

## *February Celebrations*

2/10

Emily Stetler

2/14

Brad & Cindy Staup

2/15

Stuart Gunter

2/20

Jim & Mary Belcher

2/28

Al Peden

2/29

Bill Spare

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?  
Please call the Parish Office.

# *The Mountain Herald*

*February 2017*

## **The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration**

### **2017 Annual Meeting**

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 29, opened with prayer by Fr. Gordon De La Vars and was attended by approximately 40 people. First on the agenda was the Rector's report. Noting that 2017 begins his fifth year as our rector, Fr. Gordon listed some of the significant parish moments of the past year. He also recognized and thanked the many folks who have helped him. His report went on to outline his hopes for the coming year. (A full copy of his and all the reports are available from the church office.)

Sr. Warden Janet Roberts spoke next and talked about the three main goals she had last year: improved record keeping system, consolidating emergency contact information, and the start of Memorial Hall renovation. All of these have been addressed. Of the coming year and the renovation process, she said, "...the time is coming when all of us will need to think of how best to utilize this great opportunity for both inreach and outreach...make our Church and Parish Hall places in which everyone can find peace and fulfillment."

Jr. Warden Brad Staup then listed major items he has worked to repair or maintain in the past year. The largest items were a new septic system for the Rectory and repaving the parking lot.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's annual report for 2016 which showed C.O.T.T. to be in good shape financially, largely due to the yearly Everhart Fund allocation. Treasurer Craig Zearfoss noted that the number of pledges was down from last year, impacting the Operations Fund.

Committee reports followed. The full Outreach report can be found on page 3 of this newsletter; Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Marketing and Transfiguration House report are all available from the office. Some report highlights:

- Altar Guild - purchased new items for the Altar, reorganized the Sacristy, and revised the Altar Guild booklet used to assist in preparing the church for services.
- Marketing - C.O.T.T. participated in Middletown Heritage Day; promotional note pads and travel mugs; partnering with other Episcopal churches for advertising; maintaining the website and newsletter. Marusia Zearfoss emphasized the need for more involvement and help.
- Transfiguration House - Non-profit status has been approved, all apartments are rented.

### **New Vestry Members**

Voted in at the Annual Meeting:

Scott Myers  
Bernadette Roche  
Emily Stetler

Retiring Vestry Members:

Dorothy Beard  
Bill Spare  
Marusia Zearfoss

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## *From the Rector's Desk*

My Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the most stirring songs in our Hymnal is also one of the most stirring hymns ever written: "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Composed by James Weldon Johnson, with music by J. Rosamond Johnson, the hymn is a soaring testament to human endurance and courage in the face of hardship and oppression. First sung in 1900, by children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida--in honor of their distinguished guest, Booker T. Washington--the hymn quickly became what it still is today: the "Black National Anthem." The second stanza reads:

"Stoney the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast."

I can never sing this great hymn without emotion, although I feel somehow like an 'interloper.' As a white American, its message will never resonate in the way it does for my brothers and sisters of color. I cannot trace my roots back to slavery; I cannot claim a family memory of the "chast'ning rod." I have no record of an ancestor who was lynched or denied the right to vote or who was forced to attend substandard schools. And I have no personal experience of prejudice because of the color of my skin. I can be moved by the history the words chronicle and inspired by the hope the song extols; but I cannot embody these emotions, for I have not lived them.

What I can feel, however, is deep gratitude to those who have lived this history, who hold in their hearts--and often on their bodies--the memory of that painful struggle, and who out of love remind me that the hard challenging work of racial justice and social equality goes on. These are persons such as John Lewis, congressman from Georgia since 1987, who in his youth was almost clubbed to death while protesting for voting rights and an end to discrimination. A rightly revered legislator and civil rights icon, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he regularly invites colleagues and fellow citizens to join him in revisiting places hallowed by others' sacrifices--over "stoney" roads where heroes walked and where tears and blood were shed. Yet lest they think the past is over, the progress complete, his message at these times is always the same: "Our struggle is a struggle to redeem the soul of America. It is the struggle of a lifetime, more than one lifetime."

