

# St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

November 2003

## The Rector's Choice

*The Rev. David Pollock, Rector*

Dear People of St. Bartholomew's:

I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to move into one of the most involved times in the church year. Beginning with All Saints Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through Christmas, the church takes on a seriousness of purpose and mission different from the rest of the year. Beginning with remembering all those believing Christians who have gone before us, on All Saints we are reminded of the responsibility given to us now active in the church to continue that ministry with faithfulness and creativity. I think some times we don't realize how great that responsibility is. We have benefited by having a church like St. Bartholomew's to attend, bring up our children, support us in our need and enable us a to reach out to others in the name of Christ. Unless we do our part today to sustain this church other generations will not have it. Churches are not perfect, we don't always agree with what the leadership of the church both locally and nationally may do but by and large the great majority of what we do as a church is wonderful, supportive and faithful to God's calling of us. We disagree-yes but always in fear and trembling because no one but God knows the truth about how we are called to live out our life. God is constantly calling us to new understandings just as God at the same time helps us to cling to the essentials of our faith. How we balance the two is the essence of parish life.

I hope that you will make every effort to regularly attend services over the next two months. Your presence is needed if we are to grow in God's love and have the human resources to go with the financial resources to carry out God's purpose for us in this parish. The Sunday School has wonderful plans, the music program is blossoming and you may miss a transforming spiritual experience with is at the heart of Episcopal worship and local outreach has many ways to reach out to others, which is really the essence of life, We are so fortunate to have a loving community to be a part of, but for it to flourish, we each must do our part. May God continue to bless St. Bartholomew's?

*Peace and love in Christ,  
David*

**"Unless we do our part today to sustain this church, other generations will not have it."**

## Sunday School News Letter November 2003

November looks like an exciting month for the Sunday school. We will feature lessons on some Old Testament favorites Exodus, The Ten Commandments, David and Goliath, and Jonah and the Great Fish. November 23 will be our Thanksgiving lesson and we will be discussing "Pilgrims and Strangers".

We received a tremendous offering from the congregation in our annual coat drive. We have received 26 coats at our last count. The coats will be delivered to the Betty Ann Kranke Center and Christ House the first week of November. We have so much to be thankful for and these coats are an easy way to share our many blessings.

Our goal is for each child to think of St. Bartholomew's as his or her church. We thank those who attend regularly and encourage all to do so. Please don't hesitate to bring friends and visitors.



**Tithing  
What is it?**

We often speak of stewardship but seldom speak of tithing. Of course, they go hand in hand. Stewardship means using everything God has given us — life, talent, possessions — to serve God with love and gratitude.

But what is tithing? It's making voluntary, systematic, contributions of financial support to your church. The Old Testament guide for giving was a "tithe" or tenth of total property.

Everyone can tithe. Any one who has an income can plan ahead to make tithing a regular part of their budget.

Tithe a percent of your income. As your income rises, the percentage remains the same and the amount tithed goes up. Set a target of a ten percent tithe. Determine what you are now giving. Divide your giving by your income to determine the percentage. If your tithe is less than 10%, try to increase your percentage of giving each year until you reach 10%. If you can increase your tithe by only 1% per year, you can slowly build towards your target tithe of 10%.

**Stewardship Update**

On October 19 we had our Annual Stewardship Dinner. If you missed it this year — and many of our newcomers did miss it — put it on your schedule for next year. Harry Bennett, our Ass't Treasurer, reported that we had a pledge total of \$98,400 from 51 parishioners, including 11 new parishioners who have not pledged previously. This is an excellent beginning. Since then we have been receiving pledges in the mail and at the Sunday services. As of Sunday, October 26 we have received \$106,700 from 55 church families. Thanks to all who assisted in the Stewardship Campaign, including Keith Elliston who gave the Pledge Sunday speech, all the note writers, and the Ladies Guild for serving the celebratory dinner.

Although it was a good beginning, we still have a long way to go to meet our goal of \$160,000. Please read the article on the left side of this page and consider tithing a percentage of your income and increasing your percentage each year. If each of us increases our pledge by 1% of our income, we will be able to fund all of our planned programs.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity.

To show our faith and thanksgiving we can return a part of God's gifts to us to help the church carry out its work. We look forward to a successful and fulfilling campaign this year. Our thanks to everyone for all your efforts and support in this important aspect of Parish life.



**Book Study Group**

We now have a Book Study Group that meets each Sunday morning at 9:15 a. m. We have just begun "Walking the Bible – A Journey Through the Five Books of Moses" by Bruce Feiler. It is " both a heart-racing adventure and an uplifting quest. "Walking the Bible" describes one man's epic odyssey – by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel – through the greatest stories ever told. His inspiring journey will forever change your view of some of history's most storied events."



