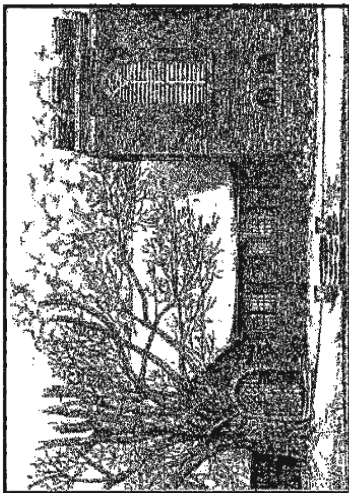


MARCH 2009

NewsLetter

SAINT MARY OF THE HILLS • BLOWING ROCK • NORTH CAROLINA



Dear Friends,

When you read this I'll be in Panama with the team from our parish. Please pray for us. I am so grateful for the energy and time you commit to prayer. I wonder about the mystery of prayer. Who knows how our intercessions for one another release loving energy into our lives and the world? I recently ran across this meditation by Thomas Merton. I offer it to you in lieu of my own thoughts. It's from one of the daily meditation books I am most fond of, *Through the Year With Thomas Merton*. In fact, it's one of the books I have with me for meditation in Panama.

"I don't know what I've written that I could really call mine, or what I have prayed or done that was good that came from my own will. Whose prayer made me pray again to God to give me the grace to pray? I could have fought for years by myself to reduce my life to some order (for that was what I was trying to do--even to ridiculous extremes by reducing the number of cigarettes every day, noting down the numbers in a book. . . weighing myself every few days, etc.), yet I would have slowly eaten myself out, I think. But someone must have mentioned me in some prayer; perhaps some soul of some person I hardly remember--perhaps some person in a subway, or some child--or maybe the fact that someone as good as Lilly Reilly happened to think I was a good guy served as a prayer--or the fact that Nanny might have said my name in her prayers moved the Lord to send me a little grace to pray again or, first, to begin reading books that lead me there again--and how much of it was brought on by the war? Or maybe Brhmachari in some word to the Lord in his strange language moved the Lord to help me pray again! These things are inscrutable, and I begin to know them better when I can write them down. How many people have become Christians through the prayers of Jews and Hindus who themselves find Christianity terribly hard? We cannot know all the movements of Christ's grace."

Keep praying friends!

Love,

Rick

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

I love Lent. And I really love Rite I liturgies. Though at times wordy, the traditional English of Rite I is beautifully and carefully crafted and evokes feelings in me of things beyond the ordinary. The language of Rite I, so far removed from the casual and often perfunctory language of our everyday lives, is in its strangeness an opportunity to come together--we're all equally baffled! The unfamiliar syntax and sometimes archaic language of the priest's portions of the liturgy both elevate and deepen the literal meaning of the words. In this respect, the Holy Eucharist Rite I is like a piece of music; the very sounds and their particular arrangement evoke feelings and imaginations on a level beyond the literal. Throughout Lent, we will corporately sing Healey Willan's beautiful setting of the mass ordinary (*Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei*), found in the Hymnal 1982 at S-91, S-114, and S-158, respectively.

Lent and the great liturgies of Holy Week have inspired perhaps the best music in the entire repertoire, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It is a joyous challenge to choose which setting of the great texts *O vos omnes, Salvator mundi*, or *In monte Oliveti* the choir will sing in a given year--or whether other traditional and important texts may replace these standards. The choir is presently working on new music by both Cristobal Morales (*Manus tuae, Domine*) and his famous student Tomas Luis de Victoria (*Pueri Hebraeorum, O vos omnes*), as well as an evocative setting of *Salvator mundi* by Englishman John Blow.

Monthly evensong resumes on March 22 at 5:00 PM. Please plan to make this beautiful contemplative Anglican liturgy a regular part of your spiritual life.

