

St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

December 2003

The Rector's Choice

The Rev. David Pollock, Rector

Dear people of St. Bartholomew's,

As we enter a new calendar year, I want to reflect on 2003 and look forward to 2004.

We have made real progress as a congregation in 2003. In outreach, in addition to continuing the construction of the Mirembe Orphanage in Kenya, parishioners now sponsor 10 of the aids orphans with their school fees. What wonderful generosity! In local outreach, we have been working with several families to help them move to independence and have joined Community Ministries of Montgomery County to pool our resources with other churches.

The music program has expanded to four vocal and instrumental groups helping with our worship. Please read the articles on the inside pages by Mother Pollock on their progress. The Sunday School continues it's excellent ministry with our children, providing us with a great deal of hope for the future. This year we also welcomed 15 new families and individuals to the parish bringing the total to 30 new families and individuals in two years.

Despite all the progress, 2004 promises to be a crucial year for St. Bartholomew's. Because last year we also lost 5 key families who were among our strongest supporters financially and personally. They moved out of our area to better jobs and living situations for their families from Washington State to Massachusetts to Florida. We have also lost to death three key long time leaders of the parish in a year and a half--- Sam Riggs, Joyce Hatter and Dave Carvey. In addition three families and individuals have left the parish because of the actions of General Convention in approving the consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson and the diocesan option to bless same sex unions. Four others have reduced their support for the parish as a result of the church's decision at General Convention. And even more unfortunately a few others have reduced or kept flat their financial support of the parish because they do not like the direction the leadership is taking the parish with it's emphasis on outreach, music, the Sunday School and collective decision making.

If we as the people of God in this place are to answer Jesus' call in 2004 and beyond, we need more support from our current members and many more new members to share our vision of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most of you care about this parish as a place to meet each of our needs not just to meet our own needs. I hope you will come to the annual meeting on Sunday February 1st to hear more about what our plans are and how you can be an important part of them. Now is the time to get involved! Have a blessed new year

Peace and love in Christ,
David

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Annual Meeting February 1, 2004

The Annual Meeting of St. Bartholomew's Church will be on February 1, 2004. Mark your calendars! This is the place to participate in the church and help us as we plan for our future. We will also elect our church officers.

There will be only one service at 10:00 a.m. on February 1. This will be immediately followed by the Annual Meeting. There will be Sunday School and youth activities so that families with children will be able to participate in the meeting.

Special Report

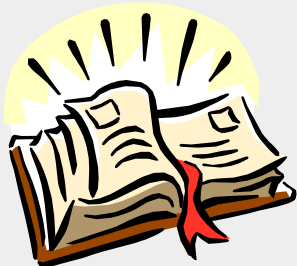
"The Living Church" is an independent weekly magazine serving Episcopalians. Its goal is to report news of the church in an unbiased manner and present diverse points of view.

The December 28, 2003 issue of The Living Church has an article "2003 The Year in Review - A Church in Crisis" that we have enclosed within this Newsletter. Two pages of the three page article are included. The entire article as well as back issues of "The Living Church" are available in the church office.



Bible Study

This years Bible Study began with The Book of Genesis. We are now studying Exodus.



Monday Evening Bible Study is held at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. 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.

Stewardship Update

Harry Bennett, our Ass't Treasurer, reported that we have now completed our Stewardship Campaign. We received a total of \$121,654 in pledges from 69 parishioners and their families. 53 families who pledged in 2003 pledged this year. Of these, 32 increased their pledge, 10 decreased their pledge and 11 pledged the same amount this year as in 2003. We also received pledge cards from 16 new families who had not pledged previously. 47 families did not pledge at all.

Although we were off to a good start, we ended way short of our goal of \$160,000. Dr. Pollock discussed some of our difficulties in his report on page 1. Another major difficulty was lack of response to our theme of increasing pledges by 1% of gross income.

It is not too late. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card or wish to increase your pledge, 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. Our thanks to everyone for all your efforts and support in this important aspect of Parish life.

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New Years Resolutions, Commitment, and Responsibility

It's that time of year. By now, you have made whatever resolutions you intend to make and, perhaps, you have already broken some of them. New Years resolutions are fun to make, they pay lip service to those defects or problems that we recognize, and give us something to talk about. They may be about not smoking, or not drinking, or not eating too much. They may be about working harder, or being more polite, or being nice to people. They seldom have a real commitment behind them nor are taken with true responsibility for them.

There are a number of resolutions that I would like to suggest. Resolutions that require commitment. That require the taking of true responsibility. These are commitments to God and to Jesus Christ our Savior. How about a resolution to attend church regularly? To pray daily each morning when you wake up or each evening when you go to bed. To commit to help the needy by supporting an AIDS orphan in Kenya, or a poor family in Laytonsville to get on its feet. To commit a percentage of your salary or income to your church. To serve on the vestry or on a church committee to help the church achieve its objective of serving God.