**Thanksgiving Eve  
Community Church Service**

Laytonsville Thanksgiving Eve Community Service: St. Bartholomew's will host the annual Laytonsville Thanksgiving Eve service this year at 7:30 p.m. on November 27<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by four other area churches and their choirs to give thanks to God for all God's gifts to us. I hope you and your family will attend.

**If each of us increases our pledge by 1% of our income, we will be able to fund all of our planned programs**

### Local Outreach

The Local Outreach Committee met on the 19th of October to plan for the upcoming holiday distributions. We will be putting together baskets for the three families we have been supporting at Gaithersburg Elementary School and Gaithersburg High School and two baskets to be distributed by our neighboring church, Agape AME Church on Brink Road. Contributions for the baskets from parishioners will be appreciated. Donations of non-perishable foods, paper goods and cleaning items may be placed in a box in the narthex of the church on November 2nd, 9th and 16th. Baskets will be assembled on the 24th of November.

Future collections will take place in December for mothers in the Krahnke Homeless Shelter. Any toiletries or personal grooming items are placed in holiday bags and delivered to the shelter in December. This is in conjunction with the collection of toys for the children to be collected by the parish. The items for mothers may be placed in the narthex on December 7th and 14th.

In January, the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for teenage mothers including juvenile books, toys, clothing, household articles and furniture. This will be in connection with the MOM's Club of Olney/Cashell.

The Vestry agreed to have St. Bartholomew's join the Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC). CMMC has 124 Protestant, Jewish, Catholic, Universalist, Buddhist, Christian Scientist, Ethical and Non-denominational congregations representing more than 40,000 households in Montgomery County. The first program began in 1975 giving small cash grants to people in crisis. New programs were created over the next 30 years: Friends in Action, Independent Living, Interfaith Clothing Center (Rockville), the Hans Rosenfeld Upcounty Interfaith Clothing Center, Community Shelter, Horizon House, Congregation and Community Emergency Support, Hand to Hand Project Safety Net, Holiday Linkages, Emergency Assistance Coalition, Thanksgiving in February, CMMC E Microenterprise and the Education Advocacy Program.

It will be beneficial to St. Bartholomew's Parish to be able to utilize these services for families in crisis. In turn, the church will provide 50 hours of service to CMMC in one or more of it's programs.

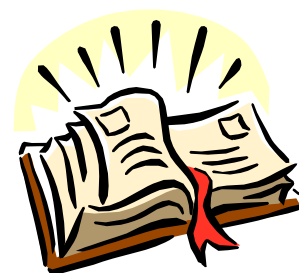
The Local Outreach Committee will continue to support two families at Gaithersburg Elementary School. We will also provide Christmas toys, items for mothers and Easter baskets to the Betty Ann Khranhke Center.

One of our members, Ethel Ollivierre, participated in a service project with one of the churches in our local coalition, Agape A.M.E. Church on Goshen Road.

Judy Docca

### Local Outreach Tidbits

The Local Outreach Committee welcomes several new members: Kathy Cousins, Tim Smith, Pamela Livingston and Carolyn Alberty. We are especially pleased since they come with new ideas and our activities are expanding.



### Bible Study

This years Bible Study begins with The Book of Genesis.

Monday Evening Bible Study is held at 7:30 p.m. in the undercroft. Wednesday Morning Bible Study is held at 10:00 a.m. in the Education Building. The Wednesday Bible Study is followed by the 11:00 a.m. Communion service.

Come join one of these dynamic groups in the Fall.

**Sunday School**

We look forward to seeing you at Sunday School and all friends are always welcome! We also need volunteers. Please let us know if you can help.  
-Sunday School Staff

**11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour Schedule**

Deborah Turton is now organizing the 11:00 coffee hour. She'd like to invite everyone to sign up for a Sunday. Whether you enjoy stopping at your favorite bakery or one of your favorite hobbies is baking, we'd love to have you share your talents with us. If you have questions, please call Deborah at 301-482-0675.



**Our Service People**

For anyone wishing to send a card or letter to Laura Grimes her address is:

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Grimes, Laura  
Unit # 91716  
APO AE 09391-1716

*New address*

**Pastoral Visits and Care**

The Rev. David Pollock is available for pastoral visits and care. If you know of someone who needs or wants pastoral care, please contact the church office or Dr. Pollock at (301) 948-8201.

**The Girls of Mirembe**

*St. Bartholomew's received a message in October from Fr. Sosiness and Mary Demo. Here is an excerpt (the writer was Mary, and bear in mind that English is not her first language, although she uses it to express herself wonderfully):*

Dear Mama Margaret Pollock,

Hello it is my pleasure to convey to you our sincere hearty love, to father Pollock and the entire congregation.

As per the conversation we had on phone, I would like to acknowledge you that the girls are getting on well. They are now preparing to take end year exams to be able to join next year's new classes.

