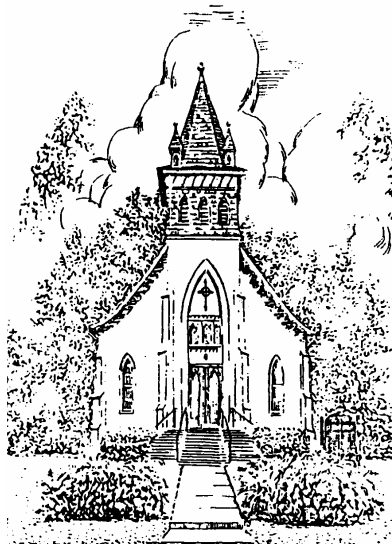


*Our Mission: To Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit
to a diverse community gathering in Laytonsville.*

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2007
11:00 AM
PARISH SANCTUARY



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH
LAYTONSVILLE, MARYLAND

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer/Call to Order
- II. Reading/Approval of 2006 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 & 2007 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
 - Junior Warden/Property Report
 - Stewardship Report
 - Diocesan Convention Report
 - Legal Report
 - Education
 - Sunday School
 - Adult Education
 - Youth Ministry
 - 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/ Summary of Parish Elections
- VII. Closing Prayer/Adjournment
 - (new Vestry immediately convenes in the Education Building)*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting: February 5, 2006

St. Bartholomew's Church

The annual parish meeting of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church was called to order at 11:20A.M., in the church Nave with a prayer by the Interim Rector, The Reverend John D. Stonesifer, following the ten o'clock Holy Communion Service.

Notice of the annual meeting had been posted on the bulletin board and proper notification given to parishioners according to the bylaws. Each parishioner was given a prepared packet with the 2005 annual meeting minutes, financial reports, and reports from the standing committees.

The chair recognized parishioner, Sue Davis, who made a motion that all Vestry and Church business to come before the meeting be guided by Roberts Rules of Order. This was accepted without any objections.

Minutes of the 2005 annual meeting included in the handout packets were approved on motion by Deborah Turton, seconded, and passed.

Parish Treasurer, Bill Fitts, presented the parish financial report and explained that it was broken down by month. He pointed out that shaded areas under the "Notes" column helped to explain the particular line in the report. Bill gave the following reports:

General Fund: St. Bartholomew's began the year with \$936.21 and the balance, as of December 31, 2005, was \$4,566.17.

Building Fund: The balance in the Building Fund was \$6,452.51 at the beginning of 2005. The balance, as of December 31, 2005, was \$6,557.94.

Special Gifts Fund: The balance, as of December 31, 2005, was \$413,730.43.

The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Jeff Taylor, seconded, and passed. Note: one opposed. The complete report was filed.

Memorial Fund: Barbara White, Memorial Fund Treasurer reported that the balance, as of December 31, 2005, was \$43,641.17, with \$5,590.00 in memorials for the year and interest earned of \$456.33. Money from the Memorial Fund was used to help pay for the new piano. Jeff Taylor move the report be accepted, seconded, and passed. The complete report was filed.

Audit report was presented by Lonnie Pera, Chairperson. The financial statements were presented to Beverly B. Ziner, Certified Public Accountant, who returned a successful report. The full report was presented in the hand out and made a part of the minutes. The complete report was filed.

Budget and Finance Committee—Reverend Stonesifer thanked George Leigh and his committee for their work on the budget for 2006. Bill Fitts presented the report for George Leigh. He stated that the full-time and part-time figures of the budget were for comparison. Bill noted that we were still looking at a net loss, even with a part-time minister. Parishioner, Dottie Tessier, requested that the vestry minutes include a monthly breakdown of the Treasurer's report. On motion by Jeff Taylor, seconded, and passed, the request was accepted. Note: one opposed. The complete report was filed.

