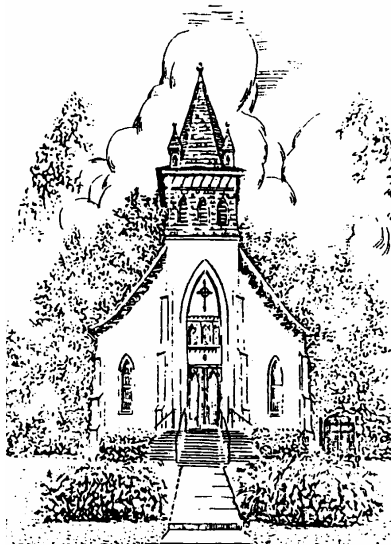


ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2006
11:00 AM



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH
LAYTONSVILLE, MARYLAND
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer/Call to Order
- II. Reading/Approval of 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes
- III. Report from Financial Standing Committees of the Parish
Financial Reports
 - General Fund
 - Building Fund
 - Special Gifts Fund
 - Memorial Fund
 - Audit Report
 - Finance Committee & 2006 Budget
- IV. Elections of Parish Officers
 - Report of the Nominating Committee
 - Elections of the following Parish Officers:
 - Senior Warden
 - Junior Warden
 - Vestry Members (3)
 - Convention Delegates (2)
- V. Committee/Ministry Reports
 - Interim Rector's Report
 - Senior Warden's report
 - Stewardship Report
 - Diocesan Convention Report
 - Legal Report
 - Property Report
 - Education
 - Sunday School & Youth
 - Adult Education
 - Outreach
 - Local Outreach
 - International Outreach
 - Worship
 - Music
 - Altar Guild
 - Worship Assistants
 - Ushers
 - Acolytes
 - Fellowship
 - Ladies Guild Report
 - Christmas Festival
 - Rector Search Committee
- VI. Recognition of Out-Going Vestry/ Announcement of Parish Elections
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Annual Meeting: February 6, 2005

St. Bartholomew's Church

The annual meeting of St. Bartholomew's Church was opened at 11:15 with a prayer by the supply priest, The Reverend Perrin Radley. The meeting was then called to order by Junior Warden, Art Elgin.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the 2004 annual meeting. The minutes were approved, with an amendment (see attached copy).

Financial reports:

Bill Fitts, Parish Treasurer, gave the following reports:

1) General Fund:

St. Bartholomew's began the year with \$14,476.52 and the balance, as of December 31, 2004, was \$4225.92. The complete report is attached.

2) Building Fund:

The balance in the Building Fund was \$6,331.80 at the beginning of 2004. The balance, as of December 31, 2004, was \$6452.51. The complete report is attached.

3) Special Gifts Fund:

During 2004, the Special Gifts Fund had \$8387.92 in receipts in excess of expenditures, for a balance, as of December 31, 2004, of \$402,354.19. The complete report is attached.

4) Memorial Fund:

Barbara White, Memorial fund Treasurer, gave a short history of the Memorial Fund, and reported that the balance, as of December 31, 2004, was \$38,119.84, with \$9226.61 in memorials for the year and interest earned of \$808.92. Money from the Memorial Fund was used to pay for repairs to the organ, and money which had been donated in memory of Dave Carvey was transferred to the newly established Dave Carvey Music Fund.

Audit Report:

Art Elgin, Junior Warden, reported that an audit had been done during the year. The report is attached.

Report of the nominating committee:

Eric Duffy, Chairman of the nominating committee, gave the following report:

The four people leaving the vestry, Jeff Taylor, Irene Spurge, Anne Wasson, and Senior Warden George Leigh, were thanked for their service. It was noted that, because he was replacing a vestry member whose term was incomplete, Jeff Taylor was eligible for re-election. The candidates for vestry are as follows:

Senior Warden: Art Elgin

Junior Warden: Bill Fitts

Vestry: Tim Smith

Sue Davis

Jeff Taylor

Sharon Henderson

Frank Dall

Mary Kamian

With no further nominations for Senior Warden, Art Elgin was elected by acclamation.

With no further nominations for Junior Warden, Bill Fitts was elected by acclamation.

With 63 votes counted, the following people were elected to the vestry: Jeff Taylor, Tim Smith. There was a tie between Sue Davis and Frank Dall, and a second vote was taken. With 59 votes counted, Frank Dall was elected.

Nominees to the Diocesan Convention were Stevie Grimes and Deborah Howard. With no further nominations from the floor, by acclamation Deborah was elected delegate and Stevie was elected alternate.

Senior Warden's Report: The full report is attached. A parishioner asked if the information packets for the annual meeting could be mailed out before next year's meeting, and Art agreed that the reports would be sent out in time for parishioners to review before the meeting.

Budget report: The full report is attached. A discussion about the new budget followed, with these points being made: The budget is based on salaries for a supply priest through Easter and a part - time interim priest through the rest of the year. The projected surplus in budget is dependent upon negotiations with the interim and on income received. The shaded areas on the budget page indicate major changes from last year's budget. Judith Schneider, administrative assistant, will be doing bookkeeping, adding two hours to her work day. The money for the increase in salary she will receive will come from the Riggs Fund, and has been approved by the trustees of the fund. New rector search committee expenses will be covered by interest from the Special Gifts Fund.