And finally--we need tenors! Please help us in our search for these rare birds. If you know anyone who might be interested in singing, you can ask them to contact me for information at jmzdrf@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, let us keep singing with great gusto. It is meet and right so to do.

Jim

FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to welcome Alice Cennamo to our parish family. Alice is the Jr./Sr. High Intern and will be working alongside me with those age groups. She has a lot of energy and good ideas to offer this youth group, and I am enjoying our work together. Look for more info about Alice in the next newsletter!

It has been a busy few months for our parish youth groups. The Wee-YC has met several times; most recently to make Rice Krispie treats to take to the Blowing Rock Fire Department as a thank-you for all they do for our community (and as bribery for a tour of the station and a chance to play on those amazing trucks!). Next month we are praying for nice weather so we can get outside and play some games. Our 3rd-5th grade youth had Movie Night, and while this group of kids is a small one, what

they lack in numbers they make up for in energy and personality! The Jr. High Lock-In was a HUGE success, and many thanks go out to our sole parent chaperone Mike Coston...what a trooper! The Sr. High Lock-In and first Sr. High Study Break were a lot of fun, and I really hope to get more of our Sr. High kids participating in activities at church.

I want to take a moment to appeal to the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and all the adult members of this church. As I have found it sometimes difficult to get the youth involved in the activities we plan, I have found it even more unlikely to have adult participation for those activities. Youth groups thrive when adults are involved. Young people need role models to come from somewhere other than television and the movies. They need to know they have support that comes from somewhere besides their own parents. It takes a village to raise a child, I truly believe that, and what we have at St. Mary's is a ready-made village of amazing individuals who have a lot to offer our youth.

I know that we all lead full and busy lives, and finding time to do one more thing can be a daunting task. But you don't have to volunteer to come to every meeting, or every event. Be a chaperone at a Lock-In. Bring treats to a Sr. High Study Break. Help drive kids to a Rock Climbing trip. If every adult in this church volunteered to help with one single event a year, I guarantee I would have more adult support than I would know what to do with!

So this is my challenge to you; carve out a little time for the youth of St. Mary's for just one evening, or just one Saturday afternoon. Support one event this year. I promise you will be glad you did, and the impact that support can have on our youth community is profound.

Sincerely,
Katy

FROM OUR DEACON

AN INVITATION TO JOIN A NEW MINISTRY

As part of my duties as your new deacon, Fr. Rick has invited me to initiate a lay Eucharistic ministry here at St. Mary's. The purpose of such a ministry is to take communion to parishioners who are unable to attend church. Lay Eucharistic ministry enables parishioners to reach out to one another, providing for each other the sacrament which we Episcopalians most love: joining together in communion.

Communion may be taken by the "Lay Eucharistic Visitors," as they are called, from either Sunday service or from the Wednesday healing service, according to the desires of the homebound person who is requesting communion. LEV's are, essentially, taking the church service to the homebound person. We have a traveling communion kit in which the consecrated bread and wine are taken. And the Episcopal Church provides us a customary which includes the elements of a church service that the LEV and parishioner move through, thereby connecting the homebound person to the church community.

Would you be interested in participating in this ministry? Or might you be interested in learning more about it? Let me know of your interest, or speak with Fr. Rick.

Volunteers to be Lay Eucharistic Visitors must apply to the rector and will also have to be licensed by the bishop.

We will have a training session in order to teach you how the ministry works. It's a wonderful opportunity to serve your fellow parishioners and to enrich your own experience of communion.

Sincerely,
Melissa Eggers

AROUND THE PARISH

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS - JANUARY 20, 2009

(Note: These appear after the minutes are approved. Complete minutes are posted in the Parish Hall.)

It was reported that 96% of pledges for 2008 were paid, leaving a deficit of \$13,858. For 2009, 126 pledges have been received, 10 fewer than in 2008, for a total of \$351,966.

Fr. Rick reported that record numbers (560 people) attended the Christmas services.