The Chair announced the Nominating Committee: Frank McMurtray, Sue Davis, Herb Grabau, Robin Horton, Al Bergsten and Reverend Stonesifer. Reverend Stonesifer thanked the committee for their hard work. The candidates for vestry were as follows:

Senior Warden—Art Elgin

Junior Warden—Bill Fitts

Vestry: vote for three (3)—Jeff Bergsten, John Kaufmann, Judy O'Neil, Lonnie Pera

Convention Delegates—Stephanie Grimes, Deborah Howard

The Chair called for further nominations for Senior Warden. There being no further nominations, Ed Smith moved that the nomination be closed. Art Elgin was elected by acclamation. Further nominations for Junior Warden called. With no further nominations, Bill Fitts was elected by acclamation. Election of the delegate and alternate delegate to the Diocesan Convention called. With no further nominations from the floor, by acclamation, Deborah Howard was elected delegate and Stephanie Grimes was elected alternate. The ballots for voting were passed out to parishioners. Further nominations for Vestry persons called. Parishioner Barbara White nominated—Ethel Ollivierre; parishioner Meredith Smith nominated—Jean Spaans. The Chair entertained a motion to close the nominations, so moved by Jeff Taylor. Each member nominated from the floor was asked to stand and spell their name. Parishioners were instructed to add these two names to their ballot.

Tellers appointed: Judith Schneider, Les Cannon and June Thomas. Ballots were presented to the tellers for counting. With 58 votes counted, the following people were elected to the Vestry—John Kaufmann, Judy O’Neil and Lonnie Pera, alternate Jeff Bergsten.

The Chair recognized parishioner, Ethel Ollivierre, who requested the bylaws be changed by the vestry, to allow all information for the annual meeting to be sent a month in advance of said meeting.

Interim Rector’s Report: The complete report was included with the minutes and filed.

The following Committee/Ministry Reports were presented and filed:

- Senior Warden; Head- Legal & Memorial Fund —Art Elgin
- Junior Warden; Property, Treasurer & Youth Ministry—Bill Fitts
- Stewardship—Tim Smith and Herb Grabau
- Diocesan Convention—Deborah Howard
- Sunday School—Ann Fitts
- Adult Education—Anne Wasson
- Local Outreach—Judy Docca
- International Outreach—Brent Grimes and Les Cannon
- Altar Guild—Stephanie Grimes
- Ladies Guild, Memorial Fund Treasurer—Barbara White
- Music—Sue Davis and Marilyn Carollo
- Fellowship—Deborah Turton
- Acolytes—Lauren Bray
- Finance—George Leigh
- Audit—Lonnie Pera
- Worship Assistants—Morna Golletz
- Usher—Frank McMurtray
- Christmas Festival—Sonja Elgin and Morna Golletz
- Search—Jeff Taylor

The committees were thanked for their part in the operations of the church.

Outgoing vestry members, Frank McMurtray, Sue Davis and Herb Grabau were presented a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedicated time and service to St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church. Reverend Stonesifer presented a plate from the Cathedral to Senior Warden, Art Elgin and Junior Warden, Bill Fitts. He thanked them for their help and service.

Art Elgin and Bill Fitts thanked Father Stonesifer for his hard work at St. Bartholomew’s. Father Stonesifer thanked Judith Schneider, administrative assistant, for all of her work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05P.M.
Judith S. O’Neil, Registrar

Memorial Fund

Lonnie Pera, Chair; Barbara White, Treasurer

The Memorial Fund was started in the early 1970's. It has grown over the years. 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 our church, the purchase of the Griffith House, which is now the Parish Life Center, Dogwood trees, Altar linens and new hangings, Crosses, the Rodgers Organ, funds toward the new gas stove, two sets of vestments for the choir and acolytes a new Chalice and the new piano Blinds in the undercroft-the Dave Carvey Music Fund was established with Memorial funds.

Monies are invested in five Certificate of Deposits and a Savings Account. At the present time, there are Memorial Funds of \$47802.42 and Miscellaneous Funds of \$3746.06.

Funds are accepted at any time for anyone you may wish to honor or memorialize. On All Saints Day in 2006, the Memorial Fund received a total of \$2645.00 in memory and in honor of others.

