

St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

February 2004

The Rector's Annual Report
My challenge to the congregation

The Rev. David Pollock, Rector

Dear people of St. Bartholomew's,

Much of this newsletter contains very important information from our annual meeting on February 1, 2004. Please read it carefully and be willing to respond. Here follows my challenge to the congregation

On page 856 in the Book of Common Prayer the Catechism asks "What is the duty of all Christians? The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God."

Title III Canon 17: 3 states: Communicant in good standing: All communicants of this church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God.

I wanted to remind us of what we are to be doing as Christians. These multiple responsibilities are not mutually exclusive. That is, if you are faithful in one you do not need to be faithful to the others. Our duty as Christians is to be faithful in all. Not for the benefit of us or our fellow parishioners, but for the spread of the kingdom of God.

As Christians in all that we do, we are to spread the kingdom of God. We come to church Sunday by Sunday to deepen our faith, to share worship with others, but chiefly to be equipped to go out and spread the kingdom of God.

Others at this Annual Meeting will talk about our great need as a church community to get on a firm financial footing. Others will talk about how we need enough people to be involved in all aspects of the running of this organization to support our calling as Christians to spread the kingdom of God. But my emphasis is on reminding each of us of our duty to be spreaders of the kingdom of God.

What that means for each of us is actively inviting friends, co-workers, neighbors and strangers to come and see what God is doing with St. Bartholomew's; we are each to share the difference that God makes in our lives and we are to be open to God's call to reach out to those around us.

We have put up banners directing people to our excellent web site, created and maintained by Harry Bennett; we have put up signs and advertised in the Washington Post, the Montgomery Gazette and the Frederick Post. There is no more beautiful Church building in this area or in the diocese than St. Bartholomew's. I am sure that these advertising tools brought some of us here and that is very good, but we need to do more.

I talk with people all the time and invite them to St. Bartholomew's. I always respond graciously to e-mails and phone calls inquiring about our

(Continued on page 5)

Annual Meeting February 1, 2004

Sixty parishioners attended the Annual Meeting of St. Bartholomew's Church on February 1, 2004. The Rev. David Pollock reported on church activities last year and discussed our plans for 2004. Our Treasurer reported on last year's financial activities while our Senior Warden reported on activities for the coming year and presented our 2004 budget. Louisa Riggs was honored for her many years of service as Church Registrar as she retired from this position. In addition, the new Vestry was elected.

Lenten Sunday Evening Pot Luck Dinners

Mark your calendar for Sunday February 29th at 6 p.m. for the first of five Lenten pot luck suppers and discussion meetings. These gatherings are for the whole family. The PBS program "From Jesus for Christ" will be viewed by the adults and teenagers, and there will be a fun program for the children. We will finish by 8 p.m.. Look for sign up sheets in the undercroft after services on Sunday. Please plan to come.

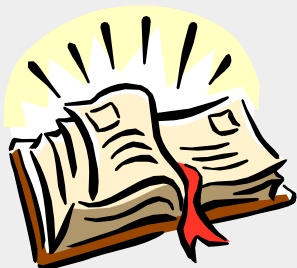


Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be on February 24, 2004 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It is a wonderful event and gives all of us to meet newcomers as well as renew friendships with those they have not seen for a while.

Bible Study

This years Bible Study began with The Book of Genesis. We are now studying Exodus and will be moving on to Leviticus shortly.



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.

Pledge Report

We ended our pledge campaign with a total of 70 pledges for \$121,594 -- well short of last year's total of \$129,544 and our goal for this year of \$160,000.

Last year, in 2003, we lost seven pledge families. However, our average pledge increased by 7% (\$137). This year -- 2004 -- we lost 21 pledge families and our average pledge increased one half of one percent (\$10)—less than the cost of living or government salaries. These 21 families had pledged \$31,000 in 2003. In addition, 11 pledge families reduced their pledge by a total of \$5,700

- For some, financial circumstances necessitated a reduction.
- Some of these families have moved.
- Some have passed away.
- Some are unhappy with the actions of the General Convention this past summer
- Some are unhappy with our present parish administration.

**We ended
way short of
our goal of
\$160,000**

This was partially offset by 16 new families with pledges of \$23,890.

47 families did not pledge at all. (Some of them contribute but do not pledge.)

A major difficulty was lack of response to our Stewardship Theme of increasing pledges by 1% of gross income.

Since Stewardship drives mission, this will impact the mission of St. Bartholomew's to support our youth, our community development, and our global outreach.

On February 1, 2004, at the Diocesan convention, they said that they had a budget shortfall. That they would not swerve from their mission. That they would put their faith in God and the parishes of the church to meet their commitments.

Today, at our Annual Meeting, I told you that your Vestry has reported that St. Bartholomew's has a budget shortfall, That we will not swerve from our mission. That we will put our faith in God and our individual parish families to meet our commitments. **THIS MEANS YOU.**

I am increasing my pledge by 20% today. I ask you to do likewise. And, if you have not yet pledged, please make your commitment today! Pledge cards are still available in the back of the church or call the church office.

