

# St. Nicholas' Bag

The Newsletter of the Baltimore  
International Seafarers' Center

Winter 2020



Our office needs TLC! Current office volunteer The Rev. Tony Hollis serves crews by organizing donated items.



Crews need rides! Current volunteer ship visitor Fred Craig (in vest) serves seafarers by transporting them for errands.

## Why Serve?

Volunteer Rich Douglas came to BISC with both Navy experience and a faith background. Knowing the importance of shore leave for crews, he drove all the way from College Park to Baltimore to volunteer Wednesday evenings!

Volunteers Dick and Carole Hires had a long-standing love of things nautical. Carole was also a trained lay minister to the homebound. They drove from Annapolis on Fridays to visit, transport, and assist seafarers. And after moving to New Jersey, they started volunteering for Seafarers International House!

Volunteer Ted Bedford had retired from the shipping industry. He volunteered at BISC because he wanted to give something back, and he enjoyed conversations with "landside" port workers as well as the seafarers themselves.

*What do all these people have in common—besides being awesome volunteers?*

Sadly, they've all moved out of state. And dedicated though they are, they're unable to commute from Texas, New Jersey, or Florida to volunteer in the Port of Baltimore.

**What to do? We need you! PLEASE WRITE TO [BALTSEAFARERS@AOL.COM](mailto:BALTSEAFARERS@AOL.COM) if you are willing to respect other cultures, follow security procedures, and commit to one day a week of volunteering. Thank you!**

See our photos in color at

<https://www.facebook.com/BaltSeafarers>

—and then "like" us!

# “The Gifts You Provided Were the Only Gifts We Have . . . “

So wrote a captain of one of the 80 ships where BISC delivered gifts. “If you could see the faces of my crew as they open their gifts, your heart would melt with joy.” And BISC offers joyful thanks to all who provided these gifts:



This crew looked forward to opening the bags of Christmas gifts delivered by volunteer Art Guyton (not in photo).



Maryland Port Administration employees were among many who reached out from the port.



This crew is preparing to open their boxes from BISC!



Nativity-Holy Comforter “Lutherpalian” Church blessed their gifts before delivery.

Lutheran congregations: Christ Inner Harbor, Salem Catonsville, Christ Millersville, St. John Linthicum Heights, Zion Hummelstown PA (!), St. John’s Westminster, Zion downtown, WEL-CA Rejoice Fellowship Glen Burnie, St. John’s Parkville, St. Michael’s Perry Hall, Prince of Peace Rosedale, St. Andrew Parkville, Ascension Towson, Grace Westminster, St. Martin’s Annapolis, St. Abrahams Beckleysville, Shepherd of the Glen Glenelg, New Light Dundalk.

Episcopal congregations and individuals: Allene Taylor, Joann Toalapei, St. Mark’s Highland, Holy Cross The Rocks, Holy Trinity Essex, St. Paul’s Mt. Airy, St. Andrew’s Pasadena, Messiah, St. James Lothian, St. John Pimlico, Middleham and St. Peter’s, Trinity Towson, St. John’s Kingsville.

Other: volunteers from Under Armour, Capt. Michael Flanagan’s family, Court Queen of Peace in Virginia, Nativity and Holy Comforter “Lutherpalian,” employees of the Maryland Port Administration, Colleen Betz and friends, Bill and Cathy Taylor, Catonsville Presbyterian, Association of Maryland Pilots, New Era Academy, neighbors of Linda and Tony Hollis, employees of Ampports.

*Gift delivery days can be hectic! We tried to list all donors and thank them, usually by email. Feel free to contact us about accidental omissions.*

# Memorable Moments in Ministry—by The Rev. Mary Davisson, Director



The crew of the Pan Spirit, shown here with volunteer Art Guyton (plaid shirt, badge), was docked for several days near our center and appreciated multiple rides.

face after I said I could take him and some crewmates ashore. His face lit up over and over: when I made the offer, when we pinned down a time, when the Captain approved his shore leave, and when we actually left the vessel.

