



Winter 2008

St. Nicholas' Bag

The Newsletter of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Board welcomes two new members to the board: The Rev. Lois Nehmer, Pastor, Luther Memorial Church, Baltimore, and Capt. Michael Reagoso, Vice-President, McAllister Towing of Baltimore, Inc.

Current Board officers & members

Bud Nixon, President

Private Sector Port Coalition

Allene Taylor, Vice-President

*Volunteer Associate Chaplain,
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center*

Patrick Arey Esq., Treasurer

Abramoff Neuberger and Linder LLP

The Rev. Mary Davisson, Secretary

Director, Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Donald Carroll

T. Parker Host of Maryland

Rupert Denney

C. Steinweg (Baltimore), Inc.

Michael Derby

Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics

Nora Garman

*Delaware-Maryland Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Capt. George Miller

Association of Maryland Pilots

The Rev. Lois Nehmer

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

The Rev. Joseph Pagano

Emmanuel Church, Baltimore

The Rt. Rev. John Rabb

Bishop in Charge of Maryland

Michael Reagoso

McAllister Towing of Baltimore, Inc.

Douglas Stevenson Esq.

*Center for Seafarers' Rights,
Seamen's Church Institute
of New York and New Jersey*

Christmas at Sea — 2007

We are very grateful to the groups (all churches unless otherwise noted) who donated 950 beautifully wrapped gift boxes to the Center's 2007 Christmas at Sea program:

Good Shepherd, Towson (Episcopal: first to deliver this year!), St. Paul, Baltimore (Lutheran), Nativity, Cedarcroft (Episc), St. James, Monkton (Episc), St. Martin, Annapolis (Luth), Christ, Millersville (Luth), Reformation, Loch Raven (Luth), St. Andrew's, Taylor Ave. (Luth), Christus Victor (Luth), St. Luke's, 36th St. (Luth), St. George's, Mt. Savage (Western Maryland!) (Episc), St. John's, Linthicum (Luth), Catholic Daughters of America, Grace, Westminster (Luth), St. John's, Westminster (Luth), Jerusalem, Westminster (Luth), Ascension, York Road (Luth), Augsburg Lutheran Village, Sherwood (Episc), St. Matthias (Episc), Old St. Paul's (Episc), Augsburg, Garrison Blvd. (Luth), Luther Memorial (Luth), Our Redeemer, Glen Burnie (Luth), Diocese of Maryland (Episc), St. John's in the Village (Episc), Cub Pack 17 (St. Paul's School), Salem (Lutheran), Redemption (Episc), Holy Trinity Essex (Episc), St. Peter's Fullerton (Luth), St. Mark's Highland (Episc), Hope Middleborough (Luth), St. Luke, Parkville (Luth), St. Michael, Perry Hall (Luth), Lord of Life, Edgewood (Luth), Trinity, Reisterstown (Luth), Prince of Peace, Rosedale (Luth), St. John, Essex (Luth), and Women's Traffic and Transportation Club.

If we have omitted your name, feel free to contact us.



above, left: Reformation Church on Loch Raven Blvd. graciously serves as a collecting point for several Evangelical Lutheran churches. This year we picked up about 160 gifts from Reformation.

above, right: We have a continuing relationship with the crew of the *Grand Cosmo*. Here, the crew is receiving gifts from the Center, but on a previous visit to Baltimore the crew discovered and changed a flat tire on a Seafarers' Center van.