A current accounting is presented to the Vestry, by the Treasurer, at each of the Vestry meetings. The Treasurer also maintains a permanent Book specifically for the Memorial Fund. All disbursements from the Memorial Fund must be approved by the Vestry.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Robin Horton, Chair

Below is listed the slate of parish officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. Time was spent in reflection and prayer considering the candidates. Special thanks go to Al Bergsten, Mary Grabau, Jim Lynch and Deborah Turton for their work.

Senior Warden:	Art Elgin	Bill Fitts
Junior Warden:	Deborah Turton	
Vestry Members (3 vacancies):	Dana Burton	Jeff Bergsten
	Charley Hendricks	Meredith Smith
	Jean Sommerville	Evelinda Torres
Convention Delegates:	Stevie Grimes	Deborah Howard

Interim Rector's Report

The Rev. John DeWitt Stonesifer

What a blessing it is for me to continue with you in ministry this past year -- and I thank you for this privilege!

St. Bartholomew's is indeed gifted with the many talents, resources and dedication that continue to amaze me – I believe this is where my appreciation has grown the most over this past year. As evidenced in this report you will notice the rich variety of ministries gathered together under one steeple.

The parish has experienced considerable growth and success in many areas for which we can all be grateful – again you will see this throughout this document. I want to especially celebrate the steps made and success achieved in living out the ministry and priorities as reflected in our mission statement and ministry emphasis which states:

St. Bartholomew's Mission:

To Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse community gathering in Laytonsville.

How We Accomplish This:

- practicing hospitality to newcomers
- providing fellowship and pastoral care
- encouraging education and growth for all ages
- providing inspiring Episcopal worship
- serving the world in Christ's name
- valuing our traditions and looking to the future

Our Vision:

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and leadership of our Rector, we will continually grow as individuals and community in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

My blessings and prayers are with you as you continue to live and grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord and in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse community gathering in Laytonsville.

Senior Warden's Report

Art Elgin

As I look back on the year 2006, I believe that it was a year of relative calmness in which the Church for the most part ran smoothly. It made my job easy. By saying it was a calm year, I look at many things.

First and foremost, we had one Rector for the entire year. You may not have noticed it, but the church office ran very efficiently, thanks to Judith Schneider. Harry Bennett's good work had an excellent newsletter out every month in a timely manner. The worship services went well. The choir under the direction of Marilyn Carollo is sounding great and the Acolytes have been revitalized. Every Sunday, and particularly during the holidays, the Church looked beautiful due to the quiet, behind-the-scenes work of Stevie Grimes and the Altar Guild and the beautiful flowers provided by the McMurtrays.

Outside of worship, I was very proud of the many accomplishments of St. Bartholomew's and its congregation. The Sunday School, thanks to Bill and Ann Fitts, was again very successful and the Adult Education under the guidance of Anne Wasson and Father Stonesifer was enjoyed immensely by those who participated. Under the leadership of Les Cannon and Brent and Stevie Grimes, we continued our support of the Mirembe Orphanage. My hat is off to the contributors who make this possible, and it was wonderful having Mary Demo visit us. Judy Docca and the Local Outreach committee continued their terrific work that has made us well recognized in the Laytonsville-Gaithersburg community and, indeed, throughout the county. Our bell ringers raised \$673.85 for the Salvation Army—good job. Deborah Turton organized some wonderful parish life programs, but I wish more people had participated.

Barbara White and the Ladies Guild again had a successful azalea sale and continued their quiet, good works with parishioners and with the Lions' dinners in the community. Last, but not least, we again had a very successful Christmas Festival, raising more than we had in recent years, thanks to Morna Golletz and Sonja Elgin.

We did make some improvements. Thanks to the funds provided by the Christmas Festival and the Ladies Guild, we put in a new floor and ceiling in the undercroft and painted the walls. I hope you noticed the new blinds in the undercroft and the new vases on the altar, thanks to a designation of moneys from the Memorial Fund by the Riggs/Harding family. We did have a mini-crisis in having to replace the furnaces in the church, but, thanks to Bill Fitts, we were able to accomplish it with a minimum of disruption. It was still an improvement for the new furnace will be much more efficient.