Alice Cennamo, a sophomore at ASU, has been hired to assist Katy with programs for the high school students.

Melissa Eggers will be ordained on Saturday at All Soul's Cathedral and will come to St. Mary's in February as deacon for experience in liturgy. Her area of interest has been in the aging and Hospice.

From Mary Ellen Raulerson, Acting Clerk of the Vestry

REGULAR SERVICES

Morning Prayer: 7:20 AM Sunday,
8:30 AM Monday-Thursday

Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM Sunday-Wednesday
4:45 PM Thursday

Holy Eucharist: 12:00 PM Wednesday

Sunday Holy Eucharists: 8:00 AM and 10:10 AM

Adult and Children Sunday School: 9:00 AM

(There are no daily offices on Friday or Saturday.)

There will be incense on Sunday, March 1, at 10:10 AM)

SPECIAL SERVICES IN MARCH

Lenten Stations, Soup and Study

We will gather each **Friday** evening in Lent for the following schedule:

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

6:30 PM Simple soup and bread dinner provided by participants

7:00 PM Book study: *Acedia and Me* by award-winning religion writer Kathleen Norris.

Come for all or part of the evening. Let us know if you will be participating in the book study. Books cost \$11 for good used copies.

Evensong - Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 PM

Children's Eucharist - Sunday, March 22, at 2:30 PM

MEETINGS IN MARCH

ECW Meeting - Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 PM

Spring Youth Conference (Grades 8-12) - March 6 - 8

Executive Committee - Wednesday, March 11, at
3:45 PM

Sr. High Study Break - Thursday, March 12,

7:00 - 9:00 PM

3rd Sunday Brunch - Sunday, March 15

Altar Guild Meeting - Sunday, March 15, 3:30 PM

EYC - Sunday, March 15: 6:00 PM Junior High; 6:45 PM Dinner; 7:30 PM Senior High

Stewardship Committee Meeting - Monday, March 16, 5:30 PM

Vestry Meeting - Tuesday, March 17, 5:30 PM

Wee-YC - Thursday, March 19, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Jr. High Rock Climbing - Saturday, March 21

SEND A CARD!

We have learned that Eddie Glover is a patient at: Care Stone Assisted Living at Milford Chase, Room 9-B, 1345 Milford Church Road, Marietta, GA 30008

We think he would love to receive mail or cards and to know that we still think of him. Keep him in your prayers.

SILVER BREAD BOWL

The silver bread bowl used for communion is losing its plating. The cost to have it replated is around \$200.

Is it possible that one of St. Mary's parishioners might have a silver bowl approximately 9 1/2" or 10" round and 2" to 2 1/2" deep that might be dedicated for this purpose?

For more information call Luella Rundell at 266-9681.

PARISH PEOPLE

MEET OUR NEW DEACON

We welcome Melissa Eggers to St. Mary's, and thank her for her contributions to our parish. Here, she has answered some questions which will help us know her better.

What is a deacon? The simplest answer is that a deacon is a minister whose focus is outreach. It's servant ministry. In the Episcopal Church, we have three orders of ordained ministry: deacons, priests, and bishops. I think of the deacon as the "entry level" of ordained ministry. Some deacons are "transitional," which means they intend to go on to become priests. "Vocational" deacons intend to remain deacons

and have no interest in becoming priests. That would be me. This is the traditional description of a deacon's ministry: encouraging the Church in its ministry to the world and interpreting the needs of the world to the Church. So that's why it's also said that while a priest's place in the church is the altar, a deacon's place in the church is at the door, calling the people out into their own ministries in the world.