There are many resolutions you can make that will have a real impact not only on your own feeling of self worth but on those in need financially and/or spiritually. Commit now! Take responsibility to serve!

Harry Bennett

Local Outreach

The Local Outreach Committee delivered cosmetic bags to the mothers at the Betty Krahnke Shelter on the evening of December the 23rd. Bill Fitts and Father Pollock headed up the distribution of the lovely toys and gifts donated through the Sunday School students to the 15- 20 children living at the shelter at that time. Bill, as he has done for the last four years, served as Santa Claus on that occasion. The gifts for the mothers were collected from the congregation and 18 cosmetic cases were added to the items from the Outreach Committee by a friend of the church who drove them from New Jersey on the 22nd for inclusion in the gifts for the mothers.

The Local Outreach Committee will meet on the 11th and 18th of January at 10 A.M. in the church office building to develop plans for the collection of items for young mothers and babies to be distributed through the MOMS Club of Olney. Clothing items for children, diapers, toiletries such as shampoo, lotions, etc. may be donated by members of the congregation. Furniture, at this time, poses a difficulty since we have no storage space or a delivery system. If there is a change in this category, we will place an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin.

Thanks to the members of St. Bartholomew's for you generosity.

Judy Docca

St. Bartholomew's Rings the Bell

On Saturday, December 13th, a hearty group of parishioners rang bells for the Salvation Army at Lake Forest Mall. Maj. Earl Fitzgerald, the Montgomery County Corps Commander, sent his warm thanks to St. Bartholomew's for raising \$1040 for the Army. The Salvation Army does wonderful work for many people in Montgomery County, and it greatly appreciates St. Bartholomew's help.

Ringling the bells were Bill and Jan Tait, Dotty Tessier, Louisa Riggs, Al Bergsten and his son, Jeffrey, Deborah Turten and Les Cannon with their children, Gwendolyn, Bernadette and Henry, Jeff Taylor, Kathy Little Al Wasson and Art and Sonja Elgin.

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild lost one of its most faithful members since our last newsletter. Margaret White Riggs passed away peacefully after enduring much pain for a long time. Services were held at the Barber Funeral Home by Reverend Pollock. We will surely miss Margaret. She was baptised in St Bartholomew and spent her whole life here serving every day she was able. Our sincere condolences to her family, especially Nancy Harding, her daughter ,who is one of the faithful Guild members. Another member, Diane Carvey, lost her husband Dave to cancer also. We shall miss him too as he was a person all could count on and he did so much for our Church. Our condolences to Diane as well.

The Guild made up fourteen fruit and candy baskets for the sick and shut-ins and some special friends from St Bartholomew and our neighborhood. We then had the pleasure to deliver them to each one covering over a hundred miles around the area. The wreaths for the front doors at Christmas were a gift to the Church from the Ladies Guild.

Our next meeting will be on January 19, 2004, for a Potluck luncheon in the undercroft. All ladies are most welcome. We can always use an extra hand at our upcoming Lions Dinner on the fourth Thursday in January.

Pastoral Visits and Care

Dr. Pollock is available for pastoral visits and care. Although the office hours are 12 noon to 3 p.m., Dr. Pollock's practice is to be in the office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, unless he is visiting or has a meeting. Please call (301) 948-8201 to talk to Dr. Pollock during those times, or leave a message and he will return it by the end of the day. In case of emergencies outside of office hours, please call Dr. Pollock at home.

Coffee Hour

Stop in the undercroft following the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services for some snacks, coffee and juice. This is a good way to meet members in the church and learn about activities that might be of interest.

Laura Grimes Address
(she was promoted!)

For anyone wishing to send a card or letter to Laura Grimes, her NEW address is: 1st Lieutenant Grimes, Laura Unit #91716 APO,AE 09391-1716

Recovering Health, God Willing

A Note from the Assistant Rector

Since discovering in November that I have breast cancer, events have moved quickly through a mastectomy, and next to chemotherapy (beginning in January), to be followed in the late spring by radiation therapy and thereafter by hormone therapy. All of this is for the purpose of cure, which my doctors believe is highly probable.

Presently I am on disability leave from my work as an international development professional. It appears that the first half of the new year will be something of a health sabbatical for me, as I allow time and energy for God to heal this infirmity, though the instruments of medical professionals, your prayers and kindness, my family's love and care, and my own spirit. During this period, I will continue to be with you at St. Bartholomew's as I can, but I will lay down many of my normal responsibilities. Most notably, the music program will move back to a slower pace.

Meanwhile, please accept my gratitude for your prayers and gestures of comfort, and your encouragement to David and our children. Have no doubt that these are a substantial support for me and my family in this challenging passage. Thank you.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Margaret+

The Adult Inquirers Class

The Adult Inquirers class will begin Sunday February 8th at 9:15 am in the Education Building. All adults interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church and our faith should come, especially those who wish confirmation, to become officially an Episcopalian. Please contact Dr. Pollock at 301-948-8201 if you are interested.

