

# The Messenger



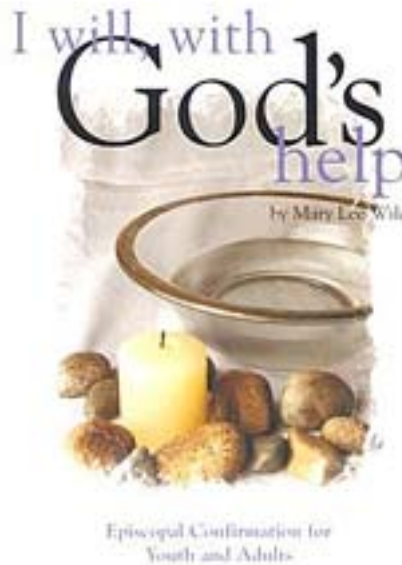
## MARCH 2010

### I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP

From the day we are baptized, our Christian lives begin. From the moment the waters of baptism flow over our heads, we begin to live a different kind of life—one that follows Jesus the Christ and uses his life as a model for ours. Our Christian life becomes a journey. Sometimes it is a joyful journey. Sometimes it is frustrating or painful. Sometimes it is a great challenge. Yet we do not live our Christian lives in a lonely vacuum. We have a Christian community of faith to support us, to ask questions, to answer questions, to help us all explore questions beyond our comfortable borders

We may have been baptized as infants or children, and therefore, unable to claim our Christian faith as our very own. Confirmation is the mature appropriation of our own Christian faith and journey. It is as if we say, "My parents brought me up in a Christian home. But this is MY faith. I want to bring the gifts and talents I have to this journey. I want to know God as an adult, from my own perspective.

Thus it is time for the process of **confirmation**. Perhaps you were baptized and raised in another faith tradition or denomination, yet are ready to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Or, if you were raised Roman Catholic or Lutheran or Orthodox and baptized in one of those traditions, but now want to be part of the Episcopal Church, we will **receive** you, as we recognize your baptism and confirmation. Perhaps you have been a regular Episcopal Church attendee, but realize that you would like to learn more



about the Christian faith and the Episcopal tradition of prayer, scripture and tradition. You may want to **reaffirm your baptismal vows**.

Whether you would like to be confirmed, received or re-affirm your baptismal vows, I invite you to join an Adult Inquirers' Class on Wednesday evenings, using the book *I Will, With God's Help*. We will meet on **Wednesday evenings**, beginning on March 3 and continuing on March 10, 17 and 24. Taking a two-week break for Holy Week and Easter Week, we will then resume on April 14, 21 and 28. We will celebrate with a dinner at my home on Friday evening, April 30.

Confirmation will take place at the Washington National Cathedral on Saturday, May 1.

If you are interested in sharing this adult confirmation/reception/affirmation of baptismal vows experience with us, please add your name to the Sign Up Sheet in Wyatt Hall next Sunday, and go ahead and order the book *I Will, With God's Help*. If you go to the [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) website, then click the link for [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), St. Philip's will get a donation. The book costs about \$6.00 + shipping.

Our first meeting will be at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3**, with a brown bag supper. Coffee, tea and some fruit will be provided. We will meet in the small conference room off Wyatt Hall known as "The Rector's Room" unless there are too many of us, in which case we'll move to the next door Conference Room. Please join us for this Lenten discipline of an Adult Inquirers' Class.

Faithfully, Sheila+

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**ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**

**What:** Our Annual Chili Cook-Off will take place on **Sunday, March 7th** in Wyatt Hall, so get those Chili, Cornbread and Dessert recipes dusted off. Prizes for the winners of each category! Sign up sheets will be in Wyatt Hall nearer the time.



**When:** Social Hour begins at 4pm; Contest begins at 5pm.

**Cost:** Adults \$10; Children (5-12) \$5  
Children under 5 free.

Also, **1 Contestant free per dish.**

Tickets are on sale after both services.

