lemonade. Perhaps in their location, they get lots of summer visitors, I don't know. The next Sunday, my buddy and I attended another church, in D.C.. My friend had been the seminarian there years ago, so she was able to introduce me to some folks. The service was classic Book of Common Prayer, the hymns traditional. Eucharist was celebrated. All good. But neither experience felt like home—and that sense had nothing to do with the fact that I had walked into the first place a total stranger.

I can only speak for myself in this matter, but I know home when I'm in it. Several years ago, when I was looking for a home to buy in Laurel, I had looked at five different places in the area. They were nice in different ways, but I knew none was where I wanted to live. Then my realtor friend pulled up in a particular



driveway. For the first time, I reached for my camera. When I walked through the front door, I knew I was home. The space was full of color and

personality. It surrounded me with a sense of peace. This was my home, and I knew it. Since that Sunday afternoon, I have loved my place of shelter, peace and refuge.

Last week I was privileged to go with the Camp St. Philip's on their annual field trip. One of our stops was at the National Museum of African Art: an exhibit called “The Healing Power of Art: Works of Art by Haitian Children After the Earthquake.” Two teenagers were in my small group (not St. Philip's parishioners); as I followed them into a big room where children's colorful art hung, one of them looked at the other and said softly, “Wow, I feel so welcome here.” I was curious. In this very large rectangular space, what had made her feel at home? So I asked, “What makes you feel welcome? Are you from Haiti?” She said,

“No, but my mom and dad came from Haiti, and I have a lot of aunts and cousins who live there.” Almost before I thought, I replied, “Well, of course you feel welcome here then. Haiti is in your bones.”



Haitian art on the walls. A video with a constant loop of images of Haiti (before and after the earthquake), interviews with Haitians, Haitian music in the background. This child knew she was home. There

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**HOME: A PLACE OF WELCOME ...***continued from page 1*

were round tables there, with colored pencils and big cards, so we could all draw pictures or write notes, and put in a designated slot—to send greetings and encouragement to the Haitian children. As we did this, I reflected on how peaceful and content all of the children seemed as we drew and wrote.

That conversation made me think about home in a larger sense. What is it that makes people feel welcome and at home at St. Philip's? Some seem to intuitively know. I am thinking about one certain little blond-haired two year old who loves church, delights us all by walking down the aisle and waving or shaking hands with total strangers, and yelling "Cookie" when she wants communion bread. She has always felt at home in church. She is God's child, she has been baptized as God's child, and unless her family is out of town, there she is—learning to sing, turning the pages in a prayerbook, shushing her father, and gleefully coming forward for bread and wine. Hayden is home in the biggest sense, and she knows it in her bones.

One of the things that St. Philipians value and cherish about our parish is how much like home it

feels, how comfortable most of you are here. We try to welcome newcomers—giving appropriate space to the introverts who arrive, who are dipping a toe in our parish waters—and it is something to which we must continually pay attention. As we continue to grow, this will be a challenge, yet I believe we are up to that challenge. It means that every one of us (not just Vestry members or Ushers or Greeters or Rector) smile warmly at someone we don't know, shake their hand, and say "I'm glad you are here today. I don't believe I know you. My name is \_\_\_\_\_." In that simple gesture—as well as perhaps offering to accompany that person to coffee hour if they seem interested—we may very well open the door to a spiritual home, a place of community and fellowship for someone.



Think about the places, spaces and people who welcome you home. (And think about the places where you **don't** feel welcome.) In the weeks to come, join me in creating and sustaining St. Philip's as one of those places of welcome. How can we be a place of God where God's children feel welcome—down to our very bones?

Faithfully, Sheila+

*Picture of Haitian Child's artwork accessed at <http://startstudioarts.si.edu/2010/06/goings-on-the-healing-power-of-art.html>*

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## Thank You ...