In our church services here at St. Mary's, what will we see you doing? There are several particular functions of a deacon in a service, all of which hinge on a deacon's servant ministry. You will see me in the procession, carrying the Gospel book into and out of a worship service and also reading the Gospel lesson (signifying taking the Gospel out into the world and also bringing the Gospel to the people). As part of servant ministry, the deacon "sets the table," preparing the altar for the priest to celebrate the



Eucharist, and cleaning up afterward. The Prayers of the People are of special concern to a deacon, as it is here that the needs of the world are brought before the church. So you will hear me at the beginning of the Prayers of the People adding some particular biddings about people and events out in the world. And the deacon announces the dismissal at the end of the service, literally asking people to go out intending to “love and serve the Lord,” which would be to serve others in need.

What is your own personal ministry out in the world?

I am a volunteer for Hospice and also for the Shelter Home in Caldwell County, the shelter for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

What’s your history with the Episcopal Church? I was raised in the Baptist Church, then went off to college and made a point of staying away from any church for about twenty years or so except for one time in college when a girl in my dorm invited me to attend a Palm Sunday service with her. It was at the tiny little St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, which used to be where the Appalachian Bookstore is now. The worship service intrigued me, but still I stayed away from church for decades afterward. In the summer of 1986, I decided one Saturday morning it was time to give church a try again. Why, I have no idea. I lived in Morganton at that time and thought I’d give Grace Episcopal Church a go. I did, and I found the Episcopal Church was a perfect fit for me, right from the start. So whoever that girl was in my dorm who invited me to the Palm Sunday service in the late 1960’s, thanks!! In addition to Grace, St. James Episcopal Church in Lenoir is very important to me. That is the church I have been attending since I married and moved to Lenoir. And now St. Mary’s in Blowing Rock is being crucial in my formation as a deacon. I have been very lucky in the three Episcopal churches I’ve experienced.

What has been your most memorable experience in the Episcopal Church?

I have two. One is my wedding in 1993. Charles Chatham was the rector at Grace, Morganton, at that time, and I asked him if David and I could simply be married in a Sunday service. He loved the idea, said he had always wished someone would want such a wedding. So it was kind of like when you come to a church service, and it’s a baptismal service, only this time you came to church on Sunday, and it was a marriage service. All the usual Sunday elements were there: a sermon, prayers, that Sunday’s liturgy, the Eucharist, but the center was a Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. Our family and friends came to church with us that Sunday, and afterwards everyone went over to the parish hall for a potluck “reception,” and it was an absolutely wonderful day. The second memorable experience was my ordination this past January. That was big too.

Tell us a something about your life. Born in 1950 and grew up in Union County, outside Monroe; earned degrees from Appalachian and from Duke; taught high school English for 30 years and am now retired; no children; married these last 15 years to David Eggers; and now am looking forward to spending the last part of my life in ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

What words from the Bible might you consider your motto? Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be

opened for you.” Though, really, I like the International Standard Version best: “Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened for you.” Love that emphasis on persistence!

TOUR OF HOMES

A FIRST REPORT:

The Tour of Homes is currently a “work in progress”. It will be **Friday, July 24**, and the hours will be slightly different from last year... **9 AM to 2 PM**. Tickets will again be \$25. The last van will depart from the church at 2:00 PM or shortly thereafter. The hours for the Silent Auction will remain the same...bidding can begin as soon as it is set up (8:30-9:00 AM) and end sharply at 3 PM. The Hayes Performing Arts Center has graciously agreed to allow us to use their parking lot off of the 321 bypass as a staging area, and transportation will be provided from that site to the church to begin the Tour.

We currently have four homes for the Tour-- can’t divulge them yet, but they’re locked in! We guarantee you’ll be pleased!

What we can tell you at this writing is that the following individuals are confirmed as chairs/co-chairs of selected areas:

Advertising Supplement: Betsy Klein and Judy Domer

Bake Sale: Co-chairs: Greta Wilson and Jane Milner

Docents: Chair: Betty Green

Drivers: Co-chairs: Gary Gloster and Sterling Hutcheson with able assistance from Joe Raulerson and Alex Hallmark

Flowers: Co-Chairs: Alice Roess and Joyce Gibson

Hostesses: JoAnn Hallmark

Silent Auction: Co-chairs: Vicki Duckworth and Helen Fabry

The Golden Needle: Co-chairs: Iris Caldwell, Pam Ayoub, Annie Hellen Thomas

Tickets: Beth and Craig Church

Lunch for the day of the Tour has not been finalized and there are plans underfoot for a Saturday morning event but nothing to report at this time.