I think we had more participation in the church activities this past year, for which I am delighted. I also am pleased that St. Bartholomew's is participating in more Diocesan functions. If I have any disappointment, it is that we did not grow like I would like to have seen happen. I know I sound like a broken record on that point.

What about this coming year? I know it will be an exciting one, for St. Bartholomew's will have a new permanent Rector. Jeff Taylor and the Search Committee are starting the interviewing

process. There may be a period that we will have supply ministers serving us, but we have had that before and have flourished. I hope that we will continue to get the support of the parishioners in our activities. With a new Rector on board, I would like to see a new emphasis placed on growing (Here I go again). However, it is essential. We are struggling with our budget, and there is a lot we need to do. We have old facilities that need continual maintenance, and we have to be able to improve the appearance of the grounds. Remember—the first impression is very important. It is vital that we be able to have Judith in the office for more hours.

Before I conclude, I want to give special recognition to a little lady with a quiet voice who does so much for the church, most of which goes unrecognized—Mary Grabau. Whether it is making a banner for the Acolytes to carry in the Cathedral, working with the Sunday School, preparing the costumes for the Christmas Pageant or working in the white elephant sale at the Christmas Festival, Mary does it all in her quite, unassuming way. Many thanks Mary.

Junior Warden/Property Report

Bill Fitts

The property committee has been very busy during 2006. We have been able to establish with the Vestry a priority of projects which needed to be done. We also have established procedures to accomplish property improvement.

New furnaces were installed in the church and the old oil tank was removed from the furnace room. The old furnace was over 40 years old and had served us well. The new furnace is much more efficient and should result in savings for the church in reduced heating bills. We were also able to convert the stove to natural gas. This resulted in making the stove not only work better but has also eliminated the odor which came from the propane gas we had been using.

We were able to replace the undercroft ceiling tiles, floor tile and paint the walls and trim. We were also able to replace the blinds on the under croft windows.

I want to thank the Christmas Festival committee, the Ladies Guild, Nancy Harding (memorial funds) and the Riggs Fund trustees for their financial support in accomplishing the projects which were undertaken in 2006.

I would also like to thank the members of the property committee Evelinda Torres and Jim Lynch for there commitment. Father Stonesifer's support on the priority list and property improvement procedures has also been valuable.

On the horizon for 2007, we hope to replace the carpet at the back of the church, refurbish the church bath rooms, install bulletin boards in the undercroft and replace the siding on the garage. With the cooperation of the various fund raising organizations of the parish, and the Vestry, I see no reason why we can't accomplish our goals.

Stewardship Report

Tim Smith, Chair

The stewardship program continued the two main areas of focus: education and the Pledge Campaign. The education aspect consisted of monthly articles on stewardship in the St. Bartholomew's Beacon. Previous articles can be found on the St. Bartholomew's website: <http://www.saintbartholomews.org/>.

The fall Pledge Campaign used the previous year’s model of note writing, Stewardship Minutes, and celebration brunch. This year the pledges were blessed by Fr. Stonesifer using the Diocesan Stewardship prayer/blessing. The Vestry showed leadership by pledging before the rest of the congregation, writing personal notes, and helping with celebration brunch. Nine other parishioners also volunteered to write personal notes. Thanks! The Stewardship Minutes speakers were: Nelson Torres, Mary Grabau, Dana Burton, Jeff Taylor, Judy Docca and Les Cannon. Thanks! The brunch was catered by Gourmet Your Way.

The results of the Pledge Campaign are \$118,836 from 58 pledges. This is an increase of \$10,470 and one pledge from last year. There were three new pledges! Amongst the “regulars”, 22 increased their pledge; 2 decreased their pledge; and 28 remained the same. The median annual pledge was \$1,530, increasing \$230 from last year. The pledge distribution is in Table 1.

Pledge \$/week	# Pledges	\$Total
0-20	19	11,028
20-40	17	24,764
40-60	10	26,004
60-80	6	19,900
80-100	1	4,680
100+	5	32,460
Total	58	118,836

Table 1. 2007 Pledge Campaign pledge distribution.