Fall Cruise Review — aboard the *Duchess of Pintail*

The evening of October 4, 2007 offered perfect weather for a cruise in the Port of Baltimore! Many thanks to the 116 guests who joined us for our fall event, a chance to see the Port beyond the Inner Harbor. Highlights included getting up-close and personal with a nearly 800' long container ship and an impromptu tugboat dancing show courtesy of Mike Reagoso (Vice-President, McAllister Towing and new BISC board member). Two tugs using the *Duchess of Pintail* yacht as a dancing partner — swinging and jibbing! It's amazing how graceful a pair of tugs totaling nearly 400 tons can be on water. Mel Bafford, from the Maryland Port Administration, provided a highly entertaining narration of the working port, peppered with anecdotes such as walking through Rukert Terminals in July and seeing signs wishing for snow! Salt is one of Rukert's most important imports. Baltimore's new passenger terminal in Locust Point had a great season in 2007, and the Port continues to be the East Coast leader in import forest products and roll-off/roll-on cargo (farm and construction equipment). Over 2,000 ships visit the Port of Baltimore each year. The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is able to visit approximately 1,000 of these ships.



Bishop John Rabb and other guests on the Seafarers' Center cruise enjoy the weather and the sights.



Thank you received from the Bridge of the *M/V Atlantic Cartier*

Hello sister Allene, good day to all of you, first of all we would like to thank you and the Seafarers' Center, director Mary Davisson and Capt. Suresh Ahluwalia for your help and the service that you give us even though it's your rest day (editor's note: Sunday) but you make it possible for us to go to the shopping mall. Thank you very much once again, hope we will see you next trip when we come back to Baltimore next month, on behalf of Atlantic Cartier crew thank you so much, God bless all of you and the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center.

*Thank you,
Atlantic Cartier crew*

We received an equally grateful note from the Captain of the car carrier *M/V Mosel Ace* on November 29: The Center had taken several of the crew out shopping. Meanwhile, the sailing time for the ship had been moved up. The Center, with the help of the Baltimore Maritime Exchange, recognized the timing issue and alerted the agent about facilitating the crew's timely return to the vessel. And the same day, the Captain of the *M/V Rubicone* telephoned as they left Port to thank us for a week of support via visits and transportation! (Bulk ship crews usually enjoy more time in port.)

VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT:

Christmas Past - 1998 —

The *Campo Duran*, an Argentinean-Flagged ship, was being held in port by the Coast Guard because of poor material condition. The ship was poorly heated and with very little fresh water. The crew spent a lot of time at the Seafarers' Center. I visited the ship both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We gave them Christmas gift boxes and a lot of hospitality. We very seldom have a language problem but the *Campo Duran* had an all Spanish-speaking crew. We got along OK in the language of the heart. — *Darrell Dempster*

Christmas boxes aren't the only gifts which warm seafarers' hearts in the winter.

The Center also distributes hygiene kits, warm hats, and other items collected by Pastor Don Bryant and the Baltimore Baptist Association.

Seafarers from tropical countries also appreciate warm clothing when available.

To donate **men's coats, jackets, sweaters, jeans, khakis, T-shirts, and non-skid shoes** in good condition, please call

410.685.1240.

Never a Dull Moment — Working at the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is full of surprises.

There was the time Linda Hollis (Nativity, Cedarcroft) was asked to deliver a letter from one Mediterranean Shipping Company captain to his brother, also a captain of another MSC vessel, when his ship arrived in the Port of Baltimore the following



Linda Hollis

month. The envelope graced our bulletin board for more than a month, waiting for the *MSC Korea* to appear on the "In Transit" list, indicating that the ship's arrival was imminent. Linda reports that the Captain was pleased with our service.

Or the day volunteers John Smith (Trinity, Towson) and Wayne Dornbirer (Memorial, Bolton Hill) helped an MSC crew member deliver a note thanking a Baltimore resident for notifying his wife in the Philippines that his camera had been

found at a local McDonald's! We are holding the camera in the

Center until its owner returns.

Then there was the day four young Korean midshipmen, dressed in their fine naval uniforms, wandered into the Center. Since it wasn't quite clear what they wanted, staffer Anne Clewell telephoned Myoung Ouk-Kim (Anne's fellow parishioner at Memorial, Bolton Hill). Myoung spoke with the young men and translated their requests for shopping information. Myoung reports that the same four young men ventured up Charles Street into Bolton Hill and Myoung's plumber called her to translate! Linda Hollis would call this a God-incident.