On another vessel, only one crew member had time to go ashore: his first time on land in the U.S. for seven years! He used this precious time to shop for his crewmates--but also to confide about homesickness.



Volunteer Lee Van Koten (not in photo) worked past midnight to facilitate a last-minute reunion between a seafarer (long-sleeved shirt, center) and his mother and brother (right), now living in Westminster. They were photographed in our center along with three crewmates (left).

I'm privileged to direct a ministry which can be happy or sad, but never boring. One memorable conversation last summer took place with a veteran Chief Cook. After encouraging his young messman to chat with me, he conversed for a while. "It makes us feel good when seafarers' centers visit," he said, and later added, "People worry about money, but God is above money."

I also remember another Chief Cook's



Seafarers from the SSI Excellent enjoyed using our free internet to contact home on New Year's Eve.

More recently, while I was enjoying a warm welcome in the crew mess on a chilly day, one man described his crew's weekly Bible Study. "We each choose a passage to talk about." His choice the previous weekend had been Romans 8: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God."

Memorable moments happen in our center also, so please enjoy the photos!

## BISC Staff

**Director:**

The Rev. Mary H.T. Davisson

**Associate Chaplain (volunteer):**

Allene Taylor

**Baltimore Baptist Association**

**Chaplain:**

Pastor Don Bryant

**Seafarers International House**

**Chaplain:**

Pastor Bob Schmitt

**Treasurer:**

John Thompson

**Bookkeeper:**

Bruce Polanowski

**Office volunteers:**

The Rev. Tony Hollis

**Volunteer ship visitors:**

Sunil Ahluwalia, Fred Craig, Capt. Mike Flanagan, Bob Garske, Art Guyton, The Rev. Linda Hollis, Rich Roca, Lee Van Koten, Joe Zollickoffer

**St. Nicholas' Bag Newsletter:**

Editor-in-Chief: Mary Davisson  
Design and Production: John Davisson

**Facebook Administrator:**

Joe Zollickoffer

**Website Administrator:**

Mercy Kariuki

## Gathering, Speaking, Celebrating: On Behalf of BISC

Networking takes us from conferences to churches to parties. During the second half of 2019, Director Mary Davisson preached or spoke at the following Episcopal churches: Redemption Locust Point, Holy Trinity Churchville, Sherwood Cockeysville, St. Andrew's Pasadena, Good Shepherd Towson. We thank all these churches for their support.



Pastor Don Bryant (front, far left) and Pastor Bob Schmitt (not visible in a back row) both attended the August 2019 conference of the North American Maritime Ministry Association. Don's ministry is supported by the Mission to Seafarers, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, and Baptist churches. Bob is Seafarers International House's (Lutheran) chaplain in the Port of Baltimore.

*Happy to support the  
important work of the  
Baltimore International  
Seafarers' Center*



(800) 542-1542 or (610) 595-2100

[www.westernfumigation.com](http://www.westernfumigation.com)



Volunteer Associate Chaplain Allene Taylor attended the Baltimore Maritime Exchange Port Party honoring retired General Manager Dave Stambaugh.



The Rev. Linda Hollis carried BISC's banner for The Rev. Joseph Zollickoffer's ordination to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Incarnation. Both are BISC volunteers.

**Baltimore International Seafarers' Center**



**The working port**  
 Learn about the Seafarers  
 and their stories,  
 made possible  
 by you and for you.

Please join the

**Baltimore International Seafarers Center**

For a waterside tour aboard the "Raven"  
 to celebrate 27 years of service to Seafarers in the Port of  
 Baltimore

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

- Park:** Discount coupons available on board for the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Garage (the hotel is at 550 Light St. near Lee St.; enter the garage from Lee St.)
- Board:** 4:45 pm (PROMPTLY) at the Baltimore Finger Piers on Light St. between the Visitors' Center and the Science Center (GPS = 555 Light St.) returning by 7:00 pm
- Enjoy:** Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, soda, beer, wine (cash bar for spirits), and of course - great company!