Another activity sponsored by the Stewardship Committee was praying through the directory during Lent. As a parish wide activity, this enabled all the parishioners to pray for the people on the weekly designated directory page.

For 2007, the educational articles and annual Pledge campaign will continue. We will again sponsor Lenten praying through the directory. The Stewardship Committee has also been encouraged to talk about planned giving. Thanks again to all who have helped the Stewardship Committee in 2006.

Legal Report

Art Elgin; Chair, Legal Committee

St. Bartholomew’s has a Legal Committee to advise the Vestry if the need arises. In 2006, there were no instances that required the advice of the Committee.

Audit Report

Lonnie Pera; Chair, Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for having the books and other records of St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church (the “Church”) and any funds within the Church audited at the end of each year. The Audit Committee collects records from the Church Treasurer (Bill Fitts), the Memorial Fund Treasurer (Barbara White), and the Ladies Guild Treasurer (Louisa Riggs) and submits those records to an independent Certified Public Accountant (the “Auditor”). The Audit Committee also serves as the liaison between the Church treasurers and the auditor in the event that the Auditor has questions about the accounts or has recommendations for the Church.

As in years past, the Church decided to use the services of Beverly B. Ziner, a Certified Public Accountant with more than 25 years experience in conducting Diocesan audits. Ms. Ziner's responsibilities are to (a) review the Church records in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and in accordance with Diocesan rules, (b) review the Church financial statements, (c) raise questions about income or expenditures (if any), (d) issue guidance on facilitating the audit process, and (e) issue a report on whether the Church records accurately reflect its assets and liabilities.

On June 9, 2005, the Audit Committee submitted records from the three treasurers to the Auditor. As she has done in the past, Ms. Ziner reviewed the records and contacted the Church whenever she had questions. All three treasurers answered the questions and provided additional documents. During this process, the Auditor recommended that the following documents be maintained and presented during each audit:

- All receipts, invoices, and cancelled checks;
- All bank statements and interest income statements;
- Year-end bank reconciliations; and
- Accurate year-end reports.

The Auditor further stated that hand-written notes were not sufficient for purposes of documenting income and expenditures.

On August 4, 2006, the Auditor submitted the first audit report. While this report indicated that the financial statements fairly presented the assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Church, the Memorial Fund, and the Ladies Guild, it also noted – incorrectly – that the Memorial Fund had expended \$27,558 in 2005, leaving an account balance of only \$10,931. The Auditor apparently reached this conclusion because the Memorial Fund did not present bank reconciliations or other documents reconciling the bank statements and the 2005 annual report.

In response, the Audit Committee met with the Memorial Fund Treasurer and prepared a letter, reconciling the bank statements and correcting the 2005 annual report. The Audit Committee submitted this letter to the Auditor on August 28, 2006. The letter demonstrated that the Memorial Fund did not expend \$27,558 in 2005 and did not have a 2005 year-end balance of \$10,931. Rather, the Memorial Fund expended \$525 in 2005 (for the piano) and, through interest and contributions, ended the year with a balance of \$44,017.

On **September 7, 2006**, the Auditor returned her final audit report. The audit report concluded that the financial statements prepared by St. Bartholomew's Church "present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and fund balances arising from cash transactions" for the year 2005.

This year's audit was more involved primarily because the Diocese requested all auditors to investigate and question accounts. Ms. Ziner fulfilled this responsibility. The Church, the Memorial Fund, and the Ladies Guild also fulfilled their responsibilities by maintaining records and presenting them to the Audit Committee for referral to the Auditor, by answering the Auditor's questions, and by submitting additional documentation to the Auditor. As a result of the cooperation and open communication between the Church/Memorial Fund/Ladies Guild and the Auditor, this year's audit was a success.

EDUCATION

Adult Education

Anne Wasson; Chair, Adult Education

The Adult Education class met on Sunday morning from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Education Building. During the Lenten Season the group studied the book *What's So Amazing about Grace* by Philip Yancey. The focus of the study was to understand God's grace and its impact on our lives. During the spring, Harry Bennett led us in a study of the Epistles of Saint Paul. The next book that was read was *Cure for the Common Life* by Max Lucado. This led to several interesting and lively discussions. During the fall, the class learned about the history of the Anglican Communion followed by a discussion of the historical documents at the back of the *Book of Common Prayer*. In December we focused on the meaning of the Advent season.