Diocesan Convention report:

St. Bartholomew's Church was represented at the convention by Deborah Howard and Stevie Grimes, and Deborah gave the report. She spoke about the efforts of the diocese to educate people about the church and its mission and about the growth of youth programs within the diocese, including Episcopal schools and chaplaincies. She reported on diocesan efforts to reach out to the Latino community, with help from the Diocese of Honduras and a new Latino missionary at Ascension, Gaithersburg. Other topics discussed at the convention included HIV/AIDS outreach programs in South Africa, relief efforts for tsunami victims in southern Asia, help for flood victims in Haiti, and relief programs in Sudan.

Ladies Guild: The complete report is attached. A parishioner asked if the Ladies Guild could include an account of their finances in the annual report, and Guild President Barbara White agreed to do so in the future.

Stewardship report: The complete report is attached.

Property report: The complete report is attached. Art Elgin noted that there is an increase in funds for property maintenance in the new budget.

Sunday School: The complete report is attached. Ann Fitts thanked parents and teachers for their support of the Sunday School program.

Adult Education and J2A: Complete reports are attached.

Local Outreach: Report is attached. Art thanked Judy Docca for her efforts on behalf of local outreach programs.

International Outreach: Report is attached. Les Cannon and Brent and Stevie Grimes will head the International Outreach Committee.

Music: Report attached. Art thanked Dr. Cook, choir director, and Marilyn Carollo, organist, for improving the music program.

Altar Guild: Report attached. Art thanked the members of the Guild for their work and the McMurray's for the flowers each week.

Acolytes: Report is attached.

Fellowship and Growth: Report is attached.

Christmas Festival: Financial report is attached. Art thanked Festival chairs, Morna Goletz and Sonja Elgin for their efforts in making this the most successful Christmas Festival to date.

Art then recognized the loss of long time parishioners, Mildred Waters and Val Williams. Outgoing vestry members Irene Spurge and Anne Wasson, Senior Warden George Leigh, and registrar Vickie Fisher were given certificates in appreciation for their work on behalf of the vestry.

Old Business:

Art reported that the interim search committee has interviewed two of four prospective candidates for interim rector, and will keep the parish informed of progress.

New Business:

Special needs of the congregation (i.e., funerals, visits by clergy, etc.) between now and when the interim begins will be taken care of by Fr. Radley or by clergy from St. John's, Olney; or Ascension, Gaithersburg. Art spoke about the need to work together during the coming months of change and asked for help from parishioners. He noted that seven parishioners are needed for the new rector search committee, which should be in place by March. He said that the hope is to have a new rector in place by the end of this year.

There will be a confirmation class forming, and those interested should give their names to Judith Schneider. Fr. Radley will be holding special Lenten services each Wednesday evening during Lent.

Mary Grabau asked that there be a calendar of events posted in the parish hall so that activities don't conflict with each other. This was agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by the new Senior Warden, Art Elgin, at 12:40 p.m.

-- respectfully submitted by Vickie Fisher, register

Memorial Fund

Charley White; Chair, Memorial Fund
Barbara White; Treasurer
Art Elgin; Vestry Representative

The Memorial Fund was started in the early 1970's. It has grown over the years thanks to lifetime gifts and bequests in wills. It has always been the premise of the Memorial fund to honor requests by the families of the Honorees for the purchase of special items to be used in and on the Church property.

Over the years, memorials have been donated for kneelers for the altar, the purchase of the Griffith House, which is now the Parish Life Center, dogwood trees, altar linens and hangings, crosses, the Rodgers organ, a portion of the new gas stove, vestments for the choir and acolytes and a new chalice, just to name a few. In 2004, the Dave Carvey Music Fund was established with Memorial funds donated in Dave's memory.

Although funds are accepted at any time from anyone who may wish to honor or memorialize someone special in their lives, All Saints Day of each year is when many parishioners choose to remember their loved ones. At the All Saints Day services the names of those memorialized are read. On All Saints Day in 2005, the Memorial Fund received a total of \$2845 in memory and in honor of others.

A current accounting is presented to the Vestry at each Vestry meeting. The Fund Treasurer also maintains a permanent book specifically for the Memorial Fund, and all disbursements from the Fund must be approved by the Vestry.-

Audit Report

Lonnie Pera; Chair, Audit Committee

In June 2005, the Audit Committee requested bank statements, financial statements, and backup documentation for 2004 from the three St. Bartholomew's treasurers (Bill Fitts for the main accounts, Barbara White for the Memorial Fund, and Louise Riggs for the Ladies Guild). After receiving this documentation, the Committee presented this documentation to Ms. Beverly Ziner, CPA on June 10, 2005, in accordance with guidelines established by the Diocese. At this point, the work of the committee is complete. Ms. Ziner reviewed the documentation and prepared a report dated July 10, 2005, which was sent directly to the leadership of the Vestry.