**Reserve a spot for you and your friends and neighbors!**

Send your check by April 15<sup>th</sup> for \$65 per guest to:

**Baltimore International Seafarers Center**  
 1430 Wallace St.  
 Baltimore, MD 21230

Please mark it "cruise" and include names of all guests, if possible, for nametag purposes.  
 If you would like confirmation, please include your email address or a S.A.S.E.

**Prefer PayPal? Visit [BaltSeafarers.org](http://BaltSeafarers.org)**

**Please consider a sponsorship** to increase your support of the compassionate work the Seafarers' Center provides to the men and women from around the world passing through the Port of Baltimore.

**Sponsorship Levels Available**

Cruise:	\$1,500 (8 passengers)
Admiral:	\$1,000 (6 passengers)
Captain:	\$500 (3 passengers)
Ensign:	\$250 (2 passengers)
Seaman:	\$100 (1 passenger)



# Our Attitude Is Gratitude!



Catonsville Presbyterian, one of the many congregations supporting BISC financially, also sent a bounty of Christmas boxes—prepared by all ages!



Ten seafarers from China loaded abundant purchases into our Chevy. Wallenius Wilhelmsen Solutions gave this van a much-needed makeover, making it more volunteer-friendly. Thank you, WWS, for supporting our work in this way!

BISC's key supporters include the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, the Mission to Seafarers, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Highland, the Propeller Club of Baltimore, The Friendly Inn Association, The George and Ruth Babylon Foundation, The Tibore Foundation (honoring late volunteers Roger White and Gene Doan). We couldn't do it without you!

We are also deeply grateful for leadership donations during the second half of 2019 from the following: the Glennan Family Charitable Fund at Schwab Charitable, The Derby-Masson Family Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation, Ms. Virginia and Mr. E Gunther Arndt, Ms. Faye B Willey, Mr. Steuart H. Thomsen, Church of the Nativity and Holy Comforter, Friends of the N.S. Savannah, Ms. Louise Meledin, Ms. Alice Bockman, Mr. John and Ms. Ashby Thompson, American Marine and Cargo, John S. Connor Inc., Capt. C. S. Yearwood, The Rev. Mary Davisson.

And we thank so many more, including: Ms. Virginia Patterson, Mr. James Johnston, Capt. Paul Whitin, Ms. Brenda Kovacs, Terminal Shipping Co., Ms. Margaret Kamp, the Rev. Herbert Lodder, Ms. Gloria Jeanne Petit-Clair, Mr. Abner and Ms. Jeanne Lall (in memory of James Ridenour), Women of St. George's Episcopal Church, The Rev. John Cassell, Ms. Margaret Campbell, Mr. William C. and Ms. Catherine L. Taylor, Ms. Evelyn Zink, Ms. Helen Waugh, Ms. Janice Noel Hulse, Ms. Teresa Thomas, Mr. Richard Douglas, Ms. Aurora Bautista, Mr. J.G. McIntyre, Ms. Linda L. Michel, Mr. Kerry J. Kittle, Ms. Barbara Remsnyder, Mr. George Thomson, Ms. Audrey Mendez, Ms. Gyleen X. Fitzgerald, Ms. Jane Scoca, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Churchville, Ms. Alice A. Brady, Ms. Pamela Cady, Ms. Joanne Toalapei, Ms. Christine Cleary, The Hugh & Katharine Stierhoff Charitable Fund (a Donor Advised Fund of the U.S. Charitable Gift Trust), The Revs Linda and Tony Hollis, Vessel Operations LLC, Mr. Charles E. Day, Mr. Taylor and Ms. Patricia McLean, Mr. Billy and Ms. Joan Chirdon, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Millersville, Ms. Helen Wheeler, Ms. Helen K. Waugh, Mr. George M. Thomson, Mr. Robert Herb, Ms. Jeanne E. Morrill Owings, Ms. Mary Snead, Ms. Bonice R. Volovar, Capt. George and Ms. Virginia Miller, Mr. Lee Carpenter, Mr. Walter and Ms. Barbara Clifford (in honor of volunteer Bob Garske), The Rev. Ellie Thober, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Pasadena MD, Mr. Edward T. Bedford, The Rev. Patti Sachs, Colourful Stitches LLC, The Dempster Charitable Giving Fund, Ms. Margaret R. McCampbell, Mr. Charles and Ms. Joan Partridge, Col. Sheldon and Ms. Anne Slater, Mr. J. Marshall Thomsen, Mr. John L. Davisson, Mr. Luis Menezes, The Munro Family Trust, Ms. Teresa Thomas, Old St. Paul's Church, John S. Connor Inc., Mr. Lorin Turnblacer, Mr. Edwin S. Davisson, Mr. Robert and Ms. Shirley Noll, Delaware Ship Supply Co., Ms. Linda L. Michel, Pastor K. Robert Schmitt, The Rt. Rev. Eugene Sutton, Ms. Sidney Turner (in honor of volunteer Lee Van Koten), The Rev. Elizabeth Masterson, Mr. Graham Clark, Ms. Doris Ridenour, Ms. Nancy Ihloff, The Rev. Herbert Lodder, Mr. Hugh Bethell, John S. Connor Inc., Mr. Yoshinobu Shiota, Mr. M. Hamilton and Ms. Susan Zimmerman Whitman, Mr. James. M. Johnstone, Mr. Robert Sohlberg.