**50/50 Raffle:** Will benefit "Nave and Roof" Fund

**Proceeds :** All proceeds go towards the St Philip's Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Entertainment:** Once again we will be entertained by the Mike & Bobby Band.

Please come along for a fun filled evening! Looking forward to seeing you all on the 7th March! Any questions, call Deb Fitzer at 301-498-2742.

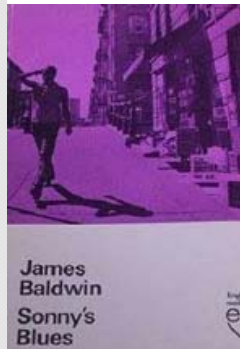
**EASTER MEMORIALS**

Your generous gifts will fill our Easter worship space with beautiful flowers, candles and altar linens. If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone you love, please fill out the form that you will find in the pews beginning Sunday, March 7.

Requested donation is \$25. Completed forms can be put in the collection basket or returned to the Office. All forms must be returned by **Sunday, March 21** to be included in the bulletin.

**LENTEN BOOK STUDY**

Join Clif Collins at 9:00 on Sunday mornings during Lent for a four-week study on short stories. On March 7, 14 and 21, Clif (who teaches English at Montgomery County Community College) will lead a discussion that explores the spiritual dimensions of short stories that are not overtly Christian, but which have been heavily influenced by Christian imagery and messages. Authors will include Flannery O'Connor, James Baldwin and Katherine Anne Porter.



There is a sign-up sheet in Wyatt Hall by the Vestry pictures. If you are interested, please sign up, so Clif will know how many copies of short stories to make.

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**SUNDAY:** Passion/Palm Sunday

MAR. 28 8:00 A.M. Liturgy  
10:15 A.M. "

**HOLY WEDNESDAY:**

MAR. 31 7:00 P.M. Contemplative Prayer and  
Healing Service

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:**

APR. 1 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Washing  
of Feet Stripping of Altar

**GOOD FRIDAY:**

APR. 2 12 NOON Liturgy

**HOLY SATURDAY:**

APR. 3 7:30 P.M. Easter Vigil with Baptisms

**EASTER SUNDAY:**

APR. 4 7:30 AM Festive Holy Eucharist  
9:00 AM "  
11:15 AM "

**Easter Egg Hunt after 9:00 service**

## DIVERSITY HONORED WITH DINNER AND SHARING



The third annual St. Philip's Absalom Jones Diversity Dinner will be held Sunday, March 21, 2010, at 5 p.m. in Wyatt Hall. The Dinner is being co-sponsored by the Absalom Jones Memorial Window and Scholarship Fund Committee and the Stewardship Committee. It will celebrate both the birthday of Absalom Jones, the First African American priest in the Episcopal Church, as well as the diversity we have at St. Philip's.

The Dinner will be pot-luck, and parishioners are asked to bring a dish that represents their ancestral or cultural background. There will be index cards available for parishioners to write their name, the name of the dish, country or culture represented, as well as main ingredients. We are blessed at St. Philip's to have parishioners who are from or have ancestors who were from different parts of the world: e.g., Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Entertainment to follow the dinner will be provided by the Stewardship Committee. Come and celebrate our diversity and the birthday of Absalom Jones! For more information, call Denise Redmond, 301-470-3936; Arleen Leis, 301-490-2844; or Becky Thomas, 301-498-3947.

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## CALLING ALL TALENTS!! WE WANT YOU AT THE ANNUAL PARISH TALENT SHOW

No matter what your talent, the Stewardship Committee wants you to share it with your parish family at this year's Talent Show, held at the parish's annual Diversity Dinner.