Finance Committee & 2006 Budget

George Leigh, Chair, Finance Committee

The functions of this Committee include drafting the Church Budget each year and monitoring the Church finances as compared to the Budget several times each year. The Committee prepares the draft Budget in the Fall and forwards it to the Vestry for its review, comments, and final approval. Each quarter the Committee conducts a detailed review of the Church's revenues and expenses as compared to the approved Budget. The Committee then reports to the Vestry and may make recommendations if corrective action is required. The Committee may also be called upon to review other financial matters and make recommendations to the Vestry. Members include: Harry Bennett, Art Elgin, Bill Fitts, John Stonesifer (ex officio).

Report of the Nominating Committee

Below is listed the slate of parish officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Time was spent in thought and prayer while considering the candidates. Special thanks goes to Herb Grabau, Sue Davis, Frank McMurtray, Robin Horton and Al Bergsten for their work. In particular, as the committee developed this list, they were looking to raise up candidates who are communicants who are active in worship, work and giving in the parish as well as disciplined and committed to working together as the body of Christ on the Vestry.



Slate of nominees

Senior Warden
Arthur C. Elgin, Jr.

Junior Warden
William T. Fitts, Jr.

Convention Delegates
Deborah Howard
Stevie Grimes

Vestry (3 vacancies)
Jeff Bergsten John Kaufmann
Judy O'Neil Lonnie Pera

Interim Rector's Report:

The Rev. John DeWitt Stonesifer

It is a privilege to be with you at this time and to contribute to your Annual Report and subsequent Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 5, 2006

I want to begin by saying "thank you." Thank you to the many individuals and families that have welcomed me into the life of St. Bartholomew's. There are many gifted and generous people that comprise St. Bartholomew's, and as a parish you are richly blessed.

My work and focus with St. Bartholomew's is best summed-up in the word, "community" – both as it relates to the Vestry and to the parish at large.

In the Vestry, we have focused both on clarifying what the tasks and roles are of a Vestry member, as well as strengthening how we work together as a team – indeed as a microcosm of the body of Christ. This work has led to the unanimous endorsement of a parish mission statement – an updating of previous documents – as well as identifying key ways we at St. Bartholomew's live out that mission in our life. These are included on both our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

At each Vestry meeting, time is allotted for the discussion of an article or presentation of an idea – some nugget that helps us expand our insights into vestries and church life. In the spring, following our Annual Meeting, the Vestry will spend time away on a Vestry Day, as it continues to be responsive to the needs of the parish and to identify parish priorities for the coming year.

Turning to our overall congregational life, time and attention have been given to developing our sense of family or community. During the summer, an adult education class was held entitled "How to be a Community" -- with topics such as "10 Rules for Respect", "Willing to Be Honest" and "What's Right with our Church!" I would hope every member might have an opportunity to learn and grow in these areas! During the Sunday services this fall, we took time to learn more about our neighbors with the trivia questions for each member. The Christmas Festival brought together many people from very different groups of the parish and I look forward to the family dinners that begin in January, again so that we can grow in our sense of community and friendship with one another. The attention and developments given the newsletter and website assist us in these areas as well.

Within that theme of community, I have worked with Marilyn Carollo, Judith Schneider and others to streamline (ever so slightly) our worship format and flow of the service. These adjustments, which include new bulletin covers, a new electronic keyboard, the availability of worship booklets and welcome packets – are all intended to help us more easily participate in worship and feel welcome at St. Bartholomew's.

In ministering to the parish community, I have visited many of you in your homes, called on newcomers, attended special school events, participated in civic events, made hospital calls, and brought Reserved Sacrament to shut-ins. Ministering to families in planning for baptism and confirmation as well as funerals has also been part of my sacramental ministry at St. Bartholomew's.

As I look at the year 2006 and what lies ahead, I will continue to emphasize ways for St. Bartholomew's to grow in its understanding and functioning as a Christian community. These and similar themes will be addressed by the Diocesan Facilitator in the coming months. I believe this will support, and help you more fully realize your mission statement to "proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse community gathering in Laytonville."

Senior Warden's Report 2005

Art Elgin; Senior Warden

As I wondered what I might say to the congregation about the year 2005, I thought to myself—we really do have a remarkable little church. I looked back at a few of the Senior Warden's Reports for the past few years and some of the same themes pop up: "recovery", "year of transition", "difficult but rewarding." We have been through a lot over the past several years, and this year was no exception. Yet—I personally believe we are in a wonderful position to move forward in God's service and to serve the community. I am very proud of what we have done over the past year.

We started the year without a Rector. This, in itself, could have set us back; but it didn't. We were fortunate to have the Rev. Perrin Radley as a supply priest for most of the time the Interim Search Committee looked for someone to serve until we are able to find a permanent minister. We were again fortunate to have been able to find Fr. Stonesifer to be our Interim Priest. Even though he is considered a "Part-time Rector", his energy, business acumen and hours spent have improved the functioning of the church tremendously. In this regard, I cannot thank Judith Schneider enough. She has worked tirelessly to make it easier for the Wardens and the Vestry to function, not to mention Fr. Stonesifer.