We wish to thank the Reverend John Stonesifer for his interest and leadership of the group.

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 and the Episcopal Church. 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 2006 include:

- Summer Vacation Bible School and activities
- 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
- Cathedral Lock-in
- Providing presents for Santa to deliver to the Betty Anne Krahnke Center

We also celebrate 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. We also have found that this is well received by visitors and potential new members of our church and they comment they have not seen this tradition elsewhere.

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

- Karen Parker who has been a Sunday School teacher for over 15 yrs. She is always there to help.
- Mary Grabau who devotes her time and energy (especially for the beautiful Christmas Pageant costumes and Thanksgiving dinner) to make our Sunday School program special.

- Jessica Penkert, Jamie Kaufmann, Jean Sommerville, Judith Schneider and Heather McMurtray who support our Sunday School as teachers and support for Pageant programs, birthdays and special projects.
- Lauren Fisher for her music support during the Christmas Pageant.
- Lauren Fisher and Maggie Schneider for their leadership of our Vacation Bible Study program during this past summer.
- 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. 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.

We would love to grow our ministry by offering a nursery for young children during the 11:00. Any volunteers would be appreciated.

OUTREACH

Local Outreach

Judy Docca; Chair, Local Outreach

The Local Outreach Committee participated in several activities to serve the community in 2006. 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.

At Thanksgiving, once again through the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to provide 6 boxes of non-perishable food, paper products and cleaning materials to families at Gaithersburg Elementary School.

At Christmastime, as in the past three 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 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.

The Local Outreach Committee provided and served dinner to 30 women at the Sophia House in Rockville on two occasions. We are exploring whether to make this a monthly activity.

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 the Local Outreach Committee through the Vestry 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 three years we have contributed funds to two students to help defray the expenses for the senior prom. Students chosen usually attend college after graduation in June.

The Local Outreach Committee has assisted in sending children to Camp Friendship in Laytonsville. This camp is for children suffering from cancer.

Last year we participated in Thanksgiving in February at the Flaming Pit Restaurant, one of the restaurants which donate a portion of its profits to Community Ministries for its work with families in need. This year we will meet at O'Donnells in the Kentlands on February 6th at 7 PM.

International Outreach - Mirembe

Brent Grimes, Chair

In Swahili, Mirembe means "peace" and for the past five 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 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 aspirations for the future.

We were fortunate to have Mary Demo visit St. Bartholomew's in November of last year. Mary stayed with parishioners during her visit and addressed the congregation at both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. She carried with her blessings, love and thanks from Father Demo and the girls for the loyal and loving support St. Bartholomew's has provided Mirembe over the past five years and expressed the hope that some parishioners might visit the orphanage sometime in the coming year.

In 2006 David and Linda Fischer of Houston Texas learned of St. Bartholomew's support of Mirembe on the Internet and requested to make contributions to the orphanage through St. Bartholomew's International Outreach program – and a new partnership began. In December, David and Linda, along with their two teenage children, traveled to Kenya to spend the Christmas Holiday with the Demos. Their preliminary, on-site report confirms that Mirembe donations have been put to good use. Linda expressed amazement that the Demos have been able to accomplish so much with such a relatively small amount of money. In February, the Fischers will be providing the International Outreach Committee with a full report of their stay in Mirembe, including pictures and video. The committee will ensure that all interested parishioners receive a detailed update based on the report.