The Vestry, Property Core Team and I would like to recognize Ignatius Njoku. Recently Ignatius caulked the windows in the McKee Room and some in the Administration Wing as well. Since some of these old casement windows had, literally, not been able to completely close and were horribly drafty, Ignatius has helped us with energy savings. We hope at some point to replace the old casement windows; until that time, we are air conditioning and heating the outdoors a little less, and this will help with energy bills and comfort level. Thank you so much, Ignatius, and God bless the use of your gifts to this parish.

~Sheila+

## YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION VARIED PROGRAMS ... VARIED NEEDS

We are gearing up for another terrific year in Youth Christian Education here at St. Philip's. You can help make it even better by joining our Sunday School team! Please sign up in Wyatt Hall – we have three

### Sunday School Program



sessions planned, each lasting approximately 12 weeks (trust me, it goes by VERY fast). Don't worry if you don't have prior experience, we can pair you up with someone who does. Sunday School is from 9:00-10:00 each Sunday, starting Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. We'll

give you a break on major holiday weekends. We supply an outstanding curriculum that is really easy to follow. Also, we will arrange a sub for you if you can't make it for any reason. This is a great way to get to know the youth in our church, and to make a tremendous difference in their lives.

In other news, this will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of our Rite 13 Class (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders). This is a fast-paced class with 15 very energetic students – and we'd love to have more! Rite 13 will culminate in a Spring ceremony that celebrates their coming of age.

Finally, we are planning a Youth Confirmation Class for 2010/2011. If your 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader is interested in being confirmed, please let Mother Sheila know. Also, we are looking for folks who would be willing to serve in a pool of potential mentors for our confirmands.



If you are interested in this ministry, or any of the others described above, contact Jennifer Toole at [jtoole@tooledesign.com](mailto:jtoole@tooledesign.com) or at 410-772-2944.

## WOMEN OF ST. PHILIP'S

The Women of St. Philips (WOSP) has a long history. From the beginnings of the church continuing to today ~ Ann Snowden to Sheila McJilton. The WOSP is involved in every aspect of St. Philips. Are you aware of all the different venues that the WOSP are involved? Here is a short list... Altar Guild, Afternoon Guild, Crafters, Quilters, Vestry, Eucharistic Ministry, Lay Ministry and Sunday School. WOW - yes, every aspect of church life has a WOSP perspective available. (Don't tell the Men!)

If you are a woman and attend St. Philip's YOU are automatically a member of the Women of St. Philip's. It is a very active and highly visible part of the St. Philip's parish family. If you are already active, THANK YOU for your interest and contributions. If you have not participated in specific activities in the past, you are encouraged to step forward and share your interests and talents.

The fun, the fellowship, and the fundraising - why is all of this done? An excellent question. All are opportunities to share in the richness of the St Philip's family. They are also opportunities to reach out to the Laurel community, the Diocese, the nation and the world with demonstrations of how the Women of St. Philip care. The current leadership of WOSP is: President: Kama Hamilton, Secretary: Becky Thomas, Treasurer: Judy Williams.

If you are looking for information regarding any WOSP activity, please don't hesitate to contact any one of them. Look for WOSP sponsored activities in the coming months! Fundraising events for the fall include: Tea (16 October), and Holly Days Bazaar (20 Nov).

## TIME TO DECLUTTER

Clutter. It creeps in when you aren't quite sure what to do with things left over from projects, broken things that might be repaired, and anything that might come in handy some day. Unfortunately, clutter also ties up storage space and detracts from the neat and tidy appearance that conveys our loving care for St. Philip's. The Vestry is planning to begin the process of checking all building spaces in mid August, and we need your help in dealing with any clutter that may have accumulated. Here's what you can do to help:

- 1) If you have items that belong to you that are in storage at St. Philip's, please take them back home.
- 2) If you have left items at St. Philip's and they are still in storage and intended for some use, please take the time to attach a note to them explaining what the intended use is. Please also note if you consider the item to

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# CAMP ST. PHILIP'S

As this Messenger goes to print, an incredible week of Camp St. Philip's is coming to a close. Our theme this year has been "Baobab Blast – God's Great Get-Together." Each day our camp community of 39 campers, 10 teen counselors, 11 core leaders, and 15+ adult helpers gathered around a magnificent Baobab Tree in Wyatt Hall. In Africa, this enormous "tree of life" serves as a community meeting place and a hub of activity, energy and life. Our overall camp focus was God's call to each of us to be involved in and expand God's community by building meaningful relationships with one another and with God. Each day focused on a theme word, a Bible story, and a savannah animal related to the theme word. The five theme words were trust, love, follow, care, and share.