The details of the accomplishments of St. Bartholomew's are mentioned in the various reports, but I do want to highlight a few. We installed a new septic system, something that was long overdue. It was completely paid for by the Ladies Guild and installed through the efforts of Bill Fitts. Many thanks go to them. Our ancient—and I mean ancient—computers were replaced by an up-to-date computer system. At the suggestion of Morna Golletz and Sonja Elgin, most of the cost of the system was paid for by the proceeds from last year's Christmas Festival. This was most appreciated.

For a church our size, the outreach programs we performed in 2005, both locally and internationally were unparalleled. I doubt if there were many churches larger in size that did as much as St. Bartholomew's. I know the Mirimbe Orphanage would find it difficult to survive without our help, and Judy Docca and the Local Outreach Committee have made a real name for themselves in Montgomery County and the Gaithersburg and Laytonsville area. I have run into a number of people who are very familiar with St. Bartholomew's because of the work we do.

Before I reflect on where I think St. Bartholomew's needs to go in the future, there are a few brief kudos. To Ann and Bill Fitts, Mary Grabau, Karen Parker and the rest of the staff for their tireless efforts with the Sunday School. I loved the Christmas Pageant. To Stevie Grimes and the Altar Guild for making worship possible. After I mentioned the work the "ladies" did, Stevie informed me there are some men on it. To Marilyn Carollo for stepping in as Music Director as well as playing the organ every Sunday. It's nice to see the choir pews filled. To the Ladies Guild and their terrific fund raising activities and their wonderful donations to the church. The "corner ladies" and their azaleas are well known throughout the county. To Deborah Turton and her hard work on the fellowship activities. To Sonja and Morna for another smashing successful Christmas Festival. If you didn't come, you missed a great time. People came from all over. To Frank and Janet McMurtray for the

wonderful flowers. To Jeff Taylor, Ethel Ollivierre and the Search Committee. I know we are going to get a great new rector. To Tim Smith for his efforts with stewardship. I know this is the most thankless job in the parish, but he did a terrific job. Finally, to the whole congregation for your help.

Where does St. Bartholomew's go from here: It will come as no surprise when I say the parish needs to grow. Our Church is a lot better off than many parishes, for it has no debt, and the Bishop could not get over what a wonderful piece of land we have. However, we are operating on a shoestring. This makes it difficult to serve God and the community in the way we would like. Secondly, it is very important that the Church has new faces involved in leadership roles. Some of us are not spring chickens, and St. Bartholomew's is going to need fresh ideas if it is going to grow and continue to thrive. As Bishop Chane recently told the congregation, the Diocese believes this is a special church in a growing area where a lot of good can be done. I hope everyone in the parish will help.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

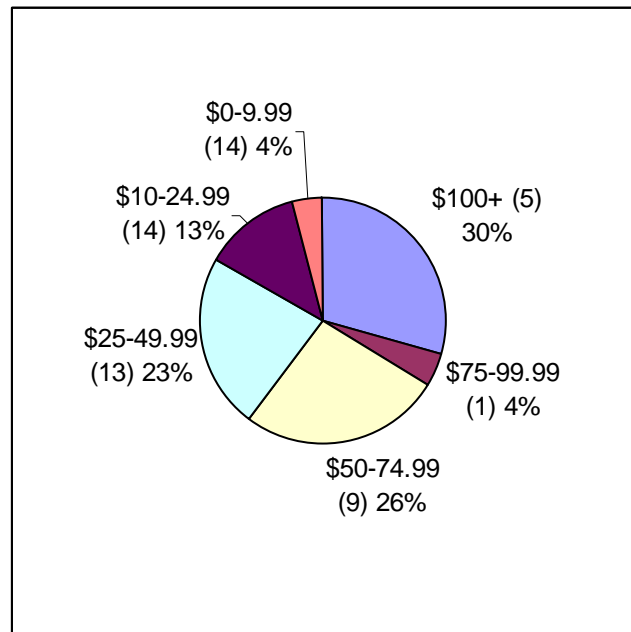
Tim Smith, Chair; Herb Grabau, Asst Chair

The Stewardship Committee is an enabling ministry that provides resources for Saint Bartholomew’s other ministries. The Stewardship committee does this through education and overseeing the Annual Pledge Campaign. Stewardship at St. Bartholomew’s transitioned from Herb Grabau to Tim Smith in 2005. The educational piece was in the form of monthly newsletter articles about stewardship topics and concepts.

The Pledge Campaign occurred in October with a mailed pledge packet and Stewardship Minutes during both services for the month. The Campaign concluded with concluded with a congregation brunch and blessing of the pledges.

These are the pledge statistics as of December 31, 2005. There were a total of 56 pledges for \$106,360 with a median pledge of \$1,298 per year. The Saint Bartholomew Regulars accounted for 93% of the budget, with 22 pledges increasing from last year, and 9 decreasing. There were six new pledges for 2006. The distribution of pledges by weekly amount follows.