2006 Overview: Over the past year, St. Bartholomew's raised and distributed \$24,553.33 to Mirembe to help support 12 girls currently living in the facility. These funds include significant donations from David and Linda Fischer, and 30 parishioners who either provided support on a monthly basis, or made one-time donations to the program. Also included are funds raised by the annual pancake supper – generating \$934.00 and a special yard sale held for both local and international outreach – generating \$752.83. Currently, International Outreach has a balance of

\$4,975.40. The vast majority of the funds collected and distributed in the program go for the girls' tuition and school fees (\$3000 quarterly), additionally for books, transportation and living expenses. One parishioner completely funds the nursing school tuition for Judith Solongo. Any remaining monies are distributed throughout the year on an-as-needed/emergency basis as requested by Father Demo. Over the past year, this expense category included insurance for the Mirembe van, fees for a field trip for the girls, a security fence for the Mirembe compound, and poles over which electricity eventually will be provided to the facility (hopefully in 2007).

Plans for 2007: The primary objective of the International Outreach program is to continue to provide on-going school tuition and fees support for the girls of Mirembe. In addition, any additional monies that can be generated by the parish are projected to be applied to complete the provisioning of electricity to the facility (the poles are to be installed within the next two months). Father Demo has a tentative commitment from the United Nations to provide several computers to the orphanage once electricity is installed, and is also in the finishing stages of completing an additional building on the Mirembe compound. This will be used as a tea salon/canteen to generate an ongoing and stable income for the orphanage.

On-Going Support: Despite the many successes at 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 Les Cannon, Stevie Grimes, or myself.

WORSHIP

Music

Marilyn Carollo; Organist, Interim Choir Director

The Choir provides worship leadership through music and they have served with tremendous talent and dedication this past year. We have grown both in numbers as well as in the scope and depth of our repertoire. A special treat was to host the Choristers from Christ Church, Rockville for an All Saints' Evensong this past fall.

As the New Year unfolds, we look to the approaching season of Lent and the reflective music that accompanies it. No where else in the Church's musical calendar is there such an array of hope, sorrow, expectation, and prayer. The Choir will be presenting music reflecting this Holy season. The 8:00 service will have a new addition-I have recorded a series of organ voluntaries to be played prior to the service to add to the season of reflection.

We are continually looking for new members--all voice ranges are welcome. Drop in for a rehearsal on Thursday night, 7:00--give us a try. Praise the Lord with music!!

Altar Guild

Stephanie Scott Grimes, Director

The St. Bartholomew's Altar Guild is a ministry comprised of dedicated parishioners who lovingly prepare the altar and the church for worship. Responsibilities include cleaning, maintaining, and adorning the altar and the surrounding area in accordance with the church calendar and the traditions of our parish. Altar Guild members take their responsibility very seriously and never fail to accomplish their assigned duties. These functions include caring for the communion vessels and linens as well as the clergy's vestments throughout the church year – not just for the regular parish services but weddings, baptisms and funerals as well.

Frank and Janet McMurtray faithfully provide the flowers for our services and we are blessed to have them as a part of our church family.

We have also been fortunate to have the support of many parishioners who have donated items for use in our worship services over the years. This year Jan and Bill Tait provided new linens for the altar in memory of loved ones. Because of their constant use, altar linens eventually wear out and must be retired. Jan and Bill kindly replenished these and we are very grateful. In addition, Nancy Harding and her family provided new flower vases this year in honor and memory of loved ones. They are a different design from the ones we have had for some time and are a welcome addition to our altar. We thank Nancy and her family for their kind and generous donation

All of the members of the Altar Guild are dedicated to the highest standards of care while preparing the altar and the church. I hope all parishioners will join me in praising each and every one of these wonderful people for their loyalty to this most rewarding ministry:

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

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

8am Worship Assistants

Morna Golletz, Coordinator

A core of parishioners volunteers to serve as chalice bearers and read the lessons. Chalice bearers include myself, Kathy Cousins, Tim Smith and Jeff Taylor.

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.

Usher Report

Julian Spaans, Coordinator

Currently there are 15 ushers that serve on a regular basis at the 11 o'clock service. Other parishioners assist when needed. Additional ushers are always welcome -- if interested, please leave a message with Judith in the church office to be added to the list.

Julian Spaans, the usher chairman, extends many thanks for those who volunteer their time to the ushering duties.