- Who: Everyone of all ages!  
 When: March 21, dinner begins at 5:00 pm  
 Where: in Wyatt Hall  
 Why: It's fun and exciting to celebrate the many talents of our parish family  
 How: Sign up on the board in Wyatt Hall and let us know if you need any special set-up or display  
 What: Whatever talent you want to share! Sing, dance, juggle, play, music, act, show completed works of art & creativity...  
**YOU NAME IT, WE WANT IT!**

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## WINTERFEST



The **WINTERFEST** fund-raiser raised more than \$7,000! More than 100 St. Philipians and guests enjoyed an evening of live music by harpist Megan Gwyer, BBQ from Red, Hot and Blue and desserts from Kake Korner for our first major Roof and Nave fund-raiser.

The Silent Auction had many very popular items including: a week vacation in the Outer Banks, John Daly golf clubs, a Lenox nativity set, Orioles and Ravens tickets, an Historic Laurel progressive dinner, a Bible Atlas, numerous pieces of artwork and jewelry and more than 170 other items.

The planning committee would like to thank everyone who dedicated many hours of planning, decorating, preparing and attending this successful fund-raiser. Even if you were not able to join us on February 20<sup>th</sup>, we are still taking contributions to the Roof and Nave fund—just send them to the church office with "Roof and Nave Fund" marked in the memo section. In memory of Char Tolle, Mike Tolle has graciously agreed to match all funds we raise up to \$40k and also oversee The Nave Project.

Members of the WINTERFEST committee included: Nate and Kerrie Allen (Co-Chairs) Amanda Colindres, Linda Stapf, Denise Redmond, Elmer Jess, Joan Rattigan, Sheila McJilton.



# NUTS AND BOLTS

## SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

Spring sessions for Safeguarding God's Children, the child abuse prevention training course required for all paid fulltime parish/school staffs and all who work with children, and youth have been set.

If you plan to teach Sunday School, work with the Youth Group, or help with Camp St. Philip's and you have not completed this training, you must take this course. You may register online by going to [www.edow.org/prevention](http://www.edow.org/prevention). Upon completion of the course, please provide the office with a copy of your Certificate of Completion, as this document must be kept on file. **Note:** Classes meet from 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

- ♦ Sat. 3/13 St. James, Potomac (Region 3)
- ♦ Sat. 4/10 St. Paul's, K Street (Region 2)
- ♦ Sat. 4/17 St. Philip's, Baden (Region 6)
- ♦ Sat. 5/15 St. Mark's, DC (Region 1)
- ♦ Sat. 5/22 St. Philip's, Laurel (Region 5)
- ♦ Sat. 6/12 Holy Comforter (Region 4)

## EAT AND RAISE MONEY



There will be a Roof and Nave Fundraiser at Tampico Grill on Sunday, March 14 from 1 p.m. til close. A portion of that day's sales will go directly to St. Philip's. Just tell your waiter/waitress that you are there for

the St. Philip's fundraiser so we get credit. More details will follow in the Sunday bulletins and on the St. Philip's website.

## LENTEN HOPE CHESTS

Lenten Hope Chests (Mite Boxes) are available for pick-up in Wyatt Hall after services. How will you recognize the boxes? You'll see **HOPE CHEST** on them. During Lent, fill your **HOPE CHESTS** with quarters and other loose change—get your children to help as well! We will collect the boxes on Sunday, April 11th (the Sunday after Easter)

## CLOTHING DRIVE FOR HAITI



As you begin your spring cleaning, please collect clothes, shoes, accessories, toys, stuffed animals, household linens, dolls, action figures, toy cars/trains/planes, and doll houses. In the spirit of our *Keeping it Simple St. Philip's* theme, the Stewardship Ministry is sponsoring this drive to accomplish several goals. First, funds raised will benefit our spring outreach project of helping the Haitian earthquake victims. Second, this is an avenue for us to continue to clear the clutter from our lives. Third, we are raising St. Philip's awareness in the Laurel community; and finally, the items we collect will go to countries around the world that need them.