Weekly Pledge	Annual Band Average	# of Pledges	Weekly Band Total
\$100 +	\$6,272	5	\$603.08
\$75-99.99	\$4,680	1	\$90.00
\$50-74.99	\$3,048	9	\$533.85
\$25-49.99	\$1,889	13	\$472.23
\$10-24.99	\$982	14	\$264.38
\$0-9.99	\$304	14	\$81.85
Totals	\$106,360	56	\$2,045.38



The pledge fulfillment rate ran at 92% for the year. Also pledges for 2005 ran low approximately \$1500 a month until October. This necessitated using income from the Sam Riggs fund.

There were 24 parishioners who helped with the Pledge campaign as note writers, speakers, or brunch helpers. Thanks to them for their super support and efforts. Special thanks are in order for Judith in organizing the packets, Harry Bennett for crunching the numbers again and again; Fr. Stonesifer for his encouragement and Herb Grabau for his guidance and examples.

Legal Report

Art Elgin; Chair, Legal Committee

St. Bartholomew's has a Legal Committee to advise the Vestry if the need arises. In 2005, there were no instances that required the advice of the Committee.

Property Report

Bill Fitts; Junior Warden, Property Chair

It's been a busy 2005 in terms of improvement of our property. At the end of last summer a new septic system was installed. I don't have to tell you how important it is that when you flush it go to the proper place. Thanks go to the ladies guild for under writing this project. Also in September new office equipment was purchased. Earlier in the year a new copier was leased. Just ask Judith Schneider about how much smoother the office is now running. In December the vestry approved a proposal to replace the furnaces in the church which are inefficient by today's standards and not functioning properly. The work should be completed some time in February or March.

At the October vestry meeting your vestry established a property improvement committee. The purpose of the committee is to recommend a priority plan for property improvement, and to review all property improvement proposals for recommendation to the vestry. Our plan is to give timely recommendations to the vestry so that the vestry will have ample time to review the proposal before a vote would be called for. We hope that this will alleviate any misunderstandings which have occurred in the past when groups have made proposals which were not immediately approved. The aim is to make this a fair process for all who have a desire to improve the church property. The property improvement committee members are Jim Lynch, Herb Grabau and myself. Please bring all property improvement proposals to one of the committee members for consideration.

We are planning on having an early spring work day in order to clean up the grounds plant grass over the septic system and mulch the flower beds. Look for notice for date and time. The property is in the best shape I can remember in the 21 years I've been a member at St. Bartholomew's. Much has been done, much left to do. We appreciate your help.

Sunday School Report

Ann Fitts; Chair, Sunday School

The focus of our Sunday School Ministry is to provide the opportunity for all church school children to learn from both the Old and New Testaments with a focus on the life and teachings of Christ. We provide a loving environment where children know they are welcome and special to God and to our church. We focus on building their faith, developing good fellowship and having great fun. Our Sunday program features a lesson, a project focusing on the lesson and a snack.

Some of the special events held during 2005 include:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Mother's Day Tea

- Father's Day Picnic and basketball game
- Creation celebration hayride
- Movies and Popcorn
- Traditional Thanksgiving Feast with Indian and Pilgrim Costumes
- Sunday School Christmas Pageant and visit from Santa
- New Year Epiphany Celebration with chili and subs

Some of our ministries to help others include:

- Making scarves for the Betty Anne Kranke Center
- Mite box collections for the blind
- Making toys for the needy children of Appalachia

We have also celebrated each child's birthday with a blessing in church and a cake in the undercroft after the service. The birthday celebration has become a nice tradition which allows us to single out each child and let them know how important they are not only in our eyes but in the eyes of God.

The following people are essential to the success of our Sunday School Program:

- Karen Parker who has been a Sunday School teacher for over fifteen years and who helped the children make their donation scarves for Betty Anne Kranke. She is always there to help.
- Mary Grabau who devotes her time and energy (especially for the beautiful Christmas Pageant costumes and Thanksgiving dinner) amongst other activities to make our Sunday School program special.
- Judith Schneider, Heather McMurtry and Jessica Penkert who continue to support our Sunday School as teachers and with administrative support for Pageant programs, birthdays and special event announcements and great ideas for new activities.
- Lauren Fisher for her music support during the Christmas Pageant.
- Lauren Fisher, Maggie Schneider and Jack Stonesifer for their leadership with our first Vacation Bible Study program during this past summer.
- Lauren Bray for her leadership in collecting the children's ideas as input to recent surveys.
- Bill Fitts for driving the hay rides, making popcorn, construction duties during the pageant and overall support.

We also appreciate the support we receive from the parents in bringing their children every week, as well as providing a snack. We are told that the children look forward to school, we see many friendships blossoming, and we see confidence in themselves and their love for God growing each week.

The ministry of our Sunday school includes particular attention to youth of the church ages twelve to eighteen. Ministry to this group has included special classes and fellowship, participation in diocesan events, and the confirmation class.

Adult Education Annual Report

Ann Wasson; Chair, Adult Education

During the months of April through May, the Adult Education class continued with the Via Media program that had been started in the fall of 2005. The final session was held on May 10th.