Campers started each day with a healthy breakfast, a few minutes of group time, and then three morning rotations: class, crafts, and music. They learned about the day's theme and Bible story with interesting discussions and activities. Campers made an amazing array of twenty different Africa-inspired crafts such as Ndebele house paintings, bottle cap rattles, resist paintings, and homemade soccer balls. They learned many exciting and motion-filled songs, including the theme song, "From East to West," and many other songs about trees, African animals, Africa, and Christian community.

Campers had lunch and recess followed by group reflection time, during which campers shared what

they did in morning rotations and the counselors put on a puppet show at the Baobab tree to reinforce the theme of the day. Campers worked on service projects next, with a special project making personalized books to orphaned children who attend a school that is sponsored by our diocesan Partnership

with Southern Africa Committee. During this time, counselors got a much-deserved break while our 12 outstanding CITs (Counselors-in-Training) stepped up to fill the role of counselors.

The Olympic games were full of fun and silliness, and a dose of playful competition between the Extreme Elephants, Jedi Giraffes, Zesty Zebras, Magic Monkeys, and Mighty Meerkats. We had water Olympics one day, and we took the Olympics to the River Park across the street on another. Snacks were provided to help keep the campers energized. We then closed out each day with a brief group closing at the Baobab tree before dismissal.

On Wednesday we had a special guest speaker,

Michelle Macek, who talked with campers about the 14 years she spent in Africa. She also brought in lots of marvelous African objects to show the campers. On Thursday we took a field trip to the Smithsonian museums of African Art and Natural History, with a stop at a Haitian Art exhibit where campers wrote notes and drew pictures to children in Haiti. Campers saw lots of African art, culture, and animals. On Friday we had a lovely Holy Eucharist service in the afternoon and our evening dinner program fed and entertained over 100 people, as campers shared some of the highlights of the week with their families.



Camp was a huge success because of the MANY hands involved, including our class teachers Krisa Arzayus, Tammi Rolle, Susan Hayes, and Betsy Burke, our craft teachers Alexandra Lamancusa and Kelly (a.k.a. Bambi) Hanlon, our music teacher Mary Gill, our service project leader, Sue O'Connor, and our Olympics and recess leader, Brian Bain. Other helpers included Susan Miranda (breakfast provider), Betsy Brothers (snack provider), Brian Stinchcomb (tree creator and decorations guru), Janice Rattigan and Gabby Boyce (craft helpers), Matt Stinchcomb (recess, service project, and Olympics helper), Betsy Welsh (field trip coordinator, and before-care provider), Erin O'Connor (service project helper), Liz Lakey (service project helper and field trip chaperone), Amy Brennan (publicity and after-care provider), Rachel Yang (website guru and field trip chaperone), Mother Sheila+ (Friday Eucharist and field trip chaperone), Amanda Colindres and Wendy Bain (Friday dinner), Cindy Altmann (field trip chaperone), Dorothy Todd (service project helper), Paul Fitzer (service project helper and photographer), Eleanor Redmond (service project helper), Denise Redmond (service project helper and dinner helper), Laurien Hayes (dinner helper), and Debbie Dusterwald (dinner helper).

And last, but certainly not least, Camp was great this year thanks to an AWESOME team of counselors who worked so hard and were always so enthusiastic and willing to help: Forest Aker, Kathyana Philippe, Miles Cowling, Rainey Smith, Sydney Littmann, Ryan Counts, Dylan Haversack, Marcos Miranda, Jackie Cooper, and Zach Rutlin.