How does this work? We collect bags of these items (or in the case of hard toys, the items are boxed) and we receive money for the items based on the number of bags and weight of the items. The average collection by an organization is 200 bags which can raise between \$500 and \$1000. Our collection dates for the bags are Sat. April 17 (10am to 4 pm) and Sunday, April 18 (9am to 1pm.) More details will follow in the bulletins and April Messenger.

## MAIN STREET FESTIVAL

Come one, Come All!!! ---- That's the Main Street Festival childrens games calling you! If you happen to go to a fast food restaurant and get a toy that either you or your child doesn't want please think about donating it to the children's games. Of course the games are not picky in what is donated so if you have some left over Easter treats that you want to donate we would love those too. Please contact Amanda Colindres concerning this.



## SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time  
Starts on Sunday, March 14th.

# JANUARY VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Vestry met on Tuesday, January 19th. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. The meeting began with prayer.

**Open Forum Time:** Musical Director Saunders Allen said that he has observed attrition in the Adult Choir due to aging and personal circumstances. He pointed out that Parish growth is needed to attain Choir growth. With a larger Choir there are many new possibilities such as recitals or other music programs to engender interest. The hand bell ministry and the Children's Choir are relatively well-supported and healthy.

Saunders raised the issue of protecting the organ when the time comes to replace the roof. The Nave project will generate much construction dust which has the potential to damage the organ. Perhaps, during the construction project the organ could be removed temporarily and cleaning and maintenance could be performed on the organ. It was suggested that Saunders get an estimate for cleaning and maintenance of the organ.

Amanda Colindres raised the fact that the Acolytes' Pancake Supper is scheduled on the same date as the February Vestry meeting. The Vestry meeting was rescheduled to February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Maureen Steinecke suggested inviting candidates for Vestry and Senior Warden to the Mutual Ministry Review on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Maureen believed it would give potential Vestry members some insight into the accomplishments and challenges of the past year.

## OLD BUSINESS –

**Treasurer's Report:** Amie Littmann was present at the meeting and distributed her Treasurer's Report. For 2009, there was a loss of approximately \$19,000.00 in the operating fund. The loss was covered by cash from our undesignated bequest fund. Going into 2010, there is only about \$7,200.00 remaining in the undesignated bequest fund. Amie has created a new Roof and Nave Fund. The balance in the fund is approaching \$1,200.00. Amie is looking for someone to take over the job of Treasurer. She has performed the job for many years and is ready to pass the torch to another committed parishioner with a background in accounting.

Last year we spent close to \$8,000.00 in advertising. The Vestry agreed to review that figure and decide whether to cut our budget for advertising in 2010. The bulletin for the 8:00 service will be fewer pages in the future to decrease paper and printing costs.

In 2009, our PNC mutual funds gained \$14,000.00. In 2008 we lost money.

**Stewardship Update:** We have 105 pledges for a total of close to \$286,000.00. We have 12 fewer pledges than in 2009 and 4 fewer building fund pledges. Of our 105 pledges, 12 are from new sources, 9 of whom are new members. There are still 24 members who pledged last year, but have not pledged for 2010. We need at least \$14,000.00 more to meet our budget of \$300,000.00.

On Sunday, Jan. 24, we raised \$749.00 for the ERD Haiti Relief Fund.

**Old Business – Nominating Committee:** The slate of candidates for Vestry and Senior Warden equals the number of vacancies we need to fill. Maureen Steinecke informed the Vestry that the Nominating Committee spoke to others, but not all were able to serve on Vestry. Nominations will be taken from the floor. Nominees must be pledging members.

**Old Business – Credit Card Reader:** Nate Allen reported that we would not be purchasing a credit card reader for Winterfest. Jenny Wall Smith noted that we should research other comparable products if there is not an immediate need. Doug Hayes suggested considering PayPal.

**New Business – Pledge Follow-up Phone Call Status:** Vestry members were asked to call parishioners who pledged in 2009 but had not pledged in 2010. Most Vestry members made calls with moderate success. A number of parishioners turned in their pledges after speaking with a Vestry member. All acknowledged that calling members about their pledges was somewhat uncomfortable, but recognized the necessity in doing so.