Harry Bennett,
Assistant Treasurer

Check out the following Bible references regarding tithing and giving:

Leviticus 27:30
Numbers 18:26
Deuteronomy 14:22-29
Nehemiah 10:37
Malachi 3:6-10
2 Chronicles 31:5-6
Acts 5:1-11

Mark 12:41-44
Ecclesiastes 1:2-4
Ecclesiastes 2:18-19
Matthew 24:42-44
Luke 12:34
James 2:15-17
James 4:17

**"All things come of
thee O Lord. Of
thine own have we
given thee"**

Offertory

Senior Warden's Report 2003

George Leigh

The year 2003 was rewarding yet challenging for St. Bartholomew's. The rewards include the continued excellence of services and activities, and the continued religious training for children, J2A (youth), and adults. In addition, Saint Bartholomew's has had a very positive effect both locally and in Africa through our local and international outreach programs. Also during 2003 about 15 new members/families have joined the congregation. The challenges include: the end of the period of financial support from the Diocese, the loss of several active families due to work transfers, the recent deaths of several long standing members, the continued maintenance and repair required by our older facilities, and the loss of support to our Church due to actions of the National Convention.

Our most serious concern for Saint Bartholomew's for 2004 is the financial situation. We knew that 2003 would be a financially challenging year and the 2003 Financial Report shows that we lost about \$22,800. This cannot continue. The shortfall was due to a combination of events as listed above. We must all work to ensure that this does not happen again in 2004.

For 2004, the Budget and Finance Committee has drafted, and the Vestry has approved, a budget with some "creative" financing. First the Budget was cut wherever possible. Second, the Vestry approved the use of interest earned from the Special Gifts Fund. Third, the Diocese was asked for support and agreed. Finally, the Vestry approved a budget with a negative balance.

But this is not enough. For Saint Bartholomew's to continue with the present quality of services, pastoral support, religious training, outreach, and many activities, we need to grow. This will be a primary goal and focus of the Vestry this year and we need everyone's help.

Running Saint Bartholomew's takes participation of the parishioners. Many people have done a tremendous job in supporting our Church. But we need more parishioners to become involved. I challenge everyone to provide some type of support to Saint Bartholomew's each month. This can be teaching Sunday School, working on the Altar Guild, setting up the coffee hour, stuffing envelopes, ringing a bell at Christmas time, fixing a door, helping with the Christmas bazaar, replacing a light bulb, visiting the sick, helping with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, telling friends and neighbors about our Church, counting money, moving a pew, serving on a committee, and/or doing a multitude of other things. Please think about what you can do and then do it!

George Leigh
Senior Warden

Growth

St. Bartholomew's need to grow and we all need to help to make that happen! We need to grow because it is our mission to spread the word of God, because we can do more to support the parish and the community with more people helping, and also because we need more support, both volunteer efforts and financial support. Over the last two years we have gained quite a few new families, but during the same time we have lost many active families to job transfers and other causes. The net result has been positive but did not reach our goals. Please think of ways to encourage new people to visit St. Bartholomew's, to take part in our activities, and to become part of our Parish Family. When you come up with good ideas please send them to me, Dr. Pollock, or any member of the Vestry (see our web site at: www.saintbartholomews.org/)

When new people visit St. Bartholomew's please welcome them, help make them feel at home, and invite them back!

"I challenge everyone to provide some type of support to Saint Bartholomew's each month."

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

St. Bartholomew's "First Saturday Morning"

Please hold Saturday morning March 6 open to join us at the first St. Bartholomew's "First Saturday Morning". The first Saturday of each month we will gather together for fellowship and work to strengthen our parish. Those of you who head organizations think about having your group meet on the First Saturday. March 6th the altar guild will meet at 10 a.m.. Anyone interested can come and find out what they do. How about the ushers, the outreach committee, the bazaar planning group, the welcoming group all meeting then. It will be a work day when the little chores of fixing and cleaning can be done. Anytime between 9 and 12. Donuts and coffee will be available. So plan to come. Please call the parish office 301-948-8201 to let us know if you are coming.

The Adult Inquirers Class

The Adult Inquirers class will begin Sunday February 8th at 9:15 a.m. 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.

The Ladies Guild

February will begin with a social as a group of the Guild will join the other parishioners at the Golden Bull for dinner to support the Help the Hungry, a group supported by our local outreach. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, February 16 at 12:30 in the undercroft. It will be preceded by our Potluck luncheon which is always a hit. Please join us. The monthly meeting dinner of the Laytonsville Lions will be held on February 26, 2004 in the undercroft. All are welcome to assist with the cooking, serving and the cleaning. Thanks to all who do participate.