We’re continuing to work on the Patron’s Party and plan to have the details sorted out in early March. Stay tuned!

The website will be updated as more firm decisions are made. Watch the Church Newsletter for updates as well. It’s a little early to put out a call for volunteers for the various areas, but if you just can’t wait...go ahead and contact one of the chairs listed above to volunteer your services or give Judy, Nancy or Judy (see below) a call! *TOH Co-Chairs: Judy Gloster (828-295-4086), Nancy Hutcheson (828-898-9427), Judy Domer (828-963-7507)*

THE MINISTRIES

The Youth

Episcopal Youth Community Dinners

Just in case you forgot...EYC will be getting together with Katy and Alice once a month on a Sunday evening, with the schedule as follows:

Jr. High 6:00-6:30 PM
Dinner for ALL 6:45-7:15 PM
Sr. High 7:30-8:00 PM

You are *ALWAYS* welcome to *BRING A FRIEND!*
Dinner dates are as follows: March 15, April 5 and May 3. Be sure to add them to your family calendar.
(This event has been poorly attended, so make an extra effort to attend if you can!)

EYC Meal Providers

As you will see listed below, we have meal providers through our May meetings, and we are most grateful for them. The meeting schedule is as follows:

February 15 - Lisa Rees
March 15 - Cindy Milner
April 5 - Marla McKenzie
May 3 - JoAnn Hallmark

Dinner is served from 6:45 to 7:15 PM, and as a volunteer you will be asked to arrive in time to set-up your meal in the parish hall. We will gladly help with clean-up. Please let Katy know if you need anything prior to the meeting date.

Children's Eucharist

The next Children's Eucharist will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 PM. Meet Fr. Rick and Katy in the parish hall for another afternoon of fun. Then we will enjoy a potluck dinner and fellowship. Bring your PreK thru 2nd grade child(ren) to join us for a wonderful activity.

Spring Youth Conference at Valle Crucis

March 6 - 8 is the annual Spring Youth Conference put on by the Diocese of Western North Carolina. This event is for 8th - 12th grade youth. If you are interested please visit the diocese website at www.diocesewnc.org and visit the calendar page. If you click on the conference link it will take you to registration forms. This is a popular and fun weekend event. Don't miss it!

Sr. High Study Breaks

Do you need something fun to break up the routine of your school week? Do you need an excuse to step away from the home work for a few hours? Well, we have the solution!! The Sr. High Study Break takes place once a month from 7 PM - 9 PM on a weeknight. Katy and Alice will provide snacks of both the healthy and junk food variety, and we will do something fun and chill. In February we played Texas Hold'Em, and Ian Turnbow definitely ran the table! In March, weather permitting, we will go for a night hike on the Parkway. If the weather stinks we will have a Ping-Pong Tournament (but you have to play by Katy's and Alice's rules!) So bring your iPod, bring a friend, and bring your appetite. I PROMISE IT IS FUN! The dates are: March 12, April 20 and May 13.

Wee-YC Schedule of Events

March 19 GAMES! (outdoors if possible)
April 9 Easter snacks and crafts
April 23 Safe Kids activity
Please bring your child(ren) and friends...these activities

are always a lot of fun! 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM in the parish hall.

Jr. High Rock Climbing!

We have TEN spaces available for Jr. High kids (and a friend, if you want to bring one) to go rock climbing with Katy, Alice and Kristian Jackson on Saturday, March 21. Where we go depends on the weather, so I will keep you posted closer to the event. Regardless, it will be an all-day event, so plan on bringing a lunch and some snacks. We may also have dinner together...again, I will give you more details as the event gets closer. This event is FREE; however you are responsible for renting your own rock climbing shoes from Footsloggers if you do not own some already. This is a necessity so don't forget!
Let Katy know ASAP if you want to go.
junebugnc@gmail.com or 828-295-7323.