“Creating Community” was the topic of the summer session of the class. The Rev. Stonesifer led the group which met on Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Education Building. The program was very informative and created good discussions. The last two sessions of the class provided opportunities to discuss our worship services at St. Bart’s.

In September, the class resumed with a five week study of *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, a 17th century Carmelite monk. This group, which was led by The Rev. Stonesifer, agreed that the wisdom of Brother Lawrence provided spiritual insights and thoughtful discussions...

A three-part series entitled “Journey to Christmas” began the first Sunday of Advent and was led by The Rev. Stonesifer. This program focused on the meaning of Advent and the Biblical readings for the first season of the church year.

An eight-week Bible study was introduced on January 8, 2006. Harry Bennett is leading the class in a study of the Letters of Paul to the Corinthians. The class continues to meet at 9:15 on Sunday in the Education Building. All are welcome!

“Thank you” to all the members of the class who participated. The fellowship and lively discussions added so much to the programs. Also, we wish to thank The Rev. Stonesifer for his leadership.

Local Outreach

Judy Docca; Chair, Local Outreach

The Local Outreach Committee participated in several activities to serve the community in 2004. We continue to support families at Gaithersburg Elementary School where there are many families in need. We have provided grocery cards at Easter and at Christmas. Household items and clothing were also provided to a family new to the Gaithersburg community. They moved in with no furniture, linen, kitchen items or clothing. This family is also headed by a female. The father is mentally incapacitated and may not recover enough to provide for the family in the future either. We also assisted a family in Frederick County experiencing an emergency in December.

At Thanksgiving, once again through the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to provide 7 boxes of non-perishable food, paper products and cleaning materials to families at Gaithersburg Elementary School.

At Christmastime, as in the past two years, we have provided toiletries for the mothers and candy for the children at the Krahnke Center for abused women. Bill and Ann Fitts represented Santa and Mrs. Claus for the children taking down their wishes for the holidays. The Claus/Fitts family distributed stuffed toys to all of the children present on that evening.

There are generally 25 women and 20 or more children of varying ages at this center at any one time.

This year the Local Outreach Committee provided and served dinner to 30 women at the Sophia House in Rockville on two occasions. We are considering this as a permanent activity. Whether it will be a monthly activity will be decided at the January meeting.

The residents at Sophia House remain in this shelter while receiving county and other agency services related to health, both physical and mental, education, housing and employment. Residents must leave the shelter each day at 8 AM for appointments and must return by 7:15 PM. Dinner is served by volunteer groups between 6:30 and 7:30. Breakfast for the next day is also a responsibility of the volunteer groups. There are 30 residents at this center. Volunteers are always needed. If you would like to give one evening (or more), please contact me, Judy Docca at 301-977-7591 or by email at doccajud@comcast.net if you would like more information.

At various times during the year we have donated linens, kitchen utensils and clothing to the Up-County Interfaith Community Clothing Center on Girard Street in Gaithersburg. This center and the Sophia House are administered by Community Ministries of Montgomery County of which St. Bartholomew's is a member in good standing.

For the last two years we have contributed funds to two students to help defray the expenses for the senior prom. Both students chosen are presently attending college. One is spending a semester in Spain and her family requested financial assistance so that she could have this wonderful opportunity.

The Local Outreach Committee has proposed assisting in sending funds to Camp Friendship in Laytonsville. This camp is for children suffering from cancer. More information on this activity will be announced.

Last year we participated in Thanksgiving in February at the Golden Bull Grand Café, one of the restaurants which donate a portion of its profits to Community Ministries for its work with families in need.

International Outreach

Brent Grimes; Chair, International Outreach

In Swahili, Mirembe means “peace” and for the past four years, St. Bartholomew’s has been providing a measure of peace and stability to 10 Kenyan girls who have been orphaned as a result of AIDS.

The primary focus of St. Bartholomew’s International Outreach program is to support the Mirembe Girls Home in Migore-Suna, Kenya. Mirembe was founded and is operated by Fr. Sosiness Demo, a retired Anglican priest, and his wife Mary, a high school teacher. The goal of the Mirembe project is to provide girls in need with the opportunity and the skills necessary to become self-sufficient, contributing members of Kenyan society. Through God’s grace, the unwavering commitment and hard work of Father Demo and Mary, and the collective love and generosity of our parish, our girls are living in the new Mirembe facility. Under the loving and supportive care of the Demos, the girls attend school regularly and have realistic dreams and aspiration for the future.

2005 Overview

Over the past year, St. Bartholomew’s raised and distributed to Mirembe \$16,560.62 for the support of 10 girls. These monies were generated by Pledges who committed to provide regular, on-going support during the year as well as Contributors who in 2005 made one or more donations to the program in varying amounts.

In addition to the girls’ school fees, contributions from St. Bartholomew’s help fund books, travel, food, soap, etc, and one Pledge completely funds the nursing school tuition for Judith Solongo. St. Bartholomew’s was also able to meet several unanticipated expenses incurred at Mirembe in 2005.