In Philippians St. Paul writes: "Straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus," while "holding fast to what we have attained" (3:14,16). What is true of the journey of faith is, I believe, also true in the continuing and constant march toward a more just society. With living heroes like John Lewis to inspire us and with the true light of Christ to guide us, we can attain, if we try, some measure of that prize for this generation, even as we pass on that redeeming struggle to the next.

Many Blessings,

*Fr. Gordon +*

## Outreach Annual Report for 2016

The Outreach Committee has had another year of blessings in being able to help, in the name of COTT, many causes and people. More than \$40,000 was disbursed to organizations and individuals near and far.

### ***Who We Helped***

Many organizations and causes received funds to support their missions including:

- \*NAM for education of village children
- \*Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs for various needs
- \*Episcopal Diocese of Maryland for the Sutton Scholars program
- \*Supporting Older Adults through Resources basic needs for senior citizens including grandparents who took custody of two granddaughters.
- \*Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Matthew relief.
- \*St. Paul's, Flint, Michigan in response to the water crisis.
- \*Seed of Life for seeds and other farm supplies.
- \*Middletown Foodbank
- \*Mental Health Association for the Healthy Families program
- \*Wes Wubbenhorst Memorial Fund
- \*Frederick County Women's Commission SheLEADS program in which our own Fallon Wilson is a selected participant.

### ***How We Did It***

Much of the money sent was budgeted by vestry as a tithe from the Everhart Fund proceeds and pledges. Over \$1600 raised by your purchases of bread, plants and produce was added to the total and benefited the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP).

Your contributions of household items in June helped the residents of Heartly House who fled domestic violence. In November and December, your Giving Tree gifts gave a merrier Christmas to 30 Frederick County senior citizens. Your ongoing donations to the Middletown Foodbank totaled 1185 items.

If you have ideas or questions for the Outreach Committee, please share them with any member: Ruth Wallace, Sue Wirths, Toni Beard-Wilson, Bernadette Roche, Emily Stetler, Fr. Gordon, or me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Myers  
Chair, Outreach Committee



## Souper Bowl Sunday February 5

Collecting food items for the Middletown Foodbank.

If you care to contribute, the most needed items are:  
Hamburger Helper, Rice-a-Roni, cake mix, jelly, pancake mix,  
canned vegetables, canned fruit, juice, mayonnaise, barbeque  
sauce, ketchup,  
mustard, Jello, coffee, and hot chocolate.

**\*\* Don't worry if you miss this - donations can be made any time! \*\***

## Food For the Poor Guest Speaker



The Rev. Holly L. Ostlund was our guest preacher and co-celebrant on Sunday, Jan. 22. She spoke about Food for the Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the U.S.

Concentrating on countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, more than 95% of all donations are used specifically for programs helping "the poorest of the poor". More information can be found at [www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org), and brochures are available in the Narthex.

## "Buy" a Hymnal

Parishioners may still "buy" a copy of Glory to God, and have a memorial book plate attached to the inside front cover, for just \$20 per book.

Your purchase will enable you to dedicate or memorialize a book to a loved one, friend, or as a general thank you, and it will help defray the cost of the new hymnals which are a fine addition to our weekly services.

Dedication forms are available in the Narthex. Please complete the forms and enclose them in the envelopes provided, along with a check or cash for \$20. You may place the envelope in the collection plate or bring it to the office.



## Ladies Lunch



Seated from left to right are Debbie Knipe, Linda Galloway, Barbara Collins, Lisa Dill, Ruth Watson, Sue Wirths and Molly Wilson. Photographer is Robin Rolph.

Due to renovation of Memorial Hall the Ladies Lunch Group met at Bob Evans Restaurant at noon on Tuesday, January 17. We are looking forward to the reopening of Memorial Hall and talked about ways that the new space might be utilized to benefit the church and community members. We will still be meeting next month at Bob Evans Restaurant on Highway 40, near Weis Supermarket, on Tuesday, February 21 at noon. All COTT women and guests are welcome to join us in our temporary location. Each person buys their own lunch from the menu.