Episcopal Church Women

Our February ECW meeting was cancelled due to weather, but please join us on Tuesday, March 3, for a program on Humor and Laughter presented by Dr. Gary Gloster, retired Bishop from the Diocese of North Carolina. We will gather at 6:00 PM for a social time followed by a dinner of soup, salad and dessert. Please bring something to share and add your name to the "list" on the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you don't drive after dark, call Susie Morgan at work at 262-8230, and she will be happy to give you a ride!

From Christine Anderson

Outreach

OUTREACH MOMENT...

Have you heard about the Hermitage Project? Well, technically, it's not really "outreach" in the traditional sense but it is something to which St. Mary's has contributed and to which some Tour of Homes \$\$ have been given in the past.

The Hermitage project is a project about to come to completion at the Valle Crucis Conference Center, an Episcopal facility in the Valle Crucis community adjacent to Holy Cross Episcopal Church. As the Executive Director, Tom Eshelman says, "The Valle Crucis Conference Center has been a place of healing, retreat and reflection for 167 years, and God willing, we will continue our mission of hospitality for the next 167 years and beyond." The "Episcopal Presence" began in Valle Crucis in the mid-1800s when Rev. Henry Prout was sent to the area by Bishop Ives (Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina). Rev. Prout was sent as a "missionary" whose responsibility was to "teach...knowledge and preach (to them) the word of God...Legend has it that Bishop Ives saw the image of a St. Andrews cross, in either of the two streams in the valley, or in their accompanying mist, and named this valley Valle Crucis, which is Latin for Vale of the Cross." It became known as the Mission School and in the early 1900s had about 100 boarder and day students.

Unfortunately, the Depression, World War II and the disastrous 1940 flood resulted in the closure of the school in 1942. Over the next few decades it “morphed” into a missionary training school and then into the Conference Center as we know it today. (Most of this information, including the quotes, was taken from the Valle Crucis Conference Center website.)

Back to the Hermitage Project specifically. In September of 2004, the Board for the Conference Center established a task force to begin exploring the possibility of private retreat space at the Center. Tom Eshelman described the need for the retreat space in his Winter 2009 Newsletter from the Conference Center. “This new ministry we will offer is truly needed, especially with all that is happening in the world around us. The hermitages provide a place for those needing to get away for a day, a week, or longer. While on retreat one can write, read, relax, reflect, or maybe just do nothing at all. The chapel provides a beautiful space to pray and talk with God in a building that features cherry walls and hickory floors cut and milled right here on our property. The chapel features chairs made out of cherry which can easily be moved around to fit your needs as well as a stunning handmade altar and prayer desk made by a local artisan out of a variety of local wood.” The attached picture taken a few months ago shows the progress that has been made.

With the current winter we are having, I am ready for a retreat, how about you!?

From Judy

Domer, Co-chair, Outreach



SECOND HARVEST

For the Year 2008, the total amount of food delivered by volunteers from St Mary of the Hills Church was **29,525** pounds of food.

During the month of January, volunteers from St Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church have delivered **3400** pounds of salvage food from the Blowing Rock Food Lion to the Hospitality House of the Boone Area, Boone, NC

From Bill Parker

Stewardship

Steppingstones

As promised I am reporting back to you with the results of our 2009 Stewardship Campaign. I will present the data and then add a few words at the bottom.

St. Mary's has approximately 260 households or units, which include seasonal families or individuals. To date, we have received 127 cards with written financial intentions for 2009. This represents approximately half or 50% of the parish. There are many more households who give regularly which we depend on as well, but because they do not make their intentions known, we really will not

know what those figures are until the end of the year.