There was the visit during which a captain from Myanmar asked Mary Davisson to pray with a crew member, "the only Christian on board," and the time when new evening volunteer Michael Johnston (Good Shepherd Episcopal, Towson) referred veteran Allene Taylor (Old St. Paul's) and trainee Bob Garske (Christ Lutheran, Inner Harbor) to an injured seafarer about to be flown home for medical care, rest, and recovery. That visit was greatly appreciated.

Prayers, a heartfelt smile, listening, or "going the extra mile" always make a difference in the lives of seafarers who are far from home and family.



Wayne Dornbirer

To learn more about volunteering,
please call 410.685.1240 or write baltseafarers@aol.com.



The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center
1430 Wallace Street | Baltimore, MD 21230
410.685.1240 | baltseafarers@aol.com | www.baltseafarers.ang-md.org



VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT:

Office volunteer Jim Johnstone and volunteer Associate Chaplain Allene Taylor are members of Old Saint Paul's, one of the churches which support our cell phone loan program. Here, Jim welcomes a seafarer to the Center.

Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Director: The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson

Associate Chaplain: Allene Taylor

Office Assistants: Tina Jordan, John Thompson, Jim Johnstone, Jackie Nagel, Tony Hollis

Ship Visitors: Suresh Ahluwalia, Lew Bradford, Don Bryant, Darrell Dempster, Wayne Dornbirer, Bob Garske, Linda Hollis, Michael Johnston, Ed Munro, Dick Nagel, John Smith.

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME !

Your donations support our ministry to seafarers. The 2007 cell phone program has been made possible this year by \$3,000 from Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, \$1,200 from the Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, and \$250.00 from St. George's, Mt. Savage.

2007 also saw the beginning of our ship visitors' enrollment in the Transportation Workers' Identity Credential program. Our acquisition of expensive new ID's, to be required of all those working in secure areas of the Port, has been made possible by a \$2,000 anonymous grant and a \$750 grant from Jubilee, an Episcopal program which supports social ministries.

We are also grateful for donations from the following in the second half of 2007: Janet Taylor, St. David's Church, Randi and Robert Donselar, Linda Hollis, Evelyn Zink, Susan Baxter, Sally Gilbert, Carolyn Workman, Capt. George Miller, Michele Hardwick, Joan Bolton, Alice and Stuart Bockman, Matthew

Rogers, Hugh Stierhoff, Edith Windsor in honor of H. Lee Allers, Donna and Pat Shimko, the Rev. Elizabeth Webster, the Rev. Lydia Martin, St. Martin's in the Field, Holy Trinity Essex, Emmanuel Church, Dick and Jackie Nagel, Steuart and Linda Thomsen, Amy and Bob Norwood, Joan Bolton, Roger White and Chinh Doan in honor of the Davisson family, Bro. Ed and Barbara Munro, Capt. Michael Prenger, Doug and Eloise Brown, the Association of Maryland Pilots, Allene Taylor, and the Rev. Mary Davisson.

Churches where Mary preached recently have included Church of the Messiah, Church of the Good Shepherd, Old St. Paul's, St. Matthias, Holy Nativity, St. Mark's, Highland, St. James, Monkton. Associate Chaplain Allene Taylor also addressed a group of Lutheran women at St. John, Linthicum. Former staffer Anne Clewell and volunteer Wayne Dornbirer spoke at Memorial, Bolton Hill. All these churches have also supported us financially.

St. Nicholas' Bag Newsletter — writing & editing: Mary Davisson;
design & production: Anne Clewell



Would you like to explore the possibility of becoming a ship visitor?

Training is self-paced under the guidance of an experienced ship visitor. Basic requirements include being able to volunteer 4-6 hours per week, ability to climb stairs and enjoy meeting seafarers from around the world.

To learn more about volunteering, please call 410.685.1240 or write baltseafarers@aol.com.