Youth Confirmation Class

The youth confirmation class will be forming in January to prepare young people eighth grade or older for confirmation. The time will be determined by the schedules of the young people. Please call Dr. Pollock at 302-948-8201 to express interest in the class and what convenient times might be.

Music Notes

The Advent and Christmas seasons brought rich opportunities for offerings by many of St. Bartholomew's musicians. On the Second Sunday of Advent, the eleven o'clock congregation sang a wonderful new hymn written and composed for Advent by Lauren Catherine Fisher. While the congregation sang, Lauren played the hymn on the piano, and Gwendolyn Cannon and her mother, Deborah Turton, played a perfectly-suited double-violin accompaniment composed by young Gwendolyn.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent was doubly exciting. First, the incomparable annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant took place during Morning Prayer at the eleven o'clock service, and included the Youth Choir singing several seasonal carols and songs. Sweetly singing were Bernadette and Gwendolyn Cannon, Sarah Penkert, Erica Sieg, and Maggie Schneider. Lauren Fisher prepared the choir and deftly played all the music for the pageant on the piano.

For a culminating musical flourish, the Festival Eucharist on Christmas Eve was preceded by a half-hour musical prelude. The Instrumental Ensemble opened with the "Sinfonie" from "The Messiah", beautifully rendered by violinists Eric Duffy, Julian Spaans, and Judith Schneider, with Margaret Pollock on the piano. The choir followed with several Christmas carols: the group that performed "The Messiah" was joined for this by soprano Jackie Davis. Next was the debut of the St. Bartholomew's Family Ensemble, offering a lively medley of Christmas tunes. This brand-new effort brought together Eric Duffy (violin), Jessica Penkert (flute) and Sarah Penkert (violin), Sarah's friend Elizabeth (clarinet), Judith and Maggie Schneider (both on violin), Erica Sieg (piano and tambourine), and Julian Spaans (violin). The musical prelude concluded with Marilyn Carollo's tender rendition of "Silent Night" on the organ.

On the First Sunday after Christmas, Jessica Penkert opened the eleven o'clock Holy Eucharist with a lovely flute accompaniment to the entrance hymn, "What Child is this?". And as the Christmas season draws to a close in January, the Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols will be the order of worship for the Second Sunday after Christmas.

We at St. Bartholomew's Church are blessed to have so many gifted and willing musicians among us. Their offerings add a spiritual lift and luster to our worship. And surely, bending near to listen, God smiles!

Peace and love in Christ,
Margaret Pollock+

St. Bartholomew's Choir Sings the Messiah

As a part of our Christmas celebration the St. Bartholomew's Choir joined the choirs of four other Episcopal parishes, plus vocal soloists and orchestra, to perform Handel's "The Messiah". This was the culmination of months of diligent home practice and tough choir rehearsals, including a dress rehearsal at Trinity Episcopal Church, Piney Branch (DC), where the music was performed under the baton and inspiration of Trinity's Director of Music, Dr. Michael Clarke. Altogether, about sixty choristers were brought together from Trinity, Calvary (DC), St. Phillip's (Anacostia), St. Christopher's (New Carrollton), and St. Bartholomew's. The experience was thrilling, and a first of its kind for St. Bartholomew's Choir: Lauren Fisher and Margaret Pollock (soprano); Sue Davis, Mary Kamien, and Judy O'Neil (alto); David Pollock (tenor); and Eric Duffy (bass). Ten or so St. Bartholomew's parishioners made the trip to Trinity to enjoy both the performance, and the refreshments and conversation that followed in Trinity's parish hall.

Participation in this presentation of the Messiah, first presented in 1792 and many times since then, was a glorious part of our Christmas celebration. Under the direction of the Rev. Margaret Pollock the choir prepared for this performance to master the choral passages of this much loved Christmas gem. We hope to make this a tradition of the St. Bartholomew's community and invite all to participate in this annual event in celebration of Christmas in the Washington Episcopal Community.

Eric Duffy

Scheduled Activities

Upcoming Events

February 1 **Annual Meeting**
One church service at 10:00 a.m.
Annual Meeting after the church service

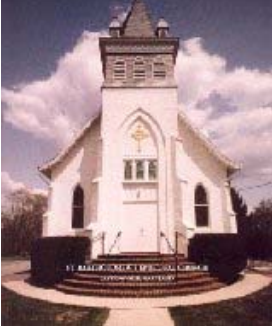
Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. **The Holy Communion**
9:15 a.m. **Sunday Morning Book Study**
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
2nd & 4th 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 in PLC**
Wednesdays **10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study .**
Wednesdays **11:00 a.m. Holy Communion (with Healing Service)**
Thursdays **7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal**



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
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Laytonsville, MD 20882

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Fax: (301) 990-7787
Web Address:
www.saintbartholomews.org
E-mail: stbart@comcast.net

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