We have at least 40 families who took a ‘Forward Step’ and increased their giving, as well as quite a few new commitments, all of which brings our total to \$352,466. Some households decreased their giving this year, and we lost some. In 2008, 136 units gave a total of \$373,750.00, and while 2009 giving will show a 5.6% drop from the 2008 total, the actual ratio has increased.

The breakdown is as follows:

Annual Financial Commitment	Households
\$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00	3
10,000.00 to 19,999.99	2
5,000.00 to 9,999.99	11
2,500.00 to 4,999.99	29
1,000.00 to 2,499.99	42
500.00 to 999.99	20
250.00 to 499.99	15
100.00 to 249.99	5

While these numbers give us an idea and a picture of what our pledged giving looks like, it doesn't tell the whole story. The total amount is crucial to our survival, of course, but the truly important story is what proportion of our treasure is given. A wealthy person may give a very large amount of money and yet be giving the same percentage of their resources as those who give modest amounts. God alone will know the truth of that reckoning, and that is all that matters. We are equally grateful to both.

I want to thank the Stewardship Committee - Amanda White, Bill Anderson, Bill Bauknight, Bryan Brooks, Orian Carter, Cobb Milner, Ham Wilson and, of course, Fr. Rick for working steadfastly and tirelessly throughout 2008. They have been both a joy and an inspiration. We look forward to welcoming two new members this year - Joe Turner and Lynn Hubbard.

Finally, I especially want to thank all of you, all who continue to live out your faith in tangible ways. Remember--we are not called to be “successful,” but to be “faithful”!

From Kay McCloskey, for the Stewardship Committee

To the Stewardship Committee:

Important first meeting for 2009 on Monday, March 16, at 5:30 PM in the Barrett Room.

Environmental Concerns

Why an Environmental Concerns column?

The short Environmental Concerns column began without any explanation of why such a column is appropriate in a church newsletter. It usually is limited either to a little better understanding of one part of the dynamics of interaction of the earth's atmosphere, water (hydrosphere), and “solid” earth (lithosphere), or ways that we can reduce individual interference in the natural dynamics.

It's time to explain the context. The Episcopal Church's 74th General Convention and also the Anglican Communion have endorsed the eight Development Goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, all centered around improving the human condition around the globe: 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,

2) Achieve universal primary education, 3) Promote gender equality and empower women, 4) Reduce child mortality, 5) Improve maternal health, 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, 7) Ensure environmental sustainability, and 8) Develop a global partnership for development. The Episcopal Church urges activism to achieve the goals: "Visit the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) at www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn for action opportunities and updates on advocacy related to the MDGs. Send a message to your lawmakers urging them to devote greater funding to key MDG initiatives." (http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3654_71627_ENG_HTML.htm)

Each goal has specific objectives. This column addresses objectives of #7, Ensure environmental sustainability, which are A) Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources. B) Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss. C) Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. D) By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers.

People often don't realize that local and global environmental problems are directly linked to human welfare. But a straight line can be drawn connecting each of the MDGs with each other MDG, and each not only has moral dimensions but, unfortunately, political dimensions.

Here in the area of Blowing Rock we live in such a benign natural and economic environment that the scale of problems addressed by the MDGs is almost impossible to conceive. We just don't see any of them in their genuinely intense expression. More about the natural world next month.

From Ken McKinney

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rhonda Ann McDonald
- 3 Pam Ayoub
Nedra McCraw
Van Joffrion
Wayne Miller
Larry Turnbow
- 4 Conner Grasinger
Olivia Knight
- 8 Iris Caldwell
- 10 Alyse Proctor
Kitty Norris
- 11 Sonny Shelton
Katherine Sauder
- 13 Joyce Gibson
Tim Silver
- 14 Erin di Santi
Bill Jonas
- 16 John MacKenzie
- 19 Orian Carter
Jennifer Geouque
Cathia Silver
- 22 Bill Wilson
- 24 Chris Branstrom
- 27 Billy Ayers
- 28 Toni Caicedo
Lynn Coulthard
- 29 Luella Rundell
- 30 Liz Cornella
John McCurry
Ira Read
- 31 Rick Lawler

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Howard and Betty Trumm
- 10 Jim and Kay Snow
- 28 Barry and Bonnie Setzer

Missions

PANAMA TEAM LEAVES MONDAY!