E-mail Addresses

The Vestry would like to compile a list of parishioners email addresses. If we had this list it would be very helpful in emergencies such as notifications of a parishioner's death or illness, or change of the time of a service due to weather or power outage, etc. It would also have the potential to save money by decreasing mailing costs. To submit your email address simply send an email to "stbart@comcast.net" with the subject line "Email Address". Thanks

(Continued from page 1) The Rectors Annual Report

church. We have great success in keeping those who do come to worship. But, what I would like to spend my time doing is responding to your call to me that goes something like this, "I have a friend {co-worker, neighbor}, that I have been talking to and I wonder if you might call them and invite them to come to St. Bartholomew?" I would like that very much because you are out there in the world meeting potential members of St. Bartholomew's everyday.

As I said before, we have done well in the past with incorporating people into this branch of the body of Christ. We have a very good process set up to respond to newcomers, but if the few people doing this ministry are sick or face a crisis, we do not have enough of us willing to respond quickly to newcomers. We need you, as do all other organizations in the parish. The altar guild, ushers, chalice bearers, work day participants, choir members, local and international outreach teams, Sunday school teachers and vestry candidates. All these groups are open to all except for chalice bearers and vestry, which require that you be confirmed. Each group needs person power and particularly people to be leaders. This is the aspect of our working for the spread of the kingdom that provides support and nurture in the parish structures.

I have an idea that may help us identify what needs to be done and give each of us an opportunity to be included in the work. I suggest we set aside one Saturday morning a month as St. Bartholomew's Saturday Morning. Let's start on March 6th. Parishioners of all ages can come and bring talents and skills to share with the other parishioners -- some of you have skills to fix some of the buildings or paint or clean; others would be willing to take some brochures to the new neighbors in our area; others could write those brochures or study the Bible together, seeking direction in our ministry; or prepare mailings; brainstorm or complete outreach projects -- have a focused morning each month to nurture and support St. Bartholomew's.

We need more events that all of us can be a part of to build community, like our planned Lenten Sunday evening pot luck suppers to study the early Christian church, starting February 29th. Times to get to know each other better and to have a place to bring newcomers to become more quickly involved in our Church. That is one working part of our duty as Christians.

Now, as far as the praying part of our duty as Christians, there are some here who are in church every Sunday, which is wonderful. I like the language of the Canon that describes a communicate in good stand-

ing as "faithful in worship, unless for good cause prevented." It does not say come to the church if no one in the family has something else to do. No, it says you come to church every Sunday unless for good cause prevented—that is you have to work, you are sick, you are out of town, or it is horrible weather. If we are to go forward as a church to grow in numbers and depth of commitment, each of us must be much more regular in our attendance at church to support each other corporately in preparation to spread the kingdom of God.

The final duty listed for us as Christians is to give for the spread of the Kingdom. One does not substitute work or prayer for money, or the other way around. I believe the best way for us to understand this is in two of the stories in the Gospel. One is the encounter of Jesus with the Rich Young Man and the other is called the Widow's Mite. In both of these encounters it is clear that Jesus is saying to us that God expects a great deal from us. In fact, God expects us to sacrifice all.

For the rich young man, he was full of works and he prayed feverishly and observed all the points of the law. But Jesus said that was not enough. He had to part with his riches, which were keeping him from God.

For the widow, Jesus watched her put the smallest coin in the treasury. So by her example she had sacrificed as much as the rich young man would have if he had responded. She was free, although poor. He was enslaved, though rich. It is not how much money we give in thanksgiving for all God has given us. It is how much we really sacrifice. To whom much is given, much is expected. And if you have less, you give what you can. But we are required to give money as well as pray and work for the Kingdom of God.

My prayer for each of us is that we will be true Christians, living up to our catechism, to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship, and to work, pray and give for the spread of the Kingdom. It is not easy for us to change, but we can be transformed by God's grace—because it is what God wants us to do.

*Peace and love in Christ,
David*

Scheduled Activities

Upcoming Events

- February 8 **Adult Inquirers Class begins, 9:15 a.m. – Ed. Building**
February 24 **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
February 25 **Ash Wednesday — Holy Communion 8:00 p.m.**
February 29 **Lenten Sunday Evening Pot Luck Dinner 6:00 p.m.**
March 6 **St. Bartholomew's Saturday Morning — 9:00 a.m.**

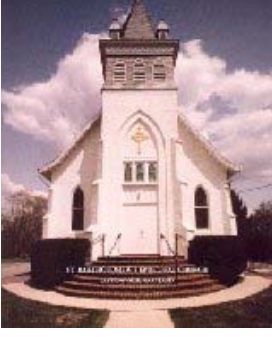
Sunday Schedule

- 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
P.O. Box 5005
21615 Laytonsville Rd.
Laytonsville, MD 20882

St. Bartholomew's Church
P.O. Box 5005
21611 Laytonsville Rd.
Laytonsville, MD 20882
Office Hours:
12:00 -- 3:00 p.m.
weekdays

Phone Numbers:
Office: (301) 948-8201
Church: (301) 948-8202
Fax: (301) 990-7787
Web Address:
www.saintbartholomews.org
E-mail: stbart@comcast.net