This year we were blessed to have many parish youth plus over 20 youth from outside our parish, each of whom was welcomed and immersed in parish community life this week. Many friendships and special memories were made, and perhaps seeds were planted too. We hope to see each of you next year for camp, and we'd love to see you at youth group, Sunday School, and worship too!

MANY THANKS to all who came to camp, and all who helped!!

Libby Lamancusa,  
Camp St. Philip's Director

## WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

Many of you may have heard that your Vestry has commissioned a Columbarium Committee to bring a nearly 10 year old idea to fruition. The original proposal in 2002 was to create a Memorial Garden that would contain a Columbarium and Memorial Wall with seed money donated by Margaret Marshall. Subsequent donations have been made and several parishioners have expressed a strong interest in bringing the Memorial Garden to reality.

Under the leadership of Chuck Steinecke, that committee has been active and proceeding with its charge from the Vestry. But many of you may be asking the question: *What is a columbarium?*

The word *columbarium* refers to a place designated for the inurnment of the ashes of the dead. Since the earliest days of the Christian Church, disciples have been concerned with the reverent disposal of the remains of the faithful departed. Such remains were typically placed in cemeteries, crypts, and columbaria set apart (blessed) for this purpose. Logically, the most treasured location for such reposition was within the church grounds, often in an established parish cemetery.

Regarding its structure, a columbarium is free-standing, often in a wall shape, constructed of numerous small niches designed to hold urns containing cremated remains. Generally, each compartment holds the cremation urn of a single individual, but most modern columbarium compartments may hold multiple cremation urns to accommodate a husband and wife or a mother and her child. An engraved stone or plate on the front panel of each niche identifies the departed. Columbaria may be built either indoors or outdoors and are often located within a mausoleum or chapel at a cemetery or church.

– *The Columbarium Committee*  
*Education Sub-Committee.*

*Next Month: Concerning Cremation*

# NUTS AND BOLTS

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### Food for LARS ...

Thank you all for the food donated this summer to keep the pantry at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS) stocked. The items have been just what LARS needs—canned pasta, canned meats, fruits and vegetables, etc. Thanks also to Terry Betzer, who shelves food once a week at LARS. It's a never-ending job, and sometimes a challenge to decide where to put an item. Just where **do** you put cocktail onions? (You'd be surprised at some of the random items that show up.) Traditionally, summer is a very low time for donations. This year is especially difficult because LARS had to let their stock get low when they moved. Please continue to be generous (the pantry is low on canned corn and peas), and know that your efforts are appreciated..

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES ...

July-August 23: School Supply Drive. Check the bulletin board in Wyatt Ministry Center for a list from the Laurel Elementary School website, or just double what you buy for your own children. Don't forget that middle and high schoolers need supplies, too! Donations of school bags are needed, because LARS requests donations of school bags filled with supplies. Teachers are asking for roomy backpacks with no wheels, and not shaped like animals, or pictures of sporting or cultural icons such as Barbie or SpongeBob. We will fill as many backpacks as we can. **Extra items will be donated to Laurel Elementary School.**

### New Building Coming ...

Reminder! LARS is renovating their Laurel Ave location, and is temporarily located at the old Police Station. If you need to send anything to them, please use this address:

P.O. Box 640  
Laurel, MD 20725

Demolition has started on the old building, and we are looking forward to seeing progress in the next few months!

### LARS Auction ...

Thanks to St. Philippians who donated auction items or bought tickets to LARS'S Sixth Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. LARS cleared over \$8000 at this important fundraiser, which took place on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion.

## UPCOMING OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES ..

October 3 (Sunday):

Help the Homeless Mini-Walk for all ages,  
9 AM -10 AM.

November 25 (Thursday):

LARS Turkey Trot 5K Race and Fun Walk. For information on sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, contact Kerrie Allen ([kerrie.s.allen@gmail.com](mailto:kerrie.s.allen@gmail.com), 240-271-5240)

November 25 (Thursday)

Thanksgiving Dinner for the community at St. Philip's

November 14 through December 12:

Donating gifts for families adopted for Christmas through LARS.

December 26-January 2

(Sunday PM until Sunday AM) Providing food and shelter in Wyatt Ministry Center for 25-35 homeless men and women.