Our team will arrive in Panama on Monday, March 2 and return to Blowing Rock on March 11.

This is the fifth mission trip for St. Mary of the Hills to Panama! We will be continuing renovations at the youth camp in Santa Clara, Panama. We will also provide sewing classes for Panamanian women, buy school uniforms and school supplies and fill backpacks for 100 Panamanian school children. We will present a puppet-making and bible ministries workshop, and teach a banner-making workshop.

We are thrilled to be reuniting with our friends in Panama, and look forward to working, playing and praying together.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us in this beautiful mission to Panama!

From Dale Shelton

(Thanks to Dale Marie Shelton for the picture!)



Front row: Debbie Jones, Darcy Jones, Mary Lois Shelton, Nioucha Branstrom, Betty Jo Kinzler, Leslie Barnes, Bill Garrison

Back row: Dale Shelton, Anna Ward, Scott Burns, Barry Setzer, Fr. Rick, Mary Ellen Raulerson

Not pictured: Taja Setzer, Roy McCraw

Address Correction Requested

Post Office Box 14
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605



The mission of the people of St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church is to grow Spiritually in Christ through Worship, Stewardship, Study, Service and Fellowship.

Staff

The Rev. Richard C. Lawler, Rector
Katy Abrams, Youth Director
Dr. James Bumgardner, Director of Music
Beth Postlethwait, Administrative Assistant.
Craig Church, Financial Secretary
Bill Stroh, Sexton
Nursery Attendants: Tanya Price, Kathy Holman, Natalie Bovino, Megan Lawler
The Rev. Richard DeMott, Adjunct Clergy

The Vestry

Greta Wilson, Senior Warden
Frank Fary, Junior Warden
Orian Carter, Treasurer
Pam Ayoub, Bill Bauknight, Judy Domer,
Betty Green, Marjory Holder, Paul Karseras,
Bob Miller, Mary Ellen Raulerson, Lisa Rees,
and Judith Williams.

Department Chairs

Altar Guild - Luella Rundell
Stewardship Committee - Kay McCloskey
Flower Guild - Susan Fraser
Nursery Director - Donna Devereux
Environmental Concerns -
Personnel Committee -
ECW President - Vicki Duckworth
Prayer Chain - Olivia Knight
Landscape Committee - Meg Fary

Missions Committee -
Ushers - Leslie Barnes
Foyer Groups - Beth Lawler
Sunday School Director - Michelle Capen
Chalice Ministers - Beth Postlethwait
Lectors - Kathy Dacchille
Greeters - Sabine Miller
Friends of St. Mary - Olivia Knight
Newcomer Committee - Iris Caldwell
Acolytes - Catherine Carter
Publicity -
Daughters of the King - Betty Green
Parish Wellness Committee - Iris Caldwell
Outreach Committee - Judy Domer
ERD - Ginny Robards
Hospitality House - Susie Greene
Coffee Minute - ECW
Web Master - Perry Mixer:
mixer@mindspring.com

Newsletter-Deadline 20th of Month

Meg Fary - Editor
ffary@alumni.duke.edu
Distribution - Buddy and Iris Caldwell

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Parish

Office Phone: 828-295-7323

Fax: 828-295-5086

E-Mail:

rick@stmaryofthehills.org

beth@stmaryofthehills.org

info@stmaryofthehills.org

Website: stmaryofthehills.org

Church Office Hours

Sunday, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Monday-Thursday

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(Closed Fridays and Saturdays)