- Finishing the kitchen and dining room of the new Mirembe facility
- Purchasing a dairy cow to help supply milk for the girls
- Repairing the Mirembe van
- A school field trip for the girls
- Funeral expenses for Eunice Ngoso

Plans for 2006

Lilian, Viloet and Mercella have graduated from high school and are now enrolled in vocational school learning computer skills. Father Demo has requested continued support from St. Bartholomew’s for these girls while they are in training as well as on-going support for the remaining seven high school girls. Due to funding constraints, the Demos are not taking in additional girls at this time.

St. Bartholomew’s On-Going Support

Despite the considerable success of Mirembe, much remains to be done. The facility remains without plumbing, electricity or phone service. In addition, unanticipated expenses surface almost monthly. St. Bartholomew’s parishioners who want to participate in the project can do so by contributing to Mirembe on an as-needed/as-able basis, or by pledging to support the girls on a regular basis, sponsoring either all or a portion of a girl’s living and educational expenses. For complete details, contact either Les Cannon, Stevie Grimes, or Brent Grimes.

WORSHIP

Music Report

Marilyn Carollo, Organist

The past year has been a busy one, marked by both continuity and change. Dr. Mark Cook, our choir director from July 2004 to May 2005, resigned to take a position at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. We cherish the time he was here, and strive to continue the path of excellence he modeled. We have gained two new members and now have a solid core group upon which to build a balanced choir. This spring a new Rogers digital piano was purchased through donated funds, and has already added greatly to the variety and depth of the choir's performances. We hope to add appropriate additional sacred music to enhance the liturgy of the services in the coming year, and are already at work on music for the Lenten and Easter seasons. If you have a love of music and would like to serve in this special worship ministry, or to assist us for any of the upcoming special services, please contact Marilyn Carollo at 301-216-1392 or Judith Schneider at the office, 301-948-8201.

Altar Guild

Stephanie Scott Grimes, Director, Altar Guild

The members of the St. Bartholomew's Altar Guild serve God and the parish through their faithful ministry. Responsibilities include maintenance, care and preparation of the altar and the elements required for the congregation's worship. Altar Guild members are truly devoted to this mission and unfailingly maintain the communion vessels and linens as well as the clergy's vestments throughout the church year. Responsibilities include preparations for regular parish services and weddings, baptisms and funerals as well.

Our parish is blessed to have our flowers supplied by Frank and Janet McMurtray who faithfully provide the most beautiful of arrangements for all our services throughout the year.

We have also been fortunate to have the support of parishioners like Mary Ruth Bogley who has donated many altar linens in honor of her family. We have just received two new veils and matching burses that complete our purple and red sanctuary sets. Because of Mary Ruth's kindness and generosity, we now have complete sanctuary sets in all the colors of the church year.

The Altar Guild is composed of a group of truly dedicated members. I commend and express my gratitude to these wonderful people for their loyalty to this most rewarding ministry. I hope all of you will extend your appreciation and thanks to these faithful guild members:

Lauren Bray	Karen Parker
Sue Davis	Lonnie Pera
Vickie Fisher	Judy O'Neil
Sharon Henderson	Jan Tait
Robin Horton	June Thomas
Kathy Little and Rob Glasby	Anne Wasson
Jamie Kaufmann	

The Altar Guild is always ready to welcome new members to this rewarding work. All are encouraged to consider volunteering.

Worship Assistants – 8:00 Service

Morna Golletz, Coordinator

A core of parishioners volunteers to serve as chalice bearers and read the lessons.

Chalice bearers include myself, Tim Smith and Jeff Taylor. Beginning in 2006, Kathy Cousins will join us.

Ten parishioners volunteer to read the lessons each Sunday. These are Harry Bennett, Nelson Torres, Evelinda Torres, Judy Docca, Jeff Taylor, Meredith Smith, Rand Golletz, Tim Smith, Art Elgin and myself.

Fr. Stonesifer held one training session for worship assistants in the fall of 2005.

I would like to thank those who volunteer for this service and welcome anyone who would like to join us this year.

Usher Report

Frank McMurtray, Chair

Twenty parishioners serve as ushers on a regular basis. They cover all eleven o'clock and special services. Several other parishioners assist on occasion.

All members, including ladies, are invited to become ushers. Just leave a message with Judith, in the church office, to be added to the list.

Frank McMurtray, present usher chairman, extends thanks to all the ushers for assuming this responsibility so graciously.

Acolytes

Lauren Bray, Acolyte Coordinator

Hello, everyone! Lauren Bray, coordinator of the St. Bartholomew's Acolytes here! This year our acolytes currently stand at five members. However I'm hoping to speak to the Sunday School to begin recruiting new members, as Wade Henderson and I are the only Senior acolytes, and it's almost time for us to leave the church for college! So far, our acolytes have been reviewing, (and for some, learning), the duties involved with being an acolyte. Fr. Stonesifer has recommended some small changes that have been very beneficial to our organization. One helpful idea was that instead of the Sr. Acolyte gathering the collection plates and handing them to the priest, (which would spoil his freshly washed hands for communion with the dirt of money, symbolically), he would gather the plates while the ushers close the altar gates, bless the money, and then turn to the Sr. Acolyte to have his hands washed.