Acolytes

Maggie Schneider, Coordinator

Hi everyone! It's Maggie Schneider, coordinator of the St. Bartholomew's acolytes! We have had a very successful year. We have expanded from 6 to 8 acolytes-- 4 junior, 4 senior; however, I am always looking for more.

This past year, the acolytes have participated in the 27th Annual National Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. It was amazing to see the thousands of acolytes from all over the country. There were small workshops describing all the different things acolytes wear.

The younger ones seemed to enjoy this class. I learned some new “tricks of the trade” to being an acolyte leader and training acolytes. Many thanks go to Mrs. Mary Grabau, our acolyte mother and Father Stonesifer for making it possible. Also, I am proud to report that St. Bartholomew’s has a banner! Mrs. Mary Grabau, Mrs. Jessica Penkert, Father Stonesifer, and the acolytes all worked very hard creating a beautiful banner to take to the Cathedral. If anyone has any questions for me, I attend the 11:00 am service. See you there!

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship

Deborah Turton, Chair

The fellowship committee sponsored a variety of events last year including:

- Christmas Caroling in Laytonsville,
- Pumpkin carving
- A trip to the Freer gallery to see the exhibit "In the Beginning"
- A summer game night
- The pancake supper
- Parish suppers

In all we had about 40 people attending the various events, including guests. The most attended event was the summer game night. Our only challenge is finding members to sign up for the 11am coffee hour. As my tenure comes to a close, I have really enjoyed my three years and am looking forward to working with the next committee chair.

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 2006 we provided \$20,900 in services and products to our Church which included the new Undercroft floor, painting the Undercroft and final payment for the Blacktop repair. In addition many of our members served on the various communities of the Bazaar, the Search Committee, repairs, to the kitchen were also covered. In addition, we supported Local Outreach. The Guild paid for the maintenance of the front flower beds and the flower bed at the Parish Life Center. The Guild also contributed to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and had the name of Mary Virginia Molster 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 McMurtrays for their contributions to the life of our Church. All women of the Church are invited to join our Ladies Guild and visit our meeting and luncheon. Our meetings are usually on the third Monday at 12:30 with updates in the Newsletter.

Christmas Festival Finances

Morna Golletz, Sonja Elgin; Chairs

*(see their written summary found in the January issue of our parish newsletter for more information)***RECEIPTS:**

Bill Fitts, moneys advanced	\$200.00	
Table rentals (3 x \$50)	150.00	
Wreath sales (107 @ \$20.00)	2140.00	
Bake table	1491.20	
St. Bart's café	500.00	
White elephant sales	870.00	
Silent auction baskets		
Total bids	\$720.00	
Less Ann Fitts bid (150.00)	570.00	
Quilt Raffle	776.00	
Crafts and pottery sales	1540.11	
Bishops Blend Coffee	448.95	
Holy Chocolate	<u>600.00</u>	\$9,286.26

DISBURSEMENTS:

Bill Fitts reimbursement,		
Cash advanced	\$200.00	
Less, Ann Fitts		
Basket Bid	(150.00)	\$50.00
Mickman Brothers, cost of wreaths		1307.88
Supplies and Food		267.79
Bishops Coffee		272.00
Holy Chocolate		340.50
Meredith McEver, pottery		91.00
Diane Helmick, pocket books		<u>90.00</u>
		2,419.17

NET INCOME		\$6,867.09
To general fund	\$2000.00	
To fund for new carpeting		
In back of church	<u>\$4867.09</u>	6,867.09

Rector Search Committee

Jeff Taylor, Chair

As part of the search process, the Committee spent several months this year preparing a parish profile for approval by the vestry and the Bishop. The profile was approved, with revisions, and has been provided to all applicants. The vestry has authorized its inclusion on the St. Bartholomew's website.

With the assistance of the Rev. Mary C. Sulerud, Diocesan Canon for Deployment and Vocational Ministries, the committee has reviewed the applications of fifteen candidates for the position of rector. We are now in the process of interviewing seven of those candidates.

Three of the candidates will not be ordained as priests until January 2008. Should the vestry choose one of them, he or she would serve as deacon-in-charge of the parish until ordination. This arrangement was suggested and approved by Bishop Chane.