--Kerrie Allen, Cynthia Chase, Jenny Wall

### ***Are You a Nurse Interested in Health Ministry?***

In the Fall 2010 semester, the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore will offer the first of its two-course sequence in basic Faith Community/Parish Nursing. This course is open to registered nurses who want to integrate faith and spirituality with nursing practice, whether in their congregations as part of health ministry or at their places of work. The first course meets one Saturday per month in the fall semester, while the second course meets one Saturday per month in the spring semester. At the end of the spring semester, 6 graduate credits and a basic certificate are awarded; CPU units available. If interested, contact Dr. Pat Fosarelli at 410/864-4204 or [pfosarelli@stmarys.edu](mailto:pfosarelli@stmarys.edu).

# MAY VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Meeting called to order** by Rev. Sheila at 7:03.

## **Presentation of Winterhaven/Warm Nights**

Jenny Wall Smith provided the proposal that has gone out to all Winterhaven congregations. In a nutshell, the men's program has grown so large and difficult to manage from an all-volunteer standpoint that the program is not running as efficiently as possible, and people have begun to resign from the board. Jenny proposed that Winterhaven partner with Community Crisis Services Inc., a non-profit organization that already runs several shelters and other services (including Warm Nights). Partnering with them would provide a paid staff member for Winterhaven who comes out nightly, deals with continuity issues along with practical matters (e.g., buying new sheets) and manages behavioral problems among clients. CCSI has agreed to fundraise to provide approximately 1/2 of the staff member cost. The remainder would be the responsibility of the congregations involved. Member congregations who are hosting Winterhaven donate \$500 towards the cost of running Winterhaven (includes staff person, supplies, and incidentals). Jenny asked that congregations consider making some commitment by June 15<sup>th</sup>. This commitment would mean that you are willing to work with CCSI staff and will attempt to raise \$500 towards running Winterhaven. Joanne Woytek moved to support Jenny's proposal. Pam Brown seconded it. No discussion. There was one abstention; the remainder of the vestry was in favor.

## **Old Business:**

- ◆ Status of Nave and Roof Fundraising Committee: Scott Myers is the chair of this committee. Betsy Brothers and Betsy Welsh are also involved, but it's unclear if there is an official committee as of yet. Sheila does not have an up-to-date financial figure of how much we have. Doug Hayes suggested on
  - ◆ Sunday that we are about 10% towards the second goal of \$45,000. This does not count pledges – it only counts monies received. It looks as though work can begin in mid-July, with the company being cognizant of Camp St. Philips.
- Plaque for Truss Donations: Because people are giving generously, the vestry voted to not have a plaque as incentive. Furthermore, it could send a message of valuing some donors more than other. The vestry agreed to not have a plaque, except for the

one in memorial of Char Tolle.

- Revisit the budget: EDOW Pledge and PCT: In 2010, PCT has been operating with no funds allocated from the budget. A proposal was made to allocate \$5000 to PCT and \$3000 to the EDOW 2010 pledge with the request that the financial committee review the budget/financial standing and report back to the vestry next month. Then we can make decisions about allocating more money, if possible. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. Sheila will make this request at the finance committee meeting.

## **New Business**

- Review Current Fundraising Request Forms: There were no new forms to review.
- Main Street Festival Wrap-up: Nate Allen said it was a success, and brought in more money than any previous year in which he had been involved.
  - ◆ Review Property Core Team Charge: Rev. Sheila asked the vestry to review it because there were some items that were vague. Joanne Woytek volunteered to go through the PCT charge and make recommendations for changes.

**ACTION ITEM:** Joanne will work on and submit a draft to the vestry of changes to the PCT charge by the next vestry meeting.

- Review the new Action Item List: Nate Allen suggested that we have some norms: action items should have a due date and should be focused on short-term issues, not recurring items. Jean McGloin volunteered to submit action items after the vestry meetings to Scott Aker via email.