As a reminder, in inclement weather we will follow the Frederick County Public Schools schedule, if they cancel school our luncheon is also cancelled. If schools are delayed we will still meet and leave attendance to each person's discretion. Please call Linda Galloway (301-371-6326) or Sue Wirths (301-644-4274) for more information.

## *Continued from p.1* Annual Meeting

The 2017 Budget, previously approved by the Vestry, was then presented by the Treasurer. Copies of this also can be obtained from the church office.

The final items on the agenda were the recognition of outgoing Vestry members and the election of three new Vestry members. Leaving the Vestry are Dorothy Beaird, Bill Spare and Marusia Zearfoss. They were each presented with a thank you gift for their service. The nominees for incoming members were Scott Myers, Bernadette Roche and Emily Stetler. Since no other nominations were made from the floor, the vote to accept them was unanimous.

Fr. Gordon closed the meeting with prayer.

Immediately following the meeting those remaining were able to view pictures of the interior of Memorial Hall, showing the progress thus far.

# February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
			<b>1</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Study on John Epiphany Bible Study	<b>2</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	<b>3</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> <b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b> Healing - both services 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality	<b>6</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	<b>7</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p Chorale	<b>8</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Study on John Epiphany Bible Study	<b>9</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	<b>10</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	<b>11</b>		
<b>12</b> 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 6:00p Chorale	<b>13</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	<b>14</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p B & F 7:00p Chorale	<b>14</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Study on John Epiphany Bible Study	<b>16</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	<b>17</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	<b>18</b>		
<b>19</b> 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a Vestry 6:00p Chorale	<b>20</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA	<b>21</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p Ladies' Lunch (at Bob Evans) 7:00p Chorale	<b>22</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:00p Study on John Epiphany Bible Study	<b>23</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 7:30p Choir	<b>24</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 8:30p AA	<b>25</b>		
<b>26</b> 8:00a H.E. II 9:00a Christian Ed 10:15a H.E. II/hymns 11:15a Hospitality 11:30a Vestry 6:00p Chorale	<b>27</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 12:00p AA 6:30p Men's Dinner	<b>28</b> 9:00a Morning Prayer 7:00p Chorale	 <p>Lent Begins Ash Wednesday</p>				<p>Ash Wednesday March 1 Services at 8 a.m. &amp; 7:30 p.m.</p>	

Do you have a question about anything regarding C.O.T.T?

Our Vestry members are here to help

-  
talk to one of them or  
Fr. Gordon any time.

## VESTRY

<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Barbara Collins	Mel Galloway	Scott Myers
Richard Galliher	Jim Hubbard	Bernadette Roche
Debbie Knipe	Tony Traini	Emily Stetler

Janet Roberts – Sr. Warden  
Brad Staup – Jr. Warden  
Craig Zearfoss – Treasurer  
Marsha Burrell - Clerk

## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. Christian Education for All

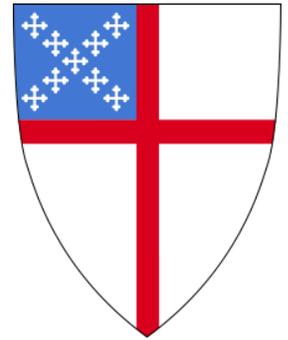
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Hospitality

1st Sunday of each month Anointing and Prayers for Healing  
follow each service

Morning Prayer - Mon through Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Vespers with Rite of Healing - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.



## CONTACT US

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For Pastoral Emergencies, Church Members should contact the office at 301-371-7505 or via e-mail at [transfiguration1@verizon.net](mailto:transfiguration1@verizon.net)

Email Rev. Gordon De La Vars at [fr.gordoncott@gmail.com](mailto:fr.gordoncott@gmail.com)

Contact Associate Pastor Rev. Ellen Hurwitz at (301) 293-1514

**[www.thechurchofthetransfiguration.com](http://www.thechurchofthetransfiguration.com)**

## The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

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