The Jr. Acolytes also have had small improvements. We have a better understanding of when to walk down the aisle for recession, and which way to light the candles. Everyone has worked very hard, and I believe that our acolytes will be better than ever! We have also chosen robes that fit us, and assigned our names to them so we may change more quickly. Mrs. Mary Grabau has kindly become our acolyte mother, and we owe a big thank you to her and Fr. Stonesifer. If you have any ideas or questions about the acolytes, I attend the 11 o'clock service, and would be happy to chat.

Ladies Guild

Barbara White, Chair

The Ladies Guild continues to serve the Church, the Episcopal Church Women, and the Community. We serve the Laytonsville Lions Club a monthly dinner and have our Annual Azalea sale in the spring and sell knives and spices to finance our projects. Many thanks to each of the fourteen Guild members for a job well done.

In 2005 we provided \$15,300 in services and products to our Church. In addition many of our members served on the various committees of the Bazaar, the Search Committee, the Altar Guild, and hosted many coffee hours just to name a few. New items which were purchased include a new kitchen window, the double storm doors, new fire extinguisher, glasses, silver and pans for the kitchen, and we covered the entire cost for the new septic system and blacktop repairs. Continuing costs for the propane, the slate roof inspection and repairs, and kitchen sink repairs were also covered. The Guild paid for the maintenance of the front flower beds and repaired and replaced the Parish Life Center signs. The Guild also contributed to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and had the names of Janet Becker and Cornelia Reynolds added to the Diocesan Book of Remembrance at Church House.

Get well and condolence cards were sent to Parishioners and at Christmas, fourteen fruit and candy baskets were made and delivered to shut-ins of St Bartholomew and others in the Community. The Guild purchased the two outside wreaths on the front door of the Church and wish to pay special thanks to the McMurtays for their contributions to the life of our Church.

All women of the Church are invited to join our Ladies Guild and visit our Potluck luncheon and meeting, usually held on the third Monday in the Undercroft.

Christmas Festival

Sonja Elgin and Morna Golletz, Co-Chairs

The 2005 Christmas Festival was held Dec. 2 and 3, 2005. By all accounts it was a success enjoyed by many parishioners.

We wanted to thank all the parishioners who supported our efforts this year, whether that was buying a wreath, selling raffle tickets, donating to the white elephant sale, making baked goods, filling our silent auction baskets or working or shopping at the Festival. It took the efforts of everyone to make the Festival so successful.

We did want to thank specifically those people who worked during the Festival. The chairpersons were

White Elephant: Karen Parker and Mary Grabau

Bake Table: Nancy Harding

Café: Barbara White, Louisa Riggs, Dottie Tessier

Silent Auction Baskets: Jamie Kaufman

Parishioners who worked during the Festival include Mary Smith, Judy and Steve O'Neil, Kathy Cousins, Tim Smith, Jean Sommerville, Deborah Turton, Ethel Oliverre, Janet Tait, Meredith Smith, June Thomas, Judy Docca, Bill Fitts, Jim Lynch, Jeff Taylor, Norm Hager, Darby Elgin, TJ Miller, Rand Golletz and Art Elgin,

Thanks, too, to the crew that helped the Sunday before the Festival clearing out the undercroft. And, and extra thanks to Judith Schneider for helping to keep the wreath orders straight and helping to clean up after the white elephant sale.

We know you are also interested in how much money we raised. After expenses, the Festival netted \$6,316.09 of which \$2,000 will go into the church's General Fund. We are currently working on a proposal for a project that will utilize the funds. The funds from the 2004 Festival were used in 2005 for the new computer equipment.

We do plan to take January off, but will be back at work as "Santa's elves" in February. We plan to hold Festival workdays the 2nd Tuesday of each month, so mark your calendars to join us. You don't need any special skills. Plan to join us for the camaraderie and to learn something new. In February we will be sewing in the undercroft. And, if anyone is interested in an evening get-together, let us know.

Additionally, we want your feedback on the Festival. We want to know what you liked, what you think could be made better. We're also interested in feedback on the wreaths, as went with a different supplier in 2005.

Thanks again for all your efforts. The Festival is a wonderful church community event, and we were pleased to be able to share this with you.

Rector Search Committee

Chair; Jeff Taylor

In April 2005 the Vestry charged Ethel Ollivierre, Louisa Riggs, Al Wasson, Lauren Bray, Marilyn Carollo, Kathy Cousins, Frank Dall, Bill Fitts, John Kaufmann, Nelson Torres, and Jeff Taylor as the Search Committee for a new rector. After conducting a parish survey, we prepared a priest profile and a parish profile to be submitted to the Vestry for approval at its next meeting. We will then begin, with the help of the Church Deployment Office, to identify and interview candidates for a part-time rector position at St. Bartholomew's. We hope to submit three to five finalists to the Vestry by June 2006.