**Community Connections Discussion:** Revision of 2005 Mission—Rev. Sheila proposed that we do this next month, because we are running behind on time. She proposed that we all read the statement and think critically whether its elements are reflected in our action.

**ACTION ITEM:** All vestry members will review the 2005 Mission statement and consider whether St. Philips engages in actions that reflect this statement, as well as whether we should change the text.

## **Close of Meeting**

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> 2011 will be the next vestry retreat.  
Closing prayers at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted:  
Jean M. McGloin,  
May 26, 2010

# JUNE VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Meeting Called to Order** by Rev. Sheila at 7:09pm.

## **Adoption of Consent Agenda and Reports:**

Treasurer's report was taken off the consent agenda and discussed. Nate Allen had questions about outreach-church growth being over-budget. Amie Littman said that we were over as of May, but we are under for the year. He asked for clarification on a few other items. Rev. Sheila and Amie Littman said that generally we are doing well; May and April were good, we have almost overcome the bad months of January and February. Rev. Sheila noted that we are doing well in the roof and nave fundraising. We are actually slightly over the \$100,000 mark. It would be ideal if we could be done with this by the fall and well on our way to fixing the roof after the nave. Amie Littman mentioned that they have met with Washington First to discuss refinancing the mortgage. Chevy Chase, Sandy Spring and PNC are also in on the discussion. We currently pay 7%, we have thus far been quoted 6.5%. Nate Allen moved to accept the rest of the consent agenda. Amy Littman seconded and it passed unanimously.

**Prayer and Devotion:** Rev. Sheila passed around readings from John 21 and then the vestry discussed the notion of being fed spiritually.

## **Old Business**

Status of Nave and Roof Fundraising Committee:

Tampico Grill fundraiser will be on July 11<sup>th</sup>, as well as a car wash during the summer.

Review of Open Action Items: Amy Brennan is continuing to do research on a "broken gold" fundraiser.

Review Update of the PCT Charge: Joanne Woytek reworked and drafted a new version. One concern was the donation of large items, given that the church currently has so many of these. Perhaps the PCT can maintain a wish list and if a large donation is on the list, then PCT can handle it. For items not on the list individuals can go to Vestry to determine if such items will be accepted.

## **New Business**

**Parish Audit:** The diocese is considering entering into a partnership with a CPA, who would perform external audits. The hope is that we would have good services at a reasonable rate (~\$2500). Amie Littman and Bill Todd agreed that \$2500 is a great price for an external audit. An external auditor would replace the need to do the internal one this year, and then we can have an external one done every 5 years or so, while we continue to do internal audits yearly.

## **Community Connections Discussion – formerly the BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal)**

**Review Mission Statement -** Rev. Sheila passed out the statement from the 2006 church profile. In addition, Rev. Sheila recently had to write a paper on theological leadership, which led her to contemplate how or how not St. Philip's lives out its mission statement. Accordingly, she listed how the activities of the church fall under the attributes that we aspire to, or that we think reflect us: inclusive hospitality, worship, Christian education, works of peace/compassion/justice, shared ministry opportunities, Christian fellowship, offerings of ourselves to God's work, and community connections. The vestry agreed the mission statement continues to reflect the current vision of St. Philip's.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 9:07pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean M. McGloin,

June 18 2010

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## GROCERY CARDS

Grocery cards are an easy way for you to help St. Philip's. Cards in \$300 denomination are available for Giant; cards in \$10-\$100 denominations are available for Giant, Weis and Shoppers. For every card you buy, St. Philip's gets a rebate. These cards can be purchased in Wyatt Hall after both services. See Vi Turley or Julie Waters and their crew after the 8:00 service and see Joan Rattigan, Kama Hamilton or Terry Betzer after the 10:15 service.

Can't get to Wyatt Hall—no problem. Cards are also available in the Parish Office.

# HOW PLEDGING WORKS AT ST. PHILIP'S

As we approach the beginning of our annual fall Pledge Drive, it's time for a review! A review of what happens behind the scenes when someone makes an annual pledge at St. Philip's.