**New Business – Holly Days Inn Evaluation:** Doug Hayes thanked the members of the Vestry for doing a fabulous job running the Holly Days Inn at the Holly Days Bazaar. The coverage was great and everyone helped out. Next year Doug would like to track what we sell to help with selecting products for the following year. Our net profit was \$130.00.

**“Big Hairy Audacious Goal” (BHAG) – Parish Visioning:** Sheila+ distributed a handout showing what different parishes gave to the Diocese of Washington in 2009. A review of the document showed that St. Philip's gave little support to the Diocese relative to some other churches. Sheila also passed out a copy of our Mission and Vision Statements for St. Philip's and copies of the completed Theology and Practice questionnaires Vestry members had filled out in the Fall. The data collected on the questionnaires revealed that our worship and outreach are very important and valuable to our experience at St. Philip's. Sheila observed that few Vestry members identified daily prayer as a regular spiritual practice. Sheila shared that she prays daily for herself and for others. Vestry members expressed the belief that praying for others always seems like a good and loving thing to do, while praying for ourselves sometimes invokes ideas of self-centeredness or selfishness. Members who do pray for themselves daily expressed that they pray for strength to deal with the day's adversities. Others contributed that although they do not set aside a specific time for prayer, they pray for others and for themselves throughout the flow of the day, meditatively and contemplatively.

The Vestry collectively agreed that we want greater visibility for St. Philip's in the community. We want to do good works and be identified as a congregation that cares about the people of Laurel. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. after a Closing Prayer for guidance in our leadership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Brennan  
Clerk of the Vestry



# MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b> 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Crafters 7:00 PM Quilters 7:00 PM Vestry Ex Committee	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study - WHCR  6:30 PM Inquirers' Class 7:00 PM Yoga	<b>4</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF  10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Lenten Book Study - WH  9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Choir 12:00 PM Absalom Jones Comm. Mtg.  12:00 PM Stewardship Meeting-WHCR 4:00 PM Chili Cook-Off	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Toastmaster's - WHCR  7:00 PM Worship Committee 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM Afternoon Guild 7:00 PM Crafters 7:00 PM Quilters	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study - WHCR  7:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting-PAB 7:00 PM Inquirers' Class 7:00 PM Yoga	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Lenten Book Study - WH  9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Choir 12:00 PM Absalom Jones Comm. Mtg.  <b>Lent 4</b> Tampico Grill Fund Raiser - 1:30 PM to Closing	<b>15</b> 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Crafters 7:00 PM Quilters 7:00 PM Vestry Mtg	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study - WHCR  7:00 PM Inquirers' Class 7:00 PM Yoga	<b>18</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>19</b> Diocesan Middle School Retreat	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Mens' Breakfast  9:30 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2108 - Mother-Daughter Party-WH  Diocesan Middle School Retreat
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Lenten Book Study - WH  9:00 AM Sunday School  11:30 AM Youth Choir 12:00 PM Absalom Jones Comm. Mtg.  <b>Lent 5</b>	<b>22</b> 7:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM Crafters 7:00 PM Quilters	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study - WHCR  7:00 PM Finance Committee-PH 7:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting-PAB 7:00 PM Inquirers' Class 7:00 PM Yoga	<b>25</b> 7:30 PM Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Smart Recovery-PHDCF
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Youth Choir 12:00 PM Absalom Jones Comm. Mtg.  12:00 PM Absalom Jones Scholarship Cmte-WH CR  Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday - Liturgies of the Palms  Youth Group Mtg.	<b>29</b> 7:30 PM Bell Choir  <b>Holy Week</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Crafters 7:00 PM Quilters  <b>Holy Week</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study - WHCR  7:00 PM Contemplative Prayer Service 7:00 PM Yoga  <b>Holy Week</b>			

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

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**



**March 14th!**

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