We indeed highly appreciate for the school fee assistance you have arranged for the girls. This will enable them to go through school without a problem. May the blessings of the Lord be poured upon you as the morning dew. As we join hands to mold these girls for a bright future.

The home is complete however it is not yet furnished. We have identified two huge trees which needs to be purchased to make timber which can be used to make furniture after the house is furnished. We will wait for the approval of the health ministry. After all these is done we hope the girls to join the home in April 2004. [Note: Kenyan high school students have vacation for the months of December, April and August, so even though the Mirembe Children's Home may be ready for the girls to move in before April, that month will be the next opportunity after December.]

Father Demo resigned from the work he was doing in the Diocese of Nairobi to be able to help me on the Mirembe home.

God has opened a way for me and I have got a secondary school near the town (Migori) which is not far from the home. I will be moving to the new school next year [which begins in January]. Some of the girls will join in the school where I will be teaching. I teach C.R.E [Christian Religious Education] and Geography...

God be with you always.  
Sincerely Yours  
The Demos



**Posted on the Bulletin Board**

The following items are posted on the bulletin board near the undercroft entrance:

- The approved minutes from the September vestry meeting.
- The September 30, 2003 financial report for St. Bartholomew's Church.
- The Memorial Fund report as of October 15, 2003.

*If you have any questions, speak to any member of the Vestry.*

**Let's Have Music!  
St. Bartholomew's Choirs**

During October our youth choir did a wonderful job, offering as its first anthem of the season, "As the Seasons Turn their Circle". This piece, written and composed for the choir by our own Lauren Catherine Fisher, was accompanied by Lauren on the piano. A refrain opened the anthem; four verses described the continuing presence of Christ with those who believe, even as each season gives way to the next; and the rendition closed with the refrain sung again as a two-part round. The seasonal circle described by the refrain was musically mirrored by the round of voices. Very, very nice!

"As the seasons turn their circle,  
Praise to God be spoken;  
His love circles like the seasons,  
Unending, unbroken."

Also in October, the adult choir offered a rich setting of the familiar hymn text, "Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty" composed by Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky.

In November, we anticipate singing the Taize chant, "Ubi caritas", with combined youth and adult choirs plus congregation. The youth choir will tackle a short Latin text set with close four-part treble harmony, and the adult choir will offer a Thanksgiving hymn both on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and at the Laytonsville Community Thanksgiving Service, to be held at St. Bartholomew's Church on Thanksgiving Eve.

In the midst of all of this, two singers joined the adult choir: Lauren Fisher (soprano) and Mary Kamien (alto). Lauren and Mary have both sung in church choirs since they were little, but not recently, and each found a reason to lend their voices now to St. Bartholomew's choir. We are glad!

Peace and love in Christ,  
Margaret+

**Ladies Guild News**

October was another busy month for the Guild. In addition to regular Lions dinners, we helped with the serving and cleaning up of the Stewardship dinner. We welcomed Baby boy Donovan with a gift and visit.

We are sorry that one of our most faithful members and a super good worker will be leaving St. Bartholomew to live in Williamsburg, VA. Bryan and Barbara Husted will be greatly missed. Neither one of them learned how to say no when asked to help with any task large or small. Barbara was equally honored by 200 former and present students and parents at a lovely surprise party on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. She received many accolades and good wishes along with 4 dozen roses which she gave immediately to our oldest member, Margaret Riggs, who is quite ill. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and daughter, Nancy Harding, and the entire Riggs family.

Our November meeting will be a special one in honor of Barbara Husted on November 17, 2003. For further details, please call Barbara White at 301-963-7688.

Lord, keep me in the company of those who seek  
the truth, and guard me from those who believe  
they have found it.

## Scheduled Activities

### Upcoming Events

- November 1 American Legion Flea Market, 9am-3pm  
November 2 Observance of All Saints Day  
November 2 Collection for Local Outreach begins.

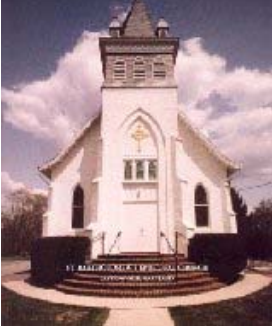
### Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. The Holy Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Book Study  
10:10 a.m. Jr. Choir rehearsal  
11:00 a.m. The Holy Communion - first, third and fifth Sundays  
Morning Prayer - second and fourth Sundays

Sunday School Activities are held during the 11:00 service  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays J2A meets in the PLC (during Sunday School)  
Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services

### Regular Weekly Schedule

- Mondays 7:30 p.m. Monday Evening Bible Study  
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study .  
Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion (with Healing Service)  
Thursdays 7:00 Sr. Choir rehearsal



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
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Laytonsville, MD 20882

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