# Windy But Wonderful!

BISC's October 2019 golf outing was our best attended ever—and our windiest! Special thanks go out to our leadership sponsors: **The Propeller Club of Baltimore, McAllister Towing, Ports America Chesapeake, Tradepoint Atlantic, PNC, The Rev. Scott Bellows, and ILA Local 953.** We also salute all who sponsored coolers: **Steamship Trade Association, Atlantic Container Lines, Rukert Terminals.** Next, we thank our hole sponsors: Terminal Shipping, Ceres, Mary Davisson, E.O. Davisson, Herc Rentals, Bob and Marie Garske, Trigas-Oil, Allene Taylor, Church of the Redeemer, Association of Maryland Pilots, Consolidated Graphics, John and Ashby Thompson, Mike Flanagan, St. David's Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Bear in a China Shop. Finally, thank you, Barbara Shipley (International Transport Workers Federation Inspector for Mid-Atlantic U.S.) for providing great photos!



And in 2020, please:

- cruise with us (April 29)
- golf with us (October 15)
- and support us any way you can!

Mike Flanagan played for this year's winning foursome.



But every foursome had a great time!

## BISC

### Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

#### Current Board membership:

##### President:

Capt. Michael Reagoso  
McAllister Towing of Baltimore, Inc.

##### Vice-President:

Michael Derby  
Wallenius Wilhelmsen Ocean

##### Treasurer (non-voting):

John Thompson

##### Secretary:

Edward Moos  
Moran Towing Corporation

##### Members:

The Rev. Scott Bellows  
St. David's Church, Baltimore

Capt. Michael Flanagan  
Association of Maryland Pilots

Mark Schmidt  
Ports America Chesapeake

Douglas Stevenson Esq.  
Center for Seafarers' Rights, Seamen's  
Church Institute of New York and New Jersey

Allene Taylor  
Volunteer Associate Chaplain, BISC

Leland Van Koten Esq.  
Volunteer ship visitor, BISC

Mr. Niels Veenema  
Tradepoint Atlantic, LLC

Gregory Waidlich  
Atlantic Container Line

Please help support our work with your generous check to the

**Baltimore International Seafarers' Center**  
1430 Wallace St.  
Baltimore, MD 21230

or visit [BaltSeafarers.org](http://BaltSeafarers.org) to donate via Paypal

## The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

1430 Wallace Street, Baltimore, MD 21230

410.685.1240 | baltseafarers@aol.com | www.baltseafarers.org



### In Memoriam

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center deeply regrets to announce the death of two past volunteers. Brenda Kovacs, a loyal and beloved member of the Episcopal Church of the Redemption in Locust Point, organized hard-working teams to address and stamp BISC's mailings. Jim Johnstone, who heard about BISC through Allene Taylor at Old St. Paul's, faithfully covered our office every Friday for many years.