1. **THE PLEDGE.** First, you have to make the commitment to support St. Philip's and our mission in Laurel. No small matter, especially in the tough economic times that define 2010. But how do you pledge? There are several ways: The easiest way is by filling out the annual pledge commitment form (you'll get that in the mail); setting up a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments from your bank to St. Philip's (ask your bank – it's easy to do!); or by filling out the pledge form in the Messenger when you see that.
2. **RECEIVING YOUR PLEDGE.** This is where I come in! When I receive your pledge, I record it in our membership/contribution software, and then send you a thank you note, confirming the amount of your pledge. This way if I've made a mistake recording your pledge, we catch it early. So, when you pledge and you don't receive my "thank you" letter within 10 days, let me know – I may not have received it.
3. **QUARTERLY REPORTS.** Every three months throughout the year, I will produce reports of your giving to St. Philip's, pledge and otherwise, such as our Roof and Nave Fund. These reports are based on the weekly entries I make into the database from the weekly Teller reports. We are a very diligent bunch, and we have a number of checks and balances in place, but it's still very important that you carefully read your quarterly reports. We're all human, and we will make mistakes or misinterpretations from time to time; if we've made a mistake, its best we know as soon as possible. That's why you need to read those quarterly reports!

Hopefully, this has been an informative and helpful piece. Always feel free to ask me any questions regarding this process or about your pledge – I'm at church most Sundays!

Douglas Hayes, *Pledge Treasurer*

## PASTORAL CARE

Each Sunday you hear, read from the altar, the names of people who are in need of our prayers. The Pastoral Care Team actively and regularly prays for those on our prayer list and asks the St. Philip's congregation to do likewise. We are currently praying for: Carol Bracht, Jane Burke, Lisa Chichester Guthrie Collins, Judy Cramer, David Daniels, Nella DiBattista, Jack Dunn, Amy Elmquist, Gus Eustis, David Fales, Pat Bentley-Fisher, Albert Fons, Paul Forster, David Graham, Knox Howerton, Darlene Jensen, Brenda Johnson, Katie Kane, Jim Kirby, Annie and Larry Lewis, Cecelia Moseley, James Nordberg, Wes Neff, Shirley Nevitt, Elly Pim, Geraldine Pinkston, Mary Scout, Audrey Shumway, Barbara Smith, Mitchell and John Taylor, Anthony Temple, Becky and Larry Thomas, Lois Tyler, Stephen Wheeler, Peter and Margaret Willett, Judy Williams, and Stephanie Wright.

## CLUTTER ...

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- be a loan or donation.
- 3) Consider discarding objects that you are responsible for if they haven't been used in a year or more and you think there is little likelihood they will be used.

Please provide your assistance for our decluttering effort by **August 15**. If we don't have information to the contrary by that time, all items in the church will be considered church property and we will develop an action plan to address items that are determined to be surplus. On a related note, the Property Core Team charge now states that the Senior Warden has responsibility for dealing with inquiries regarding donations, so please see me **before** you bring any items to St. Philip's for donation. This does not include small items of nominal value such as materials donated for Sunday School--just large items or items that might take significant storage space.

--Scott Aker, Senior Warden



# AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3 7:00 PM Crafts 7:00 PM Vestry Ex Committee "Tea" Planning Mtg.-WH	4	5	6	7 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Min.-WH 10:00 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
8	9	10 7:00 PM Crafts	11	12	13	14 10:00 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
15	16	17 7:00 PM Crafts 7:00 PM Vestry Mtg-WHCR	18	19	20	21 10:00 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
22	23	24 7:00 PM Crafts	25 7:00 PM Finance Committee	26	27	28 10:00 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
29	30	31 7:00 PM Crafts				

*The Messenger*  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
522 Main St  
Laurel, MD 20707-4118  
[www.stphilipslaurel.org](http://www.stphilipslaurel.org)

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**

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Important Date

September 12th —  
Ministry Opportunity  
Sunday

**Don't  
forget to visit St. Philip's  
Web site at:  
[www.stphilipslaurel.org](http://www.stphilipslaurel.org)**